THE

SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, June 28, 1995, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator F. W. GOLLOP, (President)
His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN, (Deputy President)
Senator the Honourable R. R. FARLEY, (Minister of Industry, Commerce and Business Development), (Leader of the Senate)
Senator the Honourable G. S. H. MURRAY, (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)
Senator Miss C. Y. FORDE
Senator T. E. BARKER, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Senator Miss O. P. SYMMONDS, G.C.M.
Senator D. T. GILL
Senator Miss J. C. ODLE
Senator N. P. WELCH
Senator J. A. WORKMAN
Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON
Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN
Senator C. K. LAURIE
Senator Miss V. J. Davis
Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON

Prayers were led by Fr. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received a Special Report from the Ombudsman for Barbados on the Inequitable Operation of the Severance Payments Act, Cap. 355A. I now therefore lay this Special Report in accordance with section 13(7) of the Ombudsman Act, Cap. 8A.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. Report of the Commission on Casino Gambling in Barbados.

2. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 10) Order, 1995.

3. The Sugar Industry (Sugar Workers Provident Fund) Order, 1995.

4. The Consumption Tax Order, 1995.

5. Guarantees granted under the Exempt Insurance Act, Cap. 308A to the following:-

   Dover Insurance Incorporated.

   IPL Insurance (Barbados) Limited.

   MIC Life Reinsurance Company Limited.

   MIC Life Reinsurance Company Canada Limited.

   Phoenix Guaranty Insurance Limited.

   Selecta Insurance Incorporated.

   Western Insurance Company (Barbados) Limited.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of this sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to introduce the following items, notice of which was given previously:-

1. A Bill to provide for the organisation of Societies With Restricted Liability.

2. Resolution to approve the lease to the Lions Club South of a building in Christ Church.

3. Resolution to approve compulsory acquisition of land at Lowlands, Christ Church.

4. Resolution to approve compulsory acquisition of land at Tent Bay, St. Joseph.

5. Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of land at Speightstown, St. Peter for housing development.

6. Resolution to approve compulsory acquisition of land at Road View, St. Peter for construction of a side walk and car park.

7. Resolution to approve the lease to the Pan American Health Organisation of land at Dayrells Road, Christ Church.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE ORGANISATION OF SOCIETIES WITH RESTRICTED LIABILITY

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the second reading of this Bill entitled Societies With Restricted Liability Act, 1994. The introduction of this Bill marks another important step in our ongoing thrust in the development of the offshore sector in Barbados.

Now, Sir, this sector, as I am sure you would be well aware, is a very dynamic one. Since it was pioneered back in the late 1970s and early 1980s by none other than a previous administration of the Barbados Labour Party, it has really made a dramatic impact on Barbados' economic fortunes.

We must never lose sight of the fact, Sir, that our success in this sector will depend on our ability to provide instruments which can answer the needs of the investors at any given point in time. It is well known within industry circles that there is a very limited window of opportunity with respect to the opportunities for particular kinds of investment. There are two reasons for that, Sir. One is that Barbados is not the only jurisdiction which is seeking to mobilise international business in this way.

Secondly, these various instruments are used in the international business arenas to facilitate international tax planning as well as transactions across international borders. Very often in some of the major countries of the world authorities come under immense pressure to limit the scope of companies there to rationalise their activities across international borders. In short, there are many countries that experience severe pressure from their populations to act as if each and every country is a well sealed closed economy. In short, Sir, there are many countries that experience severe pressure from their populations to act as if each and every country is a well sealed, in fact a hermetically sealed, closed economy. The reality of business however, Sir, does not bear that out. Businesses across the world, especially those of multiple investments in several jurisdictions try to rationalize their operations. It means therefore that when a demand arises for a particular financial instrument to facilitate a new type of business around the world, Barbados if it hopes to be on the leading edge of the international business and financial sector, will have to move with alacrity to meet the demand. If we fail to do that, Sir, we will be giving our competitors, be it in the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Mauritius, wherever you may think, Sir, Ireland, many destinations around the world are offering competing services.
11.25 a.m.

I want to reiterate that it is important for this whole question of the development of the international business and financial sector to be seen as a dynamic activity. And because it is a dynamic activity, we must continue not only to celebrate when we are able to lay Bills such as this one before this Honourable Senate, Sir, but, as of tomorrow, we will be looking to see what next is required, either in terms of new legislation or Amendments, to existing legislation to reflect the contemporary realities of international business.

But, Sir, I am sure that you would be aware that the international business and financial sector in Barbados

is perhaps one of the more diverse of its kind. We in Barbados from our initial activities in this area which followed the Reports of 1979 and 1984 by people like Langer ... The Langer Report, as you know, is one of the most significant studies that have been done in this area. But the point was always made that if Barbados were to obtain maximum benefit from investments in this sector that we should not – and indeed I am glad to say that we did not – proceed along the lines of being just another tax haven.

When the uninformed and the uninitiated make a cursory examination of the relative performance of other jurisdictions, as compared with Barbados, they may note that other jurisdictions have more international business companies or more of all types of international businesses than does Barbados. But the fact of the matter is that Barbados has always, in terms of the philosophy behind drafting the legislation as well as the promotion and administration of the sector, sought to pursue companies that will engage in active business in Barbados. The distinction is very important. Although we had decided on this course of action in the early stages of the development of the sector, the fact that we chose that path helped us tremendously in the recent Amendments to the Canadian Income Tax legislation, the changes that were made in last year's Budget in Canada. But I would get back to that.

The point I was making was that in your typical tax haven, there is a proliferation of paper companies and the principal benefit to the country is the fees collected by the Government, the initial fee for the registration and a small maintenance fee. In places like Barbados where we have gone after companies and engaged more actively in doing transactions, out of Barbados, we have been able to provide an important injection of funds into Barbados by way, of course, of the initial registration, we have a low annual tax rate and, of course, you would appreciate that a low percentage on a lot of money still brings in some money.

We have also provided some work for the legal profession, for the accounting profession and for the support staff that is required at different levels in the office, from office management to secretarial to janitorial. We have also, by targeting active companies, been able to encourage companies to send management and directors to Barbados who, in turn, rent housing for those who are here in the long run. I am sure some of the Honourable Senators who have investments along the west coast would know very well about these matters.

But, Sir, we are pleased that they have gone that route. I did not say it was Senator Thompson. The directors and senior executives rent some of the more luxurious properties in Barbados which, in turn, if you consider them to be long stay tourists provides employment for persons who, because of their skill base, would not normally have been employed in an offshore company but, certainly, they are able to obtain jobs as their chauffeurs, gardeners, maintenance people, the construction industry and the like.

In addition, most of the offshore legislation in Barbados makes references to things like the fact that the mind and management of the company must be in Barbados as part of the definition of being a Barbados company which means, Sir, that most of those companies, at least once a year, will hold their directors meetings in Barbados which, again, does a number of things. One is that it provides for some tourism dollars, directors coming to Barbados. Certainly, Sir, as you may be aware many of these meetings are held, for some strange reason, during the northern winter months. Naturally, wives hearing that their husbands are going to Barbados accompany them for good protection, so they claim. But then the children and their friends decide to come along as well. It boosts our tourism.

The experience has also been that several of these directors of international business companies, although they would have been introduced to Barbados by their attorneys, accountants or other consultants, at home, because of the special tax advantages that Barbados has to offer, when they actually visit Barbados and they realize the sophistication of this island, when they realize that Barbados is an island where things work, they become overwhelmed by the fact that, in spite of our small size, we are able to offer not only excellent investment opportunities but high quality of life, as well as a diverse range of investments.

The experience has been that several of these directors coming to Barbados for their directors' meetings are able to identify additional and diverse areas in which to invest. We have, for example, a company that had an IBC for a number of years. The company was involved in producing some economy-priced software for mass distribution. The IDC was handling the sales for Barbados. But out of their involvement in Barbados, at that level, they were able to identify that they were Barbadians with the appropriate skills that could produce software here for distribution worldwide and they diversified their operation, opened up a software development company here out of which, as I understand it, Sir, a Barbadian employee was able to develop a particular software product that became the leading seller for that company during the particular year.

11.35 a.m.

There are other examples of companies that came to Barbados to set up manufacturing operations and then discovered they could use foreign sales corporations here or International Business Companies. The point I am making, Sir, is that the decision that Barbados made in the late seventies and early eighties, when it decided against, of course, the strong arguments from the Opposition at the time – remember being told how we are going to be inviting bandits and all sorts of things into the country – but against the advice of the Opposition at the time when we decided we would pursue the international business and financial sector as a means of diversifying the economy and putting it on the strong and sure path of being a premier international service provider, we took the decision that we would go for quality and if quantity is able to flow from quality, Sir, then quantity let it be.

So, Sir, it is within that context of our need to recognise the dynamic situation of the industry and the need to provide alternatives and additional opportunities for investment that we bring this Bill, the Societies With Restricted Liability Act, 1994.

Sir, I am sure you will know that this type of Bill has really had a very long origin. Now these types of companies, Sir, originated back in the period, and I am sure this is before your time, Sir, in Germany around 1892 and they spread to other Eastern European Countries. It basically was enacted to overcome some of the difficulties which some businesses faced when they formed colonial ventures and were trying to comply with some of the requirements for organisation, *et cetera.*

I should tell you as well, Sir, that this type of Bill is aimed primarily at several of those jurisdictions whose legal systems are based on a civil code rather than on the common law although it has wide applicability, but provides for transfer and movement between one and the other so it would have equal applicability to United States as it would to Germany. But, Sir, this type of vehicle then, a society with restrictive liability vehicle, is widely known around the world and is widely used by investors who in fact have been asking us for a while, when are we going to have ours and how come we do not have ours, as they have been asking concerning other instruments. It would offer investors from civil law countries some advantages as well as being applicable to places like the United States.

Some of the basic features of the Bill, Sir, are that it provides continuity of life, centralisation of management, liability for corporation debts, but they are limited to corporate property and for the free transferability of interest in the company. Some people have described it as somewhat of a hybrid between a limited liability company and a sole proprietorship but I would leave those kinds of details for the legal luminaries amongst us to discuss.

Sir, to look at the Bill with some detail and to look at some of the provisions for the information of the Honourable Senate, Part I of the Bill provides for the formation and operation of societies. That section, Sir, basically provides for the formation of the Society With Restricted Liability, provides for amendment to the Articles of the Society and the name, provides for the establishment of a registered office and those kinds of formalities as well as defining what is the capacity of persons who could form an SRL.

Part III on capital, sections 14 to 17, provides for the use of quotas by the society and gives rules with respect to transfer from one individual to another, lists the liability of members of the society and makes provision for several classes with respect to the quotas.

Other important features of the Bill have been very carefully drafted, both by the draftsmen in the Attorney General's Chambers as well as wide consultation with the industry.

Part IV of the Management of the Society provides for the appointment of managers for the society, establish limitations on membership, powers of borrowing in the society, *et cetera.*

Other sections, Sir, speak to the whole issue of corporate records, how, where and so on and maintain the whole question of annual audits and filing.

Other sections deal with the dissolution of the society, the exemption of the society from various imposts in Barbados. The mobility of the society is dealt with as well as the general administration.

Sir, the essential point that we need to make, Sir, is that this Bill has been developed in full consultation with the practitioners in the industry. You know of course, Sir, that professionals at the end of the day are hardly likely to agree totally on anything. In fact one of the great cynics once said about economists that if you were to stand all of them in the world from end to end they would not reach a conclusion. I am sure you know, Sir, the comments that are made about attorneys but out of deference to you, Sir, and the Deputy President, I certainly would not list any of the comments the cynics have made about attorneys. I am making that humorous comment, Sir, to indicate that in drafting legislation such as this, although all sides

are generally agreed on the objectives, they are agreed on where we want to go, the actual clause by clause drafting, the inclusion of the provisions, if it were to go on until we are able to all come to the same conclusion, it would simply go on.

Our approach in these matters has been to aim for consensus by ensuring that the consultation in these matters is wide so we consulted with the local professionals, some attorneys, some accountants, some offshore business persons here. Our international legal advisers and so on were consulted, as well as the legal draftsmen for Barbados who obviously in spite of whatever other model there might be to follow, obviously have to ensure that the drafting of the legislation is consistent with the other laws of Barbados. To give you an example of some of the things that we face in these matters. Some of the off-shore practitioners particularly their attorneys overseas, given that their involvement with Barbados will be by way of the particular legislation, be it IDC, Societies With Restricted Liability Act or whatever they might be dealing with, they would want to see all of the provisions relating to that activity spelled out in the Act. But as you know, Sir, there are cases where some matters have already been expanded upon in other sections of the law and cross-references need to be made. But that never seems to be satisfactory that it has already been taken care of elsewhere to some of the practitioners in the sector. By giving those examples and making the point that we bring this Bill to this Honourable Senate today seeking to have the Senate's approval but with the clear understanding which is in keeping with my earlier comment, Sir, that amendments may from time to time be necessary either to take care of any oversight or more importantly to ensure that we are in keeping with contemporary business practices. So we do not see this as our final look at this or any piece of off-shore legislation because of the dynamic nature of the industry.
11.45 a.m.

Sir, in conclusion, I would want to commend this Bill to the Honourable Senate. I would want them to recognize it as part of this administration's continuous thrust to further develop the international business and financial sector. I would want them to recognize the important contribution which this sector makes to economic activity in terms of the foreign exchange earnings, in terms of the employment, in terms of the raising of the skilled sect of our people who work for these various companies.

With those few words, Sir, I would ask that this Society With Restricted Liability Act, 1994 be now read a second time.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I support the Bill recognizing the importance of the off-shore sector to national development, job creation and foreign exchange. I am happy to see that it has finally reached the Honourable Senate. I hope that in the not too distant future that we will see the Trust Bill and the Exempt Mutual Funds Bill reach here because this legislation I recognize is very important if we are to progress in this very competitive area, because it is a very competitive area.

I have a concern about our CARICOM partners. I noticed the legislation favours the international business sector but I am aware that we have reached the stage when we need to focus quite a bit more on our cross-border relationships within the CARICOM region and we need to make concessions available to our CARICOM partners. I noticed and I stand corrected but I do not see CARICOM addressed in this bit of legislation. I think that in our attempt to capitalize on this area we must not overlook what is happening in the wider world. With all these big blocs coming together and protecting whatever they share in common, Barbados must not pursue these things in isolation. I think that we really need to keep our ears to the ground and recognize the importance of building within our CARICOM region.

I would like though to get some feedback on the performance of this sector. I am still trying to find out whether we are stagnant, are we growing and have we lost any of these businesses? Because I noticed in one of the 1994 reports, and I am sorry that I do not have it here, there has been a decline in the number of registered businesses in this sector. I wonder if the Minister can give me any information on that. I am not sure that Senator Goddard...

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: He is not here...or Senator Farley can give me any information on this. I am concerned when I was reading the Bill because I was wondering. I looked at the Exempt Section and I am not sure what the other part sets out to say. Does it mean that Barbadians can form a Society With Restricted Liability and, if that is intended, I am still trying to find out why? Why would a Barbadian form a Society With Restricted Liability? Is this another area of investment or another intermediary, because I hear us address the off-shore sector all the time and I am not seeing any attention paid to the domestic part of this Bill. I noticed reference to quotas. I really do not understand what that means. That is an introduction of something new. Normally, I hear of shares and all of that. I noticed that one can make deposits of property equivalent to whatever the cash requirement for deposits into the Society. But I must admit that this whole area is a bit fuzzy for me and since I operate in the financial services sector, I would

really like to be able to gain some more supporting information on this. Because I think that if we are introducing legislation in Barbados which Barbadians can utilize in addition to giving information on how we can benefit by way of the financial services sector, I think that we should also make Barbadians aware of what it can do for Barbadians and how Barbadians can utilize it. We know of the co-operative movement, we know of banks, we know of mutual funds, limited though they are, we know of insurance companies and I think the Government must make sure that Barbadians know how they can utilize this Society With Restricted Liability.
11.55 a.m.

I hear reference made to partnerships and how by way of this legislation partners now have similar protection to individuals in corporations, but to me the legislation is attempting to say more. I think it is very general, very broad and I hope I can get some more information from the Government on this if I am really to be able to make any contribution in the local financial services sector on this new Bill. I want to support it from the exempt side, the offshore sector side, but I am asking the Government for some enlightening information on the domestic section of this bit of legislation.

That is my contribution, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, when I heard the Honourable Senator who just sat down say that she was rising to support the Bill, I was beginning to think we were about to see a manifestation of a Saul on the road to Damascus where this is concerned. I really expected that the support would have been straightforward and understandable, but then after I heard the waffling and the attempts to cast doubts as to the validity of the Bill in some of its intentions, I had to recall that this is only another symptom of the traditional hostility which the Honourable Leader of the Senate had referred to where this area is concerned when it was first introduced by the Barbados Labour Party.

Admittedly, in recent times as people have begun to know more and more about the field and its success has been clearly understood and appreciated, the opposition of the Democratic Labour Party to this area of activity has been more muted and more restrained, but it is there nevertheless. But although we do not hear any talk any longer about this sector providing a gateway for the Mafia and laundering of money, as has happened when it was introduced, simply because they had not understood the implications of what it is, admittedly a sophisticated field – much more sophisticated than selling insurance policies – therefore one has to pay attention to what it implies.

The Honourable Leader of the Senate has already indicated that this has been a growing and mushrooming sector. The last Senator spoke about neglect of CARICOM and Barbadians and what not, but if the Honourable Senator was to pay more attention to some of what is going on, she would understand that the Prime Minister has recently said in his Budget that we are not neglecting CARICOM, either in this field or in others. In a related measure he has said we will be acceding shortly to the Caricom Tax Treaty to allow for the co-ordination and harmonisation of tax policy among Caricom States, involving Barbados. Therefore, it is disingenuous, I would say, to accuse us of neglecting a field which is highly sophisticated and highly complex, and is not something that you can pin down in simplistic terms and simplistic mouthings.

Mr. President, I think it would be remiss of us if we did not congratulate the Government in bringing this Bill to full fruition, seeing that it comes as one further step along the way to giving this sector the status and the ability to keep Barbados continually competitive with its rivals elsewhere in the world. While we often hear about the numbers of foreign sales corporations, captive insurance companies or offshore banks set up and operating in Barbados, very little attention is paid to the impact that this sector has had on the accumulation of certain expertise which had not hitherto existed in Barbados before. There is no doubt that, as the Honourable Leader of the Senate has said, Barbadians from a wide walk of life, stretching way beyond lawyers and accountants, but lots of graduates from the University of the West Indies, Sir, and I know one, for example, who used to be a journalist, who is now engaged in actively trading for an offshore company in Barbados with international Stock Exchanges. Therefore, that means that is just one manifestation, one example of the kind of expertise, the kind of intellectual capital that we are accumulating in Barbados, intellectual capital which will have youth and effectiveness not only in Barbados but wider afield, because there is no doubt that these operations take Barbadians abroad for training and when they come back they are able to enhance the operations of those companies, but at the same time they are able to demonstrate abilities and skills which can serve them well anywhere else in the world.

Therefore, Sir, I would like to maintain and utter again my support of the measure and to warn that while we have done well and we can be proud of the achievements that we have accumulated so far, we can be proud of the fact that because of our very insistence from the beginning we will have some tight legislation and tight policing and serious monitoring of the sector, we have not been blemished by the accusations of laundering, of skullduggery and various kinds of nefarious acts that have plagued some of our competitors in the region and elsewhere.

We mean too, Sir, that we will be doing all we can to maintain these high standards, not only in legislation, not only in making sure that we do not fall victim to the machinations of the international bandits, but we will also be intrinsically seeking to maintain through our various Capital Works programmes, policies and programmes that we have and can guarantee at all times the high standard of our social infrastructure, the health services to which the Honourable Leader of the Senate referred, high social infrastructure in education which, for those who might not know, apart from this legislation are two of the major attractions for foreign companies when they send their principals to live and operate in Barbados. They need to be assured of the fact that their families can have access at all times to good health and good education, and then there is the physical infrastructure of the roads, and the airport and the harbour are the technological infrastructure that is being provided in the telecommunications sector, *et cetera*, and we can therefore rest assured that this Government is not resting on its laurels where this is concerned, but that it is doing all it can to make sure that not only its legislation is abreast of current trends and anticipating developments along the way, but that we intend to maintain the integrity and the good name of the sector.

Thank you.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I want to make my contribution on this Bill.

If we look back over the years at the contribution to the Barbados economy coming through the 50s and 60s, we would have realised that sugar played a significant part, not only in the provision of jobs but in the provision of foreign exchange. We have noticed with time that the emphasis did move away from sugar and agriculture and our salvation in the late 70s and the mid 80s was manufacturing, when companies like Intel, which unfortunately closed in 1986, made significant contributions, not only to employment. I remember a time when about 1600 people were employed there and as much as $200 million was earned through the sale overseas of electrical components for Intel Corporation.

Over the years sugar declined as a result of competition from beet sugar, from artificial sweeteners and we were forced, as the resourceful people we are, to look at alternatives for the provision of jobs and services to which we have become accustomed. As two fellow Senators said before, I remember when Mr. Tom Adams had the vision to introduce quite early the whole offshore sector to this economy that a lot of criticism came about money laundering and the need to be careful. I am quite happy that the legislative framework was such that over the years we have not had a situation develop in this country where anybody can point a finger at us and say we have been a haven for money laundering.

The challenges in the 80s and the 90s, with the decline in sugar and the fickleness of tourism, we know quite well between 1990 and 1992 that tourism arrivals declined mainly because of recession in Europe and in North America.
12.05 p.m.

During the Gulf War also, despite the fact that we were removed geographically from the Middle East, because of the threats to international transport, tourist arrivals declined about 6% in this part of the world.

I want to commend Government for taking the initiative to move into another area of the offshore sector to bring about the kind of jobs and transfer of skills and technologies that would come from the type of business that we would expect to come about through the introduction of this Bill. We know that the offshore sector in 1993 was second only to tourism in its contribution to net foreign exchange as it relates to the Barbadian economy. We, therefore, have to move away now, in my opinion, from a situation where we placed a lot of emphasis on North America, particularly Canada, as areas where we were pulling in a lot of companies and spread our wings.

I think that this legislation will allow us to tap the untapped markets of Latin America and Europe which, in my opinion, has a lot of potential that we have not yet been tapping. I know that there is one accounting firm here that is one of the leaders in this type of business activity, which now has a Latin American based in Latin America, developing an industry over there for Barbados. I am quite pleased about this.

I also want to look at the contribution that the offshore sector will make to the total economy of Barbados in relation to job creation and other aspects of it. We have a situation where, as Senator Farley alluded to earlier, it is not just a situation where people will be coming to Barbados in possession of skills that Barbadians already have. We have an opportunity, when they come here, to learn from them in much the same way as there was a lot of transfer of technology when INTEL came to Barbados in the 80s. I remember that after INTEL folded in 1986 quite a few people who were trained and exposed to North American type management styles were bold enough and confident enough to venture into their own businesses and became very successful.There is one Barbadian who works with the INTEL Corporation in California.

My contention is that we will see a situation where Barbadians will benefit from areas of activity that we have not been exposed to in the past. We will benefit from an upsurge in real estate activity, because when companies come here we need to find facilities for them to operate out of. We need to find housing for them. They are at the high income bracket and they may need maids and gardeners. Right across the whole spectrum we will find job creation.

We must also address my concern that as we expand into this sector in an area where we don't necessarily have all the skills that we need to put in place in our educational institutions curricula that would help with the development of the workforce that will enable us to meet the demands of this new sphere of business activity.

On this basis, Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill and I hope that fellow Senators will do likewise and help Barbados to move on to a new sphere that we really need to get into without delay if we are to continue to have the kind of standard of living and infrastructural development that we have become accustomed to.

Thank you very much.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to join with other Senators to support this Bill. I must agree with Senator Thompson that this is a very competitive area in the world, and those of you who have been listening to the news, will realise that the Treasury Department in the United States is now seeking to graduate Barbados and to restrict Barbados' approach for concessionary loans or loans on concessionary prices because they say we are a wealthy nation. We are not a wealthy nation as such, but it is because those who have had the opportunity to guide Barbados have had the foresight and the vision to put Barbados in a position whereby we can appear to be successful to the benefit of the inhabitants.

This Bill will go another step further in the international business arena where we could attract vast sums of money from North America particularly, and especially with NAFTA, we may be able to go into Latin America to facilitate investors in business houses in operating in an environment which is conducive to business. But I want to make some comments here which I think the Government must pay immediate attention to in order to accommodate this sort of international business.

Those of you who have perused the Bill before the Chamber will note that one of the most active divisions of Government will be the Registrar of Corporate Affairs. Now that office has been criticised from time to time by people and most of all and most importantly by the Central Bank. I would like to say that functionaries in Barbados, those people who work in Government offices must recognise that their jobs are to facilitate business and not to obstruct it.

I have said privately today that I am going to seek a private meeting with the Prime Minister, because I think we have a lot to do to get business moving in Barbados and we cannot move business with the attitude of certain functionaries that are operating in this country today. In order for this Bill to get off the ground and be effective, people must be able to incorporate a business within the least possible time. Today, it can take you up to 3 months to get a name approved.

I am happy to note that there is another Bill in the Other Place that will seek to rectify this problem and I hope it goes through here quickly. But we have to chastise Government that while providing a Bill or Bills of this nature it has not looked at the amenities for staff to operate or for people who are dealing with these offices. We took the corporate business out of the general registry of Barbados and we provided a Registrar of Corporate Affairs. But what did we do? We put the office of Corporate Affairs in a disused building in Waldrond Street first. Within a few months you had papers, and bundles even down the stairs. You could not get up there. Go into any one of the corporate offices now and you will see bundles and bundles of documents that have never been opened. We moved it from Waldrond Street and put it at the back of Geddes Grant next to the Bond House. They did not even have a sign on the front of the building to show you where the Corporate Affairs Office was. You had to butt your way at the back of a business house to find the Corporate Affairs Office. Then when they were given notice to move under the other administration, Geddes Grant had to go to court to get them out of the building.
12.15 p.m.

Where did they put them? They put them in James Street, the building which was abandoned by the Land Tax Department, a building that can only be deemed as a sweat house. You have half of the staff downstairs. It is as hot as the old people would say, "Mapps' Millyard," and they expect people to do business in there. Probably it might be a punishment for them for the frustration they give to people but I would not like to see them go through that any longer.

I would wish, at least, if a temporary air-condition unit could be found to make them comfortable and they would have no excuse for not doing the work. I beg the

be Government to see if it could find some temporary air-condition units and stick in the windows to make the staff a bit more comfortable. It is a hell hole in that place. No maybe's about it.

Now, on top of that, one have to deal with people registering companies every day. They took what was a room developed for payment of funds, *et cetera*, under caged windows to make it a corporate office. You cannot expect people who come here to feel comfortable in places like that. You have to look at that.

Now, along with the Corporate Office must go the Court's office, the Registrar of the Supreme Court. Now, I know since 1978/79 the Barbados Labour Party administration of that day had appropriate buildings designed for a law court in the James Street/Coleridge Street area. The Democratic Labour Party administration came in and said, "Oh, no". They went up Passage Road and said they were going to design a building for the Passage Road site. We saw a mock-up of what it would be but nobody gave thought to the logistics of the Police Station in Coleridge Street and a building up by the Country Road corner so that seemed to have been washed out and the courts are still where they are.

I had to say to a certain judge yesterday morning "I think you had better provide a road map for in here because it is like a rabbit warren". I regret the day, God forbid, that a fire should break out in the Coleridge Street building. I cannot understand how anybody can subject the judges of this country to the sort of environment they are in now in Coleridge Street. Every day they are patching up, patching up and it is like a rabbit warren. It is about time we think because these offices will have linkages to the Land Registration Office which is up in the Museum. They will have linkages to the Supreme Court Offices so we must look at all of these together. We cannot believe that we can develop one sector and leave the environment, the building, the structures that must go along with this in the state that they were back in 1930 or 1940 style. We cannot. We have to look at this as a whole.

Now, Senator Thompson asked about CARICOM and Barbadians. It is not for me to explain it but my reading of this document does not restrict Barbadians or CARICOM people from being involved in this society with limited responsibilities. What it does is, if you look at the exempt section, if you apply to the Minister of Finance and you are an exempt company, then you cannot then do certain things in Barbados or in CARICOM. But I am glad to see such a Bill before the Chamber.

It is a very common Bill in North America. At one time – and this is another thing I want to move to – I used to advise a couple of companies in the United States and I know we used to sit down on a morning and decide to incorporate a company and we could call the Corporate Office, give them a name, the directors and the location of the office and by next morning not only did the particulars of the registration of the company come back but if one ordered a seal, a machine with a seal in it came back and you sealed your companies. That we cannot do in Barbados and if we want to be on the same wave length as a North American company, we must do it this way. If we want to be competitive we must do it straight.

I know the Minister has said we can now access computers in the Corporate Office but I would like to say I think the initial charges have been pitched too high. I would rather have seen the charges pitched low and when we get the companies in, we increase and increase but I do not think we should pitch a high charge now and then bring it down later. I think we should do it the reverse way but the Minister knows why he has pitched it that way. That is his business.

I want to make one other comment before I forget. The Bill says that if you file the required forms. Now, I want to show the Senate something. Those of us that still have to make our daily bread out there suffer these problems. There are a set of forms that you collect from the Registry to form a company. Now, if you turn to the form which deals with Notice of Directors or Notice of Change of Directors, you will note that paragraph 3 calls for name, mailing address, occupation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I presume Senator Bolden you will make these documents...

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Oh, certainly! I will make these documents of the House. That is why I brought them Sir, to make them documents of the House. I would not want to talk unless I made them a document of the House because I do not want to mislead the Government. I want the Government to improve its position. Paragraph 4 and 5 also says "Name, Mailing Address, Occupation".
12.25 p.m.

But this form creates a disadvantage to known Barbadians. I use my words carefully. It creates a disadvantage to known Barbadians in that if the name of John Brown from up in St. Lucy appears on one of these forms, John Brown, Pie Corner, St. Lucy, Occupation: Farmer in no. 3, in no. 5 Name of Director of the company as of this date: John Brown, Pie Corner, St. Lucy, Farmer they will accept it in the Registry. But if Glyne Murray happens to put his name on this, somebody in the Registry is going to say, "I know Glyne Murray, he

does not live there." He has to put his home address on one portion of this form and his office address on the next. Then they would tell you. "Look at the back and see what the back says."

There is another system out in the Registry which would tell you that we do not want any more names with "As" in the front. We do not want any names with "the". We do not want any names beginning with a particular word. We have too many of those. That is why I raised a point about me sitting in the United States with a group of people, decide to form a company and those people select a name and phone it through to a registry and get back documents the next day. You do not hear they do not want too many of these. But this little office down here that the Government is striving to bring in an overseas company, this office that functions out there would tell you what name they do not want, who did not want this and so on. The Government has to look at that urgently because you cannot put this, and this issue says that the offshore business declined last year. There is a good reason why it has declined. Unless the Government starts at that point, it will continue to decline.

A man came to me two weeks ago from England, gave me the name of his company in England that he wants to register as a company in Barbados and they told me, "No. He cannot have that. We have too many expresses here already." The man has gone back to England with the view that his company would be accepted. I have to fax him and tell him. You know something, they have the gumption to tell you what name they will accept. They give you a name that you must take.

I am saying this is a right step forward. It opens the way for business houses in the United States, investment companies to come to Barbados. We profit from this immensely. I remember when the late Tom Adams sat with the Directors of INTEL who suggested we go into this. We hammered out what should be done to attract business to Barbados. It was never envisaged that we would reach a point where functionaries would frustrate the development of this sector.

You are moving along a path where we have to be swift in giving decisions and forming companies. The United States, as a result of Barbados being in this allowed certain states in the United States to be home for this sort of business. There are states in the United States that you can now register an offshore business with the permission of the tax department in the United States. If we have to move faster than them, we must put the machinery there that can facilitate the speed at which we have to go. But we cannot if the functionaries seek to obstruct what the Government is doing. The Law is all right. It is here. But it must be able to be worked expeditiously and easily. The functionaries must facilitate these bills going through and not frustrate them.

I say to the Senate today, I am 100% supportive of this sort of legislation. We remember INTEL. I was talking to a friend of mine the other day and she said, "You know something, I regret when INTEL left Barbados. As a security guard I used to work for $2 800 a month." People do not understand what we benefit out of this. Twenty-eight security guards at INTEL worked for $2 800 a month. There were Managers at INTEL who worked for as much as $8 000, $9 000 a month. They had provisions for housing loans at 2% interest rate. There are secretaries working in the offshore business today who earn more than the lawyers in Bridgetown. This is the sort of business that brings in that sort of employment. But people get frustrated when they cannot get it done. Why I say that is that there are other departments that must be linked to this that we must provide the amenities to accommodate the people.

There are leases that go through. I have a client in St. James that rents a house at US$9 000 a month to a manager in one of these businesses. People do not understand. The manager keeps complaining that every time he has to get a document that it takes him 2, 3, 4, 5 days to get it done. But all that we can say is we cannot get past the functionaries. Do not take it from me. Ask Central Bank. They will tell you. That is what we have to do. Mr. President, I say no more. I want to make the document a document of the House and I hope that the Government, along with putting the bill through, will take a quick look at how it will remedy the obstructions that are in the way of developing this sector even faster.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Mr. President. The Barbados Labour Party recognized that the offshore sector has played and will continue to play a very important role in our economic growth and development.

There was a time when Barbadians, on the whole, looked with a little bit of disfavour on this sector primarily because of the opposition of the Democratic Labour Party which has a very myopic view of things. They were never forward looking and they sought, on every occasion, to pour cold water on efforts that were taken by the Barbados Labour Party to develop this country. It is not to their credit that the offshore sector has continued to

progress even under them because what they inherited in 1986 was a sector that had started to provide jobs, foreign exchange earnings and so on. They obviously did not want to kill the goose that laid the golden egg. At least we can thank them for that. But, Sir, their eight years in power have seen a decline in the attention that was given to this particular sector. I agree with the last speaker when he mentioned that the physical condition under which the corporate registry operates would hinder not only their own productivity, but it would also cause potential investors to ask what sort of people we are that a sector which is so important can be housed in such terrible conditions.

The whole question of accommodation within the public service is one that this Government is looking very closely at because we recognize that it is a very serious problem. We are saying not only the corporate registry but the Treasury building is not in the best of condition, neither is the National Insurance building. Sir, at this point I want to mention the fact that you cannot build a building on the cheap and expect it to last forever. It is noticeable that most of the buildings that the DLP were responsible for end up costing the taxpayers a lot of money in the long run. You may try to cut corners but in terms of maintenance and long-term cost, the corners you cut are significant to the running cost of the buildings. We noticed that that has happened with a lot of things that they have put their hands to. It is almost, Sir, as though they are blights.

We are looking very carefully at the question of accommodation for Government departments because we recognize that when an investor comes up here he is talking in terms of a lot of millions. To have him go in the cramped and stuffy conditions is not portraying the best image of Barbados. The money that we spent on Sherbourne – I must come to that – the money that we wasted there should have been better used in getting decent accommodation for our public servants and for the public who have to deal day in and day out in these offices. The point, Sir, which must be stressed is the question of priority, when they saw a monument to folly as more important than ensuring that the sector which has provided so many jobs, so much foreign exchange, is not given the sort of attention that it deserves.
12.35 p.m.

The money spent on turning around Nelson could, in my view, have been better spent in making sure that the Corporate Affairs Registry is suitably housed. So, Sir, what has happened now is a result of the neglect of the last eight years but this Government, Sir, is not going to accept a situation where our public servants and the public are housed in accommodation which is less than suitable. I can assure this Chamber that within a short time we are going to be putting in train plans for upgrading the physical conditions under which this Registry and other Government departments operate.

Sir, everything is going to be looked at because we believe that we must present a proper face to the public, not only for the offshore sector but for our own people. Our Magistrates and Judges and Clerks who work therein must be properly accommodated. Sir, if you read our Manifesto which I believe is a document of this Chamber, and we intend to follow this very closely, we intend to establish a Ministry of International Business and, Sir, as the old Barbadian saying is, "so said, so done".

Sir, we recognise that a sector that is so important must have a person who has the necessary constitutional and other powers to make sure that things are done and not only done, but done in a timely manner because as the last Senator mentioned we cannot expect to have someone wait six months for a work permit and so on and still want them to do business. We have to expedite matters and make sure that things are done, not giving people opportunities to bypass and infringe upon our laws, because none of us in here, Sir, would want to see that happen, but at the same time we must do as the old latin phrase *festina lente*, make haste slowly. The emphasis must be on accommodating and making sure that a sense of urgency is put on this important sector.

Sir, we have a Ministry of International Business where the Minister, who also is a Member of this Chamber, spends all of his time making sure that developments in the sector keep pace with trends in the world because the offshore sector is a moving sector. There is nothing static about it. It is moving and dynamic and what may have been good in 1985 or 1984 when that sector was first developing might be outdated now so we have to continually update legislation, update procedures, in order to keep pace with a changing world. That is why, Sir, we thought it was very important that we have a Ministry looking after that particular end of the business. Previously it was a part of the Ministry of Finance, Sir, but now it has its own structure.

Sir, we also said in our Manifesto. I am reading, Sir. "We will re-examine work permit procedures to ensure they are timely and responsive to the industry and that there is transparency in the issue and revocation of permits." That, Sir, is something that we have committed ourselves to and we will, with some haste, make sure that the whole Immigration Department, while at all times making sure that the integrity of the system is maintained, expedite matters to add a more businesslike approach to their work.

Sir, we are in the midst of a new thrust in the Offshore sector because we recognise that we have a lot of highly qualified people in Barbados. I am thinking, Sir, in terms of lawyers. I am thinking, Sir, in terms of accountants and of corporate secretaries, highly skilled people who have benefitted in the past and who will continue to benefit in terms of high paying jobs and increased expertise and so on.

Sir, if you drive up Collymore Rock you will see the result of the Trusts and Offshore business. Many accounting firms have upgraded themselves and are taking advantage of the developments in the offshore sector. Sir, we have to make sure that while we need jobs at the lower end, we also need to maintain and expand employment opportunities in the middle range so that our young people who have done well at university and so on and who want to specialise in finance and so on would have the opportunity to work in these areas.

Sir, section 25 of this Act says that the annual statements must be audited and the persons appointed as auditors must be Members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados so we are making sure, Sir, that Barbadians and those people who are registered in Barbados benefit from the expansion of this sector. Sir, we must do that because a lot of our young people are coming out highly qualified and we have to make sure that employment opportunities are there for them after they have graduated. That, Sir, is very important.

Sir, I mentioned lawyers and I am sure the last speaker may have benefitted from the expansion of the sector. I also mentioned professional chartered secretaries and so on, these are almost new areas of activity so to speak. Then the Foreign Exchange capability of the sector, as mentioned before, when these societies hold their meetings they do a lot of travelling with their families and that obviously would add to developments in the tourist sector. So there is going to be a link between the offshore sector and the tourism sector and also the real estate sector. So a whole section of the Barbadian community would obviously benefit from expansion in the Offshore sector because we on this side are committed to this sector.

Our manifesto has a whole section of the offshore sector and we intend, as far as humanly possible, to carry out our mandate, our social contract with the people. This legislation is but another step and many accountants have told me that they are waiting. They want to know when the Senate is going to pass the Bill. They say they have a few companies who are just waiting for the legislation to come on the books in order to incorporate and provide some more jobs for our people including, Sir, the said accountants.

Sir, from time to time you can be assured that this Government is going to come to this Chamber and the other place with new legislation, updating legislation, in order for us to keep pace with a rapidly changing offshore sector because we see it as necessary. So, Sir, with those few words I want to register my wholehearted support for this piece of legislation and I want to encourage Government that they must continue to do all that is necessary to improve the efficiency in the handling of the public affairs of Barbados for the benefit of its citizens. Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Farley.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, in winding up the second reading of this Bill, Sir, I would first of all want to thank Senators for their valuable contributions. I would just want to respond to one or two issues that were raised. One related to whether or not the offshore sector was growing and what was the extent of such growth. The sector certainly has grown and continues to grow over the years. I do not have the 1995 figures as yet but at the last check the rate of growth of registrations in all areas in 1995 was certainly galloping behind that of 1994.
12.45 p.m.

But just to give some comparative figures in terms of international business companies, IBC's, when comparing 1988 to 1994. In 1988, there were some 439 IBC's registered and in 1994 there were 1486. Foreign sales corporations there were some 330 in 1988 and 1173 in 1994. Exempt insurance companies also called captive insurance companies 190 in 1988 and 276 in 1994 and off shore banks 5 in 1988 and 25 in 1994. So there has been growth in those areas. The one area of sluggishness has been in the registration of shipping companies and that has been largely a question of the relevant marketing arrangements put in place along with some other logistical difficulties. But that is being addressed as well as the whole question of perhaps looking at other areas of registration.

But the fact of the matter is that the sector has grown both in terms of the number of registrations as well as the earning from the sector and that based on current information with respect to 1995, the end result will show substantial improvement in 1995 over 1994.

The other major question asked was with respect to the capacity of the locals to be involved in Societies With Restricted Liability and Senator Bolden made mention of that as well in terms of his interpretation of it. Yes, there is no restriction in terms of Barbadians registering

Societies With Restricted Liability. The restrictions are with respect to the activities of the Society particularly those Societies that want exempt status. Societies that are exempt are not able to enter into contracts and agreement to provide services and so on within CARICOM. Now CARICOM, as you know, is for all intense and purposes supposed to be considered as part of the domestic economy if we are moving towards a single market and economy and there is various legislation and so on. Basically, in all CARICOM countries really there is an understanding that wherever possible the domestic market will be considered to be the CARICOM market in keeping with the overall philosophy. So that Barbadians and other CARICOM residents can invest the services that they provide which must be destined for non-CARICOM destinations.

The Act was very careful however not to preclude Societies from procuring goods and services within Barbados because that would be defeating half of your purpose. It also does not preclude transactions between IBC's and other international business companies that are resident and registered in Barbados, because that again would be defeating some of the purposes.

The other major issue raised which I think is fundamental to the long term development of the sector is the need to recognize that, although the sector thrives on special legislation and separate provisions that usually exempt the various aspects of international business and the financial sector from the rigors and encumbrances of the provisions which relate to local companies and local activities generally, it is important that we recognize and we certainly do recognize that the two cannot exist as separate kingdoms. I think that Senator Bolden's example of the role which a functional unit, and he gave you an example of the Corporate Registry, can play, must play, has played and certainly we hope it will play a different role than what it has played so far which really brought the point home.

I would want to make the comment that with respect to the long term development of the sector we see the off-shore sector developing hand in hand with the domestic sectors of the economy. There will always of course, as is done in all countries in order to add that extra attractiveness for investment in the off-shore sector, be the continued philosophy of exempting the off-shore sector from all of the requirements that are relative to the domestic sector. But a strong, vibrant and active domestic sector is important if we are to be able to move ahead. We must ensure, for example, that our education system, our health system, our record-keeping, and all of the activities even if on first appearance they do not appear to be directly involved with the off-shore sector, because of the very tight nature of our community recognize that they will impact either indirectly on the sector by way of individuals who do business in that sector and have to do business in the other one, or on the availability and subsequent productivity of the staff which will be able to provide to the services sector.

In short, I have taken the comments made with respect to the importance of a holistic approach to the development of the sector and a recognition that the off-shore sector and the domestic sector of the economy cannot exist or develop as separate kingdoms in terms of this administration's thrust and further development of the sector once we recognize that it must and will play a central part in the economic revitalization of Barbados. We also intend to pursue a balance strategy which will see all around development in those areas, but certainly we will be addressing all of those functional departments within the Government sector that impact on the off-shore sector because the legislation by itself will not do it for us. It is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for ongoing development in this area.

With those concluding remarks, Mr. President, I beg that this Bill be now read a second time.
12.55 p.m.

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

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I move, Sir, that Clause 2 stand part.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Chairman, one slight thing, something I have just picked up. I do not know if it is an oversight, but in the interpretation the Minister is not particularly referred to, whereas in Clause 40 it talks about "may apply to the Minister". I do not know if that is a cause for concern, but I just thought I would raise it.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think the Interpretation Act will really deal with this area, but basically various administrative

departments have responsibility. The definition of "Minister" sometimes in the Act itself is kept open and this allows flexibility then in terms of assignment or ministerial responsibility for the Minister to be the person so assigned under the powers of the Prime Minister in terms of appointing his Cabinet. The definition of "Minister" more precisely than that within the Act would certainly limit the Prime Minister in terms of the assignment of ministerial responsibility.

The question that Clause 2 stand part was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 were called and passed.

Part I (Clauses 5 to 12) was called and passed.

Part II (Clause 13) was called and passed.

Part III (Clauses 14 to 17) was called and passed.

Part IV (Clauses 18 to 21) was called and passed.

Part V (Clauses 22 to 29) was called

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I move, Sir, that Part V stand part.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. Chairman, Clause 25 (4) says:

> "A copy of the financial statements referred to in this section shall be sent to the Registrar together with the prescribed fee, within 21 days before each annual meeting...."

How do we determine 21 days before each annual general meeting? Or is it 21 days after the general meeting? It seems to be ambiguous, because the general meeting will be something down the line. How do we determine the 21 days prior to that? I think the Registrar should be in a position to determine whether the law has been complied with at the time of registration. I was wondering if it meant that it should be given not later than 21 days after the annual general meeting, because I would think that the purpose of submitting the financial statements to the annual meeting is for the Society to confirm their validity or otherwise.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think the basic thing here really is that in terms of the company setting the date for its annual general meeting, it must set the date bearing in mind the statutory obligation to have the document in the hands of the Registrar 21 days prior to that date. You will set your date and work backwards. The relevant Clause here does not in anyway set any limits on the actual date of the meeting, it just establishes a relative relationship between the time at which the Registrar receives a copy of the statement, the company having received it from the auditors, and the company itself proceeding to call an annual general meeting.

The question that Part V stand part was put to the Senate and agreed to.
1.05 p.m.

Part 6, Clauses 30-38 was called.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that Part 6 stand part.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Clause 33(1). It refers in this section: "member includes the legal representatives of a member". I see nothing in this section which makes reference to "member" and I was just wondering if that is a typographical error and should be referring to another section.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Senator will look at clause 30(c) it says if the society is dissolved and its affairs shall be wound up and the first of the following to occur:

> "(c) upon the death, retirement, resignation, expulsion, bankruptcy or insolvency of a member."

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. Chairman, it says in this section and not in this part. The 33(1) says "in this section" which can only refer to section 33. There is no reference in section 33 to "member".

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am unable to shed any light on Senator Workman's question.

In light of the question raised by Senator Workman for which I am unable to give any elucidation, I move that Part 6 be deferred.

Part 7, clauses 39-48 were called and passed.

Parts 8-10 were called and passed.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that the Schedule be the Schedule to the Bill.

The question was put and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that the Senate do now suspend until 2.15 p.m.
1.15 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed. The Senate is now in Committee.

Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee, His Honour SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have consulted with the Honourable Attorney General concerning section 33. A query was raised by Senator Workman with respect to the reference to "member" at 33(1) and yet no mention is made of "member" at 33(2)(a)(b) or (c).

The entire Part which is Part 6, starting at clause 30 speaks to dissolution of the society and as you will remember, a society is made up of members. All of the business in clauses 30, 31 and 32 speaks to the dissolution. But then clause 33 makes provision for certain actions to continue after the dissolution of a society and these actions being of a civil, criminal or administrative nature. If they were proceeding before the dissolution they would be given a time period in which matters could be brought against the society as if it had not been dissolved and they make reference to judgement with respect to property.

What the wording of clause 33 seeks to do is to empower the legal representatives of the dissolved society with the characteristics of a member so that the actions of a civil, criminal and administrative and so on nature, as referred to at (a)(b) and (c) would be able to continue even after the dissolution of the society. In that context, I have been assured by the Attorney General, that there was no need to speak specifically to use the word "member" in (a) (b) and (c) of Part II.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. Chairman, drafting is a very technical subject and in interpretation of the law one has to interpret the law as it is written. While I share the sentiments expressed, I think that sections 33 and onward relate, as has been said, to the continuation of a society after it has been dissolved. If we were to misinterpret the word "section" there as meaning part or even if we were to amend and say "in this Part 'member' includes legal representatives", then indeed, it could not refer to the acts carried out by members prior to the dissolution. Therefore we would not be able to allow it to refer to the entire Part.

I would think, Sir, that the proper amendment would be to say "hereafter in this Part". We need to put in those words so that it means that from section 33 on which deals with continuation, the legal representative could be the authority for reviving a society which has been dissolved.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would want to give Senator Workman the preference of the Attorney General of how he would want us to proceed in this matter and that is that the relevant wording be accepted as is with the understanding that if, in the terms of the actual practice, there are indeed hiccups in this matter, that we will return to amend. But apart from the obvious slight difference in phrasing there, there are a number of time constraints involved in terms of this one in addition to which, even if we defer this until our next sitting, the draughtsman is away on government business. The Honourable Attorney General is basically proposing that given the matter is really one of phrasing rather than of significant substance that perhaps we should proceed as is and seek to make any adjustment in this or other sections by way of subsequent amendment to the Act.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. Chairman, seeing that we are now getting off looking at it in a practical point of view, with those assurance of the Attorney General I do not think we will see a dissolution before the amendments are made.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If everybody is satisfied, the question is that Part VI stand part.

The question *was put to the Senate and agreed to.*

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the PRESIDENT the passing of one Bill in Committee. Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE TO THE LIONS CLUB SOUTH PART OF THE TOP FLOOR OF A BUILDING AT OISTINS, CHRIST CHURCH FOR THE USE AS A CLUB HOUSE

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Senate's approval is being sought for the lease of a property at Oistins in Christ Church to the Lions Club, Barbados South for use as its den subject to the terms and conditions as laid out in the Second Schedule to the Resolution. That specifies a lease of some 15 years with the option to renew and with reviews at five yearly intervals.

It also specifies a token rental of $100 per annum. It places responsibility of the lessee for keeping the premises in good repair as well as the payment of utilities and taxes and that the space be made available to other service organisations and Government agencies when required.
2.25 p.m.

This property in question is located within the central area of Oistin. It is upstairs the existing offices of the Barbados Licensing Authority and one other Government agency, most of those buildings being adjacent to the Christ Church District Hospital and the Post Office building. This property has been used by the club since the middle 1980s, since around 1985 and they have been using it on a month by month basis. Over time they have done some renovations and improvements to the area which, according to their record, total some $62 000. The actual room in question is in the region of 940 square feet with bathroom facilities and it makes for an excellent location for meetings of groups such as the Lions.

We recognize, however, that there is a shortage of such space for such purpose in the Oistin area which is why the provision for the area to be used by other clubs has been included as a central part of the lease arrangements. The club has been operating in this manner over the years that it has been there, on a month by month basis, and we would expect that they would continue to do so.

I want to say that it is important for us, as a Government, to do what we can in support of social clubs such as the Lions and there are several others who are doing excellent work. Clubs such as that provide the opportunity for people who have similar intentions with respect to certain types of projects that should be done. They have similar intentions as far as what their focus should be, in the community but allows them, on a voluntary basis to contribute freely of their time and money in the furtherance of those goals, in a way, Sir, that Government would not be able to do. Because the fact of the matter is that if Government were to garner unto itself all responsibility for assistance activities, community development activities, welfare type activities, we will run into a situation where, beyond a certain point of taxation and so on, we would get into areas of willingness of people to contribute.

Basically, to those causes with which we are in total concurrence we give freely and generously and, to those with which we do not agree, we tend to withhold and by removing some of these areas of community development and assistance activities into non-governmental organizations many of which exist and which allow people freedom of choice because they have different main elements. It means that we do have a system in place, in Barbados, where community assistance activities can be delivered on a voluntaristic basis. I would argue that such acts of voluntarism are more likely to succeed than any drift in the direction of central planning and operation.

I would want to laud the contribution of the Lions Clubs of Barbados, over the years, and I would want to say that the Government is enthusiastic about formulizing this arrangement with the Lions Club South. We hope that the continuation of the use of this facility by the Lions Club South and other community groups in the area will add some value to the lives of the citizens of Barbados, in that area.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bernstein.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: I want to preface my remarks by saying, first of all, that I am a supporter of all the service clubs in Barbados, all charitable organizations and recognized sporting bodies. There is no doubt that the Lions has done excellent work in the community spending a lot of money. We only have to look at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and see the large building that is the Lions Eye Care Centre.

This lease for 15 years is not a problem, as far as I am concerned. what concerns me, most of all, are the double standards which seem to be prevailing in the Government for some time. When I say double standards, I mean when the time comes for the reviewing of these licences or lease agreements over the period of 5 years. For example, the Pistol and Rifle Federation occupies some land near the National Stadium at a peppercorn rent of $300 per annum. Last month this Honourable Chamber met and approved some land at Wildey for the Swimming Association at $100 per annum. I was sorry I was not able to attend that due to the sudden passing of my mother-in-law in Canada. I was out of the island.

But I am very concerned when we have situations where, on the one hand you are giving peppercorn rents and on the other hand, it seems as though you are putting pepper in the corn. For example, in 1981, the Barbados Shotakan Karate Club got a licence from the Government for 25 years to be reviewed every 5 years. The first rental agreement was $2 040 per annum. This was paid every year until 1990. I will remind you, Sir, that the Barbados Shotakan Karate Club is a non profit organization like the Lions and is performing a community service. In 1990 the rent went up to $3 060 to be reviewed in 1991. When it was reviewed, it went up to $6 000. As President of the Barbados Karate Association, I cannot sit down in

this Chamber and not mention this when we have to pass Bills where we are going to give service of the Lions $100 per annum and realize that the Shotakan Karate Club is paying $6 000 per annum. We could not afford to pay this and we are in arrears for 3 years. I am going to be winding it up very shortly, Sir. They are accusing us of not paying arrears for the last 3 years because we continue to pay $3 060 and they are charging us the difference of $6 000 over the 3 years which amounts to $8 820.

We have recently written the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing because, apparently, he is responsible for this. We have asked the Minister to seriously look seriously at it and give some consideration as to whether they could reduce that rent. I may also add that the people who do karate are from a poor strata of the society. They are not as wealthy as those who attend swimming and we cannot afford really to pay the amount of money that is being asked.

Recently, the Director of the National Sports Council, Mr. Alvin Burgess was just at our club. He looked and was amazed to see the amount of young people and people who could ill-afford doing karate. We ask that the Government has a common policy for all these bodies whether it is by licence or by lease and make sure that it is not a money making policy but a policy which would enable all the sporting organizations and all the community services to have an equal share in the society.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Farley.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Just in winding up debate on this resolution, Sir, I note the comments of Senator Bernstein. It is interesting to note however that I do not know if we are comparing apples and oranges, apples and grapefruits or what we are doing. The Senator's presentation did not make any mention of whether the rents he was being charged was for land or for building. What was the size of the building or the land? Whether the facilities that were rented, were rented in good and proper condition or whether it is a case of the lessee putting in an improved value. Therefore I really am not in a position to assist him in terms of answering his question without having the relevant information. I am pleased to note that he has taken the appropriate step of correspondence with the relevant Ministry and I am sure that that matter will be sorted out. With those few short comments, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.
2.35 p.m.

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

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT LOWLANDS, CHRIST CHURCH FOR THE PURPOSE OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Resolution pertaining to the acquisition of land at Lowlands, Christ Church for road improvement seeks to regularise a matter which has an origin somewhere back some years ago, at least in 1989 or beyond but the property at Lowlands, Christ Church, Sir, is at the junction of Lowlands Road and Highway 7 which, as I am sure you know, Sir, is at or about a junction near to the Shell Gas Station in the Pilgrim Road area. You can make a right turn by the gas station to go towards the road that will take you down to Wilcox Hill around the airport fence or you can continue straight on to the airport on the old airport road.

As you will know, Sir, those persons who were approaching that road from the Lowlands Road, that is, those coming out of St. George, for example, found it impossible to have a good line of sight at that junction because of a rock bluff on the area to the right of that junction. The rock bluff also affected visibility on the main road. Effectively the project involved reducing that rock bluff to allow for greater visibility as well as to provide a 2 metre sidewalk for pedestrians because, as you know, Sir, the St. Bartholmew's School was some yards east of that area.

Sir, in executing this project the Government utilised 61.1 square metres of land in one parcel and 3.6 square metres in another from the property of Mr. Gladstone Burnett and we are now in the process of formalising the acquisition of that land. One of the delays that was experienced, Sir, it would appear, is that efforts were made to secure the land by way of private treaty and when that failed then the acquisition proceedings were started. The Senate is now being asked, Sir, to approve the acquisition of land at Lowlands, Christ Church for the purpose of road improvement. I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT TENT BAY, ST. JOSEPH FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Senate is being asked to approve this Resolution for the compulsory acquisition of land at Tent Bay, St. Joseph for road improvement. The land in question, Sir, represents some 25.79 square metres of land,

about 2 500 square feet, at Tent Bay. This again was used in road improvement and I believe, Sir, it provided expansion in the roadway to facilitate movement in and out of Tent Bay. Again the Ministry sought to conclude this matter by private treaty but when that failed, the resort was made to acquisition.

This matter goes back to 1981 when that particular road project was being done and the estimated value of the land in question is some $500.00. We are really being asked, Sir, to grant approval under the provisions of section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act Cap. 228 for the compulsory acquisition of the land described in the Schedule so that the Crown may have clear title to the land. I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING OF LAND AT SPEIGHTSTOWN, ST. PETER IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, Senate approval is being asked for the vesting of this land in the National Housing Corporation. Sir, this land formed part of land, possibly some 50 000 square metres, that was acquired in the early eighties for the purposes of the erection of a bus terminal and a playing field in Speightstown.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: That was 1986. That was formalised, Sir, but the actual process started some time before that. However, Sir, the construction of the bus terminal and playing field and other facilities did not utilize the entire portion.

In addition to that, Sir, during the flooding in St. Peter in the 1980s, some temporary accommodation was found for a number of persons deemed to be in the most flood prone areas. They were resited on to some of these lands. As it turned out, on the conclusion of the project relating to the bus terminal and the other facilities, the 7 505.6 square metres of land in effect became superfluous land and what is being sought, Sir, is approval of the Senate to have this land, which had originally formed part of that acquired by the Crown for use in the original project which, as I said, is now deemed to be superfluous with regard to that project, to be vested in the National Housing Corporation which will in turn then be able to give title to the persons living on those lands who have indicated an interest in purchasing those lots. I believe, Sir, that there are some 7 houses that were erected in that area and Senate's approval is therefore sought for this Resolution.

2.45 p.m.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Gill.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, Sir, now that we are having a peep at housing, though not addressing the immediate area to which Senator Farley has given most of his address, I would like to draw the attention of this Chamber to the state of housing in Barbados over the past 8 years. It is sad to report that the previous administration must have only built something like 6 to 7 houses per annum during that period of time. Not really trying to put a feather into our hat, not directly, but when we look at the number of units which were built between 1976 and 1986 and that did not even solve the problem in its entirety, we have people today who call me on a daily basis because I was involved as a candidate in the last campaign. So I have a file strictly for housing and these are people who will tell you that they have applied 8, 9 or 10 years ago and until now they have not been able to see it possible to be handed the keys or even to be considered let alone handed the keys for such a facility. Sir, it is a real problem even if this administration were to build one a day for the next year or two we would only be touching the surface. I would like to impress that one of the main thrust of this new administration is indeed the urban development which will be spending a lot of time on urban rejuvenation, urban re-development, *et cetera*. Without such a plank, Sir, particularly in the St. Michael area, then we would be failing the residents of St. Michael in our Manifesto pledge.

Sir, as I said, I do not intend to be too long on this matter but I just want to draw it to the attention of all Senators the morass which we have found ourselves in with respect to housing mainly because of lack of planning and foresight. I do not think that any international body or organisation could really direct the spending of a Government to such an extent that you put housing on the back burner and turn the back burner off. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator N. P. Welch.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I too share the concerns of Senator Gill as it relates to housing in Barbados and I have spoken on another occasion in this Senate about the neglect which the previous administration have had in the last 8 years about the housing concerns of Barbadians. I am sure that this administration will give housing the priority that it deserves. But within recent months there has been activity that has been a cause of concern for me, because on the one hand we see the need for the development of low cost housing in Barbados but on the other hand within the last couple of months we have seen a situation where there were countless house fires all across Barbados. It is sad to say that in most instances

it has been the houses of poor people which have been burnt and it creates a strain to some extent on the social services of this country because when a person loses his or her house we have to look for alternative accommodation perhaps at relatives and friends and there is a lot of inconvenience. I think the time is coming when we must look at providing hostel type accommodation. I know that it is part of the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto for housing. So that in these particular instances the inconvenience can be minimized and that housing can be readily made available to such victims of this unfortunate act. But at the same time I think it would be remiss of me if I did not call on the authorities to get together perhaps with the insurance agencies in Barbados and set a framework in place for reasonable insurance rates. I do not want to say that chattel housing insurance should be something that is compulsory because the exorbitant rates of insurance at this particular point in time and the fact that chattel houses are made out of wood would attract high insurance rates. But I think there is need at this present time for us to look seriously at this issue of housing insurance for chattel houses and I also think that the Government Information Service should be more widely used to make the public more aware of the type of fire-fighting pieces of equipment that they can have in their homes that would minimize the effects of house fires.

I had the privilege only a couple of weeks ago to attend a seminar on health and safety and there were some personnel from the Barbados Fire Service and they were recommending things like fire blankets which are not very expensive. I think people need to be made more aware of the safe way to handle the propane gas cylinders. I know some people find themselves in situations where they believe that propane cylinders should be kept in cupboards enclosed. My understanding is that it is a potential fire hazard in the sense that the density of propane gas that can build up in there and the moment you strike a match that can be the end of you.

I would also like to see a situation where fire extinguishers become a part of every Barbadian home and perhaps the Government could look at making this one of the items that you can probably claim some form of tax concession on. I think that these small measures plus the use of the GIS and the personnel from the Barbados Fire Service can inform the Barbadian public of the simple ways or the means that they can employ to live a life with the emphasis on fire safety that these small measures can go a long way in alleviating some of the problems that we have had in this country in the past couple of months. I look to the day when house fires in Barbados will be a thing of the past so that the strain that it puts on the individuals who suffer from these events and the social services of the country could be minimized. Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just before Senator Murray speaks, I hope that somebody will mention Speightstown, St. Peter. We have got into fire extinguishers and, given a fair amount of latitude, I think the Senate should try to stick a little closer to the Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: No, Mr. President, I can assure you that admonition even in anticipation is not deserving of me as I intend to stick very strictly to the Resolution if only, Sir, because it to me gives great strength what we have declared in our Manifesto on the whole question of rural development. To me, Sir, Speightstown gets special mention because for many years it had been an area of neglect under the previous Government, as part of the overall (as part of the overall) dictum and philosophy that Boscobel was off the map and Black Bess was behind God's back. With that kind of attitude then, what the last Government did was to cancel a fishing harbour and fisheries complex, which was all ready to get started at the change of Government in 1986. So I can say a lot about Speightstown, I can say a lot about this Resolution, Sir.
2.55 p.m.

In our Manifesto, on page 29, we have the very lofty declaration that, among other things, we will rebuild strong, vibrant rural communities in which our people will find it desirable to reside, work and play. This Resolution that deals with housing is part of the fulfilment of that pledge to provide strong and vibrant communities in a rural parish in which people, in this instance, can live through improved housing.

Sir, there is no doubt that our Manifesto, where it deals with rural development, also was born out of the philosophy which was enunciated at length during our last campaign by the Prime Minister, that we were against there being two Barbadoses – a rural Barbados and an urban Barbados – in the sense that there was going to be a wide disparity of development, facilities, standard of living between the two areas. This is but one small step along the way. If it was for any reason thought that we were going to leave it at such a minimal effort, one only has to turn to what was said about Speightstown in the Budget Speech by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in which Speightstown was declared as one of the special areas for development under which the Government would grant duty and tax relief, as well as investment allowances, to these approved areas, Speightstown being among them, the others being Carlisle Bay, Scotland District and St. Lawrence Gap. Therefore, one can see that there is a cohesiveness and a tying together of what is stated broadly in the Manifesto and what is being spelt out in detail and in specific plans and programmes for, in this instance, Speightstown. I know that there are numerous ideas and several studies and approaches being considered for Carlisle Bay, Scotland District and St. Lawrence Gap.

But back to Speightstown, Sir, as I pledged I would speak to it with great ardour. There is housing and then there is Speightstown being part of the special development areas which would receive special concession and special treatment from Government in order to stimulate economic activity. Government feels that its involvement in these areas should be more of an enabling kind in which it would finance the studies and provide the environment and the environment and the incentives for the private sector to take it from then on. Speightstown, therefore, is poised for a take off which, even if it is not fully realised within the next five years, will see it receiving more of the national attention and prominence it once enjoyed when it was known as Little Bristol and when it played a much more prominent role in the economic and social life of Barbados.

The development of Speightstown will not be relegated merely to housing development or the provision of better roads, in the Budget Speech the Prime Minister also talked about plans being made "to optimise Speightstown's potential in the area of heritage tourism and this and other similar investments which broaden the scope for business activity will qualify for favourable duty and tax relief and the appropriate investment incentives."

Sir, this declaration in the Budget Speech has attracted a considerable amount of attention from the private sector in which there are several groups who are eyeing and formulating various plans for the development of various aspects of Speightstown and St. Peter in general. Against this background and in this environment the people of Speightstown and the wider St. Peter have risen to the challenge and have themselves begun to demonstrate a community spirit that I am sure will help to provide the further impetus for their contribution to the development of Speightstown and St. Peter.

In this regard I should like to congratulate the people of St. Peter for having inaugurated their celebration of St. Peter week of activities in which a great deal of emphasis is being based in Speightstown. There is an admirable exhibition of very old and historic photographs of Speightstown which have been mounted in that area and which could provide educational and entertainment value for those who would wish to see what Speightstown once looked like, complete with the jetty and its boats offshore, very reminiscent of the heyday of that part of the island.

Therefore, I wish to urge all those who can, to see that exhibition and also to play what part they can and join with St. Peter in celebrating St. Peter Week and help to revive an area of Barbados which for too long has been placed on the back burner.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, a few years ago I would not have supported this Resolution, because a few years ago the National Housing Corporation was not worthy of any land being vested in it, primarily because it was doing nothing. The eight years of DLP regime saw this Corporation emasculated to the extent that the only public sector housing project they undertook was at Church Village, St. Philip. They found plans for one at Pondside and in their wisdom they decided to scale down the project. Apparently a project of that size was too good for the people in the City. Those are the reasons why I would not have supported it, because the National Housing Corporation in the eight years under the DLP rule did not show itself as a Corporation worthy of any consideration whatsoever.

Sir, to make matters worse, it was not for lack of funds that they were not carrying out any activity, because the Housing Credit Fund had quite a few million dollars for the last umpteen years and they steadfastly refused to provide housing for the people of Barbados, as they were mandated to under the Act on which they were established. So I am happy now that I can support this Resolution, because in the last nine months the National Housing Corporation has shown once again that it has the commitment necessary to improve the housing lot of the people of Barbados.

Sir, prior to 1986 we had a very vigorous sites and services programme going, where people all over the country, in all the rural communities up and down Barbados benefited from the provision of serviced lots, because once they had these serviced lots then they could start with a little 16' x 9', as us older Barbadians remember, and then go on gradually until the time when eventually they have what we call a wall house. That was the way how the average Barbadian housed themselves. They just wanted a little start, and the National Housing Corporation between 1986 and 1994 refused to expand the work that was started prior to 1986.
3.05 p.m.

I remember reading a geography of Barbados – the writer was not a Barbadian. I think he was an English geographer – where he commended the Government for its wisdom in providing the Tenantry Freehold Act which revolutionised the rural communities in Barbados. That book went on to state that the improvements in housing in Barbados could be attributed to the passage of that particular Act.

The National Housing Corporation. As I said before, it was not a lack of money because the money was there – no vision. Sir, I am sure that Senator Workman will agree with me when I quote from the Bible. "Where there is no vision the people perish." So the people perished,

because of the lack of vision on the part of the National Housing Corporation. But, Sir, the place is now being transformed. We see that no sooner we retained the reins of power that Maynards started in St. Peter.

We are now reactivating the Cane Garden project which for many years had bush growing up through the walls of that abandoned project. The National Housing Corporation needs our commendation and I want to use the passage of this Resolution to thank them on behalf of the people of Barbados for the interest that they are showing in fulfilling this basic need. As I look around Barbados, I see a lot of physical development, but when I look at the housing lots of the people in the inner city, Speightstown, Carrington Village and these areas, I see that we have not kept pace with development that is going on in Barbados.

Sir, we cannot have the heights on one hand where people have legitimately aspired to improve their housing situation and, on the other hand, the virtual slums on the other. It would lead to social dislocation and unrest in this country and that is why we have to commend the National Housing Corporation and encourage them even to press forward with more urgent speed because it is almost the midnight hour as far as the housing crisis goes in Barbados.

Sir, you are asking a child living in cramped conditions to perform in the 11+ and the CXC on par with another fellow whose physical surroundings are more amenable to study. You are asking him to perform at the same level. That is why the National Housing Corporation must carry on its work because we have to recognise in this country that there are some people who need the extra help from Government, because that little help will help them to help themselves. I do not believe in building a mendicant society, but we have to recognise that some people need that extra bit of help and this Government must continue in its resolve to give that extra push.

So, Sir, the National Housing Corporation must carry on its sites and services programme and must accelerate the rate at which they get the lots out to potential tenants because it is very important. Eventually, Sir, we want to put it in a position where they can get title to the land, because we believe, as we stated in our manifesto, that the Barbados Labour Party Administration will also immediately resume an active sites and services programme through which house spots are made available to those persons who wish to build their own houses and starter homes which facilitate those who need to take a more incremental approach and the National Housing can carry out the work for which it was designed. Speightstown is a good place to start, because we have to rebuild our cities. I would love to see the day come, and I hope it is not far off, when we travel from Speightstown to Bridgetown and look at the housing conditions in inner Bridgetown. I believe it is desirable to have people living in inner cities. We have to look at places like Cats Castle and those places and try to improve the housing situation in these areas.

Speightstown is a good place to start, because it has a history, and not only that, it has been one of the most neglected urban areas – rus in urbe. So we have to develop and then come down to Bridgetown and get the NHC involved in almost refashioning this important city.

With those few well chosen words, Sir, I want to indicate to you that I would give this Resolution my wholehearted support and urge the NHC to go from strength to strength.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT ROAD VIEW, ST. PETER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALK AND CAR PARK

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I believe we are back at Speightstown. The Resolution seeks the approval of the Senate for the acquisition of some 3 parcels of land at Road View in St. Peter for the construction of a sidewalk and car park facilities in the immediate vicinity of St. Peter Church Cemetery. This, as you know, Sir, is on the southern end of Speightstown so that Road View is just adjacent to Speightstown.

Basically, what is involved here is the provision of some minor amount of parking within the confines of the wall which marks the boundary of the St. Peter Church Cemetery which would ease some of the congestion which one normally faces when there is an interment at that cemetery. Approval had been granted to this project some time ago – 10 years ago, actually. However, there were some modifications that were required to be made to the areas of land to be utilised.

At the end of it, Sir, the parcels of land to be utilised turned out to be 269.77 square metres from the Barbados Diocesan Trustees, 231.60 square metres from Lotty Chandler and 568.19 square metres from Nancy Morrison.

Basically, the project involves removing the wall of the cemetery from its present location, setting it further in by a metre or two and to an acquisition of a property within the walls – this is not on the road, if you know the area, Sir – to allow approximately 25 or 30 cars to be able to park within the cemetery area. The removal of the walls and the construction of a new wall is also necessary because the cemetery wall at this point is becoming a safety hazard. That aspect of the project is not executed and that needs to be done as well as the fact is that with the increased importance of Speightstown this particular area needs upgrading by way of necessary sidewalks.

With that bit of information on this esolution, I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.
3.15 p.m.

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE TO THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANISATION OF LAND AT DAYRELLS ROAD, CHRIST CHURCH TO HOUSE THE OFFICES OF CARIBBEAN PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the matter before us is the lease of land at Dayrells Road, Christ Church to the Pan American Health Organisation. That land is located at Dayrells Road, Christ Church, at property referred to by the name of "Albergeldie". This is property which is currently occupied by PAHO. As you know, Sir, it is adjacent to the Wanderers Cricket Club on the one hand and the public highway on the other along with some other properties.

The proposal, Sir, is to lease the property to PAHO, I believe, for 99 years. The property in question is in the region of 12 6578.8 square metres.

Sir, the importance of international organisation to Barbados must not be understated. We must also recognise that although Barbados has on its shores a number of these international organisations that there is a push throughout the region to lure some of these organisations away from Barbados. Everyone recognises the heightened profile which the country receives by the presence of these organisations as well as the actual tangible benefits by way of the requirement for rental of properties by the resident officials, by way of the expenditure they incur in Barbados, by way of the visits made by the various officials to the organisations, by way also of the fact of the presence of the organisation's office in the host country making it easy for the host Government as well as other institutions to have access to those individuals to put forward projects and the like.

The importance of attracting regional and international institutions to Barbados and being subsequently able to keep them here has not been lost on the Government. It is in this light that we are seeking to formalise this lease in order to further reaffirm our commitment to the organisation in question.

I am sure I do not have to remind you, Sir, of the important work which PAHO has done throughout this hemisphere. I am sure there will be others who are more versed in these matters of health. I am not even versed in matters of my own health, Sir. I just trust that it is all right. I am sure there will be others who can speak more fully on the activities of PAHO.

What I would want to say, Sir, is that with respect to other regional and international institutions in Barbados, the Government is actively pursuing various courses of action which would seek to deepen the activities of those organisations that are already here as well as would seek to encourage others that are not here to come this way. For example, with respect to regional organisations, there are several of them here and sometimes we have a difficulty of rationalising some of the agreements under which these organisations exist in the country. Some of the older and more established ones that have governmental involvement and input may fit fairly easily into the established diplomatic framework within which organisations like the UN, PAHO and so on would operate but there are others which are non-governmental in nature but which perform important functions. Some of them might very well be commercial functions or semi-commercial functions but the nature of their formation, without getting into any names, makes them, in fact, *bona fide* regional organisations.

The Government is in the process of defining a framework within which whether we are approached by an organisation to enquire what we are involved in in establishing a regional headquarters here, or whether we actively pursue the whole question of having regional headquarters set up by non-governmental organisations we would be preparing the framework which would spell out terms, conditions, privileges and responsibilities of these other organisations that do not right away fall immediately within the established diplomatic and into the governmental framework.

At present, Sir, there are on-going discussions with other international organisations which would see the rationalisation of the operations here particularly with respect to the provision of facilities. There are some major organisations which have separate institutional arms operating from different locations in Barbados and the Government, of course provides the accommodation for these agencies. But there are proposals in hand at

the moment for providing common facilities for another of these international organisations which would involve not only Government providing accommodation for them but also the organisation itself would be committing some funds to the project because they recognise that although as a host Government we would provide accommodation, if they are in several separate locations, then that has implications for their operational costs. There would be several common services they would have to replicate in each location, mainly support services, secretarial, administrative and the like. The details of that programme, I am sure, would be announced at the appropriate time. I would not want to be recidivous in my remarks on that one.

Just to say, Sir, that the importance of international organisations has been recognised by the Government, that we are actively in discussion with several of the international organisations which have offices in Barbados with a view to deepening of their involvement in Barbados, with a view to rationalising Government's own involvement here in terms of the space we provide to make sure first of all that it is up to standard, to make sure that it is adequate and also to make sure that the Government is able to rationalise its use and provision of this space as well as the organisations by way of being in single locations where possible where they would be able to obtain the necessary efficiencies.
3.25 p.m.

Sir, with those few short remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Symmonds.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Thank you, Mr. President. Recently, the appointment of the distinguished, brilliant Sir George Alleyne has been widely welcomed. There has been great acclaim and I am not going to say anything more about that.

But I wish, particularly, to congratulate PAHO on the initiation of the Health Journalism Awards which are held locally and regionally. I have had the pleasure of being one of the judges of this competition, on a few occasions, and I can attest to its efficacy.

Mr. President, this competition is an incentive to some journalists who write about health to research diligently and painstakingly. They also follow up this with human interest angles and ways to solve the problems that arise from the personal experiences of the people they interview. In initiating these awards PAHO has helped to raise the consciousness of Caribbean people about health issues. Readers and viewers should have become more aware of the seriousness of some of the illnesses highlighted and how to deal with them. Preventive measures are often emphasized.

In addition, one of the important aspects displayed is that there has been a level of compassion for people afflicted with certain diseases which, in turn, has produced a renewed sensibleness that they are human and not to be abandoned.

Mr. President, that PAHO has chosen us is also a measure of the confidence placed in us and I have much pleasure in supporting this resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I too would like to use this occasion to commend PAHO for its work here in Barbados. I am sure we are all aware that this is the Headquarters for the organization in the Caribbean and all the co-ordinating is done here in Barbados. I also should like to commend and congratulate the former Administration for putting this Agreement in place because the Headquarters which they presently use is about close to 200 years old. It would cost in excess of $1 million I believe to renovate that building and make it the kind of environment in which people can work comfortably. The decision was taken to make sure that they are headquartered in a new building. By doing so, the Government of Barbados is completing its end of the arrangement with PAHO to provide full accommodation.

In addition, we also make sure that local staff is available to the Headquarters of PAHO. I believe we are all aware that it is as a result of the programmes which are co-ordinated in Barbados that we have managed to eradicate measles and polio those childhood diseases which, when many of us were growing up, know a number of our peers would have either been crippled or died at very early ages. As a result of the programme through PAHO, we have managed to improve the quality of life of young people and also adults. We have also managed to extend the life span of Barbadians to the extent that we now have been categorized as the most unusual aging population in the developing world. It has some positives but it has some negatives too. But I believe that as a result of the programme through the Pan American Health Organization we have managed to achieve this. This has also contributed to the improvement in our morbidity as well as our mortality expectations which has implications for Barbadian and Caribbean people as they attempt to purchase either life or health insurance on the market. Through the programmes, in association with the Government of Barbados and the Pan American Health Organization, we can say that we have managed to improve the livelihood and the lifestyle of Barbadian and Caribbean people.

We in Barbados ought to be very proud about our performance internationally, as a nation, through PAHO. During the past 8 years we have managed to have a Barbadian Minister of Health head one of the most important bodies at the Pan American Health Organization. He has been President of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, a Conference which is convened every 4 years in Washington. To me, that was a significant achievement for such a small island, in such a large world. Sometimes we tend not to recognize how much others look to Barbados based on the quality people who we have here. I believe occasions such as these really should cause us to sit, reflect and feel proud about ourselves and our small nation.

I want to agree with my former Deputy Head, Senator Symmonds and many Caribbean people who were extremely proud when Sir George Alleyne became head of that Organization. Barbados played a significant part in making sure that he gained that election in that most powerful body. That is the single most powerful post held internationally by a Caribbean person and, a Barbadian. I am doubly proud about that.

I just want to say those few words on behalf of the Party which I represent here and I know that PAHO will continue with its work throughout the Caribbean. I hope that we would manage to stem some of the other scourges which are developing in health. I should like to see a programme which would assist us in dealing with the sustainment of lupus which is, at present, really threatening the lives of our young, black women. They say it is a black people's disease and 90% of those people who contract the disease are women. I hope that, through the Pan American Health Organization, we can come up with something which can assist us in maybe diagnosing, at a very early stage, or find some way of making sure that it does not affect our population. We are a 90% black population and if we have a disease which is mainly among the blacks then I believe the future of the population is threatened. I hope that, through that organization, we will be able to deal with this disease. There are others which are mainly a problem for women, diseases which affect women mainly. I hope that we can, through PAHO. I do not know how many of us are aware but most of our senior health officers are trained through the Pan American Health programmes, through the Pan American Health Organization. I know that Senator Rickinson will probably want to tell us more about this.

I should like to commend PAHO and I support this Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Odle.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Thank you, Mr. President. I too just want to share a few words in support of this Resolution to approve the lease for the land to PAHO. This Administration and I think the previous Administration strongly support the work of PAHO within the region. To give credence to this, this Administration has earmarked $870 000 towards the project at Dayrells Road and this is going to be paid out in approximately $250 000 plus, per annum, over a 3-year period towards the construction of the building to house the offices of the Caribbean Programme Co-ordinator.

The architecture of this project is going to be along traditional Barbadian style. This is with a view to maintaining that total Barbadian look in that Dayrells Road area which we know is quite a very nice area and which houses many mahogany trees. I think we are all conscious of the fact that we do not want to be removing trees from the environment, unnecessarily, because already we can begin to feel the global warning as the heat is engulfing us this early in "the summer". The mahogany trees are going to be maintained to add a nice aesthetic appeal and a wonderful environment in addition to the area in general, to make PAHO remain comfortable in Barbados because we do not want to see them ever move from this area.
3.35 p.m.

We all know that Trinidad in particular was putting in a plug for PAHO to move their offices to Trinidad. As former Senators speaking have said, we are happy that they have decided to remain here in Barbados. I am sure it is because this administration is certainly doing as much as it can do to ensure that they will always be comfortable in a Barbadian setting.

The work that PAHO does regionally is very important but in Barbados we are especially blessed because they, as stated and will continue to be stated by Senator Rickinson, as Health is her real babe, offer a lot of training to personnel in health here in Barbados, on the environment, on mental health and public education generally. At this time we have students abroad who are there for training in the medical arena, because of funding from PAHO and this could only serve to better equip Barbados in general health practices as the years go by so that we can indeed maintain a healthy quality of living in this country.

Through PAHO they also assisted us by funding the fees for the specialist who is looking into the role of the St. Joseph Hospital and we know now what a lot of the findings have revealed, the actual conditions of the hospital *et cetera*. It was through PAHO that the funds were found to do this, not of course underscoring the point that some more research needs to be done into the question of St. Joseph Hospital with a mind to its future.

Again this was realised. I always make the point in here that as you stand up to speak you can almost tick off the information as it comes to bear from the mouths of other Senators but as far as the eradication of the polio and measles, I think we really stand apart from a lot of the Third World Developing Countries. Recently I was in Cuba, and this was something which came home to me quite forcibly. I felt proud to realise that we stood so far apart from a lot of the Latin American Countries as far as health goes and this is through the works of PAHO generally. In some parts of the Latin Americas and South America in particular they still have polio to grapple with, the question of potable water and many other problems that we take for granted here in Barbados. I think it is through the work of PAHO and they ought to be lauded for this.

With those few words, Mr. President, I just want to say that this is a very valuable Resolution that we are looking to pass and I would like to recommend it to all of the Members of the Senate. Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution to house the offices of the Caribbean Programme Coordinator. The World Health Organisation or Pan American Health Organisation has given invaluable contributions, not only to Barbados, but also to the Caribbean. Its main role in the region is in the area of training and I think the public should know that PAHO has provided virtually all the fellowships to train our hospital administrators, our medical officers of health, health education officers, nurse educators, nurse administrators, public health nurses, public health inspectors. These are all fellowships provided to the Government of Barbados by the Pan American Health Organisation.

In addition to training, the World Health Organisation also provides a variety of consultants to Barbados and the Caribbean in many areas. They provide nurse consultants. PAHO has been instrumental in assisting the Ministry of Education in successfully implementing the midwives training programme and also bringing in consultants to work as external examiners and that programme has gone extremely well.

Unfortunately we have not really used their services in some areas as much as we should because the services are there and they are available. I hope that in future we will utilise the services of PAHO in the area of general nursing which has been lacking. They have assisted very well in the area of the training of the midwives but when it came to the shifting they assisted in developing the curriculum for general nursing in the eighties but when it moved into the Barbados Community College they did not really utilise the assistance of PAHO as much as they should and I think that we need to use the consultants that are there because they are available.

In the area of the development of nursing, as well we can use as well the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, psychiatric Hospital and other areas, the geriatrics. We could also utilise the services of PAHO much more than we have done.

As far as eradication of communicable diseases is concerned PAHO donated most of those vaccines to Barbados and that is how we were able to eradicate such communicable diseases as polio myelitis because in those days the vaccines were very expensive and we could only mount those programmes through the donation of the vaccines and assistance from the consultants from PAHO. Therefore we really owe them quite a lot.

PAHO also had a health educator stationed there in order to advise Barbados in the setting up of a Health Education Unit and I sincerely hope that we will get back to that. As late as last year they invited a short-term consultant who came to Barbados and met with us and several persons in the health field regarding the re-establishing of a health education unit and I sincerely hope that we will get the benefits of the recommendations from that short-term consultant.

As you know, Mr. President, the weeks – Health week, Dental Health Week, Red Cross Week, Nurses Week – they create an awareness among the population. They can only change slightly held attitudes but, Mr. President, when we have entrenched deep-seated undesirable health practices we need sustained health education, day in, day out, if not we will not maximise the use of our scarce resources. I am hoping that we will be able to reach the stage where we can set up that health education unit because there are many areas that we need to look at in the area of contamination of the environment and by contamination of the environment I mean land, sea, water, air and noise pollution which is greatly on the increase and which down the road is going to create a lot of deafness among the members of our society. I sincerely hope that we will be able to get into those areas.

I do commend people on having health fest and weeks and days, *et cetera*, but in addition to those, to change those deep-seated attitudes regarding the environment and life itself we need to have sustained education.

I would also like to commend PAHO on the journalism awards which have brought journalism into health in Barbados and in the Caribbean.
3.45 p.m.

I sincerely hope that they can deepen their involvement in the area of health so that we can go

about selling health like anything else and try to ensure that we have a healthy society.

Last but not least, I would like also to extend congratulations to Sir George Alleyne who holds a prestigious post in PAHO, WHO and who in his acceptance speech emphasized the need for educating our people in the Caribbean and elsewhere so that they can practise desirable health practices.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I do not support this Resolution. I have nothing against PAHO. I think PAHO is fantastic because they have done work in animal health and they have been very helpful to the Caribbean. But why are we going into Dayrell's Road when we have this monstrosity sitting at Sherbourne which we do not use? It is totally under-utilized. Why are not all of the United Nations agencies housed at Sherbourne where hopefully we could get back some of the money which we have invested there if somewhat so unwisely? So I cannot agree to this Resolution to put this thing in that place. Thank you.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, I am sure that Senator Laurie is fully aware that they have been there for quite a few years already at "Albergedie" and probably they have been so consumed by the environs that it would be heartbreaking to leave that setting. I know the setting, Sir, because I played many afternoons right next door at Dayrell's Road up into late in the evening and it is really a pleasant atmosphere at this time particularly with the rains coming. It is lush, the foliage is excellent and also the whole ambiance of the atmosphere. I think that people leaving Europe and North America want to get away from that big old stone and concrete setting and really enjoy part of the Caribbean and particularly Barbadian atmosphere. That Barbados, Sir, could be chosen as this arm of the United Nations for this is an achievement by no means small and super-imposed on that, Sir, is the elevation of Sir George Alleyne to that position is one which would only go to reinforce our image internationally when we get people like himself and from St. Lucia, Sir Arthur Lewis, being a Nobel Peace Prize winner, it brings a certain amount of attention to the country of origin.

If I may move quickly, Sir, onto the functions and achievements of the World Health Organisation, the unintrusive march of the scientific world, Sir, to proceed along the path which lots of us have taken as granted as the paths of Louis Pasteur and the Ginnesses and the day-to-day work in micro-biology and biology, two very hot and growing areas, these areas are supported out and out and being financed by World Health Organisations. These are areas which should be greatly commended.

I think it was Senator Thompson who I think slipped up there when she said the elimination of chicken pox when it should have been small pox. We have not had the elimination of chicken pox as yet and one would wish and welcome the day when we have reached that stage. We take a lot for granted, Sir, when we talk about we have clean drinkable water. I think it was Senator Odle who alluded to this point but just a few days out of Barbados to certain Caribbean islands and beyond into the Latin Americas, you can see what it is like to go a day without easily accessible clean drinkable water. I think the World Health Organisation, I think it is as recently as this year, has been promoting and challenging this drive.

Without the work of PAHO, WHO and now to the extent of our regional body and with the international transport of thousands of people per day going from continent to continent, the society in which we now live would be no way similar to what we are accustomed to enjoying. We would be plagued, Sir, with lots of communicable diseases which are endemic in other parts of the world. But again fortunately because of our life styles as well as the programmes of the U.N. bodies we are able to live a much more lively life style. What do we look at, Sir? How does it accrue to our human resources and energy grid and days off from work? Recently, we have seen the bubonic plague in India when the West Indies team was about to visit India and it had the threat of being called off. We look at the generation of the foreign exchange through tourism and, as I said earlier on, we take lots of these things for granted but when we are faced with the actual adverse circumstances then we begin to call the names of World Health Organisations. Let us see if could do something or Medicin Sans Frontiers. We look at the Red Cross Society and organisations which I think are not really highlighted as regularly and widely as they ought to be.

PAHO, WHO have not only contributed, Sir, in the areas of biology and micro-biology as we have said, but in actually setting up of our Barbados Drug Service which we have heard a lot about in recent times, they were fairly instrumental in getting the programme off the ground and at the same time maintaining it at the level which we have grown to know its operation to be existing. If I may quote, Sir, from this help from politics, a public lecture by Sir George Alleyne and he himself was quoting from a Nancy Bursal of the World Bank and he said:

> "A fundamental justification for Government involvement in the social sectors in the first place is that the private market alone is not likely to provide basic merit goods to the poor at a price the poor can or will pay".

It is this rigorous and vigorous agitating by these U.N. bodies for the proliferation of therapeutic drugs into

Third World and under-developed countries that places such as Barbados and other areas have become beneficiaries of the lowering of prices through the promotion and the use of generic therapeutic drugs, to speak about the immunisation just in a glib fashion and not get the figures may not be as impactful as if we look at what the level of immunisation was just a few years ago, and I make reference to the polio immunisation programme.
3.55 p.m.

Between the 70s and the 80s, approximately 5% of the world's children were immunised. That was towards the end of the 70s and towards the early 80s. Towards the end of the 80s, there was this dramatic increase of 80% of the world's children being immunised against polio. There are just a few pockets worldwide now, as far as my understanding goes, where there are still problems of polio plaguing the world. The days are long gone when serendipitous discoveries are made in laboratories, particularly in the microbial setting.

You have to plan your projects way down the road – 5 years or 10 years, and get the cream of your scientific brains together and lots of research and instrumentation. So we should not see PAHO as the people who come around with the nurses ever so often, giving you a little scratch or sugar lump. Millions of research dollars have gone into that. If Barbados can assist in any way, in so small measure, it is a lot that will go a far way, not only to strengthening Barbados but also to strengthen the region as a whole.

If we look at our standard of living, our health styles, even if PAHO or the World Health Organisation, no matter which agency is putting lots of its time and money into research and planning development and we do not return to certain basic hygiene such as obtained when most of us, if not all of us, were at school, the days when your fingers were inspected, our hair was checked, your teeth were checked. If you didn't go through these routine exercises, well, then, you were asked to leave the form or not to enter. If we do not teach and practise basic hygiene, the disposal of refuse etc., then the works and the function of PAHO, WHO and other such bodies will be brought to zero.

On these words, I commend this Resolution and I am very pleased to be associated with it.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, there is not much more that I would really want to say after such an excellent presentation by Honourable Senators who are obviously well schooled in the whole question of bacteriology and all those other "ologies".

Senator Laurie, in declaring his level of support for the Resolution, posed a question as to whether Government had vigorously sought to find alternative accommodation for PAHO and other agencies and made a suggestion for Sherbourne Centre. He might be interested to know in this regard that that possibility had been explored with a number of agencies and they had decided that the facilities there were not suitable for their purpose and therefore that is why that option had not been exercised. More on that whole question of the U.N. facilities will come up at some other point in time because there are several other organisations.

PAHO is not part of the United Nations. Mention was made of the use of Sherbourne and whether that formed part of Government's plan of rationalising provision of space for international organisations, and I would just say to you that that particular option has been explored and it has not met with the satisfaction and approval of the particular agencies that were approached.

As I said, Sir, that is another matter following under another Head and that will be dealt with more fully as appropriate. So, Sir, I just beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Honourable Senate do now adjourn *sine die*. In moving the Resolution, I would want Senators to take note that as far as I am aware – and the Clerks can assist me – we have covered all the matters that have come from the Other Place, and the Other Place will not meet until July 11. Therefore, the earliest date at which we will meet would be the week after that, July 19, but an appropriate notice will be sent as to the exact date of meeting.

The question was put and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate sine die.
4.03 p.m.

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