THE

SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, October 25, 1995, at 11.25 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Prayers were led by Rev. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

MESSAGES FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received the following communication from Her Excellency the Governor-General dated 19th October, 1995:

HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
TO
THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE

"Her Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform The Honourable The Senate that she will be absent from the country during the period October 19 to 24, 1995 on a visit to New York.

Her Excellency further has the honour to inform the Honourable the Senate that, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 29(1)(c) and 30 of the Constitution, the following persons have been appointed as Governor-General's Deputy for the periods indicated –

(i) The Chief Justice, The Honourable Sir Denys Williams, KCMG, GCM – October 19 to 22, 1995.

(ii) His Honour the President of the Senate, Senator Fred Gollop – October 23 to 24, 1995.

R. NITA BARROW
Governor-General"

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. The National Insurance and Social Security (Miscellaneous) (Amendment) Regulations, 1995.

2. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 15) Order, 1995.

3. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 16) Order, 1995.

4. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 17) Order, 1995.

5. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 18) Order, 1995.

6. The Road Traffic (Road Tax Registration Fee and Permits) (Amendment) Order, 1995.

7. The Customs (Amendment) Regulations, 1995.

8. Protocol for the Implementation of the Prices and Incomes Policy 1995-1997.

9. Agreement for Economic Co-operation between the Government of Barbados and the Member Governments of the OECS.

10. Letter issued by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs to the President of the Inter-American Development Bank setting out the programme of policy reforms being undertaken by the Government of Barbados.

11. Annual Report of the National Petroleum Corporation for the year 1993-1994.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, before we move into Public Business for today, Senators would be aware of the passing of a former Leader of this Honourable Chamber, Sir Ronald Mapp. I would want the records to reflect the condolences of the Members of the Senate for this Session to the family of the late Sir Ronald Mapp.

Sir Ronald was a politician who exemplified what public service is all about. His political career was characterised by sacrifice at every turn. His very entry into politics within the context of that particular era and his personal circumstances was indeed a major sacrifice. In terms of his public service, Sir, he became a Member of the House of Assembly in 1946 and served there with distinction continuously until 1961. He served as a Member of the Senate from 1966 to 1971 and was the Leader of the Senate for the period 1976 to 1979.

You will recall as well, Sir, that Sir Ronald also served as Barbados' Permanent Representative to the United Nations, but it is perhaps the events of 1954 which we remember when we think most about Sir Ronald Mapp. Sir Ronald was a Member of the first Cabinet of Barbados, which would have been appointed on 1st February, 1954. Members of that distinguished group would have included Sir Grantley Adams, Sir Mencea Cox, Dr. Cummins, Mr. Edwy Talma and, of course, as I said, Sir Ronald Mapp.

Sir, the positions as were described then were the subject of discussions in the House of Assembly in 1953, and I have a communication from the Acting Governor on that occasion, R. N. Turner, who was acting for R. D. H. Arundell, who was Governor at the time, and the proposals at that time were for the establishment of five whole time Ministers with portfolios being described as–

The Premier or principal Minister

The Minister for Trade, Industry and Labour

The Minister for Agriculture

The Minister for Social Services and Local Government

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, like so many who worshipped at Sharon Moravian Church on what would have been the birthday of the late Tom Adams, a service held in thanksgiving, Sir Ronald was present and it was the last time that many would have seen him, so that all who were there were stunned to hear of his passing a couple of days after. It seemed as if he had a premonition, because when the congregation was extending the hand of fellowship Sir Ronald came over to the side where I was sitting and his greeting was extra warm. It is something that I shall always remember.

I have known Sir Ronald for a very long time and when I first met him and Elaine, Lady Mapp, I would have looked on him as a grown-up person because a few years' difference can seem like a great deal more than they are when you are very young. I have always been impressed with his kindness, his affability, and above all, his high sense of duty and his extreme loyalty.

His sense of duty has been manifested in so many ways, especially to the Barbados Labour Party, and only recently when for some reason Sir Ronald had not been told about a function he was quite upset that he had not been told about it. I think some of us when we are not reminded of something where we have got to buy a ticket, are at times a little relieved, since we are called on in so many ways to support so many things, but Sir

Ronald never failed to support any activity which he could that was taking place at the Barbados Labour Party or for the Barbados Labour Party or anything to do with Tyrol Cot. His kindness too was shown very often when Lady Mapp came to the Women's League and he always sought to help those who needed transportation, especially one person in particular who was disabled, and he always looked out for her.

I had the pleasure and honour of serving under his chairmanship on the Skills Training Board in the 1980s and he was an excellent Chairman who conducted his affairs in a controlled and yet flexible and democratic manner.
11.35 a.m.

When we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Party, his knowledge was invaluable in preparing a commemorative booklet. Only recently, when I was asked to speak to some university students from a university abroad, I sought his help with some material, because the topic was the history of the Barbados Labour Party . He took the trouble to bring the material to my home immediately. Of course, he remembered that I do not drive.

You could always call on him for dates of events that had taken place years ago and, very often, he could tell you immediately and, if not, you could be sure that he had access to material that could provide the information. I know this is not original. Quite recently, people have been calling quite regularly for people in public life such as Sir Ronald to write their memoirs and unfortunately he did not; but I do hope that the material which he had at his disposal, and there is a great deal, can be made available to Barbados, especially for posterity.

I wish to say in closing that Sir Ronald was a fine exemplar of gentlemanly conduct and one could rely on his wise counsel to bring balance to issues and when necessary to defuse situations. He could be very stern. He was very high principled, but that sternness was tempered with a very charming smile. There was never any rancour.

Therefore, I would wish, on behalf of myself and of my family, who also knew him very well, to extend very sincere condolences to his wife, Elaine, to his step children and to other members of his family. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to say a few words in honour of the late Sir Ronald Mapp simply because I have known him from the time I was a little child. We grew up together in Church Street Speightstown in those good old days when he was courting his wife, Elaine. Margaret and David his stepchildren – we were colleagues together – used to stay with us at home.

Sir Ronald was a very selfless man, a man of the people from what I can remember. He was always willing to help others. He was always willing to give all and everything to the people of Barbados and to his political career. He never worried about money as such. He left that to others to worry about.

I think that Barbados owes Sir Ronald a debt of gratitude and hope that when a decision is made about the Heroes' Day or Celebration his name will be first and foremost among those.

I would like to extend to Lady Mapp, Elaine, Margaret and David condolences and all the best. Time heals all wounds.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, as regards the late Sir Ronald Mapp, I would have to say that he was one of the great personalities who in private dealings lived up to his public persona.

Having grown up and heard the legendary names of Ronald Mapp and M. E. Cox and such personalities of the 40s and 50s, in my first encounter with him, and subsequently thereafter, I always found that he did not seem remote or aloof or "big-up", as they say these days, but was always gentle, quiet and dignified and straightforward. From what I remember reading in the newspapers and going to the House of Assembly in those days, he had a reputation for competence as a Minister that was probably exceeded only by Sir Mencea Cox. He set a very high standard in his performance as a Minister to the extent that in 1976 when the Barbados Labour Party returned to Government, the late Tom Adams as Prime Minister, called on him to provide a certain measure of weight and balance and counsel and experience to that very first Cabinet which, apart from Sir Ronald, had not had any practical Cabinet experience.

I have also had a very close association with him as a journalist and I suspect that he will be sorely missed by the journalistic profession and fraternity of Barbados, since one could always call on him for advice and guidance to clarify information on matters relating to the political and social history of Barbados, particularly as it related to the period in which he was at his heyday.

As Senator Symmonds said, he had an excellent memory and excellent recall for facts and figures, and events and personalities and where this was proven to be inadequate, on rare occasion that is, he would take the trouble of researching it himself and getting back to you. And if perchance he himself did not have access to the information, he would quite readily and quite kindly indicate and advise you as to other possible sources of such information.

In addition, he could be called upon and would readily agree, to write articles and commentary on various aspects of Barbadian history. I remember when I was Managing Editor of the Bajan Magazine, I would call him quite often; but never ever did I once know him to ask or even hint of payment. He felt that helping was his obligation and a sense of noblesse oblige encouraged him to put back into society some of the things he had experienced and some of the benefits that he had derived from this society.

The last time I had the fortune to be in his company was at a church service in Collymore Rock, about 2 weeks before he died, when we were at the service of a renowned Barbados Labour Party stalwart by the name of Jack Rufus, who might have been better known as a boxer in those days, but was also as aggressive and as dogged in his support for the Barbados Labour Party as he was in pursuing his opponents in the ring. We attended that funeral and afterwards he said that he was not up to driving to the cemetery, but that he was glad to have been present. He sang lustily and conducted himself with the dignity and rectitude for which he has always been known.

I am glad, too, that in a way we have some of his personal recollections of the past, of his life growing up and his career. If only those that have been recorded for posterity in that CBC interview which he did a few weeks before his death with Stetson Babb and which I suspect provided tremendous insight into what life would have been like when the founding fathers of society had to fight tooth and nail to overthrow the oligarchy that had been strangling the Barbadian society. Fortunately, he lived to see that his works were manifested and the realisation of his efforts and those that have passed.

I therefore join in extending my condolences to his friends and relatives and wish that he may rest in peace.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I rise to join fellow Senators in extending condolences to the relatives and very close friends of the late Sir Ronald and, of course, to the members of the Barbados Labour Party family.

I did not come into personal contact with Sir Ronald, but I developed a very close relationship with his widow, Lady Mapp, Elaine, who became a very close friend of mine when I was in banking. I recall on the occasion when he was knighted I asked her how was Sir Ronald. I had heard quite a bit of him as a politician and the contribution he had made to Barbados, serving at the time of adult suffrage, a very significant period in the history of this country, and I thought that that was a significant contribution. Putting party politics aside, I would always say to her, "How is Sir Ronald?"

One thing I would want to say is the joy and pleasure which she exuded as she responded to that question made me believe that theirs was a very special marriage and that she was extremely comfortable. I don't think a woman could respond in that way unless she truly enjoyed that relationship with her spouse. So he must have been a very good husband, a lesson which I hope many of our young men would learn.

11.45 a.m.

I believe there is a message in his life for all Senators and Members of the House of Assembly. I am told that he served this country without payment and that he did not get a salary at the time when he served in Government in those early years. I think we all ought to learn that our dedication and commitment to the service of others must not always be for remuneration and that our joys and pleasures can come from seeing how much we have contributed to the enhancement of the livelihood of our brothers and sisters. A lot has been said. I too hope that we can find his memoirs on records for our children and for other generations of Barbadians to read and ponder on as they attempt to serve this great country of ours.

On behalf of myself, fellow Senator Mascoll, and Members of the Democratic Labour Party family, I express condolences to his family.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Sir Ronald Mapp and to extend deepest condolences to his family. I knew Sir Ronald for many years. I found him as others have mentioned before, to be a perfect gentleman. He was truly a patriot and he came from that great tradition of Barbadians who had little, but gave much to their country.

I see him rising beyond the partisan nature of his political contribution and his contribution to the country. In his later years he was an invaluable source of advice and a source of wisdom. He was a stabilizing force within many of the bodies which he sat on. As a young man coming into politics I had the privilege to consult with him from time to time and to receive extremely valuable advice for the future.

I think we would be remiss not to recount the fact that Sir Ronald planned and implemented the Deep Water Harbour Project. He was largely responsible for one of the major capital projects that put Barbados on the road to becoming a modern society. I think that his vision, management capacity and his integrity contributed much to the successful implementation of that project.

I think that Sir Ronald will be solely missed by many in the community, and to his family I wish them the deepest condolences from myself.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would like to support and endorse the remarks made by Honourable Senators in tribute to the memory of the late Sir Ronald Mapp. I had the good fortune, indeed the privilege, of having known Sir Ronald for at least the last 30 years. When he entered the House of Assembly in 1946 at the relatively tender age of 26, I believe that up to that time he was the youngest person ever to have been elected to the House of Assembly. He gave the rest of his life to politics and to public service.

Other Senators have spoken in some detail about his record in public service and the Leader of the Senate noted that he adorned this Chamber for almost 8 years, the last $2^{1}/_{2}$ as Leader of Government Business. In the years that I have known him I was not aware of any attack on Sir Ronald's integrity or commitment. He was also an outstanding newspaper editor producing the weekly newspaper "*The Beacon*".

The late C. L. R. James said of him in 1962 that he was one of the finest political journalists in the region. After the closure of *"The Beacon"* he wrote a weekly column which some of you may recall in the "*Barbados Daily News*" under the by-line Candidus and in more recent years he made occasional intervention in the media. His contributions combined analysis with detailed knowledge of a turbulent period in our history.

As Senator Symmonds and, I think, Senator Thompson said, Sir Ronald was extremely devoted to his wife of many years, Lady Mapp, and I know for a fact that they had an extremely happy union. He was also devoted to his stepson and his stepdaughter. To these and other members of his family I join with other Senators in extending our deepest condolence.

I will now ask Honourable Senators to rise for 2 minutes in tribute to the memory of this outstanding statesman and patriot.

The Senate stood in silence for 2 minutes.

11.55 a.m.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to introduce the following Bills:

1. The Crown Proceedings (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

2. The Customs (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

3. The Plant Pest and Disease (Import Control) Bill, 1995.

I beg to move, Sir, that these be read a first time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SKEETE'S BAY, ST. PHILIP FOR THE SKEETE'S BAY FISHERIES PROJECT.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Senate is being sought for the acquisition of land at Skeete's Bay, St. Philip for the purpose of the Skeete's Bay fisheries project.

Now, Sir, this project goes back to some years and it has been developed in a number of phases. As I am sure you will be aware, Sir, there is in existence a fish landing facility at Skeete's Bay consisting essentially of a small shed and an access road.

Sir, when this project was in its planning stages somewhere back in 1990 a feasibility study was done and it was concluded at that time that the land owned by the Crown in the area would have been enough for the execution of the project. That land at that time, Sir, related to the access road to the shed which is currently there. However, Sir, a review of that project has indicated that if proper on shore facilities are to be established as part of the project then further land would be required. The lands currently owned by the Crown, for example, do not include any land with access to the beach or to the sea. Lands owned by the Crown with respect to the project are in fact those on which the shed is situated and the part with the access road, accounting for about 278 square metres.

We are proposing, Sir, to expand that facility by providing areas on which the boats can be beached during their off season for repairs and so on as well as improving the other on shore facilities with respect to having a larger shed and the other facilities which one would associate with a fish landing site. The project as is currently conceived is likely to be funded by the European Development Fund and the acquisition of these additional areas of land are necessary in order for this project to proceed.

The three areas of land in question, Sir, some 4 042 square metres the property of Gloria Manning, 72 square metres the property of Joan Parris and 2 664 square metres the property of one W. A. Davis. I am asking therefore, Sir, the Senate's approval for the acquisition of these three parcels of land to facilitate the expansion of the Skeete's Bay Fisheries Project.

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

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I rise to give support to the acquisition of these lands in part but to support *in toto* the proposed fishing development.

I want to say, Mr. President, that I happen to be a landowner in the very area and I am not speaking on my own behalf on this Bill. We have not heard the total extent of the project so that I do not know if in later days I may have to come for compensation for injurious affection but I have the confidence that the Government will put something there that is worthwhile that will not devalue the adjoining properties.

There is, Mr. President, a very narrow and dangerous channel which is the only means of offshore access to that bay and it threatens the life of every fisherman coming into that bay on a daily basis. I would hope, Mr. President, that some major consideration would be given to the widening of that channel so as to make it much safer. I have seen many of the women folk cry as the boats have been tossed in the tempest trying to come through that narrow channel. That is one thing, Mr. President.

The thing that concerns me in the acquisition is the portion of lands being taken from W. A. Davis in that, according to the surveyor's plan, there seems to be no means of access left to W. A. Davis to his lands. I would think then, Mr. President, that in those circumstances Government should either give some consideration to acquiring all of the lands because the remainder of that land would indeed be useless to W. A. Davis, or providing some access to the land by way of a suitable right-of-way over the lands now being acquired.

I think if we examine the plans we will see those lands lie to the south of the lands being acquired by Government and we cannot have an owner being deprived of a portion of land and having no access to the remainder of his land. But I do support the project *in toto* because it will give significant development to the fishing industry in general and to Skeete's Bay in particular.

I would like too, Mr. President, to know that Government would take time out to have some sort of training so as to gather the young men and young women of the area and encourage them in development of the fishing industry. I believe that this was done in Oistins and I am sure Senator Welch will agree with that. I think we need to have this at Skeete's Bay because fishing is a dying occupation in this country and yet it is a worthwhile occupation and we need to see fisher folk as not just being people who just have a little boat but that the whole fishing industry can be developed and long-term fishing can extend, not only from Oistins and Bridgetown but also from places like Skeete's Bay and Consett Bay.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, in rising to give support for this Resolution I want to state that we have a vital resource in Barbados in our fishing industry and we are fortunate that in addition to the Caribbean Sea which has largely been exploited by our fishermen, little exploitation of the fish species on the Atlantic side of the Island has taken place over the years by Barbadian fishermen. Suffice it to say the evidence is quite clear that fishermen from as far away as Asia have ventured to the Atlantic side of this island and have been taking full advantage of the species in that area of Barbados. This is one of the reasons I think we should give every support to a measure which would establish a fairly decent facility at the Atlantic side of this island which I think would be a launching pad for our exploitation of the fishing resources in that part of Barbados. It is interesting to note that for the first 6 months of this year fish landings throughout Barbados increased by 1.4 per cent. Fish is a very high quality protein and I think that every effort must be made in supporting the industry. I know that the industry has come a long way and I want to compliment this Government who in the past has really done a lot for this industry. If you look back at the complex at Oistins and at Bridgetown and if you look back at the support that was given by the Barbados Development Bank for the development of larger refrigerated boats, you would understand what I am talking about.
12.05 p.m.

I think that we need to look at modern techniques of fishing. We need to know a bit more about the migratory patterns of species like flying fish. We need to know also a bit more about modern harvesting techniques. I think we need also to know a bit more about marketing. I am not satisfied within myself that enough is being done within the industry as far as further processing is concerned. I think the time has come when we must go a step further from the simple fileting and vacuum packing of fish. We need to present to the public here a finished product perhaps microwavable which we can sell because it allows us to get into an area of export earnings which we have not yet been getting into in the past. It also allows us to get maximum returns from the development of the industry.

I also see a need at this time to look at future development of the long-line fishing industry. I know that on the southern side of Barbados there are a few long-line fishing boats. I think the time has come when we must look at perhaps the optimum size which would be best suitable for that type of fishing. We also need to look at building materials that we have not used in the past for the construction of boats. There has been some success in the past with fibre-glass which has a relatively low maintenance cost compared to the traditional timber. These are the sorts of areas which I think we need to look at and get developed.

So most of all I think the time has come when we must lend support to the Fisher Folk Association of Barbados and give training. When I say training, I mean good training to the fisher folk. I do not just mean the fishermen and the vendors but also the processors. I think the time has come when we must look seriously at setting in trend a programme for the training of fishermen either at the Polytechnic or at the Barbados Community College or perhaps the University where we can have our young people trained in this particular area of agriculture. The potential is limitless. We have the whole Atlantic Ocean to our windward side and we have developed a lot of skill and knowledge in the area of fishing and I think that this can be fully exploited if we get these guys in training. I am calling on Government now to look into the possibility of establishing a school for fishing and when I say fishing I do not just necessarily mean the traditional fishing. But I think the time has come for us to get into the area of agro-culture and fresh water fishing.

I close by further saying that I want to compliment Government again on this very worthwhile venture. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I too rise to give support to this measure and while obviously this project is going to work towards the long-term improvement of the fishing industry, I would also like to lend my support to some other associated work which also has been going in the fish markets of Barbados without much fanfare.

Sir, I saw on CBC television a couple of weeks ago an interview with some persons at the Oistins Fishing Complex in which they were full of praise for work that was going on in order to remedy matters of which they had complained for sometime. I took it upon myself to pay a personal visit as a former resident of the Oistins area and also as one who wanted to see whether all of the high praise...

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I now live in St. George so I would not be able to develop those swimming skills so readily. But I wanted to see whether the praise was due and whether all that was being said about the activity there was deserved and due and accurate. I can say, Sir, from my observation that it was quite deserving. I visited there as I said and I also spoke to some of the fisher folk, vendors, and people coming to buy and all are pleased with the improvements that have been given to the Oistins Fisheries Complex. It is rather surprising, Mr. President, that this remedial work that has been done at Oistins has come about after the Ministry of Agriculture, and I would like to congratulate it first for the wisdom, in making such an appointment of establishing a post of Administrative Director of Markets. This officer has been hard at work ever since then in a matter of weeks in bringing improvements to Oistins. If I may move from the general and be a little more specific, what I saw for myself is that the Oistins Fisheries Complex has been given a brand new security fence. In addition, it has won the support and praise of the users there who from time to time felt seriously threatened by some irresponsible youngsters who would invade the premises from time to time and wreak virtual havoc on the persons occupying the facility.

In addition, they have had a bond and shed erected. There has been the first ever lunchroom provided for staff. The ice machine which had been notorious for not working which had more down time than operational time, is now working again and ice is once again available in ready supply to those who seek it. The leaks at the complex have been repaired. All the bathroom facilities have been upgraded and they are once again operational as is the Supervisor's office. There has also been some remedial work done on the electrical and wiring facilities at the complex.

In addition, remedial work is being undertaken at the office of the Fairchild Street Market and, where the Eagle Hall and Speightstown Markets are concerned, work will start shortly there I understand within two or three weeks time. Also the Bridgetown Fisheries Project to which Senator Welch alluded has seen a number of improvements and again in a very short period of time. From my information, this new approach to the management of the market is that to upgrade the market and maintain them on an ongoing basis in order to make them attractive to the users and hospitable to those who work and make a living there. I understand that the operators there have been able to eliminate that age old problem of the awful smell which has been such a source of great discomfort and complaints of persons. The lunchroom there has also been upgraded as has been the bathroom. There has been a sick-bay installed. Safety equipment has been purchased. The plumbing in all of the stalls in all of the complex has been repaired. The roof of the office has been fixed. The process hall has been repaired. The maintenance staff has been given a better workshop. The lighting has been installed at the side of the complex in order to make the stalls more attractive and more inviting to persons especially at night when the darkness looks rather foreboding and uninviting. The production of ice has been improved through preventative maintenance being effected on the machinery.

In addition, there are actions afoot to acquire a second ice machine which we hope will go towards remedying this old problem of ice. There has been a facelift through painting that has been given to the fisheries complex and what is even more pleasing revenue collection has

improved from the fish toll and locker fees. All in all, the fisher folk and the users of the complex are also full of praise for what has been happening there.

Sir, I thought it would be important to detail those aspects of the remedial work. Far too often people have thought that all that was needed to encourage the fishing industry was to provide fishing boats and people will come and buy the fish. Not too much thought has ever been given to upgrading the facilities and providing the proper ambiance for both the workers and the purchasers. I am glad now to see that modernity is now on its way to Skeete's Bay and that, I am sure, will bring a tremendous improvement and upliftment to the area.
12.15 p.m.

I would just like to say, on a political note, that once again it has fallen to the Barbados Labour Party to take the fishing industry on to another plane. It will be recalled, Sir, that we have gone down in history as those who took fishing out of the sail-boat era and brought them engines and therefore gave a tremendous fillip to the industry, allowing persons to travel further afield and thereby increase their numbers and the variety of their catch, as well as improved safety for fishermen. Senator Welch also alluded to the provision, through the Barbados Development Bank, of ice boats and other more modern facilities that came in the 80s, and now we are poised to take it on to even, as they like to say in these days, into the 21st century.

Therefore, Sir, in support of this Resolution, I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Agriculture for seeking in the interim, while long-term measures are being put in place, for the long-term improvement of the industry to do some short-term work to bring immediate relief through remedial efforts to the various fishing markets and complexes around Barbados.

I thank you.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution, which again is a continuation of work started under the Democratic Labour Party. Indeed, if I were an alien I would believe that fishing is done on land. All the improvements I have heard about are cosmetic, they are on the land side of things, and one would hope that these measures do translate into an increased fish catch. But as I said before, indeed if we were in a situation where we did our fishing on the land, all the politics we have heard about would have created immediate success for the fishermen.

It is well known that we need to increase our fishing stock in Barbados, and in fact if you were to check the Economic Reports of the Central Bank of Barbados, you will recognise that within the last eight years there has been a fairly significant increase in fish production in Barbados. There has been a significant increase in fish production in Barbados concomitant with the increase in the production of livestock, which the goodly Senator spoke on so eloquently in recent weeks. It all constitutes part of non-sugar agriculture, and indeed those who are seeking to boast now would in fact find it necessary to check the records of the Central Bank to see that the performance of non-sugar agriculture in Barbados, of which fishing is a part, was indeed particularly outstanding in the last five to eight years.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: This is true, and in fact those of us who continue to focus on the production of carrots and beets and the like and only see agriculture in terms of the planting of these kinds of crops are in fact short-sighted and misguided. I would only hope that beyond all the politics there is the need not only to provide these facilities – and I did say that this Resolution is in fact a project started under the Democratic Labour Party and therefore one is saying that there was recognition of the need to upgrade the facilities across the island. It is indeed a project started under the Democratic Labour Party and all you are doing is taking the IDB funds and continuing the process. It is nothing new, so do not make it seem now as though you have all the wisdom in the world as a Government all of a sudden to recognise the need to upgrade fishing facilities in Barbados. It is absolute rubbish!

What I would like to see is initiatives taken, since indeed the Barbados Development Bank, as we all expect, will be restructured, will be closed down. We now know that. It is not a bad decision in light of the difficulties, but it has implications for the ability of small fishing people to get the opportunity for loans. The closure of the Barbados Development Bank does in fact create a shortage of loan availability for small business people, including those people in fishing. Therefore, what we are seeking here is to find alternative sources of finance that would assist the small fishermen in terms of being able to increase their catch. We are well aware that the capacity of the fishing boats to go deep into the sea, and in fact to stay long is indeed very, very limited. One is suggesting that we need definitely to upgrade the facilities of all the boats given to the fishermen, and that is the area that is going to require some kind of policy direction in terms of the provision of finance.

One is asking, therefore, for a policy that looks at fishing, looks at the closure of the BDB, looks at the commercial banking firms or entities in Barbados not being very willing to give loans to such small business

enterprises and therefore one is suggesting that beyond the cosmetic changes at the facilities on land, some measures be put in place to provide a greater level of financing for small fishermen in Barbados.

I, therefore, as I said at the outset, rise to support the initiative, but it is indeed an initiative which was started under the Democratic Labour Party. It is just an extension of all that is happening in Barbados, after all kinds of denial, in relation to even our relationship with financial organisations which we are all well aware is now an issue of the past, since there has been total agreement.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: You have to borrow, you borrowed the concept. I am suggesting to you, therefore, that this Resolution is very well placed but we look forward to even greater initiatives to encourage the small fisher folk.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, in concluding debate on this Resolution, I am pleased to note the support of Senators for the Resolution which, all are agreed, will provide that needed boost for fishing in Barbados, particularly on the eastern shores. I would just want to indicate, however, that concepts and ideas and dreams, however well conceived, only have the desired impact at the point of implementation.

I am pleased therefore to beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

12.25 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, with your permission, Sir, I would like to move a motion in relation to the business of today's Sitting. I beg to move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of this Sitting.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT MOUNT BREVITOR, ST. PETER

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Senate's approval is being sought for this Resolution for the acquisition of land at Mount Brevitor in St. Peter. The area in question, Sir, is some 11.59 acres and is to be used for the purpose of housing development. This particular area is adjacent to the existing tenantry of Mount Brevitor and will be used for the provision of sites and services in that area.

In effect, Sir, what this project will do is to build on an already existing residential community and provide additional house spots whereby Barbadians can fulfil the dream of owning their own homes. This is part of the plans of the Ministry of Housing to provide additional opportunities for homeownership whilst at the same time minimising the impact which the creation of completely new areas tends to have on the continuity of existing areas.

In this case, for example, rather than creating a number of house spots in an entirely new area and looking at new bus transportation, creating a new community, we are actually expanding the existing community which already has its social network and the necessary services with respect to transportation. This particular model has been identified by the Ministry of Housing as a model which will be followed in several areas around the island where available land is identified adjacent to existing communities.

We can expect Sir, that several more of this type of Resolution will be coming to the Senate for its approval, because we, in this Administration, believe that we need to strengthen existing communities and build on that already existing physical and social infrastructure in seeking to satisfy the aspirations of our people.

As I mentioned already, Sir, the area in question is a comfortable size, 11.59 acres. The proposal is for the Ministry of Housing to install the necessary infrastructure, roads, water, electricity and the like and have the house spots made available for persons to use.

The land is being acquired from Mount Brevitor Plantation and it is really part of what is known in the rural community as rab land. It is not a case of acquiring agricultural land for housing. This point, Sir, I think needs to be made. There are in most tenantry neigbourhoods, in the rural areas, areas of rab land adjoining existing tenantries. These areas, Sir, provide the perfect opportunity for an expansion of the existing tenantry to provide for additional housing.

The fact, Sir, that the land is being acquired from the plantation does not necessarily mean that it is arable agricultural land that is being utilised for the purpose of housing. This particular programme also forms part of a wider interest and commitment to the revitalisation of rural communities throughout Barbados.

Expansion of existing tenantries provides, for example, among other things, a larger market base

within the community for the operation of small businesses within those communities, be it the grocery shop, the rum shop, the hairdresser or any other services that might be offered, so that we are going to be consolidating a number of these well established rural communities by the provision of additional housing in those areas.

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

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I have heard the Honourable Leader of the Senate make the statement of government policy that they will not acquire agricultural land for housing.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President, I did not indicate any statement of Government policy that it would not acquire agricultural land to build houses. I did not say that, Sir. The Honourable Member cannot indicate to the Senate that that is what I said. I would ask that those statements be withdrawn.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I will withdraw that statement and say I was hoping to hear that the Leader of the Senate would make this statement, because I would hope that it is a government policy that we do not acquire agricultural land for housing when it is not necessary. In virtually all of the estates, there are areas of rab land, as is the case in this particular Mount Brevitor case. But there was a little slip of the tongue there in talking about the Waterhall proposed acquisition which definitely is land in active agriculture and which I hope that will not really come before this Honourable Senate.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President, the Honourable Member, I am sure is quite aware that the Standing Orders do not permit anticipation of a debate which is likely to come in the immediate future.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I did hear you were on Waterhall and I just was saying that I am familiar with the land at Waterhall. But getting back to this policy, it is important that we do look at this. There are large areas of rab land in Barbados situated in many places and sometimes adjacent to the various villages that should be utilised for housing...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please!

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: ... long before we use flat agricultural land. In a lot of cases, the rab land is actually far more beautiful from the point of view of views and usually is rocky so it means that you don't have to remove any top soil. It is also cheaper to build on, cheaper to build roads on and to put in the necessary infrastructure. So for many reasons one should have a policy of trying to acquire rab land for housing and I hope that that will be what we will do. Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support the acquisition of this land for housing development; but I would also like to ask the authorities acquiring this land to make sure that they provide adequate drainage to drain the water from these lands, even if it means that one has to take a spot or so to dig wells for the safe drainage of water.
12.35 p.m.

Mr. President, I would like to explain why I am making this request. All of us here are aware of the dengue fever that we have been warned about in Barbados. We know that it comes from stagnant water where the mosquitoes breed. We know that as we grew up we never heard about it simply because there was a cadre of people who were stationed at the Lazaretto who used to go around the island spraying the Aedes Aegypti mosquito on housing premises and homes so that we had kept the Aedes Aegypti mosquito under control. I mentioned this before the dengue started and I would like us to try and look into this urgently and try to re-establish the cadre of workers who go around spraying the Aedes Aegypti mosquito because fogging does not kill the larvae. It only kills the adult mosquito.

I would also like to say that we are a tourist economy and we cannot afford anybody outside Barbados to think that they are going to come to Barbados and get dengue because that is one of the quickest ways to drive tourists away from our economy.

I would also like to emphasize that the need for drainage is absolutely important. I will also draw a parallel because at Husbands Development they are clearing the road and we are trying to find out what they are trying to do behind there. Some people say it is going to be sold for housing development. Some people say it is going to be a road, but that land needs to be used for the sinking of wells and for the drainage of wells in that area.

There is no outlet for the water up in Husbands. I hope that the same mistake is not made in this housing development because if it is made it means that people will have their homes flooded out. I know that we have been experiencing a drought for many years and when the water falls now, because we have improved the roads and not made provision for drainage, a lot of persons' homes are getting flooded out.

Mr. President, I would also like to thank the Government for ensuring that the drains at Batts Rock have been cleared. I did make a statement about it on 2 or 3 occasions. They have been cleared and we are very

grateful in that area that the Government has sent the teams to clear those drains. However, they need to be cleared on a continuous basis, if not, that gully that drains 5 parishes will not be able to function as an outlet for water.

I rise to support this Bill. I thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I rise to give my wholehearted support to this Resolution and to commend the housing policy of this administratin to the Senate. This Resolution seeks to approve the compulsory acquisition of over 11 acres of land which was formerly part of Mount Brevitor Plantation. As the Minister said in his presentation, this is what we normally refer to as rab land, that is, land where the agricultural potential is not as great as it should be to make it economically viable. This housing policy takes into account the fact that there are always going to be elements in our society who are unable to tap the commercial and other markets for housing and land in order to satisfy their housing needs.

Sir, we know that housing is one of the basic needs of any individual and in the Barbadian context, it is a cultural thing that the first thing a Barbadian wants is his own house. Even if in the interim he is renting the land, he likes to own his own home. It is a cultural thing and one which is commendable. So the Government in its wisdom, noting this historical fact, has decided to make full use of the Sites and Services provision which we introduced in earlier years and which in the period 1986 to 1994 was treated with abandon by the Democratic Labour Party.

The records will however show, Sir, that they did not bring to bear the full weight of the provisions of the Sites and Services which we had put in place and the result was that a lot of the working-class people who benefited under the programme for the Sites and Services were denied this basic need because of the inactivity of the Democratic Labour Party in those years. It is a matter of historical record.

Also, to make matters worse, we note, Sir, that in Barbados there are always going to be people who have to depend on the State for housing. The Democratic Labour Party in their last term of office only conceptualised one housing estate that is in Church Village, St. Philip. The plans for Pondside were established and they scaled them down. I do not know if they felt that the people of Bridgetown did not deserve good housing but they found elaborate plans for a housing complex in Pondside and true to form they scaled them down.

Sir, to make matters worse, the houses they built in Church Village, St. Philip, the rent they were charging in those houses were put out of the reach of the maids, because maids in Barbados work for over $100 or so a week and the rent they were charging was $86.00 per week for the houses in Church Village, St. Philip so the maid who is barely making it cannot afford to live in those houses. But maybe it was true to their philosophy that people in that category should be back in the 1950s without houses and so on and not deserving of modern facilities.

We in the Barbados Labour Party see things differently. We know that Government must be involved in the provision of this basic need. That is why on many occasions we bring resolutions here in this Honourable Chamber to acquire land for sites and services, and this is but one of them. To show the enlightenment in this policy, we note that there are going near an established community. In other words, people are already living near there so you are extending the community, or as the Minister said, it makes sense because then the provision of servicing them will be cheaper because it might mean just extending the road and so on, so it makes economic sense. Also you are not doing what may be sociably undesirable to create these large complexes with all the attendant problems, so the 11 acres or so would house maybe 50 or 60 families which is of a decent size as opposed to the old complexes that we have with all the attendant social problems.

Sir, it is almost a revolutionary policy, and one that is to be commended. At the same time, we have to remember that a lot of plantations in Barbados have a couple acres of rab land and a lot of the plantations are heavily in debt to various agencies. Why not move some of that land for housing purposes which then would reduce the need for using the better agricultural land as happened when the Democratic Labour Party cut up Neils Plantation and the Belle Plantation and other first class agricultural land for housing purposes but, Sir, we are going for land where the agricultural potential is not as great and this makes sense.

12.45 p.m.

Sir, I wish that Government would continue this process because it is going to help the plantations in reducing their indebtedness and at the same time it would provide for this important social need, that is, housing. We are sometimes number one in the developing countries but our housing stock, in my view, is a bit substandard so any move to improve the housing stock must meet with my approval noting that my roots are firmly planted in the working class communities. Sir, any such move would be more than welcome.

In this regard, Sir, I note that the Government is making moves to make sure that the housing credit fund and other funds for low income housing is properly used and activated because in the past years the money just stood there and accumulated and that is no good to

anybody. So we have to make sure that the people for whom it is intended are encouraged to make use of the provisions of the housing credit fund and such other funds so that when, Sir, they take possession of the lots at Mount Brevitor and other places that some money would be there available for them to make the first move in getting a shelter over their heads because we know once that has happened and given the Barbadian industry within a few years the house owner would have finished paying for the house and then he might want to say, well I have finished paying for my house let me now look and see if I cannot make the land mine. Here you will get a turnover in a short space of time given the historical ambition and industry of the Barbadian people.

Sir, this move then must be seen in the context of an overall housing policy which will transform Barbados. And, Sir, a lot of talk has been placed on the fact that the land is in St. Peter as though St. Peter is not part of Barbados. It is a fact that the rural part of Barbados has the worst housing stock. Therefore we have to go into the rural communities where we want to encourage people to live.

I have said before in this Chamber that the migration from rural to urban Barbados is not at all times desirable. We have to make sure that people are encouraged to live in the rural communities hence you have to provide the proper services. That is why I was so glad that the Rural Development Commission came into being and that is why I was very enthusiastic about it and will continue to be because we have to encourage people to remain in the rural communities. So, Sir, apart from Speightstown, St. Peter is a rural community. The fact that it is in St. Peter highlights the fact that this Government is concerned about the rural communities and the time is going to come when the other rural parishes ...

Sir, I should not anticipate but you are going to see another rural community being properly treated later on. It is not only in St. Peter. We must not believe that the people of St. Peter are not deserving of proper treatment. They are. Indeed the whole of Barbados will get proper treatment but we have to start somewhere and St. Peter is rural and we are starting in a rural community. Sir, it was neglected over the years so if we are addressing a historical imbalance no problem.

I am sure, Sir, that if Senator Mascoll finds a rural community in St. James South that is deserving of help, the Government will be more than happy to facilitate him even although the people of St. James South let it be known loud and clear that they want to have no dealings with him, but if we can find a rural part of St. James South that we can do this sort of thing in we have no problem because we are here to serve all of Barbados. Sir, I am told he is about to abandon his rural constituency and go closer to town.

So, Sir, with those few words I want to support this Resolution and I encourage Members of the Senate to do likewise. Thank you.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I will always wish to be able to support any such Resolution that makes it more convenient for housing to take place and I note with satisfaction, two welcome gestures mentioned by the Honourable Minister in his presentation. One was the possibility of extending an existing neighbourhood which is a good thing because we all know of the sociological effects of the dislocation of particular neighbourhoods. This is a good thing to allow the offspring, the children, the grandchildren, the grandmothers and so on to continue living in an area that they are accustomed to even if they have lost their blood ties so to speak you do not want to cause them to suffer from a double shock.

The other aspect of it is that it is not just for development *per se* but for housing development and that is the other welcome gesture in the acquisition of this land at Mount Brevitor in St. Peter.

Sir, I would like to say that the Land Acquisition Act while it has been designed to facilitate these things and to help certain people it does place some people at a disadvantage. I am pretty sure that when that Act or its forerunners were thought of, that land owners really meant the landed classes of this and other societies and it was to facilitate Government's being able to demand land owned by the landed classes and to pass it on to other members of the society who are not so fortunate at a price. Naturally it was not intended to take people's land away. I think I recall when the modern version of the Act was being put in place that there was an outcry that communism was coming and that people were going to take your land away. It has never functioned to my knowledge that way in this country though we know of Guyana next door where there were signs of this taking place.
12.55 p.m

I am saying, Sir, then that where there is some little discomfort that the owner of the land in cases of acquisition has got to accept a decision to acquire. He cannot say no. He might wish to go to Court to fight it. We know that it is not worth it. He cannot demand that he gets the price that he wants for the land. It is negotiated and as far as I know the way it works Government always wins out, whichever Government is in power. I am not talking about any particular Government. I am talking about Government here or wherever such Acts function.

Then the other disadvantage is and this is what concerns me today, that in this case it is the land at Mt. Brevitor and perhaps the plantation owners can afford

it. But when it is land from an individual who was expecting either to use his land as an investment or to build on it in some way, he has to wait for years before he is compensated for land that has been taken to make somebody else comfortable. Even at the risk of appearing to be on the side of the land-owners, which as I said, Sir, I would not necessarily mean the landed classes but all those who own land and all of us come into that category in the modern Barbados, that any working member of this society could find himself or herself as a land-owner. My plea then, Sir, is that when land has been acquired that Government or the particular Ministry does everything in its power to see that the compensation is not delayed because many people have been left there waiting for years and cannot afford that kind of wait or loss as the case may be.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I really did not intend to contribute to the debate. But as a result of the contribution made by Senator Barker I need to say a few things. One is that housing development and building in fact in Barbados peaked around 1989 both public and private. We also are aware that in the post 1991 year there was some contraction. But in spite of that contrary to the evidence provided, in fact, he did not provide evidence and he did not allude to any Sites and Services Programme during that period. In fact, between 1991 and 1994, 681 lots were sold in the Sites and Services Programme under the Democratic Labour Party.

We have also had the building of rental accommodation for 482 families. This was all during a period of contraction. But as I said earlier I did not want to get very much into this debate because this really is a parochial issue which is really the domain of the Prime Minister, so I did not intend to. But let me be a little more concerned though with something historical. There are two areas relating to housing which we have to look at...

SENATOR The HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. I feel constrained to rise less there be a misunderstanding. I hope that the Honourable Senator in terms of describing the issue as "parochial" and relating to the Prime Minister is not suggesting that there is anything improper about any area of land in Barbados being acquired because the sitting M.P. for that area happens to be the Prime Minister. I am sure that the Honourable Senator would want to rephrase his statement to avoid any misunderstanding.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think that the Senator made that point. He just made a passing reference and I do not think there is sufficient a foundation on which that conclusion can be drawn.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Thank you, Sir. Anyone who intends to do well has to do homework. I have no difficulty with that. In the two areas though in 1974-75, the wisdom of the Prime Minister of the day when he took that decision, and this may offend some, there was no increase in sugar production that year. But the Prime Minister of the day took a decision really to sell the sugar of Barbados to predominately the Irish and it caused sugar export earnings to move from $52 million in 1974 to $2 million in 1994. In fact, that year also saw two other initiatives which have implications for housing in Barbados. In fact, $20 million of the Sugar Export Levy was lent to the Barbados Workers Union to develop the Mangrove Project and in fact those funds are now really due either this year or next year. They are going to have implications for that particular organization.

Also, I have been hearing a lot of discussion surrounding the housing at the NHC. But also in 1974 and 1975 $8 million were lent to BADC out of the same Sugar Export Levy Fund and in fact again one is wondering whether the so-called belief that there is an abundance of funds at the ADC that have to be exploited. This is being taken into consideration that some of that money has to be repaid to the Sugar Export Levy Fund either this year or next year. Those two issues certainly do have implications for the policy on housing within the next two to three years in Barbados.

On the whole question that we need to develop the rural areas, there is absolutely no doubt that housing is in fact and will remain one of the main social problems in Barbados. The issue has to do with the limited land space as well as the inability of the financial system to provide for those in the more vulnerable income groups. So therefore we will have to be thinking more in terms of devising very innovative methods or ways of providing the kind of housing that is required within the rural areas. It is in fact that kind of thinking that informed the whole restructuring of the direct tax system in 1992 where some provision was looked at in relation to what we can do with the limited resources available. In fact, although I know that, I cannot quote the document, but even the more recent document sent to "Iglesias" contains the whole question of the reform and how successful it was and everything. So there is no need for us to go down that line.

I am simply suggesting which I will elaborate on sometime down the road that there is definite need for more innovation in terms of our housing policy. For Senator Barker to get up and quote and make it sound magical that the rural areas suffer and have the lowest housing stock is nothing new. St. Andrew has the worst housing stock in Barbados, St. John, St. Joseph and those areas. But that is more a historical relationship than anything else. It has also to do with the development of the tourism industry along Christ Church and St. James areas. So therefore people locate close to commercial activity

and the like. The development of housing in relation to St. Michael, Christ Church and St. James is more a consequence of the whole development along the coastal area of the commercial sector, so one would expect that these areas would grow faster in terms of all the social amenities, and the same thing is true of the housing stock. To try to make small political points in the absence of information is something which I am seriously growing tired of and would wish that Senator Barker prepares himself before he comes to the Senate to mislead the Senate as it relates to certain levels of policy for Government.
1.05 p.m.

This is a critical area. It is a serious area that has to be addressed, but it must be addressed through innovation and not just taking a look at the past in order to justify what you are doing now. There is nothing magical, because only recently it was admitted by the Minister of Housing that he intends to build only 50 houses per year, so to come now and to idly boast that you are doing something so creative and innovative in St. Peter and it is going to be a model for the rest of the country is really to take the debate and lower it.

On that score, Sir, I have made my contribution to this debate.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until five minutes after 2 o'clock today.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HOYTES VILLAGE, ST. JAMES

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, approval of the Senate is being sought for the compulsory acquisition of land at Hoytes Village, St. James for the purpose of road construction.

This matter has a rather long history. It is a situation in which during the process of road construction back in 1980 an area of land owned by Mr. Athelstan Browne was utilised. That area corresponded to some 331.14 square metres. The owner of the land claimed compensation from the relevant authorities but the matter somehow was delayed in one or other of the Departments responsible over ownership, surveying of the exact amounts, legal matters and several other issues.

As you will be aware, Sir, the number of these issues have to be clarified before the land can be formally acquired, and today those outstanding matters having been addressed, the Senate is being asked to approve the formal acquisition of land at Hoytes Village for the purpose of road construction. As I indicated, Sir, the road has already long been constructed and it represented part of the process of providing access to persons in Hoytes Village who previously had not had the benefit of road access. The delays in expediting this matter were largely of a bureaucratic nature and have subsequently been resolved.

The Senate's approval, therefore, Sir, is being sought for the compulsory acquisition of 331.14 square metres of land at Hoytes Village from Mr. and Mrs. Athelstan Browne. This acquisition would permit the compensation of Mr. and Mrs. Browne for that area of land which was used in the road construction in Hoytes Village, St. James.

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 SALTERS, ST. GEORGE

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the matter under discussion, a Resolution to acquire land at Parish Land, St. George for the purpose of providing an access road to proposed housing development in that area.

The background to this proposal is that the Government proposes to engage in a housing development at Parish Land in St. George. The area in question is adjoining four parcels of land which currently form part of the existing access road to the area. The road in effect is essentially a private road at this point in time and what is being done by way of this acquisition is to provide for an expansion of the width of that existing road and to give the Crown clear title to the existing area to allow for full proper public access to the existing area on which the housing development is proposed.

The four parcels of land are all adjacent to one another for the full length of the existing access road

and the area being acquired represents that portion of the four properties which are required for expansion of the existing road as well as for incorporation of what is in effect currently a private road into the public road which will service the housing development which is to be constructed adjacent to these four properties.

The Senate's approval, Sir, is therefore being sought for acquisition of the four parcels of land in the amounts of 158.1 square metres from John Beckles, 154.6 from Everton and Mary Greenidge, 152.7 from Carmelita Hall and 158.5 from Clyde Moore.

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 COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SAYES COURT, CHRIST CHURCH

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, approval is being sought for the acquisition of a number of parcels of land at Sayes Court, Christ Church for road improvement.

The area in question, which I believe is well-known to all of us here, is the area where the road from Gibbons Boggs meets the road to Silver Sands, Highway U. It is also called King Corner, Christ Church, and it has been the site of several fatal accidents over the years. A number of experiments have been done over the years in an effort to make that junction a bit safer. The current mini roundabout which is in existence there is the latest of such efforts, and I am sure that Senators will express their various views on the efficacy of that latter experiment in seeking to improve the safety of that junction.
2.20 p.m.

The fact of the matter is that in order to execute that particular innovation a number of properties were utilised. Essentially, there are relatively small portions of land from the properties which were adjacent to one or either of the 4 roads and certainly the amounts utilised were mainly for smoothing of the corners and widening of the junction in general.

The areas in question, Sir, for which the Senate's approval is being sought are 457 square metres from George Moe, 10.97 square metres from Mervin Douglas and 534 square metres from Emile Estwick; 171 square metres from Fred Archer and 28.11 square metres from Eulene Forde and another 25.98 square metres from Edward Harris, 47.2 square metres from Frank King and finally 153.4 from Darwell Thorne.

I am asking, Sir, Senate's approval for the acquisition of these properties at Sayes Court, Christ Church for the purpose of road improvement at the Sayes Court/Gibbons Bogg Road Junction.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, if I were the Minister of Communication and Works, I would have reported the engineers, who designed that roundabout, to the Public Service Commission, and ask that they be fired. I would have taken the same action I took when I was Minister of Agriculture and I had certain officers who wanted to tell me that they can do what they like. I told them, "It is either you or I. One of us may have to go."

I cannot see how any engineer, of any quality, would have created what purports to be a roundabout and you have a banking of concrete all around so that when you are moving from west to east half your car is up in the air and the other half is down and you are heading to a wall, and tell me that that is the latest of an experiment to improve a junction.

We know that Dr. Demoge lost her life in the wall, because the road at night appeared to be straight when it took a right angle swerve. In my view, all that was necessary would be to move the Sayes Court road across the land which I believe belongs to Government and remove what is a crossroad. You will have 2 roads. The one from Sayes Court would exit higher up on the eastern part of the road and the one coming out of Gibbons Bogg could go further down and you would have solved the problem. Instead of that, they built what they term a mini roundabout which, in my view, and I have said it in this House before and I am going to repeat it now, Government is going to find itself liable to some person, at some time, in respect of the bad work which is coming out of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works.

We spoke about the area opposite Plantations Supermarket. They attempted to widen the road and put a great big lump of cement in the centre which makes it extremely difficult, particularly at night, for persons using that road to get on to the Rendezvous Road. There is a case recorded in the law books where a car coming off the M1 in England had an accident and travelled a considerable distance on a verge and struck one of the pillars to the sign post. The courts ruled that the Government should have known that an accident was likely to happen and to put that sign in that area they were liable to one-third of the damages.

If you have a road now in Barbados that you cannot get around it, in any respect, unless you mount the side

of it, my view is that if I were a judge I would hold them 90% liable. I think the Government, in its own interest, should look to see what engineers are attempting to do, experimenting with people's lives. That is what I call that one. That is an experiment with persons' lives using that road. In my view, it could have been solved in a simple manner.

Another point I want to raise, Mr. President, is this question again of acquisition in relation to payment. But before I leave this, if you look at that same mini roundabout and now you go down to St. Thomas, the junction of St. Thomas Parish Church, you see a colossal roundabout now, wider than in here, you ask yourself, are the engineers thinking because the one at St. Thomas Church... I do not know why they need to waste that amount of land for that roundabout. If that one is necessary, how are they going to justify the one at Gibbons Bogg corner. If the size of the one at St. Thomas Parish Church is necessary, how can they justify the one at Gibbons Bogg junction?

We come back to the whole question of acquisition. Acquisition is very easy, as far as the Government is concerned, to get on to your land but, thereafter, it is as hard, as they say, for a camel to get through a needle's eye to get your money, because the functionaries who sit between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Housing put claimants through all the rigours in the world to get their money.

I am involved in one now where a man's property was taken up about 10 years ago. Every day you have to go to a meeting and when you go to a meeting, the situation is that the chief surveyor goes on your land and puts up a notice and by the second notice the land is gone. Anytime you have to go to a land acquisition committee there are no less than 12 persons sitting down around the table and quizzing you as to why they must pay you x dollars for your land that they have taken 10 years ago, and even quarreling about the interest that they have to pay and quarrelling about legal fees.

Government has got to remember that this is now 1995 and if you are acquiring people's land, the same ease in which you can take the land it must be the same ease in which these persons are paid and paid promptly. I heard certain functionaries at a meeting I went to laugh and say, "You are lucky. There are people whose land was acquired long ago and died and have not gotten paid for it as yet."

These functionaries think it is something glorious to make such statements when persons are out there suffering. 2.30 p.m.

I think the Government has to look at the whole question of land acquisition. There is another paper which we will deal with today and I hope Government will look at land acquisition in that light. I would beg that they move the whole question of land acquisition for compensation away from its present structure and create a proper body that can study and determine claims within a very reasonable time so that persons can be paid for their land. I heard the Minister say earlier today in one that was passed that the land was acquired back in the 1980s. That is nearly 13 years for somebody to get some money for their own property. I think it is something Government must take a serious look at.

Again, I say those in authority must look at that roundabout that now constitutes this Resolution because, in my view, it is just as dangerous as the corner that was there before they attempt to say they are remedying it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO. 6 – THE CROWN PROCEEDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1995

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the Second Reading of this Bill to amend the Crown Proceedings Act. The matter before us relates to a proposal to change the method by which payments are made to expedite the settlement of such claims as may be made under this Act, claims which are made out of the Crown Proceedings Act, Cap. 197, for which the relevant section is section 22 which relates to claims against the Government in terms of out of court settlements and payments which are made out of a trial or as a result of an order by the court.

Now, Sir, the current practice is one in which provision is made in the annual Estimates for an item under the Head of "Other Expenditure". This amount which usually hovers in the region of $500 000 has often tended to be inadequate to cover the amounts which arise as a result of claims. In fact, one can reasonably argue that it is very difficult, in fact impossible, to actually predict what claims will be made against the Crown during a particular financial year.

The procedure is as follows. In a case of an agreed settlement, lawyers and the Crown negotiate, that is, lawyers for the claimant and lawyers for the Crown would negotiate an amount for settlement. The amount would be discussed with the Solicitor General who would make a recommendation to the Attorney General. If the

Attorney General accepts the proposal, a paper would be sent to Cabinet fully outlining the salient features of the matter out of which a decision would be made. On the basis of a recorded decision by Cabinet, the claimant then becomes entitled for payment. This procedure is quite similar to those in the cases of court orders in that a Cabinet decision still needs to be recorded. But there is often a great bottleneck. In fact, sometimes the gap is so wide it becomes the body of the bottle moreso than the bottleneck between the decision of the Cabinet with respect to the quantum of the claim in terms of settlement and the date when final payment is actually received. That lag very often really results from the procedure which is required to move the matter from accepting of liability and quantum of settlement by the Crown and actually being able to access the funds to make the payment.

Sir, some of the reasons for the delay are frequently the time spent in waiting for a draw-down from the Ministry of Finance where the amount falls within the amount included in the Estimates for that year, and some of the longer delays which are experienced with respect to the delays which are experienced in bringing the supplementary resolutions to the House for financing.

It is the Government's view that there needs to be a speedier mechanism to facilitate payments which arise under the purview of this Act. What is being proposed, Sir, is that payments of this nature be considered as statutory expenditures and therefore can be paid without further reference to parliamentary approval in the traditional process because there are in effect debts and liabilities of the State and are provided for under the relevant statutes.

There will, of course, Sir, be the whole question of accountability which will be raised and there is still a procedure through which these matters have to go. The matters would still have to be approved by the Accountant General and Auditor General. They will still have the scrutiny of Cabinet and, in short, we are certain that the legitimacy of the claims can be and will be verified.

The desire is for a change in section 22 which will allow claims to become a charge on the Consolidated Fund and this would enable payments to be made more speedily. Both types of claims, the claims of out of court settlements and the orders arising out of a trial of the courts, are subject to this but there is another type of payment which we perhaps need to cover and that is the whole question of *ex gratia* payments. These are cases, as you know, where the Crown does not accept liability but decides, due to the special facts and circumstances in the case, that compensation ought to be paid. These cases, Sir, will also be subject to the procedure that is being proposed.
2.40 p.m.

In effect, Sir, the Senate is being asked to approve an amendment to the Crown Proceedings Act which would give effect by a change in the item under which this matter falls in the Estimates. The item would now fall under Statutory Expenditures rather than Other Expenditure because it now becomes a charge on the Consolidated Fund and therefore specific amounts have to be listed in the annual estimates.

Now, Sir, it must be understood that many of these claims or cases of injury where the claimant might have fallen into a manhole, might have been injured in some other way because of action or inaction by Government and we believe that in those cases it is morally wrong for the compensation to be delayed for any inordinate length of time because of procedural constraints. What this amendment to the Act is seeking to do, Sir, is to improve the procedure which is employed so as to mitigate the impact which the original injury or other loss would have had on the claimant and thereby, Sir, help them to move more speedily to the process of healing and rebuilding.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Crown Proceedings (Amendment) Bill, 1995 be now read a second time.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I really cannot at this time when there is so much talk in Barbados about transparency and accountability and all of these things in Government, I cannot support any legislation which allows sums of money to be paid out and for matters not to be debated in Parliament. As I looked at this Resolution it appeared to me that these matters could be settled without there being any discussion at all in the House of Assembly about these moneys which are being paid.

If I were in a Government of which 60% of my elected members were attorneys-at-law, I would be very afraid to bring this legislation because having worked out the kind belief in the minds of the electorate that politicians are dishonest people and that they do all kinds of things behind the scene, what do we come and say now? We mean them not us. I think this type of legislation leaves too much in question.

I think people would want to know and I understand the need to settle these matters with urgency but I have asked attorneys-at-law whether Parliament had anything to do with the delay and the settlement of these claims. I have been advised that it has nothing whatsoever to do with Parliament, that the delay has to do with the courts and all the other things that go on prior to the point of settlement.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. President, I cannot sit down here and allow the Senator to make such a statement unless she is

going to lay the foundation to verify that statement. How can she say that attorneys tell her the question of payment has to do with the delays of the court. If she listened to what the Minister said when he introduced the matter she could not have said that.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, it seems as though my fellow Senator wants me to lie. I have a number of clients who are attorneys-at-law and I have asked. Ever since I saw the Bill I tried to find out. I am one who believes that people should not suffer at the hands of the Crown and I try to find out whether people are having difficulties and I have been told that this will not necessarily make life any easier.

As a matter of fact, I think people are concerned that in 1995 we would be allowing sums of money which could be substantial sums of money, to be paid out of the Consolidate Fund and that the elected Members of Parliament cannot debate those matters in the House of Assembly and that is my major concern. I think that we should try to expedite the payments to people for lands we have compulsorily acquired, land which we literally take away. That is what I want to see us bring an amendment to Senate for. We take lands from very small, poor people and we say we want to use them for highway improvement and all types of things and years after these people cannot get their moneys. We do not give them a document which they can take to a commercial bank and say I have an asset worth this amount and the Government owes me this amount, can you lend me some money. That is my concern. So I would like to see this legislation brought here for compulsory acquisitions.

I am therefore saying that I cannot, at this time, support any legislation in Barbados in an atmosphere of transparency and accountability, legislation which seeks to pay significant sums out of the Consolidated Fund of Barbados and bypassing the House of Assembly. If this matter passes this Senate, Sir, I think we should have a serious commitment from this Government that a report would be laid every six months identifying persons to whom sums were paid and those amounts paid thereto. I think that is very important.

It is surprising how much we can learn from these settlements and I hope that should this become law that this Senate is kept up-to-date on how these moneys are paid. I think this is really a backward piece of legislation. That is my contribution, Sir.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, it is quite clear that the Honourable Member who has just sat down does not understand the waters in which she attempts to swim. She does not understand what she is talking about and therefore statements like these would be made.

As I understand it, Mr. President, the question of payment from the Consolidated Fund is to be made for settlements between attorneys-at-law in claims after negotiations with the Crown Solicitor and his attorneys.

Another point is payments on judgments and tax costs. The third area is *ex gratia* payments and if the Honourable Senator understood what those meant she would not have made the speech she just made and said she would not support the legislation. Let me as a practising attorney tell the Chamber now. The Attorney General had an easier way to do this and it would have left all of them crying and it would show up the functionaries and the bottlenecks in the system. All that he had to do was to say the Crown in all cases of claim will now be treated like any other individual in this country and I will tell you what it would be.
2.50 p.m.

Mr. President, I brought 2 cases against the Licensing Authority where an officer in that Department suspended drivers licences of certain persons. I went before the Supreme Court and the judge held that he did not have the authority to do it. I would not even go into all of the facts of it and I was awarded costs. Now that is a function of the Courts and if you are awarded costs against the Government you must tax those costs. The Registrar of the Court decides whether the cost is regular and the Court determines the amount that you are paid in compensation. Now there is no civil servant, no department, no committee that can go behind those two actions, the action of the judge and the action of the Registrar. If I were the Attorney General, I would have treated the Crown like a normal person and I would have gone up and held the biggest D8 tractor that I could find at MTW and levy on it, and get my money within 14 days to 21 days and then bring it to Parliament and see what you could do. Absolutely nothing.

Because the private citizen has no means of redress against the Crown in matters of this nature, they have to sit and wait while the functionaries decide to tell me that the file is on the Minister's desk, it is with the Attorney General, it is with the Solicitor General, and we have not got this paper yet. We cannot do anything yet and you have to sit down and bleach out for your money. If somebody who recovers a judgment as a result of falling into a manhole in Broad Street, who broke their foot, you have to wait till somebody decide to put the paper up and work on it for you to get your money. You have no redress against the Crown.

So if the Honourable Senator knew what she was talking about, then you are saying to me that you do not trust your Solicitor General. You do not trust the attorneys who work under him or her, because when they sit down and negotiate a settlement we do not settle cases off the

top of our head. We use law books with principles and we compare similar injuries as set out with judgments in the Court against the injuries the person has now suffered and you come to a decision. There is a saying in the legal profession – the worst settlement is better than any judgment because you do not know what a judge would do and after the judge has done the case you do not know when the judge will give the decision and you do not know when you will be paid. So therefore lawyers will compromise their client's position in order to get an early settlement. Having settled with the Solicitor General, do you tell me then that a person is not entitled to payment within a reasonable period and they must sit down and wait 5, 6, 8 years before they get their money? Because the Government seeks to expedite the manner of payment, you are saying that you care about people but yet still you do not want it to be done.

The only one that I would say merits the long procedure is an *ex gratia* payment. Because in that case the claimant has not brought a claim in Court and he is asking the Government to have compassion on me, pay me something for the damage or injuries I have suffered. The *ex gratia* payments are the ones that need to go through the procedure. But no Parliament can upset a judgment or tax cost. No Parliament can do it. What you are saying now is that you created a Parliament, you created the Court and you tell Parliament that after the Court has made the decision you must come and talk all over it before you pay somebody their money. As I said, an easier way would be to give us the right to levy on Government's property. All you have to do is take the Chief Marshal and stick on the levy notice on Government House or Ilaro Court and you will see how fast you get paid then. The sooner we say that this Act binds the Crown, that is all you have to do. Look for all of these bits of legislation and say this Act binds the Crown. You will stop hearing the talk about parliamentarians have to overlook and see that somebody is not getting more than the next body, etcetera. If you want Parliament to overlook, ask Parliament to overlook BAMC and the Sugar Industry Act. That is what you want Parliament to overlook and I want the Minister to tell me how much money you are paying Booker Tate. That is what Parliament should overlook. How much are the officers at Booker Tate getting paid? I hear one is getting $300 000 a year and this is a settlement by Government. This is part of settlement by Government, Sir, in negotiations. That is what Parliament should look at. The Honourable Senator said that she wants Parliament to look over it before money comes from the Consolidated Fund. I know this fellow is drawing $300 000 a year, free house, free car, free entertainment and everything and the money is coming from the Consolidated Fund. I have not seen it debated in Parliament. So let us talk about it if you want to talk about Parliament and debating money.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I will talk about the white flies that were brought in on the cabbages as you want to talk about diseases. That will come under the next one that is coming up. I will talk about the white fly and the cabbages when it comes in later down the road. There is nothing that I do not know about out there. So if you want to talk let us talk. Let us talk if you want to talk.

Mr. President, I am going to support the amendment to this Bill and I know the general public out there is going to support the amendment to this Bill. I know the people who will benefit by swift payments because of the amendment will support this Bill. But those who do not understand the system and speak only for the sake of speaking and making Opposition noises will not understand. They cannot understand and I take great objection to anybody anywhere at all saying they speak to lawyers and lawyers tell them things that are not true and I must talk. Because I remember the late Lloyd Smith used to say there are lawyers and awyers. He said the lawyers are in the BLP and the awyers are in the other party and we only had two parties at that time the BLP and the DLP. I am sure the ones that the Honourable Senator was talking about are lawyers in the other party and not the BLP. Lloyd Smith eventually left the B's and went to the D's and it is when he was in the Democratic Labour Party that he said, "I made the biggest mistake because all the good lawyers still belong to the B's".

Mr. President, I said before and I say again that I congratulate the Attorney General in his foresight and his ability to bring this Act to Parliament and I entreat all those people in this Senate who care about the welfare of the people to vote for this Bill. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to make a couple of observations. No. 1 – I would really like to ask you, Mr. President, to see if you could use your good office to get a copy of the Laws of Barbados for me so that I can see the whole law and have time to deal with it because I am not pretending to understand it. I do not really understand the rest of the law because I have not seen it and I have not really had access to it. However, I will speak about what is before me. I am not a lawyer so I am not speaking as a lawyer. I am speaking as a lay person.
3.00 p.m.

I am going to support this Bill. However, Mr. President, I would like to urge in particular the administrators – and I am going to talk about what I know about – to be very careful and I am going to give you an example why I am bringing this up, because of the large sums of money that could be paid out of the Consolidated Fund because there is not strict accountability.

I am going to give you an example, Mr. President. Recently at the Psychiatric Hospital they have started a new Psychiatric Hospital training programme for students. I have spoken about this matter before and I would urge that it be put into the Community College, because it is cheaper to have one plant than to have two plants and equipment where you have to duplicate secretarial services, *et cetera.*

Recently in a hurry they have restarted the Mental Health training programme. It was started with 58 students, 13 post graduates who will do about one year, 17 from the Queen Elizabeth and District Hospitals, and 28 from the Psychiatric Hospital. It is not the starting of the school that I am concerned about, but these people were taken out of these institutions without putting any replacements there. They did not wait until they got replacements, which means that the patients were at risk because the staff had been depleted through acts of omission by the Civil Servants and lack of accountability.

If someone comes and sues the Government for negligence, what can the Government say? If you take the nurses from the ward without replacing them, 58 of them out of the health system, without waiting for replacements, so that even if it was in such a state that at the weekend if people called in sick there would not be anybody on the ward to look after the psychiatric patients. That is not care. It is okay bringing legislation like this, but the Government servants must be accountable for their actions, because it means if they are not, because of their acts or omissions the Consolidated Fund is going to be paying out a lot of money.

Another thing as well, while I am talking, I have spoken about this school before, that it was better to train the psychiatric nurses as post graduate nurses. Let them do the three year programme and then go into the psychiatric programme, because of the behavioural problems in our society.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I really must rise. I am sorry to interrupt the Senator who is making an interesting contribution. However, as we are all bound by the Standing Orders, I am constrained to question whether the matters being raised fall within the scope of the debate on this particular Bill.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, the way I see it, where the Crown accept liability for any injury or damage caused to or suffered by any person or property as a result of any act or omission by any servant or agent of the Crown, any amount including the cost that the Crown agrees to pay such a person by way of compensation shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund and shall be paid to the person entitled or to his attorney-at-law, and large sums of money have been paid to the QEH for settlements out of court because of acts and omissions. Quite a lot of money has been paid out, and that is why I am raising it. I am not in the habit of raising anything that does not relate to what is being discussed. I am telling you this because you can check and see how much money the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has paid out over the last couple of years because of acts or omissions, or because of shortage of nurses, to people who have sued the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. What I am saying is that one must ensure that your servants are accountable and make sure that they are not negligent so that the money does not have to be paid out of the Consolidated Fund.

I hope that this satisfies you that I am head on.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you make my job easier. Please proceed.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: It is on the ball. Everything I am saying is on the ball. If you deplete the staff without making adequate provisions, you have opened the Government to all sorts of trouble that you had no right exposing the Government to, and somebody should answer for this. You must demand answers of the persons you put in positions of authority. It is not only in nursing, you can look in other fields and say the same thing, and the officers must be accountable. It is no longer a time of the day when you employ a Civil Servant and he is there until he or she retires. They must be accountable for their actions, be it nurses, lawyers, teachers, *et cetera*, and this is what this is all about.

I know you have talked about Public Service reform. It does not happen overnight, it is going to take time, but there are two places left where I can say these things – in the Senate or in the newspaper. I rather say it in the Senate. I have written the Minister and asked for a meeting so that I can sit down and discuss such matters with her. I have had no reply. I have phoned her home and asked for a meeting to discuss such matters. I have had no reply, so I am left to either write it in the newspaper or bring it to the Senate, and I think, since I have been given the opportunity to be in the Senate, I can make a contribution. I have been very highly educated by the taxpayers' money in this country and I will come and share my knowledge for what it is worth with the Senate, and I sincerely hope that you take what I say very seriously, because I do not get up and talk for the sake of talking, I am talking from a position of knowledge.

Anyway, Mr. President, I thank you. I will get the opportunity to say some other things later.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rickinson, at the start of your speech you raised the question of the availability

of the Laws of Barbados. My information is that bound copies are not presently available, and this is in fact a great pity. The Clerk of Parliament has assured me that the staff will make available to any Senator copies of any statutes which you might require for the purpose of preparing for a debate.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, that fact that it is going to be difficult to make a projection at the start of any fiscal year for this particular allocation means that in any one year there could in fact be a fairly substantial expenditure requirement in this area. It is certainly going to have implications in that year for the size of the Government deficit. We never quite know. The Leader of the Senate did indicate that it would be extremely difficult to project such expenditure so that we can see that in an unusual year it can have serious implications.
3.10 p.m.

The thing that I wish to answer is, since we are willing – and I think we all accept that the system should be such – that settlement should be done fairly expeditiously, I think we are all aware that the system then of settling has to be looked at. To merely allow the payment to be accommodated through the Consolidated Fund may not necessarily lead to any significant improvement in terms of the timing of the settlement, because as far as I gather from the debate and previous discussion surrounding this issue, it has to do with the system, the legal functionaries and the whole way of settling land acquisition matters and other such matters so that to allow the payment to go through the Consolidated Fund may not expedite the payment. That is an issue that has to be looked at.

What I am asking is why it is that Government on the one hand is always called upon to do things expeditiously when the movement of funds is from Government to a private citizen. What I wish to ask is what treatment is being considered in terms of the sale of Government property or whether or not there can be any system. I don't know of any particular cases, intimately, but certainly the other side of the coin where there could be delays in terms of payment to Government for facilities that might have been acquired or may be used, but payment not necessarily having taken its course from the individual to Government.

Again, I am not in a position where I can indicate any particular transaction that has so occurred but, if it is that Government is in receipt of the funds, say for the sale of a property, is there any system that is going to ensure that Government is capable of accessing payment from the other side in the same sort of expeditious way. That again is another concern.

There is something that is related to this; in fact, that is of concern to me, and it has to do with the recent circulation of the Accountant General's monthly statement. In that circulation, I identified an area which remains to me to be hazy. It is what we call the Paymaster Account.

The Paymaster Account at the Treasury was in fact a serious bone of contention in the stabilisation programme and the issue surrounding that was that the balance on that Paymaster Account was extraordinarily high. For those of us who understand the issues, the Central Bank of Barbados for a number of years would have been seeking to reconcile its fiscal deficit but, in the early years, the pre-1991 period, never quite succeeded in doing so on a quarterly basis.

In fact, what you would witness in any Central Bank document, below the line, is a very high balance called the residual account and that balance would vary from negative to positive over a fiscal period. The issue that is of concern to me is that in analysing the monthly statements of the Accountant General, as at December, the Paymaster Account had a mere balance of $16 million but by May of 1995 that Paymaster Account balance has increased to $47 million.

I am suggesting to you, Mr. President, that that is an area of concern because for a long time there could have been and would have been expenditure which would have been captured but not truly accounted for within the system. To see the increasing balance on that, is a source of concern. There are some Senators on the Other Side who would not appreciate the point I am trying to make because of the lack of knowledge on this issue and therefore cannot begin to see the correlation between the growth of that balance and issues surrounding this whole question of settlement in terms of issues of land acquisition and the like.

It is truly an area of concern to see that balance, and I invite all other Senators who would recently have received the monthly statement of the Accountant General to look specifically at the Paymaster Account for 1994–1995, because the so-called technocrats in the Ministry who are there to advise should definitely look at that statement so as to provide and enlighten the political directorate as to why things are moving in a direction that is not desirable. I do suspect that that in fact may very well be happening in the accounts as at May of 1995.

I make this connection because it is not an obvious connection. It is not something that is widely or would ever be debated or has been debated in either Chamber over the last 5-10 years; but it was an issue and will in fact be an issue for the Government to look at very closely, because it bears some relation to the discussion here.

Unfortunately, I cannot go into the details of that particular Paymaster Account. In fact, you would not be in a position and it would not make sense now; but I am just sending a signal because it is something which I identified in my recent perusal of the documents.

Though I understand the need, and there is a need to compensate people more urgently in relation to land acquisition, I am saying that as it stands here, since we are unable to make any projection at the beginning of the fiscal year, we can in some years therefore encounter unusual levels of expenditure over the course of a fiscal period which can then put Government's projected deficits off considerably.

In fact, that is an area again that has to be addressed because that is an area in which there is absolute uncertainty as regards the existing Administration. They are not quite so sure whether to run a small deficit or to run a large deficit, to run a surplus, to run a 4.5% deficit and in fact the recent retreat of the Prime Minister on this issue is certainly cause for concern.

Let me add, as I stated in the Estimates Debate, for those of us who can recall, that I warned the Government on that occasion that it would have to cut its expenditure programme because it would not have been able to access the foreign funds. The evidence is there to show that that has already occurred. All I can actually do is to attempt again in this particular Resolution to guard the Government against unusual expenditures, especially as it relates to not being able to make the kinds of accurate projections that would be necessary.
3.20 p.m.

I have no doubt that the Senator on the other side who bears some responsibility is by now beginning to understand the comments which I made in March, 1994. It has now reversed itself, as happened to Plato and Socrates. On that score, I understand the difficulties in this particular Resolution. I am however encouraging us to look more closely at this area.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I have no difficulty in supporting the amendment as stated in this particular Bill. For me this is more a moral and ethical matter rooted in sociology rather than an economical matter. I hope that I did not hear it coming through that because it would be a heavy charge on the Consolidated Fund that we should go easy in the way we pursue this objective of compensation.

I think what is the underlying and the overriding factor is that the Crown has a responsibility to compensate people who have been affected in the ways mentioned here in this proposed Bill. I would not want to get bogged down too much with how much it is going to cost because – are you going to say in any one year because it is likely to cost an excessive amount we should not proceed with it? That is something you cannot determine because we do not know how many cases there will be in any particular year. That is something we could never ever know in any year.

I am supporting a change and also for another reason I am supporting this amendment. I think there is a chance of greater confidentiality if the matter is dealt with, as in the proposed amendment, because I have heard Honourable Members calling for Parliament to deal with it because Parliament can call for reports and make people accountable – and we know Parliament! We know that names can be called and people's business can be taken into Parliament. I do not think we should go that route. The way it is being proposed allows the matter to be handled in a much more orderly, in a much less public way and a much more discreet way as well.

Sir, there are some other aspects I would have liked to see included in this kind of change. I hope that the affected members of families will be borne in mind and not just the person who has been injured, or damaged, or the person who has suffered. We have to see persons in terms of their relationship with other members of their families. That, I would ask, should be considered in any attempt to compensate as well as the period of time during which a person has suffered or been affected by the suffering.

Now, I do not know, Sir, if there is another Act, or Bill, or proposal that will accommodate this but I think it would have been a good thing if we had attempted to include persons who were the victims of crime, not simply persons who have been damaged and for whom the Crown takes responsibility, but from time to time there are people who are affected by serious crime, whole families are, as well as persons who are wrongfully imprisoned. Up to now I do not think that we have been compensating people in these areas.

I hope that this attempt to deal with this brings into focus the other areas where compensation is necessary such as I have mentioned – families affected, the children involved and also the area of crime.

Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I am impressed with some of the speeches I am hearing this evening with the obvious exception of Senator Mascoll's because the size of the Government deficit has nothing

to do with the matter before us. If I as an individual have a case in court I cannot plead with the magistrate or the judge and say that they can wait until next year for me to settle my claim. If the magistrate says $200.00 in a month I have to get it in a month or suffer the consequences so why should Government be treated any different to the private citizen? If a claim has been made against Government, I feel that as soon as all the necessary procedures have been followed, that the person should not have to wait until Government's deficit is 1% or 2% before the person gets paid. Government has a moral right, and I agree with Senator Springer, that it is a moral and ethical question, Government has the moral right to find the money to compensate that person.

Sir, I totally believe in the separation of powers that Parliament has no right to oversee actions of the judiciary. We put our judges and magistrates in place and we cannot take their place. When they have made a judgment I do not believe that we are to come in here and discuss that judgment whether or not it has financial implications. We must trust the judiciary to make the best judgment, given all the facts that are before them. Our role is not to see whether Government can pay or not pay. Once the judge or the magistrate has reached a decision on the matter, then as far as I am concerned, Parliament has no role in the matter but to make sure that the person gets paid.

What has happened, Sir, is that at the beginning of the fiscal year there is a special vote which is administered by the Cabinet Office for all sorts of payments to be made. What happens is that if you get a big payment for the year, and that vote is burst, then authorisation would have to come from Parliament to increase by way of a supplementary that particular vote in order for the person to be paid. This Bill removes that now. Once settlement has been made in the matter, the person just presents his claim to the Accountant General and payment has to be made. Government then has to ensure that the funds are there in the same way that I as a private citizen , if a judgment has been reached against me, I have to look for the money to settle the judgement. I cannot plead poverty. I have to look for the money or action would be taken against me. Therefore, this Bill is timely given that more and more we are getting claims against the Crown, especially as Senator Rickinson has pointed out because of negligence in some cases.

A lot of people are damaging themselves in manhole covers that are not properly put in place and so on. A lot of that is happening and people have to wait 3 and 4 years, and sometimes more, for what is rightfully and legally theirs. Because of what is happening, we have to find a way of making sure that once the necessary arrangements are made that the person gets the money in the shortest possible time.

It is important to note, Sir, that Cabinet still has a role in this matter because these payments still have to be approved by Cabinet as the chief executive authority on the island. Once that approval is there, then the matter does not have to wait on parliamentary approval, as happened in the past. So long as the matter has been approved, it becomes a charge on the Consolidated Fund. Do not forget that Parliament, including the Senate, still has, at the end of the year, a bill coming before us for any supplementary estimates above that for which we would have voted at the beginning of the year. So, at the end of the year all of these Bills would still come before Parliament. Sir, the size of the deficit must not be our consideration. Our consideration must be justice and this Government is leading the way because we found a situation which was intolerable and we are putting steps in place to ensure the citizens of Barbados who have legitimate complaints regarding the amount of time it takes to get these matters settled that we have heard their complaints and we have moved with dispatch to remedy the situation.
3.30 p.m.

I am sure, Sir, that in spite of the rantings and ravings of the Opposition they agree with the Government for bringing this matter to a resolution so early. But, Sir, if they were unable to think about it, it is not our fault because in the years that they had we saw the mess that was left in the Housing Ministry with regards payments for people whose land they had taken up and used and for years refused to pay them the money which was legally theirs. Sir, it is about time the Government begins to act in a proper manner with regards to the people's rights. When they take up people's lands they should not have to wait for 3 and 4 years for payments. When a judgment is made against Government they should not wait until a deficit is 1% or whatever the deficit is, you have a moral right to treat these matters with the seriousness that they deserve.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: We believe in the high road and this is yet another example of a Government which is sensitive to the needs of the population which have put them there in the first place.

So, Sir, I have great pleasure in wholeheartedly supporting this particular Bill and would advise all Members that some day we never know what is going, but some day, Sir, I hope it does not happen but some day innocently we could be walking down the road and we could be damaged. We would not want to wait, Sir, in spite of all the goals that we have and the intentions that we would encouraged we would not want to wait until we are older in order to get our payment. We would want to get our payment in time to meet our commitments. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move, Mr. President, that the Crown Proceedings (Amendment) Bill, 1995 be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY , Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and 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 and cited as the Crown Proceedings (Amendment) Act, 1995.

ORDER NO. 7 – THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS (GENERAL) ORDER 1995

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, from time to time Government has need to make certain amendments to the Civil Establishments (General) Order to effect certain measures of administrative housekeeping and tidying up. The last such amendment to the Civil Establishments (General) Order was made in May 1990 and hence the Civil Establishments (General) Order 1995 is another such step along the way. This Order will therefore seek to bring together certain changes which would have occurred between the last amendment to the Order in 1990 and today.

The Civil Establishments Order in question now, Sir, will make provision for such things as the establishment of certain temporary posts in the public service, changes resulting from the variation of ministerial portfolios and the transfer, redesignation and regrading and abolition of posts since that 1990 date of the last Civil Establishments Order.

If I might turn to the question of the establishment of certain temporary posts, Sir, periodically reviews are undertaken of the temporary posts that exist in the Government in order to determine which ones would be needed after the original period of their institution. In other words, what would be required on a long-term continuing basis, and here we enter into some jargon which is all very confusing to people in the non civil service, the question of temporary, permanent, established and non established posts. So therefore when one seeks a post no matter how long it has been in operation as long as it has been manned by a person can very well still be non-established and therefore temporary. By establishing so to speak a post one is therefore putting it on a permanent basis. In this instance, we therefore are seeking to make permanent and make established 39 temporary posts as follows and they are operating in various institutions: Queen Elizabeth Hospital – 1 Financial Controller, 1 Hospital Infection Control Officer, 2 Clinic Technicians, 3 Maids, 1 Clerical Officer, 4 Telephone Operators.
3.40 p.m.

Ministry of Public Works – 10 Technicians, 2 Technical Assistants.

Ministry of the Environment – 2 Research Officers (I and II), 1 Clerk Typists.

In the Environmental Division, there is the whole question of the Coastal Zone Unit involving 19 posts ranging from a Director right down to a Driver/Messenger.

So therefore where the Coastal Conservation Unit is concerned, it is now known as the Coastal Zone Management Unit. All posts which were hitherto temporary are now put on a permanent basis and what was once known as the Coastal Conservation Project Unit is now known as the Coastal Zone Management Unit headed by a Director at the level of Deputy Permanent Secretary.

You will recall that this Coastal Conservation Project Unit was set up in 1982 as a result of an agreement between Government and IADB to label the clearing out of the maintenance and management of coastlines and beaches on a more effective basis. The Coastal Zone Unit is involved in the preparation of surveys, recommendations and proposals for emergency works where there are coastal conservation problems, advising the Town Planning Department on siting and modification to structures and coastal zones, liaison with Ministries especially in relation to wave observation programmes to determine incoming wave energy for the design of coastal structures among other matters.

I am glad, Sir, that over the years there has been a greater appreciation for the work of this Unit. It is important and its functions have expanded and have grown beyond merely conservation management and the Department has been conducting very good work for Government and the general society, and can now be considered as an integral part of Government's operations. As a matter of fact, its Director is a highly respected officer whose services are very often sought both

within the Caribbean and further abroad by Governments and various bodies who want to benefit from his expertise.

Another area which comes under this Civil Establishment (General) Order, Sir, is to reflect Ministerial portfolios that stretch as far back as the changes effected on 28th January, 1991 and the 6th November, 1992 to 1st September, 1993, 27th January, 1994 and 28th February, 1994 and 10th September, 1994. Sir, several posts have been transferred and provisions are being made to regularize these adjustments.

Also under consideration, Sir, is the question of regrading and redesignation of posts. Under this Order the post of Registrar of the Supreme Court is being regraded from the level of S3–S2 to S1 to reflect the greater level of responsibility attached to the post while the post of Chief Immigration Officer has been regraded from S5–S4 to bring it in level with other Heads of Department with similar level of responsibility. The post of what was Manager, Coastal Conservation Unit has been redesignated to Director, Coastal Zone Management as I earlier mentioned and upgraded thereby from S5 to S4.

It also involves the abolition of one post in the Ministry of Education in what was known as the Buildings Unit. This Unit was set up in 1974 ostensibly to cut cost and to save money, to provide preventative maintenance on an ongoing basis to primary schools. We know the sad story of that Department as evidenced by the lack of such an ongoing preventative programme being put into place. It was found except for a few exceptions schools were in a bad state of disrepair with widespread complaints about them being void and the Ministry of Education under pressure to effect these repairs. I am glad to say that some steps have been taken already but still a lot more still needs to be done. But despite all that was envisaged for the Unit, it was discovered that it was not earning its keep. Very little savings if any were effected and as a matter there has been considerable evidence of unsavory acts effecting the operation of the Department.

As a result, the Unit was considered as being ill-equipped and unable to carry out the job it was intended to do and the repairs were considered to be better done by other Government agencies as well as private contractors. As a result too, a recommendation was made to disband the Unit and therefore arose the question of what would you do with the officers affected by such a decision. Of course, every attempt was made to place them in comparable positions in other Ministries and Departments of Government.

For your knowledge, I would like to say that the officers involved would have been persons such as a Buildings Officer, Senior Draftsman, 3 Maintenance Supervisors, 1 Draftsman, 1 Clerical Officer and 4 Artisans. The Clerical Officer was placed elsewhere and was retained in the Ministry of Education and most of the other Officers were employed elsewhere within the Education Project Implementation Unit. The four artisans were retained in the Ministry of Education and are being utilized by the Ministry in the Project Office in carrying out minor repairs to primary schools. However, it was not possible to place one officer, the Buildings Officer, who could not be transferred. He is 58 years old and the decision was taken to abolish the post in accordance with the provisions of the Pensions Act, Cap. 25.

I would like to say that every effort was tried to place him but this proved impossible like I pointed out. The union involved was kept advised every step of the way as to the steps being taken. When his post was abolished, he was not in any way disadvantaged but was able to benefit from all that was entitled to him of pension, etcetera and that is the end of the story, Sir.

While I am talking about the question of posts, Sir, I would like to say that one sore point that has been plaguing people for a long time over this question of appointments as against acting and being in jobs for a long time and not being appointed, we have found that this situation was untenable and unsatisfactory because it is not just a question of giving a person a letter saying that you are henceforth appointed to a position. The mere act of appointment carries certain psychological and other benefits for the holder or recipient of such a letter. For one thing, it gives the recipient a sense of stability. It provides security of tenure for the officer concerned and it also has benefits in some very practical and tangible areas such as the ability to go to a bank and negotiate a loan or the ability to get a car loan from Government. Because the policy is that if you are in a temporary post, you are therefore not eligible for these benefits and this has been known to affect very great strain on officers concerned affecting their livelihood, their ability to earn a living or to build a house, *et cetera* and therefore cramp the whole question of upward social mobility of which we are all very proud in Barbados.

Government took very active steps to deal with this problem having pledged to deal with it head-on and to eradicate it as quickly as possible. In this area, we set up a special unit at the Personnel Administration Department. Over the past 6 months, I am pleased to say that they were able to appoint persons to nearly 400 such posts. These range from people within the Police Force. As a matter of fact, 84 appointments in the Royal Barbados Police Force, 9 in the Judicial and Legal Services field, 98 Security Guards, 9 Senior Security Guards. In addition, there were 180 appointments in various Ministries and Departments including policemen, postal assistants, prison

officers, agricultural assistants, staff nurses – not just nurses but staff nurses, the big-up nurses. I do not have the details here. – and nursing assistants at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I know that will please Senator Rickinson to know that at least we have started to redress the imbalance in this instance. Meanwhile, action is continuing at a pace to fill the other remaining vacant posts in the Public Service. Right now work is continuing in such areas as clerical officers, telephone operators, receptionists, prison officers, maids, stenographers, typists, teachers, even deputy permanent secretaries, Mr. President. The next batch will include some 280 to 300 officers who can be assured that they no longer have to worry about not being appointed, they no longer have to be disturbed that their friends and relatives elsewhere in the Service have been appointed and they have not been, so 280 to 300 more officers can rest assured that this will shortly come about within a very short time.
3.50 p.m.

Mr. President, I therefore move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, it would be remiss of me if I did not speak to this Resolution. I have a personal experience with someone working in the Civil Service who for many, many years could have been in Hollywood, who acted for an inordinately long period of time.

My concern today is for the people not only at the top of the ladder but those at the bottom rung of the ladder whom successive Governments treat in the same basic way. We have had some major problems. I certainly am one who has had an immediate family member who acted in a position in Government for over 20 years, only to be pensioned off at the lowest scale when the time came for that person to leave the Civil Service. It was a serious blow for her, something that has affected her and her entire family, and it is something that bothers and concerns me.

Even of deeper concern is the fact that the whole reworking and re-engineering of the Civil Service is something that is fundamental to the progress of Barbados in this information age. I am concerned about the many people who work within the Civil Service and who every day go about it in a very archaic system which cannot and will not cut it in the 21st century. Certainly in Barbados we walk along every day and we see the 20 000 or so people who are employed in the Civil Service and all of us share the jokes about whether or not they are competent or whether or not they are lazy, except if one is your next door neighbour. But certainly we must be concerned about whether or not we are giving them the right tools and we are running the Civil Service in the right way.

I must commend the Government for moving quickly to put a Commission in place to deal with the Civil Service and the way in which the Civil Service functions within Barbados today, but I would like to see when we hotly debate all the issues, for example, about education and health services. We do not spend any time in seeing how the $350 million, or whatever it is, is spent in terms of the efficiency and the effectiveness of that Service, and that is a Service that we must get excited about. If we are ever to restore the trust of Barbadian people to deal with Government, we must fix the Civil Service. Every one of us is concerned when we want to build on to our homes that the Government should act quickly, but when my neighbour is building his I want them to go through the painstaking exercise of ensuring that everything is right. I say we spend an inordinately length of time trying to stop bad things from happening and therefore creative and innovative people for really making good things happen. That is where the central problem is, but we have lost trust in terms of our own Governments.

Sir, I do not want to deal with the micro workings or to micro manage the Civil Service to make it work, but I hope that the central tenets to drive the Civil Service to perform better will be put in place very, very swiftly, placing people not as citizens but as customers and dealing with the problems that these customers have. I also must appeal to Government, and I hope people will say we are a part of Government, to also get away from a lot of the red tape and start measuring results rather than measuring how many rules and regulations there are. People in the Civil Service believe that they own a file and that the file is theirs and therefore it takes a long time on their desk to move. Decentralise the entire process of Government within the Civil Service and let decision-making span rather than be centred into one Permanent Secretary who must control a file and an office. These are the central things that will make the Civil Service work.

I am concerned too at the hyper specialisation that exists in the Civil Service. Too many people in the Civil Service believe that they have become so specialised that only they can deal with an entire issue or file, and this come from working not only within the Civil Service but also within Statutory Corporations of the Government. I believe that we need to treat people responsibly, and if you treat people responsibly and give them responsibility they will in turn act responsibly and will produce the results that we want. If you let people be in charge, they will give you the results that you want.

Mr. President, as I said before, I certainly commend the Government. The 280 to 300 officers who will now be permanent is a step in the right direction. It also speaks to a Government which continues to perform for the right and the good of everyone in this country, a Government

that has always cared – promises and performances – a Government that has always cared for Barbados and has always moved to help people at all rungs of the latter. Certainly I commend the Government and will move this Government on to continue to do things for working-class people in Barbados.

I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution in part, because there are some serious omissions that I need to draw to the attention of those concerned.

While in fact we are very grateful of the regrading of Nursing Assistant II from Z.38 – 24 to Z.33–24. Nursing Assistants II should be Nursing Assistants who have undergone one year training at the Barbados Community College. We are grateful that that regrading has come about. However, there is another category of Nursing Assistant that are pulled off the street and they are used in other wards at the Psychiatric Hospital and in the District Hospital. They employ people who are not trained, which means that they will start at Z.33 without having one single day of training. With Library Assistants you have Library Assistant I, Library Assistant II and Library Assistant III. You need to put another category of Nursing Assistant III so that those who are not trained will be paid at Z.38–34 and that will give them some incentive to get qualified to do the one year training programme to move into the category of Nursing Assistant II. It is similar to Library Assistant. It is unfortunate that BRNA was not consulted about this, because we did put in a proposal in 1990 about it and subsequently complained about it.
4.00 p.m.

Another observation is on page 9: Infection Control Officer. There were 3 people working in that section. I am glad that you have made the post of Infection Control Officer permanent. That is long overdue, but one needs more than one post of Infection Control Officer. One needs a Deputy.

Unfortunately, what has had to happen was the person who retired was brought back, but the Deputy who has been doing most of the work is still there and has not been sent for training. That blocks the promotional aspects and the planning, because infection control is so important. Apparently there were not enough funds to send the person who is working for training and I urge that you look for funds, because I am hearing about different jobs and areas and rural development and these different officers. Therefore, I hope you will be able to find money to train the Deputy who is there so that the retired person who has been brought back and put into the post could be retired.

Another observation that I want to make and I would like to congratulate you on the cardiac technologist and the cardiac type mission, but while you are looking in the cardiac area I would like to urge the Government to look at comparative advantage regarding heart surgery. I will tell you why, Mr. President.

In Martinique, there is a cardiac centre. In Trinidad, there is a cardiac centre. In Jamaica, there is a cardiac centre. We send people to Venezuela and now Barbados is setting up one. I think that all of these countries concerned, through CARICOM, could get together and decide who has the best comparative advantage and at least set up 2 centres. I don't think that the Caribbean could really carry a cardiac centre in Martinique, Trinidad, Jamaica and Venezuela.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: We need to look at the Eye Care Centre. We need to look at the total system of health care and I would really like you to set up... Trinidad has done it. They have gone through that and other areas and Sir George Alleyne did make a note of it and said that we need to look at our health care system and restructure it. It would be better rather than having these bits and pieces. It is developing but it is developing in a very fragmented way. We would save more money if we look at the total – not only nursing, but also medicine etc. – to see where we can save funds.

I would also like to draw to your attention under Ministry of Health, page 8: (Community Health Sisters/Staff Nurse). Those 2 are bracketed, which means you can employ either one or the other. Now there are 2 totally different categories of personnel. A staff nurse is someone who has gone through 3 years of training and just qualifies, whereas a Community Health Sister is someone who must do 3 years of training, midwifery and must go to Jamaica or Trinidad and be qualified so that they can tell you who has dengue and who doesn't have dengue fever. That is the difference between a staff nurse and a Community Health Sister.

It is better if you can have the Community Health Sisters appointed, because they are 2 totally different persons whatsoever. It is better to have the Community Health Sister who can function within your rural development structure that you are trying to get off the ground and work on coordinating health care within the community and also have other less highly qualified persons like nursing assistants to work along who can go out, because we are very worried about the aged. We have an aged population. Whereas the Community Health Sister could coordinate all of these...

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair. Ignore the asides, please, Senator.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: The Community Health Sister can coordinate those working in collaboration with your rural development...

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: ... I am an expert, yes.

Mr. President, yes, I must say I am because I have worked in Africa, America, England, so I know what I am talking about.

So that they coordinate the rural development and have the decentralisation that my colleague is talking about.

I think I have made all the comments, but one pleading. Please consult the professional organisations responsible for nursing. We as nurses will tend to have some input. At least, listen to us and get our ideas when you are making these changes and developments. Thank you.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I just want to lend my support to this particular Resolution and to say how very happy I am. I am going to speak generally.

In the past couple of years, we have seen what I may consider to be unfair practices when it came to certain appointments where a number of individuals who would have just worked perhaps a year or so would have been appointed in a position. There would be others working 10 and 15 years before in a similar capacity and they would have just been hanging there. I am glad that that particular Ministry has recognised the important role that these people have been playing and have gone a couple steps further to ensure that there is some form of permanence in their employment.

I know, Sir, that many employees who are not appointed in positions are not sure as to what will happen tomorrow or next week or next month. Sometimes they do not produce to the high level that they certainly can because they feel insecure and unsafe in that environment.

I am happy, Sir, that a number of areas have been touched where the individuals have been identified for permanent appointments and, as was mentioned by the Senator, they are given an opportunity where they can get security of tenure. They can get loans and credit in various places because there is some form of information that indicates the employee is in a more permanent position.

I want again Sir, to lend my support to this Resolution and trust that the activities that have been identified by the Senator to pursue along this line for another 200 to 300 people in the near future would certainly contain some school meal servers and school teachers among others. Sir, a person who is unhappy in a position cannot produce to the maximum; but when he knows there is security then he feels happy to go about a job and be as productive a citizen as possible. Thank you. 4.10 p.m.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The Resolution before us, Sir, really cannot be faulted in any way. It is about job tenure and to ensure that there is some level of comfort on the part of these individuals. But we all know that there is no safer place to work than in the Public Service. While what we are seeing is a step in the right direction in terms of giving final expression to these posts, these individuals would have been for a long time very comfortable within the Public Service of Barbados, so this is not anything dramatic.

What is more important is, in fact, some of the implications it may have. I have not heard recently of any regrading exercise within the Civil Service. I am surprised to hear now that certain posts are being upgraded and the like, but I have not heard recently, within the last year and a half, of any attempts on the part of the Government to regrade, upgrade and reclassify workers. This has implications because regrading and upgrading normally are accompanied by increases in salaries and a recent move in a statutory board designed to encourage and upgrade particular posts is going to have widespread implications for the Civil Service because of the obvious stage where we are at in terms of trying to encourage the sort of public sector reform which was discussed about 3 years ago.

The whole question of reform is to get greater efficiency from the system, to get more output from the inputs and to get higher levels of productivity. Unless an environment is created to encourage that kind of productivity, then we can see an undermining of the entire system, that is, if you are going to create anomalies within the system which are going to give certain individuals substantial levels of compensation, while asking those individuals to manage individuals far less in terms of the remuneration, then there are certainly going to be all kinds of discrepancies.

Let us understand that a manager is only as good as his ability to motivate, and if you are going to be saying that the top layer in an organisation is going to be so far removed from the second layer, I can understand the difficulty there is going to be within the organisation to encourage the kind of motivation which will be required, the whole question within the Civil Establishment Bill

and the whole question of the posting of the Public Service *vis-a-vis* other individuals within the system. How do you have a system in which some individuals now are going to be much better compensated than their boss? That is going to have implications across the board.

The other thing is that you are more or less suggesting on the basis of what you have just recently established, that there is hardly going to be any in-house movement in terms of promotion. If I had an individual who is going to be compensated half of what his boss is, then it is highly unlikely that that same individual is going to be able to make the kind of quantum leap to assume the highest office within that organisation because that individual obviously is going to be perceived as somebody considerably lower in status and ability than the individual who is immediately above.

I do not think I am speaking out of turn here at all. If you have 2 posts within an organisation, one immediately below the other, but the gap between them will be so wide, how do I as an individual within that organisation feel as though I can aspire to the top? I cannot see how it will work because there is an almost implied notion that there are kings and jacks and one cannot see that sort of quantum leap being made. Unless we have a system that is going to show levels of integrity both within organisations and within boards, and right across the Civil Service, then we are going to be running into all kinds of difficulty in relation to motivating our workers.

This Bill really has its merit or worth in what it can do to uplift the individuals who would be affected and what it will do to increase the motivational levels, that is, if I know all along as a civil servant that I am in a post where I am virtually guaranteed of a life within that institution, then...

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The issue then is that to do what we are doing, and with reason, we are really giving that person greater levels of comfort and, hopefully, that would translate into higher levels of output. Beyond that it is cosmetic, and it says it all at page 9. It says that "there will be no additional costs as a result of the establishment of the posts since payment in the sum of $419 944.80 per annum is already being made."

This is good strategy in terms of the signals it sends. But when you are doing this on the one hand to the wider Civil Establishment Bill and across the Civil Service and then, on the other hand, you are setting up the kind of malpractice you are setting up in other areas, then you are certainly going to create all kinds of difficulties within the wider system.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. I believe that language is unparliamentary, that accusation of malpractice, a broad sweep. I believe that language is unparliamentary and the allegation unfounded. I would ask that the Honourable Senator be required to withdraw that remark.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Perhaps you could begin by withdrawing the word.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I have no difficulty in doing that. Let me find a more appropriate word that may even, in fact, give more strength to what I am saying. This would certainly, in the context of Barbados, be the first time and it would be an unusual situation to have occurred. It would be what the "colourmatrician" would call an outliar. It is outside of the system. It is not standard. It is not normal.

The situation that is going to occur is going to have severe implications. I do not see how it can be denied that it is going to have severe implications for the wider Civil Service. You just cannot have that kind of thing being done in a system where, in fact, you are seeking to increase the level of productivity across the wider Civil Service.

The other thing that must be recognised is that we have to be concerned about the posts and not the individual filling the posts. Therefore, irrespective of who is called upon to fill the posts, it must smack of suspicion that you can have a post which is going to be substantially upgraded and within the bounds of this Bill to almost double the perceived value of that post. And within the context of this Bill one can understand that if indeed such a similar upgrading had been done on the basis of the importance of a particular post within a particular Ministry it could have created all kinds of outrage.
4.20 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, I have some difficulty in following you.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, if I may say what I am seeking to discuss.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is about time Senator.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: If I may say what I am about to discuss. Since there is the attempt to reform the public service it is immediately apparent that the Ministry of the Civil Service is going to assume very, very significant proportions over the next 5 to 10 years because the entire public sector reform is not at all going to be an easy exercise. It is in fact ...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order please.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: And therefore it is equally reasonable at this point in time to suggest, and since the Ministry is going to be so critical that certain posts within the Ministry ought to be given the kind of image that is being given to other posts across the Government sector. There is no reason why one cannot now see that the public sector reform which is pending is so critical that we have to upgrade, not only the staff, but in order to attract the kind of staff that is required to carry out that exercise, we need to upgrade the post. Somebody there already cannot do the job. It is too big a task. It requires really a whole cadre of professional individuals trained in the recent management techniques in social re-engineering and the like in order to be able to conduct and carry out the kind of reform that is required within the wider public service.

In that context therefore there would be just as great a justification for increasing the level of certain posts within that Ministry since it is now so important and critical to the future of Barbados that I cannot understand why some consideration cannot or could not have been given to those posts within that Ministry in the similar vein in which consideration has been or is being given to other posts across the Government sector.

I am therefore inviting those responsible to understand that for me the task involved in reforming the public sector of Barbados is even more critical than the task involved in reforming the tourism sector of Barbados. I am saying to you that the whole creation and development of the manpower skills within Barbados is in fact the major task confronting Barbados. It has nothing to do with tourism. It has nothing to do with agriculture. It has nothing to do with manufacturing and therefore these petty attempts to give certain levels of comfort to individuals are all well and good but there is need for more critical consideration of the vision.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I must object to the Honourable Senator's attempt to ascribe to the persons who have benefitted from any regrading to have them being subject to any comfort being exhibited towards them. It is a matter of the post, like you said, and not the persons. The implication is reprehensible.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let us proceed, please.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Because Senator Murray did say these adjustments are going to bring comfort to the individuals. But let me get to the issue. Let me just wind up by saying this. At this juncture I am not so sure that the Government of the day recognises how very, very important the public sector reform is to the further development of Barbados. I am not so sure that it is understood and I am not so sure that it is also understood that resources had to come from outside of the civil service in order to be able to give any kind of meat to the effort that will be made of public sector reform.

It is very easy to take the science of management for granted because it is supposed to be about people and you put a person in charge and the person is capable of giving an order to an individual but we all know that the science of management has evolved to such a level that it is not now about rhetoric and about certain expressions which we are hearing about micro management and social re-engineering but that it can now be quantified to understand the human being, the psychology, the things that motivate individuals and it is in that context that I am suggesting that we may be looking and be overly biased in terms of the sectors which we are placing importance on. That is what has me. I am concerned that we believe that three blind mice in fact can turn around an entire sector and that is the problem that I have. When indeed it is more important for us to understand that it is ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, you used a reference which is not quite clear. I am not sure exactly what you are saying and it may well be unparliamentary if you are referring to persons who are involved in whatever the process is.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, if I myself am not making a direct reference I do not understand how others can be interpreting my words to have a direct reference to somebody. I said three blind mice. I must have some degree of licence. Just like how a poet has poetic licence I must have some degree of licence.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll the licence must be within the rules.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am within the rules. Sir, Mr. President ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am making a ruling and it seems to me that in the context in which you used the words "three blind mice" that you are making some kind of personal reference and as such I believe it is unparliamentary. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL; Sir, let me just wind up by saying this, Sir. This is an ample opportunity for the Government of the day to upgrade posts within the Ministry of the Civil Service and to offer in similar vein, individuals whom you think have the level of competence to pursue the task at hand.

I am suggesting to you that now that this Ministry is assuming all kinds of proportions way beyond anything ever envisaged of this Ministry that this Ministry ought to be treated within the same light that other Ministries are being treated. And if you think that I am just here to politicise it is a matter for you. If you think I am here merely to criticise individuals who have been given certain kinds of compensation...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I presume you are not referring to the Chair.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Of course not, Sir. I am speaking to the Senators on the Other Side. If they think I am here just merely trying to suggest or plan to politicise on this they are wrong.

Mr. President, I am saying to you then, I am pleading with the Government of the day to understand that the human resource development of Barbados is more critical to Barbados than the so-called export oriented sectors because it is the inputs into that sector that will determine the outcome of that sector. Therefore let me suggest that in as much as these positions here you are going to create some kind of job tenure for the positions within the Bill, that there are many other issues that have to be considered in terms of giving the kind of foundation required to upgrade and uplift the workers within the public service of Barbados. I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, before I take my final act in relation to this Resolution there are some things that were mentioned that I must make reference to before I sit down. One Honourable Senator made mention of people acting in positions and then being pensioned off at the lower salary. Without saying too much more, I understand that has been a real problem over the years and all I can say at this stage is that we are taking steps to alleviate that problem and very soon an announcement will be made as to how that will operate, but cognizance has been taken of that unfair situation and very soon, like I said, that will be remedied. One thing I would like to mention is that there are some people who would have been acting for a very long period of time and might not necessarily be entitled to appointment if only because they are unqualified. There are a number of people who have been in posts for a long time and never did anything to get their full qualifications that would entitle them to an appointment. We are not unmindful of the work that would have been put in by these persons and one measure to deal with this is to take it into account and to be humane, it is that in the case of 85 unqualified stenotypists, we have given them 18 months in which to get the one "O"level subject or two other subjects to fully qualify them. We have also put in place a programme to help them achieve these qualifications. This is all done along with the collaboration and consultation of the unions involved.

4.30 p.m.

There was some criticism made of files and the bureaucracy but those who have had at least a passing acquaintance with sociology would know that bureaucracy has its benefits. That apart from what is regarded as red tape, it also allows, if properly regulated and properly practised, for a certain even-handedness, predictability, fairness, sequence, and order to the whole process. So bureaucracy has its benefits and it has its good points and it is in place to provide certain levels of performance so that decisions are not taken just on the basis of whims and fancies and person's peculiarities, but that there are certain established criteria by which steps are taken and decisions are arrived at.

I would like to say that I do not agree with any question of civil servants being regarded as being incompetent or lazy, even as the old adage "army of occupation" as they were branded many years ago in that infamous phrase by a public person. We still have, despite all of its faults, some very conscientious workers. We still have what is regarded as the best Public Service in the Caribbean and we intend not only to make it deserving to be regarded as such but to keep it the best and to keep it ahead of the others.

Also, regarding Senator Mascoll, I do not know whether he was seeking to praise us with joint dams or damn us with joint praise. He sought to impose some of his regular predictions of doom and gloom on the most straightforward, innocent, above-board happenings like for example when he talked about the regradings and tried to make some omnibus connotations as to the grading of certain posts and their impact on the expenditure, etcetera. If you look carefully, you would see that only 3 posts are involved and the reason why there will be no further expenditure is that the post would have already been budgeted for in the Estimates. So all we were doing was filling those posts and upgrading the people into vacant posts but posts for which provision has already been made. So that should put that to rest hopefully at long last. The regrading is nothing like the last one we had in Barbados when only the upper crust of the Public Service benefited to the tune of almost thirty-three million dollars and then had to cut the public servants salaries and, as Senator Mascoll would know, drew us helter-skelter into the clutching arms of the IMF. This is a minor regrading which is provided for in the law.

I would like to say that I appreciate people's concern for reform. We, as the Government, have started public sector reform earnestly in Barbados. It got off the road rolling in full steam in January at the retreat at

Sherbourne and since then certain steps have been put in place to give not only talk but certain concreteness to the reform process. We have appointed a full-time consultant who manages the reform process on a day by day basis and a number of preparatory steps have been taken and are being taken and some will be manifested as early as Friday when the Permanent Secretaries gather at Sam Lord's Castle for a weekend seminar that will deal with their role in the public reform process. This is being done not just by the Ministry of the Civil Service, but we are being ably assisted by the Commonwealth Secretariat, an organisation that is assisting with the reform process all over the Commonwealth and has reaped tremendous success in places like Malta, Australia and New Zealand. They are very impressed with what we are seeking to do here. They are assisting us quite conscientiously in trying to make this come about. On Monday, the Cabinet will also be exposed to other aspects of the reform process at a consultation at the Hilton Hotel.

Therefore, this is not being done *ad hoc*. There is a sequence of events. There is a programme which has been structured and we are moving step by step. For example, you will recall the public announcements about a competition for a logo to create a symbol to identify the reform process. I understand they have 32 entries and very soon the winner will be announced for a prize of $1000. So we are using a lot of devices to help us keep the private sector reform movement on stream. Therefore, there is no need for any mamby-pamby, airy-fairy, half baked protestations of concern about the reform movement. The reform movement is serious, here to stay, and we are determined that it will bring about certain results in the form of an efficient, more competent, more satisfying Public Service which will be customer driven just like any other commercial organisation in town.

Therefore, we are well on the way and I hope that we can get the support of even Senator Mascoll as we go from step to step. Sir, with those words, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO. 8 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (TEACHERS) ORDER, 1995

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, this Resolution is related to its predecessor. While the previous one was for the General Civil Service, this one deals with specifically the Teaching Service and is known as the Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order, 1995. Again, the last amendment to this Order was made in April 1990 this time and this current Order seeks to provide for the redesignation of the post of Head Teacher and Principal to conform with a similar designation under the Education Amendment Act, 1990–21. It also provides for the change of Deputy Teacher to Deputy Principal to be consistent with that of Principal and, as a result of the closure, and amalgamation of certain primary schools the number of posts of Principal of Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Composite and School for the Deaf has been reduced from 142 to 117. This Order therefore seeks to reflect this change in these various categories effecting the Teaching Service and I beg to move that the Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order, 1995 do now pass.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, the word "Principal" carries with it a certain association and conforms with modern educational practise in the United States and Canada and therefore this change is welcomed and appropriate. Moreover, the time will soon have to come with the reform of the Public Service and the development of salaries negotiations, the Civil Establishment Order will have to be widened to include conditions of service. Indeed, the time has come for widening of what appears in the legislation so that there is no ambiguity. For example, people who are acting should not have long delays in receiving their salaries. The whole concept of negotiating salaries, conditions of service should both form part of the Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order. Any Government should have a certain vision and this Government does have vision. Therefore, I would hope that it will show a certain anticipatory approach in the number of posts that would be required, so that these would form part of the Civil Establishment Order.
4.40 p.m.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: I too want to lend my support to this Resolution, Sir, and I want to speak specifically to the area of amalgamation of the schools and to say that there are great advantages connected to these amalgamations. In this year 1995 there is the serious problem of no less than 30 schools that have not undergone any repairs over the last eight to ten years. The situation is deplorable, Mr. President, when you have to visit those environments to see the conditions some of those schools are in. Even though we know that some of those schools would have been built more than 50 or 100 years ago, general lack of maintenance is no excuse. It says that there is need for any Government to look after the maintenance of the facilities we have put our children into to ensure that we are not faced with serious problems as children, teachers and other workers are becoming injured on the premises. Where this happens it puts a heavy burden on the Government's purse.

The amalgamation of the schools, Sir. At present there is the Beulah/Holy Trinity being amalgamated

into one new spanking facility and that of St. Clement's Junior and St. Clement's Infants in St. Lucy. The Beulah/Holy Trinity hopefully should be finished come January and that of St. Clement's any time at the end of February. I am making these points to say that even though amalgamation is to do with joining two or sometimes three schools together, it lessens the number of Principals and Deputy Principals, but at the same time the kind of environment into which these children, teachers and other workers are placed makes it more conducive to learning. There is a move forward for these schools to have all the various equipment and the resources that are necessary – computers, video and television equipment – playing fields and things of that nature that will help with the development of our teachers. The facilities will also help the teachers and the ancillary staff of the various schools feel better to be working in an environment where they are happy and will produce more. Whatever they do can help to redound to the benefit of our Barbadian children.

Sir, I want to lend my wholehearted support to this particular Resolution. I trust that we will be able to continue our programme in the Ministry of Education to look at upgrading our various schools and ensuring that there is a proper maintenance programme in place. We trust that the kinds of experiences we have had as a new Government, we will not have to relive them as the years go by.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I must lend my support to anything that would help to ameliorate the lot of teachers and young people, so without any further ado, let me say that I do support this Bill.

Thank you.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, just let me say that this so called amalgamation of schools is a concern. I will address this issue in the White Paper debate, but let me just say it is a concern. I do not know if we should, in the area of education, succumb to certain kinds of external pressure to increase the pupil-teacher ratio, and we have done that. To some extent I view that as a move in the wrong direction. I am wondering then to what extent the amalgamation is about cutting costs as opposed to satisfying the position of external forces to Barbados. I say that, because this whole concept of amalgamation now is also becoming widespread within the private sector as well, and it does not make sense to me to go the route of amalgamation or mergers unless you are doing so to increase efficiency in whatever way you decided to measure efficiency.

In terms of the primary schools, I do not understand why it is that we wish at this stage to amalgamate a number of primary schools in order to have a higher pupil-teacher ratio. That to my mind is going to put increasing pressure on the teachers to perform and to perform adequately and effectively. It is simple, because you are asking a teacher now to take care of many more students and the trend towards increasing the output of the pupil is really to have greater time in fact to devote to individuals. Therefore, one has difficulty with the policy of amalgamating schools across the board.

The other thing is that it is important, I think, before any attempt is made to do this that we look at the trends in population. I am not so certain that the population drift and trends in Barbados have been studied sufficiently for us to just willy-nilly go about the whole question of amalgamation. There has been fairly different trends between the last censuses in Barbados where we are now seeing a move back towards rural areas. In fact, that is very true of the level of houses. There has been a decline in the number of households within the St. Michael area, there has definitely been a decline and there is only one other parish which has suffered a similar fate, and that is St. Andrew, that between the 1990 and 1980 censuses there has been a reduction in the number of households or houses in St. Michael as well as in St. Andrew, but there have been other shifts in population to St. James. St. James South is extremely heavily populated, St. James North to a lesser extent, St. Philip, Christ Church. These are areas that we are beginning to see increasing levels of population, and even as we look at it we are seeing distribution among the younger, so I am just cautioning that irrespective of the administration there is a need to look more critically at the whole question of just amalgamating schools under a so-called programme of cost efficiency. Whereas you may think you are doing so, you may in fact be compromising your output and in subsequent years you may be producing a far less quality student than you should be producing. I am in fact in favour of a reduction in the pupil-teacher ratio especially at the primary school level, where it is absolutely necessary.

4.50 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, just to cover those slight matters. It seems as though the last Senator in particular has not gotten into his head yet that there is no IMF programme in Barbados, there is no longer a Fritz Krokow running the country and that we are taking decisions for ourselves. It will probably take him 5 years to understand that; but we are going to hammer it every day into his head and maybe it will get through.

On the question of amalgamation, amalgamation is not being undertaken to satisfy any external demands. The Honourable Senator spoke about the question of population shifts, but he did not mention the whole question of

population demand, population decline. There is a reduction in the school population and therefore it is uneconomic and does not make sense to have a school with 70 children or 2 schools with 300 children between them and having 2 principals, 2 deputy principals etc. The schools are in bad condition, plumbing is bad, electricity is bad, everything is bad and must we then just retain them for the sake of saying we have a school?

In addition, there has been some evidence of the fact that where there is a population decline in a school, that head teachers in order to boost their rolls have admitted children as tender as 3 years old, but no facilities to cater to those children. All it does is to put pressure on the schools and the parents and end up by having a worst situation. Therefore, it was felt that it is more economically and pedagogically sound...

Aside.

SENATOR G. S. H. MURRAY: That is not economic jargon. That is teaching jargon.

It was thought that it was more sound to bring the schools together to effect economies, to have a more effective programme, to give the pupils better and more meaningful facilities and teaching and also to make life more comfortable for the teachers and the principal.

So with those remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 9 – TO MOVE THE SECOND READING OF THE CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1995

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the Second Reading of the Customs (Amendment) Bill, 1995. The Customs Department represents one of the major revenue collection agencies of Government. It accounted for the collection of somewhat in excess of $450 million last year, representing the major percentage of indirect taxes collected in this country.

Amongst the major taxes which that Department administers would be the consumption tax, import duties, stamp duties, excises, luxury tax as well as the betting and gaming and so on. Revenue collection depends by and large on the efficiency of collection, particularly in a system the base of which the tax is levied is relatively narrow, one needs to ensure that the collection is virtually 100% efficient. Otherwise, the natural tendency is for the revenue to be raised by taxing that percentage on which we collect at a higher rate.

This amendment, Sir, represents part of the efforts on the one hand, particularly in terms of the unlawful removal of warehouse goods, to impose a higher system of penalties for those persons whose actions would have a tendency to prevent Government from collecting some revenue. On the other hand, Sir, it seeks to bring certain fees which relate to cost recovery into line with the actual cost incurred. Specifically, Sir, the Bill is asking for amendments to be made to the Customs Act to allow for higher fees to be charged for private warehouses. In one case, where the duty liability is not in excess of $200 000, the proposal is for a fee of $3 000 per year and for private warehouses where the goods have a duty liability in excess of $200 000, then a fee of $6 000 per annum.

Of course, as you would be aware, Sir, the duty liability is not necessarily the same thing as the value of the goods in the warehouse. It is the value of duty which is payable on those goods which we are speaking about.

In the Act, the other thing which was mentioned is the unlawful removal of warehouse goods.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: The cover charge for unlawfully removing warehouse goods is $25 and the amendment increases the fine to $500. This particular matter relates not to unlawful removal of warehouse goods in terms of someone stealing the item, but in cases where one is operating a private warehouse, also known as a bonded warehouse, the goods are allowed into the country and into the warehouse without the duty being paid. The duty becomes payable when the items are removed from the warehouse.

The Department has been encountering some difficulties with persons who for one reason or the other remove items prior to the payment of duty and it was felt that the practice has become too widespread, which is reflected in the fact that in spite of the small fine, $25, some $300 000 in fines were collected as a result of that practice of removing the goods prior to the duty being paid and the fine should be increased.

Now, Sir, as indicated, these measures are meant to increase the fines for certain activities which the Customs Department would want to discourage as well as in the case of the Customs (Amendment) Regulations, which were laid before the Honourable Senate today, adjust the rate which is charged for the services of customs officers to bring the fees up to the rate...

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Sorry about that, Sir. The attempt here, Sir, is to improve the

efficiency of collection and thereby remove some of the pressure which is placed on that percentage of the tax base which is paid.

This, in my view, Sir, is a rather straightforward amendment to the Customs Act and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.
5.00 p.m.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a second and third time and certified as a Money Bill.

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

ORDER NO. 10 – PLANT PEST AND DISEASE (IMPORT CONTROL) BILL, 1995

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the second reading of this Bill, the Plant Pest and Disease (Import Control), Bill, 1995. This Bill is meant to regulate the importation of planting material and plant products into Barbados in order to control the spread of diseases and pests that are injurious to plants and to protect the agricultural resources of the island.

Now this Act is essentially as the Plant Quarantine Act. These kinds of Acts are designed to regulate the procedure for importation of planting materials in such a way as to restrict the importation of pests and other diseases which might be on those planting materials.

Barbados had a Plant Quarantine Act up until about 1995 and that Act which, I believe, was called the Plant, Pest and Diseases Importation Act, Cap. 266, was inadvertently repealed. Beyond that time, the authorities have been largely using moral suasion as a means of regulating the movement of plant material to avoid the international transport of diseases and pest. Of course, Sir, you would agree that that situation needs to be regularised. In fact, as we move to greater liberalisation of trade, the use of simple licence measures and similar methods for control of the movement of products will not allow us to use that instrument in the event of an outbreak of a particular disease in another country. So what is needed therefore is specific legislation which in the case of the country's inability to use general trade restrictive measures as a means of restricting imports from a destination that has a particular disease or pest, will be able to use the specific legislation to do that. This type of legislation, Sir, is very common throughout the world where agriculture is practised and planting materials are traded and, in fact, organisations like the FAO have been very helpful in dealing with this.

Of particular significance at this point in time is the fact that several of our neighbours have been wielding under the heavy weight and the serious damage that is being inflicted by the mealybug. In this case I believe it is the pink mealybug.

In this case I must stress that this particular legislation cannot fairly be deemed as "The Mealybug Act" because it was not construed simply and exclusively as a defence against the mealybug. It is a piece of legislation which is necessary for all sorts of reasons and which would have been necessary whether there was a pink mealybug or not.

This particular pest which is affecting our partners in Grenada, Trinidad, especially in the region, as I have been made to understand, can damage a very wide range of both economic and ornamental crops. Apparently this mealybug has a rather veracious appetite and he has a very diverse taste. He is a connoisseur of something in the region of 125 different species of plant life, including fruit, vegetables, and so on. Basically, one of the difficulties which is faced in combating this particular pest is the ease with which the pest can be transported inadvertently across borders.

As I have been made to understand, Sir, this mealybug infects the leaves, fruit and stems of various plants and the quickest means of identifying them is by a cottony, waxy deposit which is left on the plants. In fact, news reports out of Trinidad indicate that it looks as if there is snow in Trinidad to add to all of their other interesting situations there because of the presence of the mealybug in some numbers.

The presence of the mealybug in Grenada was an interesting case in point and the speculation there is that it was transported to Grenada from some Far Eastern country on some of the plants that have been imported there. But the bottom line is that in Grenada the pink mealybug has destroyed a considerable portion of the crops over there and has caused significant hardships in the agricultural sector.

We certainly would not want to have the mealybug deal a similar blow to agriculture in Barbados, not only the mealybug but any other pests of any species. The fact is that our ornamentals – as you know we are trying to develop the cut flower industry – our sugar industry, cotton and fruit would all be vulnerable to the mealybug. Given the fact that Barbados does not produce a wide range of citrus, given the fact that we do not produce pineapples, the fact is that the majority of our fruit is imported and in the absence of adequate controls at the port of entry it provides wide scope for the infiltration of this particular pest and several others which come up from time to time.

Now, Sir, the legislation, as I alluded earlier, assume increasing importance within the context of

Barbados' relationship within its various member institutions, in this case notably the World Trade Organisation. Under some of the obligations inherent in that membership, countries are obligated to have in place a number of transparent methods for regulating trade and this particular Act, we believe, will give us the advantage of being able to very clearly define the conditions and standards to which plant products in this case imported into Barbados must reach in order to protect our agricultural industry here. I stress, Sir, that this is of vital importance to Barbados' agricultural sector, all aspects of it, the cut flower aspect, the vegetable and fruit aspect, even the sugar cane and that this Bill is necessary in order for us to protect our vital agricultural sector and also to give us the opportunity to protect our vital interest without being at the same time accused either on a bilateral basis or on a multilateral basis by organisations of the WGO of taking unilateral steps at restricting trade between countries for things other than fit and proper purposes.
5.10 p.m.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Plant Pest and Disease (Import Control) Bill, 1995 be read a second time.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Bill but I hope that when the Bill comes into operation that those who are responsible for issuing permits for the importation of plants or material into Barbados, do not place numerous conditions on those permits which cannot be met even by fully developed countries like the United States.

I find there is a habit of asking for certain things which when you send the permit abroad they write back and ask what do they expect the producer to do under certain conditions.

That is not my main concern. I have a concern really with a word appearing in section 2 which is the definition clause. "Importer" includes any person who as owner consigner, consignee, agent, broker..." Now, I do not know what that broker means. "...or otherwise is in possession of ..."

Now, if that broker is used in the commercial transaction phase where there is a person called a broker who negotiates businesses between two parties that may be right. If it means the broker who is a customs broker I cannot see how you can include him in that section because if I imported goods from any country into Barbados all the customs broker does is take my instructions, take the papers and he clears with the documentation through the Port. So I do not see why he should be included in that paragraph. Other than that, in my view, a broker should have been defined as you have defined a carrier and that is my main concern about the Bill.

This reminds me, Mr. President, of two situations I had when I was Minister of Agriculture because I had a group of officers who did not like to work and the philosophy was the more you keep out the less we do.

When I became Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Cholet who was the French Ambassador in Barbados invited me to go to Martinique and Guadeloupe to inspect the agricultural progress in those two countries. I took with me Mr. Webster who is now at CDB and who was acting Chief Agricultural Officer.

While we were in Guadeloupe I saw these long bunches of bananas and I said they would do good in Barbados we have nothing like those. Mr. Webster, the Chief Agricultural Officer, called to Barbados and said, prepare a planting ground at the agricultural station in St. Andrew and he personally obtained all the necessary permits to bring those bananas suckers to Barbados. You know, Mr. President, when we got to the airport the Friday evening after 10 days with these big bunches of banana suckers out walked a fellow from the quarantine office with a cutlass. "Who tell you all to bring these, I am going to chop up these." Well he was talking to the wrong man, Charles Lindsay Bolden. I told him, if he wanted the two of us to end up in the cell at Boarded Hall, touch one. I am telling you they do not like to work. They can say I said so and the Press can publish it. That is how the long banana that everybody is bragging about now, came into Barbados. But they did not let it drop there, Sir.

I then went to Trinidad about six months later after going to London and negotiating for vegetable and fruit to go from Barbados to London. One of the things that they said they wanted in England was the Aubergines, what we call Egg Plant or Bolangers. I came back and I sent out the information to the farmers through the Ministry and the only farmer who agreed to grow them was Jeffrey Armstrong at Edgecombe. I went to Trinidad where I had a friend who worked in the Agriculture Ministry, he was in university in England with me, and he showed me that they grafted the eggplant cuttings on to a tree and you should see the great big bunches of eggplants. I said to him, "send me in a dozen of these plants so I can introduce them in Barbados and we could do our multiplication from there." They came up on a schooner. When they got into the Harbour, according to the information given to me a quarantine officer said, "Oh, this is for the Minister again, let him come down here now", and he chopped them all into bits and pieces, despite the fact that it came with the necessary certificates.

I am hoping that we have passed that stage in Barbados because all we talk about agriculture we are getting no place. When you try to be progressive every obstacle is put in your way in this country.

Mr. President, it grieves me to think we have chopped up the land in Barbados into small lots. We have numerous small farmers in this country and yet still the exotic crops that can be grown in this country and on small lots are still being imported today.

Last year I spoke to a group of foreign chefs who work in hotels in Barbados and they complained about the number of things that they would like to use in the kitchens of the hotels in this country which could be grown in small lots in Barbados. We even sat down and put together a plan where these persons would acquire the planting material, the seeds, and distribute them to the farmers and then buy back all the crops. See everybody blames the farmers. First thing you have to teach the farmers to be efficient. Ask the farmers in Barbados when last they saw an Extension Officer. That is the first thing you have to begin with. When last have they seen an Extension Officer? I doubt that you have 3 Extension Officers in the whole of the Ministry of Agriculture today. You ask a man to be a farmer.
5.20 p.m.

Mr. President, you see that is one of the problems we have in this society. We have a University of the West Indies that closes its doors on evenings. We have the schools in this country that if any young man decides that he wants to take up agriculture, animal husbandry or if he wants to study horticulture, if he wants to do it on a part-time basis, he can go nowhere to gain that knowledge. Then we blame the farmers who try, but you have no guidance from anybody. So what are we doing? What are we talking about?

We have an Act but where do we go from here? You walk around the country and you see the small farmer growing the traditional crops that he has been growing from time immemorial, a few potatoes, a few carrots and very seldom they grow beets nowadays and a few yams or sweet potatoes. Nothing else, and we talk about a tourist economy. We have the hotels but yet still there is no guidance out there. It reminds me too when we talk about the fishermen. But yet still where does he go? I remember when I was in the Ministry we talked about introducing navigation and all of these things into the schools, but we get no further.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I am hoping that the Polytechnic and similar places open up so that we can teach our young men. I am hoping that the Government will reintroduce the Extension Officers, because I was an Extension Officer. I learned how to inseminate cows and pigs. I can inject all of them. I did all of that and for my own information I used to go to the United States and I could walk in any college in Long Island and I learned what I wanted to know.

I think, Mr. President, the Bill as I said is a necessary piece of legislation in today's world and those are my concerns about it.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill. But when this was dealt with in the Other Place I remember the news report stating but not in these exact words that the Bill did not attract as much debate as the other items on the agenda and it went through very smooth passage. This, Sir, is not too difficult to understand because as the previous Senator said agriculture is not really given the support which should be given. But when, Sir, you come to the plant section of the agriculture, I think even less interest is shown and this has its genesis, Sir, in my opinion from the way in which it is introduced at secondary and primary school level. I do endorse Senator Bolden's statements about having the facilities in the evening to do extra study so that you can come to grips with the profession. It is a profession.

Mr. President, this lack for vegetation, plants, whatever you care to call it in an island which depends significantly on the sugar industry, as well as the vegetation which lends support to the tourist industry, this interest should be cultured and taken to fruition, to the maximum. Sir, our children should be so educated that when they notice an increase or decrease in certain problems with vegetables or an increase in let us say certain parasites or certain insects, it should automatically trigger an alarm. A child should be able to say – look, we have not seen butterflies swarming recently or we have not seen the lady birds, or it should come home fairly significantly.

Aside.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: So that only goes to show you.

Sir, I think in the society we are more prone to remedial action than preventive action and we have to look at some of the vectors. It is only now and I was pleased to hear Senator Farley state that this Bill is not being piloted as a direct result of the outbreak of the mealybug infestation. But I am pleased to hear that, but I know that we live in a society which likes to react more so than to plan scientifically and methodically. We have, Sir, to look at movements such as international travel which has been stated in the Act and which other Senators have alluded to. But there is yet another vector which needs to be taken quite seriously and, Sir, that is plant substitution for commercial purposes. We must be very careful how we diversify.

The FAO since 1955 has been running a series of studies pertaining to the loss of certain necessary and vital genetic material found in certain plants. Sir, it is the lack of not having those plants which have the blue-print so to speak to withstand certain infestations. With those not being around, Sir, it offers greater opportunity for certain infestation to proliferate. One of the other reasons which we must also look at is the human induced ecological disruption as clearing sites, demolishing and using grasslands in areas which were previously for certain crops, for maybe, let us say for housing, *et cetera.* It would be more than likely that after the heavy rains and the number of weather systems which have passed through the area recently, that it would not be surprising if we have in addition to this mealybug outbreak other types of outbreaks which come with this severe weather activity either by reason of the excess water or by reason of changes in wind currents.

But getting back to the earlier point mentioned and that is the loss of certain genetic material, what the FAO has been doing is that they have actually set up a bank for what they call the wild types of those which are resistant to certain diseases and they are storing them for use down the road. It is a fact that the indiscriminate use of chemicals has been able to wipe out lots of the necessary plant types which have a natural resistance to foreign and new diseases.
5.30 p.m.

The point of the matter is that once these crops have been lost the ability to get them back into growth is virtually impossible, and so the trend is to encourage certain types of plants to be cultured in areas which are more or less their natural habitat and not to be bringing crops which really do not belong, and the latter system probably was very popular up to a few years ago, where because such crops have been flourishing in, let us say, Mauritius, well then we could probably bring them into Barbados. We have to look for other natural settings, natural habitat for such plant growth. What the FAO has been doing is, in addition to fostering this approach of having plants grown in habitats which they originally belong to, they have also been setting up the genetic banks for future use as diseases begin to spread and occur in some instances for the first and second time.

I have recently been informed of a Government servant who has gone off to do some graduate work in plant pathology and disease in the UK, and it seems as though this is at a fairly decent sum. I would like to see the time come where such courses can be done, especially if you are dealing with tropical plants, at one of our regional universities, in Trinidad or right here at Cave Hill, particularly when you are dealing in tropical plant pathology and diseases. I see no reason why areas like the parasitology and entomology pertaining to our tropical plants cannot be had in the region. How can we go in a natural way to decrease the demands of pesticides? How can we go a way which would decrease what I would call the opportunistic parasites which from time to time we are going to be getting problems with? Spraying is not the best way, although in recent times we must compliment the scientists for using as natural a spray as possible, but we must get back to hedge rows and the use of hedge rows in terms of helping with the soil and wind barriers. We must go into serious crop rotation, organic farming. We must go into symbiotic crops. One of the most recent breakthroughs, Sir, has been the use of genetic engineering where we use certain types of parasites by way of exchanging bits and pieces of genetic material and actually bring a formidable force to fight the predisposing disease of the day.

Sir, these are some of the guidelines which we have to take in order to control pests and various diseases which, if allowed to go unchecked, can cause the economy as much harm as the weather which we had *vis-a-vis* the hotel industry.

In those few words, Sir, I would like to support and give my full backing to this Bill.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, what I have heard so far leaves me in no doubt whatsoever that there is a very delicate balance between the crops we want to bring in and the control that is absolutely necessary at the port of entry. Senator Bolden's unfortunate experience is regretted, but I think we are going to have to have some measure of that holding up at the harbour, or wherever, until the items can be taken care of at some proper quarantine centre. I do not know what it is like at the moment, but the plants that Senator Bolden referred to should not have been left and kept at the Port until somebody got around to destroying them. There must be some quarantine arrangement. If we do not have it, we must work on doing that at some time. If we cannot control what comes through the Port, it means that we then have to turn to dangerous pesticides and that would be regrettable, because we are seeing an increase in the incidence of respiratory diseases here in this country, particularly asthma, and many people are associating this with the sprays and all the pesticides and insecticides that are being used. I think we need to look at that alongside the importation of plants, or even besides the importation of plants, because many people are using pesticides that are dangerous. They do not know anything at all about them. Some time ago I discovered that there was one particular brand that was banned in the United States and it was a favourite among people here. They were using it all around and what has been happening is somebody on their lawn

or in their garden sprays, you live down wind, you have no control over it and you eventually become affected.

Sir, I think we need to do everything in our power to see that agriculture takes on another or different dimension in this country. It seems to me though that we have got to be more scientific in our approach, which means education. For example, I learnt that there is an insect that destroys another more dangerous one, I think it is the ladybird. Does the ladybird kill the mealybug? There are things like this we need to learn in order to help us along and to protect our agriculture.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I rise to lend my support to this Bill. I must say I have really enjoyed the contributions from fellow Senators. My concern though is similar to that of the last speaker. The scientific evidence available to us has suggested that because of the waxy secretions of the mealybug it makes the use of pesticides an ineffective means of control of the bug. This is very important, because the mealybug seems to be a very prolific organism which I believe the best measure of control we can have here is prevention. The ineffectiveness of the pesticides is related to the fact that only a small portion of it is able to penetrate into the waxy, cotton type cocoon in which the eggs and the nymphs are encased, and as a result of that you can have very little effective kill except for the small amounts that do penetrate the plant, and the mealybug being a sucking type species would obviously result in some residual effect, but the whole idea of biological control using the natural predator/prey relationship has been one that we in Barbados have been accustomed to over a number of years.

I remember in the early days of sugar cultivation when the mongoose was imported from India for the sole purpose of controlling rats and snakes, but the position is that we have to be very careful when we are introducing these sorts of species. My understanding is that the rats disappeared and the mongoose took over and, obviously, wreaked havoc within the sugar industry.
5.40 p.m.

I think the time has come now, however, where we need to go back to the traditional means of biological control for the same reasons as the last speaker expressed – the concerns about respiratory diseases, concerns that at this time in our development we must be looking at more sustainable types of agriculture, and in an island with limited water resources we need to protect the water system, particularly in the zone 1 area, yet we still need to have the benefit of being able to carry out agriculture in those areas.

I see this as an excellent opportunity to integrate biological means of pest control along with organic farming in a way that would eliminate some of the problems associated with the use of pesticides. My understanding is that the Ministry of Health has made a decision to use tilapia and the fish called thousands, fresh water fish, as a means also of biological control of the vector for dengue fever. It is on this sort of basis that I believe that down the road the future for us seems to be one in which we have to get back to the basics of natural forms of pest control which will allow us to develop more wholesome products.

Against this background, I take my seat. Thank you very much.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, I rise to support the Bill which is before us. How could anyone not seek to support a Bill like this when it deals with agriculture and has serious implications for agricultural development in Barbados?

Sir, I am well cognisant of the fact that, as Senator Farley said, this was not born out of a need to actually control or protect the crops against the mealybug. There is a piece here that bothers me a lot and it is something that I must speak to. It is the whole philosophy that underlies agricultural development and agriculture in Barbados.

I know that whenever agricultural debates come to either Chamber there is a lot of passion and heat generated, but I think we need to temper the heat and all the passion with a bit of pragmatism. I am sorry that the economic czar has left the Chamber, because it is interesting to note that I see an unfortunate practice being carried on which doesn't seem to me to fit into a sound economic basis for Barbados. When I drive across this country, all of the lands that when I was a boy were supposedly designated as zone 1 lands, depending on the water-table, seem to me to be the same lands we were told you were never supposed to build on; but what I see planted on them now are concrete structures. All of these pieces of land in these areas are now populated with houses and other things that when I drove through the country going to school as a boy I was told were seriously set aside for agriculture only. That, Sir, is itself a serious problem.

I am wondering now when Government actually exposes any of the productive sectors to lending help in terms of actually steering this boat and putting legislation in place; how Government looks after its exposure in other ways, because what is happening to agriculture and what has happened to the hotel industry is going to happen all over again within all the productive sectors, a practice that exposes Government, but doesn't look back to see that anything else is done to ensure that these people do the job in an efficient and effective way.

A case in point, Sir, obviously, is the same planters. For the longest time, we have been told that as we continue in this false protectionism it is easier at times now to import a lot of the produce that we use rather than seek to grow it in Barbados. Now that is a serious economic concern and we continue to protect a lot of these people without finding ways and means and mechanisms for them to become more efficient in producing agricultural produce for this country. Certainly, it has implications, not only for agriculture but for tourism as well, given the fact that we have based a lot of our economy on tourism and people come here and they must eat. Locals must eat.

Should we continue, Sir, to protect these people in a very inefficient operation? This is happening in the hotel industry. It continues to happen in agriculture and it is something that must be addressed if we are to move this country forward. Certainly, economic concerns must come to bear whenever we deal with any of these productive sectors. I like the song and dance when it comes to – all the passion – when it comes to agriculture, but I am saying that we have moved away from that kind of attitude into the 21st century. We stand at the brink of a new millennium and if this country is to move forward, the points that we put into it must be based on sound economic thinking as well. We can no longer continue to live in the old world, and that applies not only to agriculture, it also applies to tourism.

Sir, I am just warning that in Barbados what we need to do is look at this in a very pragmatic way from an economic standpoint that seriously sets Barbados out.

The other thing, Sir, is that I certainly agree with Senator Bolden. I think once we expose all of our people, we need to look back at how Government deals with it. We certainly need to open up the polytechnics. We need to start doing it from very early. I don't understand how anyone can tell me that we cannot teach things about the productive sectors in the primary schools until you get the 3 Rs right. I am saying that at the same time you are teaching the 3 Rs you have to be teaching tourism and agriculture and everything else that goes along with it.

Sir, it cannot only be something that is voluntary and fit into a social sciences curriculum with regard to tourism, and agriculture in another vein. We have got to make it compulsory and I cannot figure how in Barbados almost into the 21st century that we continue to believe so.

Sir, I have said my piece with regards to agriculture and I want to warn again that anytime you are dealing with any issue that has to do with the productive sectors we need to look at it in a pragmatic and economic way as well. Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I rise to support the Bill, recognising how important it is for us to protect this very vital sector of our economy. I believe we are faced with a very funny situation in Barbados in that in order for us to get the very food which we seek to grow we have to import the seeds and all those other basic materials which we have to put into our soil to get the plants from which we get these things. So it seems to me that we have to tackle the problem at a level of the seed and the plant.

I think what we need to do – we pass legislation here and you read about it in the newspaper, but I believe we need to do a lot more than this. I think we need to get home to Barbadians the importance of the legislation which we pass from time to time. If Barbadians are aware that by hiding away plants, which a lot of people do and try to get away with it, that they can destroy a total agricultural community. If they are made to understand that they would have destroyed their livelihood, the livelihood of many sisters and brothers, that they would have increased their food import bill, the damage which they would have done to their community as a result of illegal importation of these plants and other crops, I think they would think twice.

I would like to suggest that after this Bill passes this House and is made law that through the Government Information Service we mount a proper programme of education, alerting Barbadians to the point we are at right now and what our neighbours are encountering as a result of these serious pests and how Barbados could suffer if we Barbadians do not take stock.
5.50 p.m.

In supporting the legislation I would like to encourage the Government, let us now get going with our mass education programme.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I just want to draw the attention of Senators to one change in terms of the document they would have received. As I understand it, the document as passed in the House of Assembly has an adjustment at clause 13 which may not yet be reflected in your printed copy. In clause 13 the period referred in line 3 should be "12 months" rather than "6 months". That was a change that was made in the House of Assembly so that when we vote on this Bill we will be voting on clause 13 which will read "12 months" rather than "6 months".

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR THE HON. C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. Chairman reported progress to His Honour the PRESIDENT and asked for leave to sit again. Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I propose that we postpone further consideration of this Bill until the next sitting of the Senate which will allow us time to check on clause 14 with the Attorney General.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I also rise, Mr. President, to move the adjournment of this Senate until Wednesday, November 1, 1995 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to. Mr President adjourned the Senate accordingly.
6.00 p.m.

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