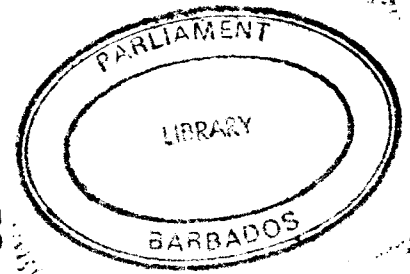


THE SENATE DEBATES



(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, July, 31, 1996

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, July 31, 1996, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator F. W. GOLLOP (President)

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

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

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

Senator Miss O. P. SYMMONDS, G.C.M.

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN

Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L. SPRINGER, G.C.M.

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Mrs. V. J. DAVIS

Senator C. A. MASCOLL

Prayers were led by Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L. Springer.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 4), Order, 1996.
2. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 5), Order, 1996.
3. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 6), Order, 1996.
4. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 7), Order, 1996.
5. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 8), Order, 1996.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of the following:

1. The Shipping Corporation Bill, 1996;
2. Resolution to approve the Land Registration (Suspension) Order, 1996.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Shipping Corporation Bill be read a first time.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
COTTAGE AND GROVES PLANTATIONS,
ST. GEORGE FOR HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Resolution before the Honourable Senate is seeking the approval of the Senate for the acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land for the purpose of housing development at Cottage and Groves Estates Limited, situated in the parish of St. George.

Mr. President, the area of land in question is some 7.3 hectares and formed part of what in times past used to be the active Cottage Estates. It however, must be pointed out Sir, that this property being acquired is what would be part of the remnants of that particular establishment, the majority of the lands adjacent to the property being acquired, already having been subdivided, Sir, and converted to the purposes of housing.

In fact, Sir, this particular small portion of land is effectively landlocked between a development which now bears the sign "Grove Terrace" and advertising lots for sale. Roads have been cut in that area approaching from the direction of Groves Agricultural Station. That property, going in a southerly direction, effectively makes the only entrance to the piece of property being acquired, a cart road, approaching from the direction of Bridge Cot.

Secondly, Sir, the area of land in question is therefore accessible only by way of a cart road which also serves as the sole entrance to an existing district of Bridge Cot. For those persons who may know the area, there are a number of houses which effectively are creating a new neighborhood and the entrance, like I said, is by this cart road. Or, alternatively, by a second cart road which runs adjacent to the St. Augustine Boys' School and going in an easterly direction.

The acquisition of this land, therefore, Sir, provides for a natural extension of that existing neighbourhood in the Bridge Cot area. It also would provide the opportunity for the houses in the existing area to be serviced by a paved road. It would also provide some meaningful use for that portion of land which, because of the manner in which the subdivision of that portion of Cottage estates was handled under a previous administration, provides an opportunity for some positive use of the remainder of that particular area.

The area in question is not, although it is listed as being property of Groves and Cottage Estates, an area which is under cultivation. You know that as soon as

property which is listed as being owned by an estate or a plantation is acquired, we immediately hear the charges of the conversion of agricultural lands and so on.

Sir, I visited the area myself, which is why I can speak of the access through the cart road; the fact that the property in question, 7.3 hectares, is landlocked between the new Grove Terrace Development on the East and the existing tenancies which are forced to use the cart road to enter and exit their properties.

The project, Sir, will see the Ministry of Housing, either directly or through the National Housing Corporation, providing a combination of services through the provision in one area of units for rental as well as providing sites and services, thereby allowing Barbadians the opportunity to purchase land and construct their homes in this area.

We are satisfied, Sir, that this project will go a long way towards meeting the housing requirements of Barbados. St. George is one of those areas which has not kept pace with other parishes in terms of the opportunities provided by the Government for the acquisition of low and middle income housing.

In addition, the approach taken in this particular matter is one which we have already articulated in other matters, Sir. That is, wherever possible, we seek to be sensitive to the sociological impact of the creation of new districts. What we seek to do, wherever possible, is to extend existing communities which already have a network of families. We have active infrastructures in terms of shops and other services. We believe, that where possible the extension of mature communities is a more viable alternative to the creation of entirely new communities which would effectively be made up of a number of strangers and which therefore would take a number of years before they can determine what the norms, values and relationships within the community will be.
11.30 a.m.

Sir, I commend this Resolution to the Honourable Senate. Like I said, this is an excellent use which is being made of property which has become landlocked through other previous developments which had taken place. It will provide an opportunity for services to be brought to an existing community which has for many years been deprived of those services in terms of proper access to their homes. It will build on the existence of a mature community to ensure that the new residents of the area to be developed can more readily adapt to their new surroundings.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution for the compulsory acquisition of 7.5 hectares of land from Groves/Cottage Estates do now pass.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, this acquisition is just another step in the reduction of agricultural land in Barbados and, as is well known, I am very much against such things. The requirement for housing in Barbados, I understand from the National Housing Corporation, runs about 530 houses per year. There is a perceived backlog. There is no statistical evidence but it is estimated that there is about a 2 000 house backlog that is required to bring us up to full housing.

The Government normally constructs about 10 per cent of houses built.

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: The 10% of the 2 000 which is what you are trying to catch up to is going to be 200 houses. At 3 600 square feet per house, which again is a figure given to me by the National Housing Corporation, that says about 17 acres of land is required for us to catch up with this backlog this year. This year alone we can get up to scratch with 17 acres of land for housing and, let us say, another 3 acres in roads, facilities and so on, about 20 acres of land. Government acquired more than that this year.

I do not understand why we seem to be acquiring another 17 acres here. I see in the Gazette that we are going to do something even worse. You are planning going into the middle of St. Thomas, in the middle of an agricultural area to acquire another 17 acres. This, to me, is madness. This area in St. Thomas is even more mind boggling. It is not landlocked. It is locked by agricultural land all around. There is a gully and then agricultural land. There is no housing there at all. We are going to create something in the middle of agricultural land. Why are we doing this madness? What is government's policy on this?

We have said all along, the ABC Highway and Highway 2A are boundaries we understand. Everything south of the ABC Highway is going to be inevitably lost to agriculture and there is something like 150 acres south of that Highway that is available. Then we go along Highway 2A. We did a study and found there is something like 300 acres of land between Highway 2A and the sea going only as far north as Lancaster. Why is that land not being utilised? Why are we not acquiring that land?

There are areas that have been abandoned like Ridgeway Plantation. It has been sold and is abandoned. This is to the west of Highway 2A. There is Blowers Plantation next to Portvale. You go further along there is Lancaster. There are all these areas on the west going down to Trents. There are huge areas of land that nobody could fuss about. This is land that is going to be lost to agriculture inevitably. Presently some of it is in canes. Some of it is abandoned.

Let us get now to Cottage itself. Look at the history of Cottage. There was an application by Cottage to develop land closest to the Gun Hill village, that village in the Gun Hill area.

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: In the previous Government it went to the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture asked at the BAS for our opinion. We said "No" that it was very high class agricultural land. It is in a high rainfall area. It has exceptionally good depths of soil. The soil is Redclay type soil, particularly the area that they are now acquiring is some of the best soil in Barbados.

Now, what happened? It went to the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture said "No." It went to Town and Country Planning, they said "No." The man appealed. It went to the Appeals Board and they said "No." There was a Cabinet reshuffle and the Minister, the day he was leaving that office he called for the file and under the law said "Yes" and it was approved.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: This is what I understand that this Government had given a commitment to change the law to say that this could never happen again. And what do you have? It happened again. It is going to happen again inevitably. But why has the law not been changed? We heard the other day in the courts that the Town and Country Planning Act is a very bad Act. It needs redoing. I hope that something is going to be done very soon.

Subsequent to that particular development there was an approval to allow Cottage to cut the plots up into 15 to 20-acre plots, again for agriculture. It was allowed to be cut up for agriculture. What happened? One was sold and approved and developed to the west of the ridge. The only part of Cottage that really should be developed is the ridge that runs directly to the east of the present land being acquired and that is rab land and we all understand was good building land. But here we have this piece and we go down. We hear that this piece is landlocked. Seventeen acres of land is landlocked? So what? Seventeen acres is there and by admission two roads are into it and, certainly, there is a main road running on one side of it so you can always get access to it. I do not see any problem in it remaining in agriculture. It means that you are now going to say that the whole of Cottage is landlocked because all around it is going to be built up and the next thing you know we will be back here acquiring another 20 acres of it and these are first-class agricultural lands.

I really beg that Government will reconsider, to come up with some real development policy on housing, that they will please look at farmers' concern because that, to me, is the very epitome of somebody who does not care. I do not understand how you could come up with this. I think somebody just took a dart and threw it at the map of Barbados and where it stopped and said, "Right. That is it." There can be no logical reason for acquiring land at Cottage in the middle of a completely agricultural area. I am begging they would reconsider this.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I just want to make a brief intervention on this particular Resolution before us. I think that whenever we discuss housing for Barbadians, housing is one of those areas that touches the softest spots and from time to time we get all kinds of reactions to acquisitions for housing. I would like to look a bit at this area in St. George recognising that this particular part of St. George North is very much a developed constituency, unlike St. George South. Already in St. George North we have at least five major, I would say, housing developments, very large houses. My concern is really about the attitude of individuals in Government as they set about these acquisitions. It seems to me that the belief is there that because you are Government you can go about and just do things. I welcome any action on the part of Government if any parish in Barbados which is attempting to enhance the livelihood of the residents of the parishes. I abhor the conduct of individuals who have power and who use this power without a whole lot of regard for the feelings of people.

11.40 a.m.

Now, I believe that in developing housing the Leader of Government Business spoke about communities and I think that we recognise the importance of making sure that we foster greater community concerns in Barbados and recognise that a number of problems that we have with our young people stem from the breakdown in community life. I believe that we need not approach these matters in this fragmented way and that is what is happening. I am going to talk about that area because in an area not very far away there is a problem. The problem is an attitudinal problem. The people around that area of St. George have now grown accustomed to a facility which allows them to enjoy all the kinds of sports that other individuals in Barbados envy and wish that they could have access to.

In recent times there has been a move on the part of this Government to, as it has said, introduce some 8 or 9 house spots in an area and on a sporting complex which has catered to all of the residents of that surrounding area of St. George North, including individuals at Groves, Cottage, Bridge Cot, St. Helens, Market Hill, Newbury, all those areas. I think that for me it makes no sense for the

Government to continue this programme and try to encourage the residents of this new housing development to fully utilise what is one of the most beautiful sporting complex in Barbados at St. Helens, St. George.

I am raising this, Mr. President, because I have seen a document written on Government paper, on the letterhead of a Ministry, which in its attempt to say to the residents I have authority to go ahead and do it, has used what I consider to be very offensive language to the people of St. George. I have the document here with me, Sir, on the letterhead of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing re: Proposed Housing Development at St. George. In this document, Sir, the Parliamentary Representative...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Honourable Member prepared to make that document a document of the House so that all Members can have access to it?

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member, under the Parliamentary rules as I understand it, is under no obligation to table the document. She can refer to it. It would be different if the Honourable Member were a Minister.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, in that document the Parliamentary Representative in responding to the concerns of the young people and the residents in the immediate area is referring to myriad political factions not preventing him from doing the people's business and I thought that all the residents in the area are the people and that any work in that area would be the people's business and I do not understand why a Government in attempting to implement a project for which there has been concern on the part of some residents should try to determine that because individuals raise their voices that they are supporting narrow political interests, and in addition to continue to go further to say that you should not speak to the Press or people in other political parties.

In 1996 in Barbados in attempting to address residents who raise a concern they are told by their parliamentary representatives that they should not talk to members of the Press or members of other political parties. I have the document in here, Mr. President.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: The letter goes on to say, "in future, members should communicate all concerns to me before going to the press or other political parties." I do not understand who has that power to determine how individuals should go about their business.

Mr. President, I want to say that at this time I do not think it is too late for the Government of Barbados to reconsider the decision to take away that area of land from the St. Helen's sporting complex to put 8 houses on it. What difference can 8 houses make to a whole neighbourhood?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: When we are acquiring such an area of land just across the street at Cottage and Groves in St. George, why can't we site the 8 houses over on that area of land and then in building our communities try to encourage the residents of Cottage and Groves to come over to St. Helens. What has me angry is, in the response to the residents that they deserve to have their tennis courts which were promised to them by a former administration I sat at a meeting and heard words like, the people up here do not need a tennis court. I thought, Mr. President, that if a constituency as diverse as St. George North, because in that constituency there are villages but there are some highly developed neighbourhoods and I am sure that the residents in these highly developed areas would go to Rockley or Sandy Lane or other areas to play their tennis. Why can't we have at the St. Helen's complex a tennis court which would keep those residents within their communities to play tennis? Why do you believe that tennis courts are not for villages? Why do you feel that by putting a tennis court at St. Helens that the people around there would not know what to do with it? I think it is an insult and I want to say, Mr. President, that I am calling on the Minister of Housing and Lands, I am calling on the Parliamentary Representative in that Ministry, who is the Parliamentary Representative for St. George North, to reverse that decision to take away that area of land from the St. Helens sporting complex.

Queen's College has all the land that it wants. Why can't the people of St. George North have their tennis court at St. Helens? I think that as Parliamentary Representatives, as Members of Parliament, there are certain responsibilities which Members of Parliament have for the people whom they represent. I think one of those responsibilities is to try to build relationships not divisions and if we have communities or constituencies in which individuals exist in little pockets we should do something about that. I do not think you would want to see a constituency in which you have poor people in the gaps and the alleys and the villages and the affluent and the wealthy driving through in their big air-conditioned cars and looking at the people as though they are just weed along the street, which is what happens in certain parts of that constituency. And it will continue to happen unless we take action, do things which would encourage those other individuals to want to be a part of the community because the villagers are the traditional residents of these constituencies and I feel very angry about this, Sir. I speak about it all the time and I am serious about it.

This is not a matter for votes. I am from St. George, I know what it is to be poor and barefoot in a village and watching people come in and apparently taking over your whole neighbourhood and behaving as though you are from a back alley some where and you do not exist. I want to say, Mr. President, that in our attempt to have these kinds of housing developments in these traditional villages that we put in place programmes which would cause a fusion, a proper marriage of the new residents and the traditional residents of this neighbourhood. I thought I would intervene on this matter because I have been speaking about it now for some time.

11.50 a.m.

What I am angry about is that whenever we are discussing acquisitions there is an attitude which comes from certain members from the Other Side that says we can do it. We do it. We can acquire so we acquire. I think we have to be much more sensitive and caring and I think that the parliamentary representative of that constituency should have convened a meeting with the residents of that area before action was taken. I am the person who spoke to the parliamentary representative and tried to get home to him of how angry the residents of the area are about this particular matter. So I can speak about it. This is not hearsay. I drove through that area and I tried to find what were the problems and there were genuine concerns. People have become emotionally attached to that housing complex and they felt that they had a right, that even though the tennis court had not yet been put in place, it was a part of the complex that was promised to them and they had a right to be told that Government wanted to use the area for another purpose. What is wrong with according them the respect which they deserve by convening a meeting in the complex and say this is the plan which we have for this area.

Mr. President, I do not think that it is too late for the Ministry of Housing to reverse its decision and, if the tennis court cannot be put in place right away, I think that the residents are prepared to go on a fund raising drive to make sure that they have a tennis court in that area. They play volleyball, basketball and cricketers from all over Barbados come to St. Helens to play their cricket and Sir Garfield Sobers is there very often and all of the hierarchy of the Cricket Association at least once a year for a major event. Discussion is still going on about the tennis. People do not want to accept that a tennis court can go into St. George. People in 1996 will scarf at having a tennis court in St. George as though poor black people do not play tennis too. How did we get the Piggotts and all those guys into golf? They went around the courts at Sandy Lane picking up balls and all kinds of things and they developed into good golf players. So I do not believe in that nonsense that because it is St. George we do not want a tennis court.

Mr. President, I support any Resolution which is attempting to improve housing in Barbados for Barbadians who are desirous of housing. I also admit that it is important that in our attempt to bring housing to the people we must make sure that we must bring a whole package that these individuals can learn and enjoy proper community life. Before I take my seat, Mr. President, I want to put it on the record again that it is not too late for the Minister of Housing and Lands to overturn the decision to take away that area of land at St. Helens to site 9 houses and allow that land to be used to further enhance the kinds of sports which the residents of the whole of St. George can engage in. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Murray.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, this debate is proceeding along the lines exactly how I anticipated it would have been. I am sure that once there was an acquisition which had any association with agriculture we would have been entreated to a series of patriotic statements where people were indulging in a lot of emotionalism sweeping wide and far with lots of sentiments but very few figures or facts to back them up and it has gone exactly that way.

Let us first of all deal with some of the comments made by Senator Laurie. We have become accustomed in this Chamber that as long as agricultural land is involved that Senator Laurie gets up and objects to it. Nothing is wrong with that. But what I would have thought is that he has been in here long enough and he is such an agricultural expert that by now he would be presenting us with facts, figures and statistics and all kinds of hard scientific data that will back up his statements and not just talk in vague highly emotive generalization which appeals to the people's heart but makes no contact whatsoever with hard common sense and the facts and realities of life today.

The point is, Sir, that this Government like any other Government has to strike a balance between housing and other infrastructural development and land to which the agricultural land is put. In our Manifesto on page 16 in speaking about Land Use Policy, we say: "The Land Use Policy will have as a primary objective the retention and the return to use of a sizeable acreage of arable relatively flat lands in the agriculture sector. Demands for other land use will generally be satisfied without any reduction in the acreage that is determined to be critical for a vibrant sector." These extractions of occasional pieces of land are in no way endangering that critical mass, for want of a better term, which we would need to have for a vibrant and successful agricultural sector. This is a good chance for Senator Laurie to correct me with statistics. From my recollection, I think that we need about 29 000 acres of land for cane. How much do we need in agriculture?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wonder if you are addressing the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I am trying hard to address the Chair. But the point is, Sir, what we need to know is if Senator Laurie is concerned about the land being diverted from agriculture for other uses. He needs to present us with a case where we are in danger of eliminating or going below that critical mass which we need to maintain a sustainable agricultural sector. Otherwise, what we are talking about is bits and pieces of emotionalism that do not present the facts. Sir, Senator Laurie would be the first to admit. He made some reference to a development which had been rejected right up to the top and then was overturned at the last possible minute. Senator Thompson even better than Senator Laurie will be very familiar with the cases of Neils Plantation, Rowan's, Mangrove, Sanford, Frere Pilgrim, *et cetera* where across this country there was a virtual tradition in political circles by that Party when it formed the Government in previous times, of taking some of the best possible lands overnight. Some people made fantastic financial killings, bought land on a morning and sold it in the evening and made tremendous returns on it. Nobody can deny, Sir, not even Senator Laurie, will say even though he has objection to some of the lands which are currently being taken out of agriculture by this Government, that we have been indulging in that kind of wholesale profiteering and exploitation where we are throwing away the public's bountifulness for the want of filthy lucre. That has never been said about us. We have been in office almost 2 years and there has not been the slightest hint of scandal about the use of agricultural land or diverting agricultural land specifically, to allow people to exploit the situation and make money and grease their own pockets. Finally, I appreciate that there is a concern about other agricultural land that is taken out of production but we need to be able to put it in its proper context.

Sir, I am not surprised at Senator Thompson's level of contribution and the whole tenor of her speech. She represents a party. As a matter of fact, one is better able to appreciate her attachment to tennis courts as against housing when one recalls that she represents a Party that in 8 long years built about 10 houses in St. Philip, just over a house a year. No wonder then that you can be so obsessed with tennis courts and, Mr. President, she can say in very disdainful terms of nine houses, and if one were to see the scorn and the derision on her face, one then better appreciates what little regard that party that built 10 houses in eight years, has for these houses.
12.00 noon

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think you should withdraw that. Scorn and derision are judgments which perhaps are a little bit strong and can be regarded as insulting in respect of another matter. I did not discern any scorn on the Senator's face.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I will bow to your ruling, Sir, but this is the same Senator who accused us of having a certain "don't-care" attitude about people and one is able to discern that attitude also.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, on a point of order. How can one say it is a "don't-care" attitude if you express the concerns of people, that they themselves have expressed?

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I thank the Honourable Senator very much for her non-point. I am familiar with the Darcy Bryan complex, Sir. It is a lovely complex, very well situated, very well appointed and very well maintained. It is one of the best kept public facilities in Barbados, so I am quite familiar with it. But if one is familiar with the neighbourhood, one knows that those eight houses will in no way diminish the sporting complex, because there is ample land around and near other parts of the complex that can accommodate tennis courts. This tennis courts thing is just being used as a cheap political football, or tennis ball, if you might say so. I have not even seen the youngsters in that area playing road tennis near that spot, but this is something that the Honourable Senators probably think they have, something to disturb the tranquil life of St. George with, and the Senator thinks that at long last, after a sterling representation by the current MP, that she has something she can give him a little "juck" with and therefore she is latching on to this for all that it is worth. But the same way her intervention just now was a non-point, this is a non-issue, because there is other land and I challenge you to deny this.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot challenge the President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Nor would I envisage it, Sir. I would like the Honourable Senator to tell the Chamber if it is not true that there is other land, even when those eight house spots are taken away, at the same complex that can still accommodate the tennis courts. The tennis courts will not be lost. I am also fascinated by the fact that the Honourable Senator quoted extensively, and quite selectively I think, I discerned, from a secret document which she refuses to pass around that we can examine. I would really love to see that document. She talks about an attitude of people on this side. I do not know if the language she has extricated from that document is her interpretation or whether it is there. I would very much like to see that document.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, on a point of order. I do not recall Senator Thompson quoting from any document in her speech, or from any secret

document, so I think that Senator Murray is misleading the Senate. There was never any quoting from that document. It was mentioned, but there was no quoting.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It is not a point of order, I would like the records to be correct, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well, on what do you rise?

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am saying that Senator Murray was misleading the Senate. He suggested that there was a secret document which was quoted from.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are asking me therefore to rule on a point of order.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: At your request, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It would seem to me that the question of a point of order would be more appropriately made by the Senator who spoke previously, Senator Thompson. So I therefore rule no point of order. Senator Murray, please proceed.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate Senator Mascoll's sensitivity with the term "secret document", since he has for a long time been suffering great public outcry at the failure of the hierarchy of his party to produce these documents.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Not relevant, Senator Murray.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I am sorry, Mr. President. I will get back to the Resolution. Senator Thompson spoke about traditional village life being disturbed by the imposition virtually of these eight houses in this area. If one knows that area, and I would like to think that Senator Thompson does, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, on a point of order. I did not say that traditional village life would be disturbed by putting eight houses. I said when we do developments and we have this difference in communities, where we have the villages and vacant areas, and we do not find a way of marrying the communities, we are disturbing traditional village life. That is what I said.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will treat that as a point of elucidation in as much as Senator Murray has given way.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I am trying to give her ample time in which to further hang herself on this issue, Sir.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: You get beat so badly you would never be one.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, I did not get beaten, Senator Murray.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: The blows that the current representative for St. George North, and I happen to be...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Murray, what has that to do with the Resolution before us?

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: It has to do with St. George North. Cottage is in St. George North and I am a registered voter in St. George North and I have to set the record straight in St. George North. I have to put some blows in the Honourable Senator, Sir, and therefore...

Mr. PRESIDENT: The rules of the Senate do not deal with blows, Senator Murray.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Through the electoral ballots, Sir. But in all seriousness, the Honourable Senator made great weather of an allegation of insensitivity and high-handedness on the representative for St. George North in dealing with this issue. The point is that from my knowledge of the situation a letter was written to the residents of the area dealing with the matter. But rather than the residents choosing to meet with the representative, who is very respectful of his duty as the representative, they chose to go other routes and made it a public issue before it was discussed with him, to such an extent that other people jumped on the bandwagon and tried to make political capital of it. But it will be taken care of in the fullness of time.

I am very supportive of this measure, Sir, to acquire land for very productive and socially desirable purposes, I might add. It also brings me to the point that from time to time we hear where land is being acquired, charges were levelled the last time we dealt with such an issue in this Chamber, about Government's failure to pay or reluctance to pay people for the land when it is acquired. The point is that Governments have from time to time allocated money in the Estimates to pay for land acquisitions, and as you would know, Sir, there is a legal procedure involving Parliament when one seeks to acquire somebody's land. It is not therefore a question of you having power, as Senator Thompson tried to indicate, and you can do what you want to do just because you have "power". You are using the legal provisions that exist. We are engaged in the debate and if the procedure is flawed we are part of that flawed process, and I am sure it is a traditional approach acquiring property for good public use and therefore nobody can

quarrel with it. But as I said, Sir, from time to time Governments have allocated money in the Estimates over the years to pay for the acquisition of property. For various reasons, sometimes even the question of establishing who really owns the land, because there are many quarrels over estates. There are various other things plus other factors that help to delay the payment of these sums. I checked the Estimates and in the 1994-95 financial year a sum of \$3 million was placed in the Estimates to pay for acquisitions and in 1995-96 a similar sum of \$3 million was placed in the Estimates and if Members would look at the 1996-97 Estimates one would see a sum of \$4 million has been placed to pay for the acquisitions because one anticipates that there will be acquisitions from time to time.

12.10 p.m.

Some acquisitions start in one year but do not finish in that financial year and that causes a problem. I am talking about land which we are seeking to acquire at Cottage, if people are losing contact with the Resolution. I just heard a comment made here, Sir, that Government does not have the money to pay for the acquisitions of land. For people who harbour such a misconception or would be misled by such a wide statement, I have here a quarterly report from the legal unit of the Division of Housing which talks about payment of compensation for the period under review, namely September to October 1995. In that period they paid \$183 986 032.39.

For the period February to March, 1996 that sum was – let me quote correctly, and this will give a definite lie to any belief that people have, that Government does not have the money to pay for these things. There is a figure for that same period of \$1.2 million.

What is instructive is that I also have in my possession a report from the Legal Department for the period June to October 1994 just after September 1994, under the Dems, and under the heading Payment of Compensation for the Financial Year 1994 which says:

"As has been stated many times before, this unit's inability to pay compensation to all those who are entitled continues to be a major source of embarrassment."

For this financial year, the Ministry of Environment Housing and Lands received \$3 million for land acquisition. We requested \$8 million. In June of 1994 the Ministry of Finance made \$1 million available for this unit for payment of compensation.

The point is, Sir, I am trying to show a complete contra-distinction between this approach where people were being caused severe embarrassment for the payment of compensation and the approach of this present

Government where we have upped the ante, so to speak, from \$3 million to \$4 million, making explicit provisions in the Estimates for the payment of these sums of money.

It is against this background, Sir, against the broad canvass of Government's approach to the retention of sizeable and proper agricultural land for productive agricultural purposes, like how we brought sugar back to 65 000 tonnes from 38 000 tonnes, from the lowest average back to 60 000. Nobody can deny this Government's bona fides and its sincerity in putting agriculture back on a proper footing and also providing housing at the same time and wiping out the 8 years of abject neglect to housing that was experienced under the last Party. I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Mr. President, I just rise to make a few brief comments on the compulsory acquisition of land at Cottage and Groves Plantations. Normally on an occasion like this I would rise and say I support the Resolution but on this occasion I rise to support Senator Laurie's speech. Senator Laurie has been accused of not having his facts, figures, statistics not being accurate and various things. But what I must say for Senator Laurie is that he has 40 years of experience in agriculture and there is nothing like having experience.

When I hear Senator Laurie talk about the amount of land being used up all the time, that constantly over the years agricultural land is being developed into housing, it only takes common sense to see that Barbados with its 166 square miles is going to run into difficulty at some stage in time, maybe not now, maybe in 20 years or 40 years. There is going to come a time with 166 square miles when there is going to be little agricultural land and we could be very sorry for it.

I understand the Government is caught between a rock and a hard place. Because there is a demand for housing and there is a demand for agricultural land, it leaves me to ask the simple question: when Government acquires some land why can it not look seriously at building skyscrapers. We have to look at going up 6,7,8-storeys in order to house all these people, because as I see it there is a shortage of land in Barbados. You can look at run-down areas in little Bridgetown. There is a call to keep the people in Bridgetown. Sure, keep them in Bridgetown, you can take a little run-down area that has a lot of ruins on it, put a nice skyscraper on it and you will keep the people in town. It will also produce cheap transportation for the residents.

The other thing I want to find out is this. Does the Government need permission from Town and Country Planning to change the land use? It is a question that I ask because if an individual or private citizen wanted to change it they have to go to Town and Country Planning and I just wanted to know what the procedure was with reference to the Government and the Town and Country Planning Unit.

What I would like to see when the Government builds a housing development, and I have called for it on numerous occasions, in both previous Estimates when I spoke in this Honourable Chamber and I think it is in your Manifesto as well, that the day should come when the people should pay the rents towards owning their homes. Sir, this has been a call that has been in here over and over and I think it just takes a little initiative this time around through some financial agency.

You spoiled the Barbados Development Bank. The Barbados Development Bank is disappearing. I just wanted to say that financing for the tenants of these homes should be very reasonable and as is the case with some stores there should be no down payment. Let the rents go towards the purchase of their homes. Let them take the maintenance and the responsibility from day one, so that they will look after their own homes. They will know they are going to own them and they are going to care them and it will take a burden of expenses off the Government.

With those few comments I thank you very much.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this acquisition and to speak somewhat on the issue of change of use of land from agricultural to housing purposes. For many years, I have gone on record as being in favor of preserving as much agricultural land as possible. I think that the history of Cottage is well documented. In fact, I remember writing in the local newspapers on the subject several times, being very much against the initial change of use of land at Cottage.

12.20 p.m.

This brings me to the point that when land is being developed it is quite often developed in groups of spots that are not necessarily contiguous, and it has the effect of marginalising other good land by making it inaccessible and uneconomic for people to cultivate. Ultimately, this is what has happened at Cottage and therefore we now have to regularise a situation and put the remaining land in this area to the best use possible, which is, ultimately, in housing.

Now, I think that this Government's policy is such that we are very mindful of the need for a strong and vibrant agricultural sector. In fact, the Government has, during its recent term of office, improved the concessions to agriculture and has attempted to streamline the process, whereby the agriculturalist can access those concessions.

This is a matter of record. When we look at the sugar production in Barbados, we will look over the last 20 or 25 years. If you look at a graph of sugar production under the Opposition, when it was in Government, you will see a declining graph in every period of their administration. There is a consistently declining graph.

We cannot forget the instances of 40 acres of land being cut up into 4-acre house spots at \$25 000 per acre in St. John. We also have to be mindful of the fact that there are tremendous speculative bodies that own large tracts of land and are just hoping for the day that it can be subdivided.

Now, when agricultural land is being sold at \$3 000 an acre and house spots are selling for \$25 000 to \$100 000 an acre, you can see the sort of magnitude of profits being made in this area. This Government is not going to allow profiteering on the agricultural land. It is as simple as that. So, this is the way we are proceeding.

Now, when it comes to the issue of housing, which was raised by Senator Bernstein, I think that we have to be very mindful of the sociological conditions that we live in. We have seen instances of ghettos created around the world, in Cuba, New York, Hong Kong, where high-rise buildings have created all sorts of sociological problems. We have to be very mindful about how we develop our housing plan and how we treat our people in making it much more acceptable to the Barbadian culture and the Barbadian way of life in providing housing for Barbadians.

I do not personally think that high-rise housing is the way to go. However, I would say that Senator Bernstein is pushing an open door when it comes to putting mechanisms in place to allow people to own their own homes. This, as he has rightly said, is in our Manifesto and we are proceeding along these lines.

Once again you have to recognise that there is need for legislative change. There is need for a proper study of the conditions so that you do not disadvantage anyone. We have to be very careful not to disadvantage the poor in our society. So while the theories are very good, and while it is very nice to proceed down this way, we also have to move with utmost caution to ensure that the most disadvantaged in our society are constantly protected.

Therefore, Mr. President, with those few remarks, I hope that I have explained and set the record straight about the land use policy of this Government. I do think that Senator Murray's call for greater statistical analysis and more precise data is extremely relevant. We need to know what land can produce from agriculture and what it can produce from other things. Then we can get the true balance of what we are trying to achieve.

We will understand that there is a need for critical mass. We understand that if the size of large agricultural plots, and in terms of the total agriculture output of the island, one must recognise that it is a changing environment that we live in. It is a changing economy and

the aspiration of people will change over a period of time. So all of these things will impact upon the way we address our land use policy in the future.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I rise to make my contribution on this very important Resolution. I must say that I am a bit appalled that after 8 years of neglect that Honourable Member from the other side can come in here and make the sort of statements they have been making, like the Government does not have a housing policy and a land use policy. These things concern me, Mr. President. I cannot understand and I do not think that the Democratic Labour Party has a moral right, or any morals for that matter, to speak to the issue of housing in this country after building about 10 or 20 houses in Church Village. Not only that, the most disturbing point I have to make is that they had about \$14 million sitting down in a Housing Credit Fund at a time when this country was under control of the IMF, and not a single cent was used by that Party to address the serious issue of housing, particularly housing for the poor people in this community.

I sat through the last 2 years, 3 years perhaps, and heard a lot of talk about Westmoreland, where acres of land was taken out of agriculture for golf development. Then we heard about almost 1 000 acres around Kingsland being proposed under that Government for further golf development. I heard no cries coming from the Democratic Labour Party about land use policy. That is why I said that I am extremely appalled. How come in 2 or 3 years there could be a complete turn around of the attitude of those members to land use policy? I am ashamed of their performance.

I want to really commend the Ministry for going ahead and seriously alleviating the problem and acute housing shortage in Barbados. I am hearing comments that we have not built a house, but I can assure him, Sir, that come September this year the first set of housing units at Maynards will be completed. I know of housing development going on in St. George, at Parish Land. I know of a lot of other housing developments.

Unlike the situation of the Democratic Labour Party, they had a policy of moving people out of developments, not providing any alternative accommodation for them, and talking about housing development?

This situation happened at Consett, when they virtually put people on the street before taking a careful approach and finding alternative accommodation for the people first. I know that there is some concern about what is going on at Pondsides. The site has been cleared. Three houses now remain there. The reason why that project has not been started yet is because we are trying to

implement a phased process where we would start construction at the same time. All the people that were there that wanted to have Government provided accommodation have been taken care of.

What happens now is that the 3 remaining families want to have land provided to build their own houses. Government would prefer to encourage people to own their own houses than to go down the traditional route of renting. I think it is the desire of every Barbadian to own their own house.

One important aspect of this development that has not been addressed so far in this debate is the fact that – I want to get back to the Democratic Labour Party. I cannot really speak to housing and issues of environmental concerns without making reference to them.

We had a situation a couple years ago when the Minister allowed people to set houses on Zone 1 land at the Belle. There is now a cry about land use policy, about the concerns for health and environment of people. This Government has taken the opportunity now to address the issue where there is about 25 houses in a Zone 1 area, Sweet Bottom, Groves, Redmans and those sort of areas where people presently are located on a Zone 1 area. A major part of spots that would be provided at this development would be to allow these people who cannot get water connections to still benefit from the caring policy of this Government, giving them land, under the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act, at ten cents per square foot. These people can now move from there into this development and get the same land that they were entitled to at ten cents per square foot. If that is not caring, and if that is not a greater priority than tennis courts, you tell me. I will listen.

Further than that, I have a serious concern. When you go to Groves and Cottage you can see big middle-class developments. Do you know what I feel personally? That the whole issue of some middle-class people do not want poor people that grow up in an agricultural tenantry to live next to them. That is the issue. It must be spoken about frankly in here. That is the bottom line. I wholeheartedly support any effort by this Government to ensure that poor people are given the opportunity to live in the heights and terraces like anybody else in Barbados, so I have no problem whatsoever with that.
12.30 p.m.

Mr. President, there are a couple suggestions I have which I would commend to this House, although I would not wish to go as far as Senator Bernstein, in proposing high-rise housing. My concern is that in a situation in Barbados where we have a shortage of land that the time has come when we must set engineering standards that we can put the correct amount of steel and fortification at the

ground level construction so that in future if a man has 7 000 square feet of land and he sees need for an additional thousand square footage of floor space that, this is planned into the ground floor so that he can go up one storey. I have no problem with that. As far as multi-storeyed 10, 12, 15 feet high-rise I have some problem with that but I think at the individual level we can ensure that our standards are such that we can go to a second level without having to look for additional land. I think this is very important.

I have a further concern because this Government is one which believes in the philosophy that Barbadians should be allowed to own their own houses but I think there is current a policy within the Land Tax Department that discriminates, in my opinion, against people who own unoccupied lots, and I will draw an example of what I am saying.

You have a young lady working at a fast food restaurant married probably to a clerk in a Government office. They, in their quest to own a house of their own would go about trying to save some money. They look at a piece of land costing \$50,000. They will have to look at something like 10 per cent compounded interest and they might take sometime because of the level of their income, to pay back for it so you are looking at a 5-year period of paying back something like \$10 000. Then you disadvantage people further when they have to wait for five years before they can gather some more money to start to build their houses by saying to them that they must pay .95 per cent of the value of the piece of land in taxes.

I think that discriminates against poor people. It discriminates against young people and I think that this issue must be addressed. It must be addressed because if you look at the way rates are worked out, for an owner-occupied house, you are assessed on 70 per cent of the improved value and you pay .35 per cent, about $\frac{1}{3}$, of what you would pay on the first \$100 000 of the value of the property, and you pay .95 per cent on the remainder. In the case of a pensioner you only pay 50 per cent of the improved value, the first \$100 000 at .35 per cent *et cetera*. The point I am making is that the poor people in this country and the young people who want to own their own homes are being seriously discriminated against.

My final point, Sir, is that I also want to compliment this Government for their environmental friendly approach to housing and that they have taken this opportunity to relocate people in that particular Zone 1 area to a community which would not remove them too far from the area where they have lived for most of their life but allow the Government at the same time to be in a position where we can have a more serious approach to environmental matters.

I say this because we have a zonal land policy which, in my opinion, addresses the issue of bacterial contamination which can be easily solved with chlorination but when the issue of fertilizers, pesticides and chemical contamination of water is concerned, it has not been designed for that purpose and is an area for concern. I will grant you that there is also concern in these areas that even the use of septic tanks though permitted should be monitored by government.

It is with these few comments, Sir, that I commend this Bill to this Honourable Chamber and I am sure that all right-thinking Senators will give it their wholehearted support.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, let me first dispel the view that the Democratic Labour Party did nothing in housing between 1986 and 1994. The evidence is there to show, in fact, and I quote from the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto of 1994, that between 1988 and 1993 that 70 to 80 per cent of the needs in the housing sector were met.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Listen carefully. Between 1988 and 1993. It is in the post 1991 period that certain things, as we all know now, happened for the good of the country. We are seeing the definite benefits of that stewardship. We have recently heard of the World Bank's praise for the last administration. We have seen the turnaround in the economy. We have seen some artificial growth in the first half of this year predominantly because of the sugar sector which should have been factored out of the figures anyhow, and overall an improvement in things. There is no doubt that is as a direct result of the Democratic Labour Party's performance.

There is no one who can dispute the 1986 proposals and the impact those proposals had on the housing sector in Barbados. Anyone in the Senate would know that. Any Barbadian would know that the proposals of 1986 led to an upsurge in house building in Barbados. Substantial 8-bedroom houses, all kinds of things happened in Barbados, at Edghill, all about Barbados so do not let us dispute what happened in housing. I have my view of what should have happened.

The other thing is that over that same period we had 44 relocations in the period 1991-1994. We had 164 new rental units being provided between 1991 and 1994 and 38 houses through joint ventures being built. We have the sale of 681 lots through the Sites and Services programme, the sale of 411 properties, developed 480 lots, the rental accommodation of about 482 families and 82 general workers.

Under that period we had 2 786 lots to tenants under the plantations tenancies programme. There is no doubt that you are looking at someone, if I may boast, who only earlier this year did the background work to Government's Habitat Programme, the plan which they carried to Turkey, so let no one in here question the authenticity of these figures because they were fully researched, in fact, to the extent, as I said, that research work formed the basis of the report taken to the Habitat II Conference, so no one can question this date. Having boasted, let me move onto the more substantive issue.

No one is disputing the need for housing in Barbados but what is at dispute here is the process. The process that was carried out in this particular land acquisition seems to be against the wishes of the members of that community. To a large extent one is saying that this is really the problem. The problem refers to the process and not necessarily to whether or not we need housing. Anyone in Barbados understanding the issues would appreciate that housing is, in fact, a very big requirement. This administration has not built one house in two years, not one completed house.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. It is not true to say that we have not built one house in 2 years. He knows better. In Maynards, St. Peter, houses were built by this administration so the Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I said not one completed house.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please proceed, Senator Mascoll.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I do not understand it. Not one completed house has been built in Barbados in the last 2 years and no one can dispute that.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I dispute that because I know it is a fact that houses were built at Maynards and for the accuracy of the record and for Press reporting I would like that to be corrected because I know it is a fact and there is housing development also going on at St. George at Parish Land.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have made your point.
12.40 p.m.

His Honour SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. President, I do not understand the language the Honourable Member is using when he says not one completed house has been built in Barbados this year. I would like to understand what he means because it seems

rather strange to me. Either I am living in a cloud or I am dead or somewhere else. I have done several conveyances for new houses which would have been financed by Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation during this year so I want to know whether I am on earth or whether I am somewhere else or whether he is somewhere else.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The point has already been made. Senator Mascoll please move on.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, Senator Bolden is known not to be with us for a long time. He may be here in physical spheres but ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please withdraw that.

Certain remarks made by His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I will withdraw. The Government of Barbados has not completed a single housing unit in the last 2 years. Senator Bolden is speaking of the private sector.

Certain remarks made by His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. PRESIDENT.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, points of order have been made and they have been accepted by the Chair. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, if I may recall in a debate on unemployment I refer to 2100 jobs being created by the Government and there was objection to that figure because I was unable to quote from a document. I want to know which Senator on the other side is prepared to quote from a document to substantiate that one house or more than one house has been completed by the Government of Barbados. Nobody has brought forward any document that has been published, to show me that one house has been completed. Therefore I stand on very solid ground in the absence of a document to say that not one house has been completed by the Government in the last two years.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I rise again on a point of order. I know for a fact that a number of houses were built at Bakers for victims from the Weston flood. I also know there are houses at Cane Garden that were built and I am absolutely certain and I rest my reputation on it that houses have been completed at Maynards and I will not sit here and allow this misinformation to be disseminated.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator you have already made substantially the point you have made before. I do not need to hear it again.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: As I said before the issue related to the process and I would like to make the letter sent by the representative of St. George North a document of the House and I am going to quote from some parts of this document. It is May 17, 1996 and I am reading at the second paragraph.

"As you are aware I was elected by the people of St. George to represent the interest of all persons living in the constituency and therefore narrow political factions would not serve to detract me from doing the people's business".

Now, because some people in the area objected to...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you may help us by telling us the date.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: May 17th, 1996, letter sent by Glyne A. Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Public Works, Transport, Housing Division, Sir Frank Walcott Building.

He goes on to say, Sir, that

"My research suggest that no application has been made to the Town and Country Planning Department. I have since consulted with the Town and Country Planning Department and the National Sports Council in the relevant Ministries and they have agreed that the area is best suited for housing or a mini park."

And then the second last paragraph:

"In future members should communicate all concerns to me before calling the Press or other political candidates. It is grossly disrespectful and unfair to call the Press about a matter which can be discussed. I am still accessible. I still live in Newbury, St. George."

Now, what is being questioned here? As I said before, it is the process. When you can have a representative who sees it fit to accuse concerned members of a community of playing politics over such a critical issue I am saying that to some extent that representative is out of place because the issue here pertains to the acquiring of land in this particular area and therefore the community ought to have a say in how the process is gone about. That therefore constitutes a major concern for these community members.

So no one is disputing the need for housing. There is actual need for housing. What is in dispute again at the government level is the whole question of land use policy. Why it is that we are proceeding along this line, having stated quite clearly in the policy letter to Mr. Iglesias

that the Government intends to review and if necessary revise the previously stated policy of reserving 45 000 acres of agricultural land when the physical development plan and the area development plans have been completed and adopted? Now we are under threat because what is happening daily is the removal of land from the agricultural sector and it is being done not necessarily on the basis of logic. No one can really fully determine what is happening. More importantly what we are seeing is the subtle adoption of the IDB's policy in relation to land use and therefore we are saying now that we are allowing economic circumstances to determine such use. Therefore there is no concern for the overall food security of Barbados and how much land we intend to put and to maintain in agriculture.

Therefore I am suggesting and it was quoted earlier that this decision is being made for consideration about land use within the immediate environment in St. Helens and whether there would not be concern for the overall question of land and the impact of it. Therefore I get the impression that even without admitting that the Government has introduced, through the back door, the proposed land use policy in the IDB document there ought to be greater concern for land use within Barbados on the basis of the involvement of people who understand the issues and the involvement of people who have been in this area for over 30 years and not simply dismiss individuals because they oppose a particular policy stance by the Government when it is in the interest of the leaders of this country to listen to people who are knowledgeable on these issues. This is a major concern.

The last administration was accused of all kinds of things but the thing it cannot be accused of is that it restructured the sugar industry to the benefit of the Barbados economy so that this present Government can now boast of economic growth in the first six months of 1996 which has been predominantly the result of the resuscitation of the sugar industry in Barbados. Anyone who understands the economy would know that sugar in the first half of the year contributed substantially to economic output. Therefore a 30% or a 35% in sugar output would substantially increase the overall growth in the economy. Unfortunately, Senator Barker does not fully appreciate some of these issues because even though...
12.50 p.m

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. President. I did not speak in this debate. So how did I get into the debate?

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: He does not appreciate because when he can be suggesting that sugar is 2 per cent of GDP, he may not be wrong. But that has nothing to do

with it. The issue is not what is the share of sugar in GDP. But it is the relative importance. That is the rating system that sugar has within the first quarter or the first half of the year. But it has nothing to do with the share of GDP. It shows a complete misunderstanding of issues. What you are saying is that sugar output once it grows by 35 per cent it is so important to the economy in the first and second quarter of the year that we will expect substantial growth in the economy as a result. It is just a question of relative importance, Sir. Let me move on to the whole issue of land use policy.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I was just inviting you to stick to the terms of the Resolution.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Well, I am staying within the ball park.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is a larger ball park than that we had in mind.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: So just let me say that this debate ought not be a debate that I should be speaking on this morning. It ought not to be because it is a simple issue. There is need for housing. What is at question is the process. It has nothing to do with the question of building houses in Barbados. We need housing. This Government came into power with the understanding that it will take care of some of the basic needs of the people in Barbados and it has failed the people on many issues so far. It has maintained a role that was designed by the last Administration, a role that has been embraced fully with no departure whatsoever on several issues. Therefore, all I am asking for is that in making these kinds of decisions that there be greater involvement on the part of communities. We have espouse all kinds of views about economic democracy and economic enfranchisement and greater participation on the part of the people and when the people speak we assigned them to political camps. On the basis of the camp in which we perceive that they reside, then we either reject or accept their position.

This is obviously a concern. It has to be a concern and it has been stated quite clearly in the letter sent to the constituency of St. George North that there seems to be a concern that these people objected within a particular political fashion and that they do not have any right – and that they do not have any right as a result to oppose the acquisition of this land for putting 8 to 9 houses on. They are entitled to it. As people move from a certain class, and this has been the experience of Barbadians who have moved from working class to middle class, there will be different types of services that we ought to provide. We cannot stifle the progress and the needs of the people. So I do not understand why we continue to believe that in building these kinds of communities where we are saying

quite rightly that the society is becoming more and more middle class that on the one hand we are saying that and on the other hand we are trying to deny people certain services because we perceive them to be not to be among the needs of the working class people of Barbados.

Sir, I have concerns as I said before of not whether we are going to build 2 or 3 houses but with the way in which it has been gone about and I do not think that anyone in this Chamber can dispute that this process is very much one that we can question and one that we have to look carefully at in terms of the future, because there are going to be all kinds of considerations. I am going to end on this note that if we are going to have a land use policy that is going to be dictated by economic circumstances as is being suggested by the IDB, then we ought to have provision within our land use policy to entertain the ideas of people who have other concerns which are predominately social and therefore there needs to be a marriage. But to have a full scale sale of our land use policy based on economic considerations and that you are going to be giving to the highest bidder and that you are going to be shifting out of agricultural land because you did not get "x" amount for an acre as opposed to "2x" in say housing, then that cannot be the major consideration. We have to be far more conscious and not simply to succumb to the whims and fancy of people beyond our shores except that you are embracing without saying to the public the policies outlined within the document signed by the Government of Barbados and the IDB. We have to bring it to the people. Make it transparent. There is no need to hide it any longer. We have unearthed your doings. They are very clear to the people of Barbados. You are saying one thing and doing another. You will be however in time found out and you will be found wanting as a Government. Mr. President is an honourable man, very honourable man, extremely honourable man. On that note, Sir, I thank you.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise only out of the urgings of necessity. I am really enjoying this debate, Sir, but I must move that this sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 2:00 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.
1.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, what appeared to be a simple debate when this Chamber started this morning eventually twisted into

whether or not Government was right to acquire land, whether the procedure was right, whether you should change the use or the intention of certain areas into others. Then we got down to Senator Mascoll's famous statements and the letter to Mr. Iglesias, but I think we have to look at land in Barbados and what we do with it.

Today I have learnt some lessons which I will always remember. Sometimes we wonder about the thoughts of people on human development. Senator Laurie has always been critical of the removal of land from agriculture to housing, and most of us are worried about that, but I think we have to bear in mind that the land in Barbados was primarily owned by the wealthy and that the majority of people in Barbados who were workers had no land. They were all tenants. They lived always in fear of their houses being moved and put on the roadside.

I think one of the major steps in securing for the masses in this country the right to house spots was taken by the Barbados Labour Party during its period 1976-86 and the party was condemned by the Democratic Labour Party as taking away people's land. The late Errol Barrow went riding throughout the same St. George on a horse saying that he would go to court with Colonel Drax if he had taken away the land in the tenantry and given it to the blacks. Nobody likes you to say what Errol Barrow said.

You have to watch the people of this society. I listened to Senator Laurie today. Twice we have had Resolutions in this Parliament where Government sought to continue developments from the point of saving in the cost of infrastructure and Senator Laurie opposed them. In this particular case he is opposing taking out the land from Cottage and Groves, but he did not say that it was not under the Barbados Labour Party that Cottage and Groves were cut up and sold out. If you have two areas which are developed and you have a small one in the centre, what is wrong with taking out that as well?

Senator Laurie said a strange thing. He said that the Ministry of Agriculture refers these matters to the BAS and that the BAS recommends what should come out and what should not come out.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I said on the particular case, on that particular application with Cottage. In fact, we have not received one since.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: That makes it more interesting. Why should the Ministry of Agriculture refer this particular area, Cottage, to the BAS? Because the BAS is one of the most hypocritical organisations in Barbados. I can talk because I know a lot. The BAS is the most hypocritical body when it comes to agriculture in this country. This is what I want to find out.

Why should you have to refer a particular application to the BAS? But you know he is the President and there are a lot of things he should say when he talks about that one. Talk about the others and what they recommended.

But you heard Senator Laurie today say that the land west of Highway 2A will come out of agriculture. That is a strange statement to make and that tells you what the thoughts are. That is why I wonder why Agriculture should refer land applications to the BAS, when the President declared that all the land west of Highway 2A should come out of agriculture. While the Government is acquiring land at St. George to improve the quality of life of the average citizen, the former Government approved the Westmoreland Project to house the rich and the famous. A large hotel on the west coast has bought a lot of that land. All the houses at Westmoreland have been sold already and the smallest one cost \$1 million. People can get mortgages for million dollar houses when Bajans living abroad cannot get a mortgage unless they put up two-thirds. You talk about housing...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, make it clear to whom you are referring.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: With all due respect, not the President. I mean Senator Laurie. He said all the land west of Highway 2A will come out of agriculture, and you look and see what is happening and who is buying the million dollar houses. There is a story of a man who flew in from England, went to a certain bank and told them he had a list of people who would come and rent those houses and he got a million dollar house on the first day. He went back up and called the others and they came and got through as well. Ask which Government waived the conditions for this to happen. There is nobody in Cottage who would even get \$500 000 if they wanted it, but they do not want more than \$50 000 or \$60 000, so when you release all the land west of Highway 2A now you see where the BAS and the rest are going. You will not talk about what is happening on the west coast and realise all of that. When I was a little boy we used to refer to that area as the Gold Coast.

Sir, there are some other things we have to look at. I heard the Minister in introducing this speak about the infrastructure. Infrastructure, in my view, means roads, water, lights, telephone, *et cetera*, but I want to know now what is the Government doing about the bad roads in Barbados over the last few months.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: These are not pot holes, these are deliberate holes dug by contractors to utility companies. I understand one of the utility companies brought somebody from St. Vincent into

the same St. George, and I would like Government to tell the country what it is costing motorists in this country in terms of defective vehicles as a result of holes that are being left all across the road in this country. I know you must have development, I know you must have progress, but there is no reason why every day and every night somebody breaks a spring or damages a wheel because the roads are being cut up left, right and centre and nothing is being done. You could not do it in any other country.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Cottage in St. George. Exactly! The worst part is in St. George. Go down to St. James or up to St. Philip and you will see. I understand, because I spoke to somebody a few days ago, that they even ignored the Chief Technical Officer at MTW when he complained about how the work is being done. I understand now the Prime Minister is to step in, but I hope the Honourable Prime Minister will also make some sort of compensatory provision for those persons who suffer damage as a result of the cutting up of the highway by these contractors and leaving them open at night. Somebody is going to be seriously injured as a result of the negligent – it is pure negligence – work of these contractors. I cannot see if they have to cut a road why they cannot put a blinking light to warn motorists that the road has been cut up.

2.15 p.m.

Somebody says it is what you call the Dems' blinking thinking? Sir, when we get back we must get back to the Resolution and as the Minister said there are two cart roads leading into this area and I am glad to see that Government is acquiring the land and I am glad to see that people who will live eventually on that land will have proper access and egress to the land not as used to be done before. People used to live in back villages, in tenancies where you had to carry 2 pairs of shoes to get out on the main road.

All I am saying is that I rise to support the Resolution but in supporting this Resolution I want Government as well as looking at housing to look at the development of the infrastructure and make sure that the general population does not suffer while it is helping one set of people and the other set of people should not suffer.

Senator Bernstein spoke about releasing land and that we should go to high-rise houses. I believe Senator Bernstein has good intentions and it sounds like a good suggestion but, unfortunately, Senator Bernstein works in Swan Street. He should come and work in the Courts or knock around the Courts or go back a little further and ask people who know. I have worked in the Courts in Barbados since 1964. I can tell you of the numerous disputes that

have ended up in courts from the first high-rise houses that were built by Government in the Pine. We had one family living over the next and there wasn't a day that two families were not in court quarreling. Don't think that it is only people who live in the Pine because that is the first thought that runs through everybody's head, but I can tell you go back and check and you will see that when we used to put people to live in houses around the Garrison Savannah who came from England and elsewhere that they used to quarrel with one another every night and they were living in high-rise houses.

I lived in Britain and people in Britain in two and three-story houses quarrel with one another for keeping noise upstairs. So high-rise houses is a culture. You have to be born and brought up in that culture and you will have to train people specifically. Again, if Barbados wants to maintain the sort of environment we have and not become a concrete jungle it doesn't make sense our talking about housing people in high-rises at all because we will change the whole face of this country and then again it brings us to another aspect of maintaining land for agriculture.

Most of the lands which were pulled out of agriculture and sold for housing was done because of debts which were incurred by the owners. I think we need to have a different agricultural policy if you want to stop people seeking to remove land from agriculture into housing. If you are working in agriculture you will find you have good days and bad days. When things are good, agriculture will flow. The moment things get hard and bad, people will stop agriculture and they will try to dispose of the land to get out of the debts they are in.

I think those are the factors that we have to bear in mind when we talk about plantations being removed into housing. All in all, Government will continually in this country have to acquire land and it can only be plantation land to house the people of this country. Don't tell me no. You will say no because you don't know any different. Senator Laurie does not understand what he is talking. It is the expert agriculturalists who don't understand agriculture in this country because this is one country that we have not got any Crown lands. So where is the land going to come from? This is the only country, one of the few in the world that you can think of, that has got no Crown land. Every square foot of land that is owned by Government in Barbados the Government has had to buy from somebody. There is nothing called Crown land. It has to come from plantations. Where is it to come from? Who will you acquire it from?

The Honourable Senator does not understand what it means by Crown land. He is asking how much Crown land is being used. That is their problem. You criticise Government for acquiring lands from a plantation but you understand that Government has to buy it from somewhere because it never had Crown lands, and if you look at the

history of Barbados, Barbados was given away. From the time it was discovered it was given away to people and the land was always owned by somebody other than the Crown.

We have to look carefully when we discuss acquisition of land and what we are talking about. Then as one of the speakers just said you have a Zone 1, Zone 2 *et cetera* which you cannot build on. So we will still end up with a certain amount of agricultural land but we have to be reasonable when we talk about acquisition of land and the purposes for which those lands are acquired.

Now we come to the payment. I have to differ with my fellow Senator about money voted for payment for acquisitions. Unfortunately, money that was voted, that was not used, in civil service terms "lapses", and is there no more. It does not go into a land acquisition fund and build up so that when the time to pay you get payment. Once it lapses in that year it is no more and you will find that there comes a time for payment and the office will tell you we are waiting for a cheque to be cleared. It is not a question of payment as soon as you are ready and there are several areas where people are still waiting for money and cannot be paid so I think that is one area where Government has to look at, I would beg to suggest that if Government is going to vote \$4 million this year for land acquisition it creates a fund and put that money in the fund so that when the difficulties in acquiring the proper title are overcome the money is available to pay those who are entitled to that money.

Another question raised was crediting rents to the purchase of houses. I think the Barbados Labour Party has always done that. Bay Land is one of the areas where for years the people in Bay Land have been asking to own their own houses. Now that they are transferring them, there are several people who only had to pay legal fees to get their title deeds. The rents have been credited to the value of the property. So this is no new problem of asking to credit the rent to the purchase of houses.

2.25 p.m.

Then you have to remember something too. One of the things you have to remember is that there are a lot of people who go into Government houses and build massive houses and rent them out at high rents, and would not move out of the Government houses. We have to determine whether or not Government is going to provide houses for the needy or houses as an investment vehicle for persons who can afford better. That is the thing we have to look at.

Then you are going to find a lot of people who can afford to go out and acquire a decent mortgage will come and get a Government house at a small rent, with big salaries, accumulate the money, build houses, let those

houses out, and still live in the Government house and then claim to buy the Government house at a reduced cost which is really financed by the taxpayers of this country. Those are the factors we have to look at.

It might sound easy, but I know the Government will have to take a serious look at all the various philosophies which are being put forward when it comes to housing in this country.

Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I rise to make a few statements. I did not plan to speak on this, but I am speaking simply because of the way the debate has been coming through to me as a Senator in this Chamber.

I support both housing development and agricultural development. It seems as though there is a disagreement within this Chamber as to whether or not this is agricultural land or land which would be better in housing than in agriculture.

I would like to suggest, Mr. President, that when resolutions for the compulsory acquisition of properties or lands are submitted to this Chamber, that a little map be submitted with them. It has been done. We have the technology here. Town and Country Planning has all the maps and it should not be very difficult. It is done in other places and it can easily be done so that we know exactly what we are talking about, so that we could follow the debate more intelligently.

I do thank Senator Goddard for trying to enlighten us or for trying to put forward the land use policy of the present administration. Mr. President, what I would like to see, not only that this is put forward to this Senate, but also to the public and that the public be educated as to what the land use policy of this administration is, how they acquire lands, why they acquire lands, what proportion they want to keep in agriculture, *et cetera, et cetera*. We need both. As Senator Goddard said, there has to be a balance between them so that when these Resolutions come to this Chamber it would be a bit more clear cut than this Resolution.

Mr. President, I would also like to comment on the need for the various Government agencies to get together. I mean Town and Country Planning, Community Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and Surveys. The Government has the resources. They are there, but they need to be more involved in inter and intra-sectorial collaboration. So that by the time these resolutions reach the Senate we will have a clear picture of what is to take place.

Also, Mr. President, in the area of community development. I have been hearing different positions today, and I do not have a clear picture in my mind's eye about the position regarding this land and the tennis court, *et cetera, et cetera*. What I would like to say, Mr. President, is that there is the Community Development Division which was set up in order to be involved in community involvement. That division was set up with people who are trained in specialist areas of helping communities to develop and grow. I do not get the impression that they are fully utilised when it comes to changing the land use policy of different lands, or when it comes to developing the various communities.

I would like to make an appeal to the authorities to use those community development resources in order to consolidate the community rather than have the divisions within the community. We all have to live together. We all have to try and live with each other. We had the same problem with the school last week, now we are having it with the land today which tells me, Mr. President, that there is a lack of community involvement. There might be lack of communication, but there is a lack of community involvement in what is happening. Maybe we need to get back to the old-fashioned town meetings where you can have meetings either in the church or in the schools, so that the residents of the community could meet and know what is going on and give their various contributions to the development of their community.

Mr. President, I would like to see that each community see the school as part of their community, or even see the tennis court or the housing development as part of the community, so that we will be able to develop, grow and increase productivity.

I would like to say a word or two about sky scrapers. It has been proven by sociologists that this is not the best method of housing. It leads to isolation, especially with the aged, when they cannot get down the stairs and mix with the people.

As far as I can remember, the various administrations had a policy, I think 3 storeys, I cannot remember how many. They will allow various persons to build so many storeys and no more.

It has also been proven that people who live in high-rise buildings do not get enough sunlight coming into their homes, in tropical countries as well. Mr. President, all of them are not facing the sun. If you have big high-rise buildings, there are different divisions in the building. So, one really needs to look at the various research and developments, because there is no need to create high-rise buildings and then increase the health problems of this

country and putting a burden on our health care services, including our nurses. So we need to look in those areas of development and see if these various agencies cannot come together.

Mr. President, in 1996 I think we have reached the stage where we have given a lot of Fellowships to architects and there are several of them in the country. I think we have reached the stage where we need to have a bit of legislation for the registration of these architects. Also, we need to use these architects in Town and Country Planning in the development and the planning of our various buildings. There are so many of them that the prices should not be out of reach and the country could benefit from the education of these various persons in the area of architecture. That should assist us in our housing and agricultural development, for that matter.

Mr. President, I would also like to say a word about the land tax and the compulsory acquisition of land. I am speaking from experience. It is not as simple as it has been put forward to us. I have experience at Batts Rock where the land was taken up, not acquired, the stakes disappeared and the work put back. However, it means that once the land has been taken up and a road made for the benefit of the public that those residents who own the land, who are not asking for compensation but who would like at least to have the various line marks put back because what has happened, Mr. President, is that individual persons have put line marks but they have put them in different places than they were before. I feel that once the Government is acquiring land I think they should get their surveyors and make sure that they put back the line marks where they should be so that individual surveyors do not come up with different places to put line marks and cause all sorts of disputes.

2.35 p.m.

I support housing, Mr. President, and because of the way the debate has been going I have no choice but to support this Resolution. I must say that I do not support taking land unnecessarily out of agriculture for the building of housing. I hope that in future Resolutions it would be a bit clearer to us who are not so knowledgeable about the various political implications and the various communities so we can make intelligent contributions to the debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution, especially since I note the social implications of the action which Government is taking on behalf of the people of Barbados, especially those people who live in the districts around this particular plantation.

Sir, we know that whenever we encroach on agricultural land there is going to be some outcry from those with a vested interest in agriculture and we respect

them for coming to the defence of agriculture. One can only lament the fact that when Wakefield Plantation in St. John was cut up, and when Cottage was cut up originally, and when the Belle and Ashford were cut up that these same voices were not as strident in their condemnation of the actions of Government. Sir, we are conscious of our obligations with regard to the integrity of our agricultural land and Government is taking its obligation very seriously because we all know the importance of food security and we all know that for lots of reasons we have to make sure that there is enough arable land in order for agriculture to be sustained and be sustainable.

Sir, what worries me also is that those who are criticising Government for taking up 17 acres of land, are not chiding their brothers for keeping thousands of acres of good agricultural land idle in the hope that an administration may come in place which would allow them to speculate on that land. There is enough idle land in Barbados that we can significantly increase our agricultural production but what is happening is that people are using land for speculative reasons.

In this case, Sir, at Cottage and Groves we are using land not only to provide housing for people but to improve the conditions of other people in and around the area so to me that makes sense because there are some houses already there, so by making this acquisition you can improve the services to those people who are already there because it does not make sense to move those that are already there. You have to make sure that the conditions under which they live are enhanced.

Sir, while I respect people for talking about change of land use, that is important, at the same time, you cannot have a blanket policy which says that you can never touch agricultural land. You cannot have that sort of policy. Each application must be taken on merit. This Government will not allow speculation to take place as was rampant under the last Administration. We are not going to allow that to happen.

Sir, our record in the past bears testimony to the fact that we respect our obligation to work our agricultural land in Barbados. Sir, I am not going to sit idly by and allow anybody to accuse us of these things when the evidence point to the contrary. If we have to encroach on agricultural land to improve the lot of our people, then we will encroach on it. It is as simple as that. If we have to take up 17 acres of land to improve the lot of the people, well then, we make no apology because people must come first.

Sir, I want the Barbados Agricultural Society to encourage people to use the land they have because as we drive around the country we see thousands of acres of arable land that not so long ago was producing vegetables, cane and whatever for our people that are now lying idle.

Sir, while I am on that point, when I hear the DLP talking about land use, we need to look at the facts. The fact of the matter is that the Democratic Labour Party has almost single-handedly destroyed agriculture in Barbados. That is a historical fact. The point is whenever they are in power sugar production and as a consequence agricultural production goes into serious decline, and it is a statistical fact.

Sir, if you would look at the *Annual Statistical Digest* put out by the Central Bank of Barbados it will show that when the Democratic Labour Party took power in 1986, almost 14 000 hectares of land was under sugar production and by the time they left in 1994 it was down to 8.6 thousand hectares of land. Within those disastrous 8 years we had about a 40 per cent decline in the amount of land under sugar production.

Sir, I note carefully that Senator Mascoll was chiding me, even although I did not speak, for saying that...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, are you making a point of order? Well, I do not expect to hear you then.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I was chided for saying that sugar is only 2 per cent of GDP and the Senator is saying that you have to look at things like the spinoffs and all that. I take that point but if he is saying that sugar is so important to the economy then why is it they have allowed sugar to decline to the extent that it did when it was almost a deliberate policy of theirs to reduce sugar production? Do not forget, Sir, when we left office 111 000 tonnes were produced in 1986 before the change of Government and by their actions it was down to 50 000 in 1994 and even less in 1995 so I do not want to hear them talking about sugar because their record is appalling.

Sir, an interesting fact came out of this debate, and I want to remark on it, where Senator Mascoll is clapping himself on the back for the 1986 policy because, as he said, it allowed people to build 8-bedroom houses. That is the policy of the Democratic Labour Party. They are more interested in people being able to build 8-bedroom houses. Sir, what we have is a Government whose social conscience is so warped that they refused to build houses for the poor and working people but put in place a policy for people to build 8-bedroom houses. Sir the record is that in 8 years they have only built one housing area in Church Village, St. Philip and, Sir, to make matters worse the rent they charge for those units put them out of the reach of a significant amount of people in Barbados. Sir, I am told the rent is around \$90.00 a week when the average maid can barely make that in wages. Sir, that is their housing policy, 8-bedroom houses and the needy in our society, not a

house was built for them, knowing that in Barbados there will always be need for the State to provide houses for a certain section of the community. All they did was to allow people to build 8-bedroom houses and at the same time not catering to the need of those who are less fortunate and not able to go to the private market and access funds.

2.45 p.m.

That, Sir, is the housing policy as stated by the Honourable Member that allowed people to build 8-bedroom houses. That, Sir, is why there is a great divide between the two parties because since we came in, Sir, contrary to what the Honourable Senator said, we made sure that the people in Maynards, St. Peter got housing and at the same time we started the project at Pondsides which the Democratic Labour Party came in and found and refused to execute. That, Sir, is a fact. We are saying that any time you talk about urban renewal there has to be a housing component. Sir, we are making sure that the people in the City have access to modern housing facilities. Sir, we are determined to fulfil the housing needs of the people of this country and this is yet another example of our commitment in this regard. So the mouthings of the Opposition will not deflect us from our goal and our commitment.

So, Sir, we can support this Resolution on this side with our eyes shut. Our aim is not to allow people to build 8-bedroom houses. We know, Sir, there are people out there in the community who have to depend on Government to fulfil their housing needs. Sir, they do not require 8 bedroom houses nor do they require tennis courts. All they are asking for, Sir, is for Government to put in place mechanisms where they can own their own homes and improve themselves and look after their families.

If we are to be castigated for that then we will be castigated but we will make sure that the people of this country get the best that is going. So all the empty carpings of Senator Mascoll will not deflect us from that resolve. So I support the Resolution and I will call on Senator Laurie to tell his agricultural friends that the Government is not going to allow the whole of the western part of Highway 2A to go to agriculture because there are some good plantations down there, Bennetts, Molyneux and others. If they are thinking that Government is going to easily give them a change of use, they have other thoughts coming because we intend to maintain the integrity we have.

We have the situation, Sir, where Senator Laurie is castigating Government concerning 70 acres of land at Cottage and Groves but he wants to take hundreds of acres of land on the western side of Highway 2A. It does not make sense.

Sir, according to the letter that Senator Mascoll quoted from. Sir, we were hearing that it is a secret letter and all of a sudden now we are hearing that it is the letter from Mr. Iglesias which we all know was made a document in this Honourable Chamber. Everybody got a copy of the letter from Mr. Iglesias as well as the contract between the IADB and the Government so I do not know what secret document he is talking about. He is talking about a document which is a document of this Honourable Chamber. I do not understand this secret document. It is secret because he is now reading it for the first time.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, it is not in order to raise your hand and display a document.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, there are no secret documents. Everything has been laid in this Honourable Chamber and our land use policy is known because it is a document which was given to every Senator in this Honourable Chamber. Sir, I wish he would stop talking about this secret document. The only secret is the quality of his contribution. It is a secret because he has not made it yet.

Sir, our land use policy is clear, clear and open and above board and the fact about the economic use of land is important because it can be argued, Sir, that the country has benefitted. For example, Sandy Lane was once in sugar but you can argue now that the benefits the country get by going into tourism far outweigh that which we would have got if it had stayed in sugar so we have to make these rational decisions and we are not going to go the road of a former Prime Minister when he said he did not want to see any cane blades because, Sir, we dismiss that as foolishness. At the same time, Sir, our land use policy has got to be reasonable and guided by common sense because, Sir, there are going to be more demands on our land and we have to sit down and rationally decide on the best use of what is a limited resource.

Sir, we have to make those decisions. They are not going to please everybody but any Government has to sit down and make these sorts of decisions and we are thankful, Sir, that Senator Laurie will come and put a different point of view. We appreciate that but at the same time, I will repeat what I said earlier, before he comes in here and talk about land use let him get his agriculturists who have the land lying idle to use it and then, Sir, we will respect him for the way he talks. He cannot have acres of idle land lying down and quarreling because 17 acres go to improve the lives of citizens of Barbados. What is important is that this land is going to improve the lives of hundreds of people in Barbados. The decision then to take this land out of agriculture is a good decision because it enhances the quality of life of the people in that area.

I have no problem Sir, because I remember when Cottage was first allowed to subdivide I was one of those who opened my voice in protest. If you look at my speech you will see that there is a consistency in it. This is not going to affect us realising 75 000 tonnes of sugar in a couple years after a situation where the Dems have ruined sugar. We are still committed to that and we are on the way. I am sure that Senator Laurie, when he is more rational, would applaud the Government. So, Sir, with those words I want to support this Resolution and commend it to this Honourable Chamber.
2.55 p.m

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I believe the debate on this Resolution has been quite extensive and interesting and I believe that the Honourable Senator Barker who just spoke has adequately brought the debate to a good point on which all that is required for me to do is to 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. 2 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SALE OF LAND
AT HAMLETS TENANTRY, HINDSBURY ROAD,
ST. MICHAEL TO KASIM PATEL

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Honourable Senate is being sought for the sale of land at Dr. Hamlets Land, Hindsbury Road, St. Michael to Mr. Kasim Patel for the sum of \$11 900. This is being sought subject to Section 5 of the Crown Lands Vested and Disposal Act, Cap. 225.

The basis of this matter, Sir, is that the number of lots in question are owned by the Government and a number of them are rented to tenants. Lot 24 which is the lot in question which contains some 2 600 square feet or thereabouts is adjacent to Lot 23 which is currently occupied by Mr. Patel. Lot 24 which is the subject of the Resolution here, Sir, had been tenanted up to 1992 when the house was vacated and subsequently went into a state of ruin. All the lots in that particular neighborhood are extremely small. We will recognize the housing lot of approximately 2 500 square feet is extremely small. In addition, the complicated factor was that Mr. Patel's lot had a very narrow frontage and in fact the distance his existing property at Lot 23 and the house in disrepair at Lot 24 was a distance of some 3 or 4 feet. Mr. Patel sometime ago applied to the Government for permission to purchase the land so that his house which is also a wooden house will become in a not so state of disrepair and be improved and converted into a concrete dwelling. Basically, it was

agreed that Mr. Patel be allowed to purchase Lot 24, which as I said is adjacent to his Lot 23. The two lots together would only come to what is now a small average size lot just around 5 000 square feet and would allow him to improve his particular situation. The price as indicated by the Commissioner of Land Tax for Lot 24 will be \$11 900 and the Senate's approval is being sought for the sale of this lot to Mr. Kasim Patel.

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. 3 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF
LAND AT EDEN LODGE, ST. MICHAEL TO
THE SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF BARBADOS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move this Resolution through this Honourable Chamber which basically seeks to make provision for the new lease agreement on land which is occupied by the SOROPTIMIST Senior Citizens Village located at Eden Lodge, St. Michael. You will be aware that the SOROPTIMIST Club of Barbados which is part of the SOROPTIMIST International movement had sometime as far back as 1970 embarked on the first phase of this project which provides for a residential compound for senior citizens as well as an activity center which provides for some day-care and recreational activities for senior citizens was constructed on land which was leased by the Government at Eden Lodge through funding which was raised by public donations as well as donations by various international organizations. I want to indicate, Sir, that this is not a new project. This is basically a renewal of an existing lease. What is significant though is that Members will notice that the last lease which was signed still had an unexpired period. However, the Soroptimists are interested in expanding the project onto the second phase for which purpose they require additional financing. The persons proposing to provide the financing however are not prepared to provide financing on a project for which repayment period is longer than the period remaining in the existing lease. Therefore, as part of the proposal for the new lease, the Soroptimists will surrender its interest in the unexpired term of the existing lease and embark on the new lease for a period of 50 years with a fixed rental of \$100.00 per annum.

3.05 p.m.

Sir, it would be remiss of me not to laud the contributions of organisations such as the Soroptimist, but in this particular case it has been recognised by all and it has been the subject of comment on several occasions in

this Chamber that Barbados' population profile really reflects that of an aging population. The fact is that because of the improvements in the quality of life in Barbados many years have been added to the life of the ordinary citizen, but what is important is that mechanisms and programmes be put in place to add some more life to those years, and it is really through the efforts of private voluntary groups, such as the Soroptimist, that that particular objective is best achieved.

There is clearly a limit on what a Government can do in terms of providing activities which would, as I said, add life to the years. The Government's primary responsibility would be in ensuring that the quality of health care and its general social, economic and political environment is such that years are added to the life, that is, you have a longer life span.

The present scale of the project, for example, which provides 25 residential care units, allows for persons who are now in the twilight of their years to be able to live that period out whilst enjoying the camaraderie of persons in similar circumstances. We all recognise, at whatever stage of life we may happen to be at one time or another, the importance of peer support. We all have the situation where our children, in spite of how young we feel, think that we are old and they no longer want to be with us, they want to be with people of their age group. We also have the reverse situation where persons who reach their most mature years will want to be able to share their time, their hobbies, their thoughts and feelings with persons in their age group as well, and I believe that the opportunity which is provided by this residential setting, the 25 units, does just that.

But it is recognised, Sir, that because of the vast numbers of the aged in our population a residential care facility catering for 25 is not enough, and I believe the fact of the matter is that one organisation having done it and proved that it can be done, will really serve as an impetus for other organisations to do such.

In addition to the residential component, there is also the Senior Citizens Activity Centre which provides at least twice a week for the senior citizens activities including dancing and training in various hobby and craft areas which have both a recreational component as well as potential for supplementing the smaller incomes which one can associate with senior citizens. But that particular component for those persons who may not need residential care, who are very much able physically to take care of themselves or have their families take care of them within the setting of the home, also need that social activity.

I believe this example was raised here in the Senate already on another occasion, where it was found that some elderly people preferred to go to the Post Office to

collect their pension cheques rather than have the pensions deposited in a bank of their choice. I believe it was Senator Bolden who observed this phenomenon. It was not that the elderly folk were distrustful of the banks or that they did not know how to use ATM cards, but rather that the action of going to the Post Office on a particular day to collect their pensions was not one which was done in isolation but was really part of an orchestrated plan by groups of persons who would have known one another for many a year and for whom that visit to the Post Office on a given day represented one of the few opportunities which they had to meet and greet their friends and exchange news and views on topical issues. I believe they engaged in debate on matters similar to what attracts our attention here in this Honourable Chamber, and in fact I believe that their debate is probably longer, more vigorous, and in many cases more informed than ours.

But the fact of the matter is that we cannot ignore the fact that it is simply not enough for us to concentrate on ensuring that our senior citizens are provided for in terms of their physical comforts, but that opportunities must be provided for social interaction with these persons, and in that context the Soroptimist must be lauded for having that Senior Citizens Activity Centre as a component of their project.

There are many other activities undertaken by this organisation and several of its kind which I would not bother to mention at this point, but I just want the record to reflect my appreciation for the actions of these private voluntary, usually non-profit, entities which really serve a very useful role in the society. They provide the opportunity for the very best of what it means to be a citizen, to be a partaker and to be a general part of the society to be displayed by each and every one of our people. As I say, Sir, the difference between these organisations and Government is that whilst persons by way of their general contribution through taxation are able to provide funding for support of a number of Government projects, what that does is that it tends to alienate people to some extent. It tends not to provide for the opportunity for persons to give of themselves. On the other hand, Sir, through organisations like the Soroptimist and other service clubs, individuals are able to direct of their own free will and accord sums of money, they are able to direct their other skills and resources to projects of their choice, and I believe that through that private voluntary contribution the society is able to benefit from those who have, giving freely to those who are less fortunate at any point in time.

With those few comments, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution which seeks to provide for the lease of land at Eden Lodge, St. Michael to the Soroptimist International for the continuation of this very important senior citizens activity do now pass.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: In supporting this Resolution, Sir, I would like to spend a few minutes on the very good work done by these women of Barbados, a club formed in 1962 with such lofty and noble aims and objectives as the sincerity of friendship, the joy of achievement and the dignity of service. I believe that is the motto of the club, a very noble motto. But this club first started out doing work with the youth of Barbados in a programme with the YWCA of Barbados assisting young women in developing skills in the areas to which many Barbadian clubs catered to at the time, cake making and things of that nature.

3.15 p.m.

They are also involved in offering scholarships to young people in Barbados. It started focussing on the youth of this country and then the members of this organisation developed an interest in the elderly having done some work with the young people and as individuals they would go out to the homes of elderly people and offer assistance within these homes. I was told by members of the club that it is as a result of these visits that they decided that they would embark on a special programme for the elderly, especially when on one occasion a member fell through the flooring of one of these elderly people. They recognised the need to cater to people who are humble people and who needed to enjoy some reasonable kind of living in Barbados.

The club went about to try to get other service organisations in Barbados to assist in their project which would cater to the elderly without any success. They therefore decided that they, the members of the Soroptimist Club, would embark on this particular project for the elderly. At that time when they approached Government they were fortunate enough to have a Soroptimist who was a member of Parliament in Gertrude Eastmond and she persuaded the Government of the day to lease this area that we are now debating to the Soroptimist Club of Barbados for that village which is in addition to a Senior Citizens' Village and has a multipurpose centre. This village was started in 1978. So I think we all ought to laud that woman, that senior member of Parliament, who at the time insisted that there was need for this kind of village.

Sir, I think at this time we need to laud the foresight of the women of Barbados because this type of care has been offered over the years in the more developed countries, and I believe there is none of this kind in the region. Even in some developed countries, the Soroptimist Village of Barbados is seen as a model. As the Leader of Government Business stated, at the compound it is intended to house 25 units. At present there are only 10. They were hoping that all the assistance they need will be granted even by way of Government in order for the members of Soroptimist Club to complete those other 15 units at the Village. I have had the privilege of attending the

function for the senior citizens there to watch them at exercise, doing their aerobics, to sit and enjoy them telling their stories – they do tell the folklore of Barbados – to see them doing their handwork and of course to go to exhibitions and purchase of their work.

In addition to recreation, it is therapeutic because some of them suffer from arthritis and it is good that they can have enjoyment at which they can use not only their skills but they can actually flex their muscles and use their joints. These things will keep them active and they are not committed to an institution.

This particular project has been on an extremely sophisticated level in that they have had a gerontologist there unlike many other homes which cater for the elderly. They have had very professional help in the club and I want to laud them for that also.

I think why this particular matter should be of special importance to us in Barbados is because we recognise the impact of aging on our population and the need for us to cater to the aged. I really don't like the thought that as soon as our parents and grandparents become a ripe age we dump them in institutions and treat them worse than animals. I hope that the men in Barbados will take an example from the women and go about trying to raise funds to cater for the aged men of this country of very humble means who need also to enjoy this kind of living.

The Democratic Labour Party Government, recognising the good work of the Soroptimists in this Village, decided that it would embark on a project of this model and certain provisions were made for a Senior Citizens Village at Vauxhall in Christ Church and in the 1994 Manifesto it says that the infra structural work was carried out for 26 senior citizens' units at Vauxhall in Christ Church and a proposal was made that the Senior Citizens Village at Vauxhall would be completed and Government was also exploring the possibility of developing a similar project in one of the Eastern parishes such as St. Philip, St. John or St. Joseph.

So the former Administration recognised the importance of having elderly citizens housed in this kind of environment where they not only relate to people of their own age but the young people can come in and interact and interface with them. I think this is something that this Administration should also pay very careful attention to, especially at a time when we are trying to attract Barbadians to return home. Returning residents coming from very developed countries have already been exposed to this level of service. I think it is only reasonable and fair that if we are attracting Barbadians to return that we should aim to bring to them that value added service. In addition to having their monies come home in savings and in

investments I think we owe it to them to provide for them the kind of facilities which will allow them to enjoy their retirement and their age in comfort in this Barbados which they have helped to build.

The former Administration was attempting to move away from institutional care and trying to have the aged looked after within their communities and their homes and I believe in this Senate we have already discussed the Home Help Programme. I am hoping that the Government can extend this programme even more to make sure that we can really offer that individual care and attention which the elderly need.

We can do nothing to turn the clock back. Over the years we have boasted of the quality of our health care service and now what we have to deal with is a result of that good health care. We have prolonged the lives of Barbadians and we have to make sure that the remaining years can be good years, that they will not just get old and die but that they will get old and live in peace and comfort and enjoy their old age.

The Soroptimists are not only involved in this senior citizens regime. There is a special programme for young women at Summervale. I don't know if many Barbadians are aware that over the years Soroptimists have been training the young women at Summervale certain skills and it is a type of finishing programme, an attempt to rehabilitate them and prepare them for their return to the society. I believe they ought to be lauded at this very important effort.

They have also been doing work for the young men at Dodds. The classes which they offer in cake icing and crafts and skills were offered not only to the young women at Summervale but to the young men at Dodds and I believe that we should not spare the moment to congratulate and compliment the Soroptimist women of Barbados for their work in that area.

3.25 p.m.

Mr. President in supporting the Resolution, I really want to draw attention to the work of the Soroptimist, and I would like to appeal to Government, since Government has recognised the importance of this work, to restore the subvention to the Soroptimist Club of Barbados and in whatever way possible to facilitate the completion of this village for the elderly. Recognising that we need a few more in Barbados, I would also like to appeal to other service clubs.

The Life Underwriters Association of Barbados has already pledged. There is a covenant there for the Soroptimist Club of Barbados. Over the past 5 years or so we have sponsored a Christmas party for the elderly

there, but nevertheless, the Life Underwriters Association of Barbados now have a covenant with the Soroptimist Club of Barbados. I would like to choose this occasion to appeal to other service clubs and Members of Parliament who have some resources to make some available to the members of this club in order that they can continue this very noble work.

I, Sir, laud the work of the Soroptimist Club, and I do not hesitate to support this Resolution.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I rise to give my fullest support to this Resolution and just to raise a few comments, although most of them have been very thoroughly covered by the Leader of Government Business and by Senator Thompson.

What I would like to highlight is the need for all of us in here, and society at large, to take more of a strong interest in groups such as the Soroptimist and other service clubs that deal with improving the quality of life for Barbadians of all ages.

Now, the Senior Citizens Village at Eden Lodge really touches my heart. I spent a day there about a year and a half ago, and it was Mothers Day. A lot of the ladies who go there felt abandoned by going there. I am speaking specifically to the activities centre. We are very careful not to call it a Day Care Centre because it is really an activities centre. As the Leader of Government pointed out, they really do get involved in a lot of activities which really rejuvenate them and make them feel whole and wanted.

The day I spent was particularly rewarding. The group with which I went have every intention of going again. We took the opportunity, it was Mothers Day, to do a beautification project with the ladies. To this day, one of the ladies whenever she wants to have a little boost, calls me up and I take her down to my work place and do a number on her. She is now 85 years old. She shared with me that before she started to attend the activities centre she really felt out of it. She felt that life was not worth living, even though she used to see her children from time to time. What an impact it has made on her life!

Any of us who were present at one of the functions at Ilaro Court sometime in the not too distant past would have seen this same 85 year old lady doing one of the dances that they learnt up at the Soroptimist Village. It really makes me feel good. I know that one day we are all going to get there, and I would like to think that there will be something in place such as this that I, too, can turn to. My mother has already said, "Look, when I come back from visiting my sister overseas, see if you can get a place in there for me."

Whilst a lot of senior citizens are still able to move around, and you have to be able to move around yourself to live in this Soroptimist Village, there is a certain measure of loneliness that takes place once your children are grown and you may have lost your loved one, your spouse. This is one of the things that the Soroptimist Village caters to, those who may be homeless, to the lonely and to the neglected for one reason or the other. Sometimes neglect is not intentional.

As we spoke in this Chamber before, where your families moved into the heights and terraces, sometimes the parents are forgotten, which I think is a very sad and bad thing. I do not believe that we are ever to forget from whence we came, who brought us into this world, and who we can always lean on for support.

The payment in these units is very reasonable and therefore makes it affordable for most people. One of the members of the club shared with me that there was even an instance where there was an individual who could not quite meet it and their pension cheque, as facilitated by the Welfare Department, went through to help them finish paying that on a monthly basis. That I think is to be commended also.

So, perhaps, it would be worth our while, because we are well aware that we have not enough, at this stage, facilities like this, but other facilities where senior citizens could benefit too. Maybe this is a plea where the Welfare Department could, perhaps, look at facilitating a lot of those sisters who are now homeless on the street and have nowhere to go, although I must share that some of them are happier out there. I quite cannot understand why, but that is another problem we would have to address.

One of the Senators in here was saying we need to create such a facility like the activity centre for gentlemen also. The Soroptimist Village is not only for women. It is for any senior citizen. You have to be the age of 55 to have access there, and you must be ambulatory.

The whole idea of a village such as this, and any others that will be developed in Barbados over the next few years, will also lend a measure of security to these senior citizens, because it is no mean thing for an old person to live alone when we think about the security aspect as things have developed in Barbados in recent years. There is safety in numbers, I do feel. The layout of this particular village, there is security lighting, there is fencing all around which lends a definite measure of security.

Should this lease pass in here today, and I am quite certain that it will, it will give the Soroptimist the ability to do further developments to the village. They are looking at adding an administrative block. This is in the future.

With our help and the help of all other people interested in developing a society in Barbados, whatever we can contribute, they can establish an administrative block where perhaps they could have a live-in couple who would man the administrative block and still lend that measure of security again, at night where the seniors could call on them should the need arise.

The telephone system there is such that it is linked so that the residents can reach each other, even though they do live in their individual units as single or couple units. Of course there would always be the need for a security guard. In this day and age, I think we need to have a guard in person as well as in fence, and security lights *et cetera*.

As Senator Thompson said, it is not cheap to maintain this. The subvention that they used to have was severed in the 1990's during the recession. I would really want to see this returned to them and even perhaps increased. At the time it was \$2 000 per year. I would like to put in a bid, if there could be an increase in that figure, to render assistance to this very worthy cause.

The taxes also on this particular project are in the region of \$14 000 annually. These monies are all paid out of the rents paid to the Soroptimist for the rental of these units, whatever funds they are able to raise on an individual basis as a club and donations from friendly and other organisations. It would really help if this subvention could be returned, and we could all play our part in trying to assist in this area.

I would want to commend the Soroptimist on this effort and urge all other service clubs to do similarly. There are other service clubs that deal with youth in the society, but that is one of the clubs that I am associated with. We too would need to look at creating an environment where we may also be able to lease a piece of land or a building. We have our eyes on a location where we would be able to further do our work with the young people in the society.

As things are at the moment, when we want to do a project with a lot of young people, we go to them in their communities. Often it is not a suitable building, so we take our activities to the playing field, attach a car battery, use a plug in the cigarette lighter, plug in a TV *et cetera, et cetera*, and proceed with the projects that way. Whereas, if we had a unit or a fixed location, we could in addition to going into communities gather young people in those areas. Of course if we make good young people we will have better old people. As somebody pointed out, this is indeed an aging society, and we would want to insist that the quality of life is better throughout.

The vital role played by the Soroptimist extends as far as the payment of water and electricity bills within this particular village as well as out into the communities. They have not been unknown to get water attached to those areas and to certainly help with the payment of certain bills.

The social activity they have embarked upon, are making their mark with the old people of this country. After we leave this Chamber and say these things, put our hands on our shoulders to the stone together to make it better.

With reference to the project that Senator Thompson spoke of, in the Vauxhall area, that is under the auspice of the National Assistance Board, and plans are ongoing. There had to be one or two changes, but that too is not on the back burner. The funds are there. It is just a matter of time before that project is able to proceed and to create several more units similar in type to that of the Soroptimist Village.

Mr. President with those few words, I would want, again, compliment the Soroptimist and to urge other service clubs to expand their ability to utilise all resources within your groups so that we are able to create a better life for our senior citizens and all other persons in Barbados.

Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I just want to make a very brief intervention here. I am sure that the Leader of the House, Senator Odle and some of us gave a comprehensive view of the what the Soroptimist do. The thing I would like to mention, having, of course, my own encomiums of the Soroptimist for all the work that they have been doing, is that I hope that the Government is going to use the expertise or the experience of the Soroptimist in their bid to help other senior citizen.

The thing that I particularly want to mention is the fact that we also, of course, have to laud all the NGOs who have been doing very valuable work in maintaining our societies. What I would like to see is that NGOs, the Soroptimist and all the NGOs in Barbados, are given a permanent seat on the Heads of Government Conference of Caricom. When you think this might be in Barbados a unique pioneering effort, look how much it could benefit other Caribbean countries if we had our NGOs sitting there and exchanging their experiences and ideas.

3.35 p.m.

That is all I want to say, Sir. I want to say again we have to thank clubs like the Soroptimists, thank all those people who give their time and energy but I would like to think that Governments are using their experience and one day soon all NGOs are going to have a permanent seat at the Caribbean Heads of Government Conferences.

Thank you, Mr. President. I have great pleasure in supporting the Resolution to approve the lease of land at Eden Lodge, St. Michael, to the Soroptimist International of Barbados.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I rise to make my contribution to the debate on this Resolution, I want, as all other Senators, to commend NGOs like the Soroptimist Club for the contribution they have made in providing a better life for the elderly in Barbados. They have been given some assistance by both Governments. It was unfortunate that in 1991 the subvention had to be cut but we understand the circumstances under which that was done. I want to read from page 24 of the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto which states that:—

“The new BLP Government will:

Give increased subventions and assistance to charitable agencies which provide shelter and care for the homeless and work closely with such agencies to rid the countries of the scourge of homelessness.”

It is on the solemnness of this pledge that I believe that in the not too distant future the Government would seek to restore, and perhaps increase the subvention to such a worthy cause.

I also want to draw one particular aspect of the work of the Soroptimist to the attention of this Chamber which I think is very commendable. The craft programme that they have embarked on is interesting from the point of view that it provides leisure activities for a number of what we call the active old, who need such activity in order to keep their minds active and to feel that they are making a worthwhile contribution.

I know for a fact that these craft classes they have been conducting have contributed significantly in some ways to the development of the young relatives of those who attend the Centre by the establishment of some small cottage industries. I do not think we have really started to see the potential that such transfer of knowledge from the senior citizens, not the ones that live in the Centre but those that go there twice a week at the expense of the Club and pick up skills that they can take home to their families who then can help themselves to become partially self-employed or to supplement income they are making in their substantive jobs.

There is another concern, however, Sir, which I would like to bring to the attention of this Honourable Chamber and it relates to the fact that the Centre is open from about 9.00 o'clock on mornings until about 2.00 o'clock on afternoons. The senior citizens who want to get to this centre and do not have their own transportation need to take public transportation.

Unfortunately, for quite a few years with the competition from the minibuses and ZR vans it has not been profitable for the Transport Board to provide a service through this Eden Lodge area and, as a result, some of the senior citizens do not find it possible. They cannot afford the \$1.50 to get to the Centre and especially when they are provided with free transportation with the presentation of their old age pension cards.

It is a cause for concern because for one reason or the other, I do not know if it is because they are afraid of the speeds at which the ZR vans travel or if it is because of the fact, and I have it on good authority too that the ZR vans do not accept the old age pension cards as a means of allowing pensioners to travel free. I think this is an area which needs to be looked at in order to help these people to be able to get to and from the Centre during the course of a week.

There is one more matter relating to the developments at Eden Lodge on which I want to commend the Soroptimist. They have recognised that they need to do some expansion and as Senator Farley said in his introductory remarks, part of the problem with them is that no person is willing to provide finance in a situation where the person does not have security of tenure. With this new 50-year lease and an additional 50 years option for renewal, they are certainly going to get finance in which they can build 10 new apartments. The significant thing here is that their apartments would not cater now as in the past for single people but it is a new phase of their programme in which they are looking to accommodate couples. I think this is an interesting development and they must be commended for their efforts in trying to bring together even elderly couples who would want to stay together and would want to share the companionship and company of other senior citizens.

It is on this basis, Mr. President, that I give my wholehearted support to this Resolution. I am sure, without doubt, that everyone in here would give their support to this very worthwhile cause.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution and also to support the comments made by both the Leader of Government Business and the other Senators.

Mr. President, I really do not know the significance of a 50-year lease as opposed to a 99-year lease but it would be nice if they could have had a 99-year old lease even though there is an option to renew in the other 50 years which would give the opportunity for a very long-range planning and also to seek funding from quite a lot of sources because one does not know what will happen in the near future.

Mr. President, as everyone has said, these Soroptimists have done an excellent job and they are to be commended. I would also like to support the call for a subvention if they are to be given a subvention because it would be given for a worthy cause because they are helping in the social development of the country by having this village.

We all are aware that it is a very small project and they can only accommodate a few people. I would like to call, as other Senators have done, on other agencies, non-governmental agencies, to spearhead and get involved in setting up what I will call day-care centres for the elderly. It is needed at this point in time with our aging population because of the cost of living most members of the family have no choice but to go out to work, both the male and the female, and the children in order to maintain or attain a reasonable level of living. Consequently, if the elderly are living with them they cannot be left at home and it is very expensive to employ individuals to look after them at home so there is a need for day-care centres for the elderly, not only where we can take our elderly but also there is a need for places which are known as respite care where those who have been looking after the elderly at home will be able to take their elderly for about a week or two weeks in order to give them a little break and get them to recharge, or develop their mental health because it is very taxing. Looking after the elderly is a full time job as it is looking after babies, once a man twice a child so it is just as difficult to look after the elderly as to care for the babies. It is a full time job.

In this respect we have asked for assistance for the Soroptimists but I am also calling for assistance for families so that one family can stay home and be given a sort of stipend to assist with the care of the elderly at home. This has been done in some other places and it has been very successful because when one hears complaints about the elderly being dumped at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, *et cetera*, which is an acute hospital - it is much more expensive for them to stay within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital than to give a little stipend for someone at home to assist with the elderly.

The Government and others can learn from the experience of the soroptimist. We know it is expensive but we cannot run away from the fact that we have an aging population. It is not going to go away. It is there, so therefore we have to make the necessary plans. These are 25 units but then there are thousands and thousands of other persons that require the same sort of care, in particular the rehabilitation services that are provided to a limited extent by the Soroptimist. These are needed for many of our other elderly persons who are there in order to assist them with social interaction and to get over what

is known as the emptiness syndrome in that when their children are all grown up they are either overseas or they live in another part of the island. Therefore they suffer from extreme loneliness which as one knows, Mr. President, can lead to sickness. Then they will have to be admitted to the hospital for further care and a further amount of money is needed to be spent on them.
3.45 p.m.

In this respect, Mr. President, I am calling for what we call mental health workers. I notice that another country was here interviewing some of our mental health workers. Now, we need these workers here. I am not saying, Mr. President, that we should not help other countries, but Barbados need their male mental health workers here to assist us, not only with the elderly who experience certain mental health problems but in our penal system and in other areas of our community with large behavioural problems. I feel that we should look after home base first. I do not think that people should be prevented from seeking avenues outside the country but we should not just put it on a platter and call our nurses, okay come you can get interviewed and you can go. Our salaries are not very high and the number of nurses who told me that they are interested in going is alarming. These are experienced nurses that we need here in our mental health system.

Mr. President, I would also like to assist the Soroptimist as well. For example if we have mental health nurses they could also help the Soroptimist in their activities. We also had an occupational health programme at the Barbados Community College. We need to restart these types of programmes so that these persons could be employed within the community in order to keep our elderly persons mentally alert.

Mr. President, this morning I spoke about integrated services and I would also like to say that with the elderly we also need to have these integrated community care services. I know that the administration has gone on record that they are interested in community services. We have been hearing this for about the last 20 years. What we need to do is to make these words walk. We need, just like how the Soroptimist have made these words walk with their different units, we need to make the words regarding community health services, community care integrated services, a reality rather than talking. The time for talking has passed and here are some experts who have gone ahead and they have set up excellent services for the elderly and can advise the Government in ways and means how to go about it so that it would be meaningful.

Mr. President, there is one more comment I would like to make regarding assistance to entrepreneurs in the society to help set up these types of day-care centres and day-care units. What has happened in some countries,

and it has worked very well, is that the persons who set up these day-care centres have been paid by the Government so much per person and it works out very much cheaper than keeping them, for example, in the Geriatric Hospital or in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I would like us to start thinking in terms of this type of community service and have them all integrated at the polyclinic level with the various home help services and out reach care and mental health care to assist our elderly. I give my support to this Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: 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 LEASE OF LAND AT PALM COURT, FORTESCUE, ST. PHILIP TO HOMESITE BARBADOS LTD

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks the approval of the Senate required under the relevant legislation for the lease of land to Homesite Barbados Ltd. This land in question, Sir, is a very small area, some 645 square feet, less than the size of this room, Sir. It is really to provide, Sir, for vehicular access across a narrow strip of land owned by the Government which forms part of what used to be the railway track running through St. Philip – the old train line. The area in question, Sir, is on one side of the railway track of the large development consisting of Palm Springs, Palm Court, Palm Terrace and various other palms, Sir. Beyond that, Sir, the road that goes through Palm Court and Palm Springs and Palm Terrace actually terminates and the property is more or less bounded on one side by the railway track. However there are proposals to develop Atlantic Heights which would run from Palm Court and Palm Terrace going towards the sea in the area of Fortescue in St. Philip.

In order, Sir, to provide for vehicular access to Atlantic Heights it would require that vehicles cross Government property. The developers therefore in order to ensure continued access had applied for right of access across this track and the legal device which would be necessary in order to do that is to provide them with a lease of 99 years as is proposed in this case, that a capital sum of \$3800 be paid by the lessee, that the company put in the necessary infrastructure and maintain the right of way and that the Crown should maintain the right of access over the particular property so that in effect it more operates as a public road rather than a private road. Basically, this narrow strip provides for access across the Government owned railway track and provides access into the new development of Atlantic Heights which will be developed between Palm Court and Palm Terrace and the waters edge at Fortescue.

3.55 p.m.

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. 5 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SALE OF LAND BETWEEN SPRING GARDEN HIGHWAY AND BRIGHTON TERRACE, ST. MICHAEL TO ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, approval of the Senate is being sought for the disposal of land by way of sale at Spring Garden Highway to a number of tenants. The area in question is that portion of land which has been acquired for the construction of the Spring Garden Highway and the area which is engaging our attention will be that area which runs from Brighton Junction going northwards, that is between the Brighton Junction going in the direction of the Barbados Light and Power Company and the bottom of University Hill.

Members would have observed, Sir, that in that area there are a number of properties which are located in the direction of the highway and that area is a particularly wide area which is currently landscaped by the National Conservation Commission. A number of the tenants in the area had applied during the last several years for permission to acquire portions of that land. Accordingly, Sir, the approval of the Town Planner was sought for the subdivision of portions of that land for sale to the existing tenants who are listed in the Schedule. There are 8 of them, Sir, who are purchasing these properties and there are some stipulations attached to the sale requiring that no further development takes place in that area without the permission of the Town Planner and that the area be landscaped and maintained by the purchaser. Basically, Sir, this is some land which was acquired as part of the requirement for the construction of the Spring Garden Highway. It is no longer required for the public purpose and in accordance with the relevant legislation approval is being sought for the sale. I should make the point that if Members study the Schedules that are attached to the Resolution they will observe that an appropriate portion of road reserve is to be maintained by the Crown and it will continue to be landscaped by the NCC. With that, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution for the sale of land adjacent to the Spring Garden Highway to residents of the area be now passed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I view this as a very positive move on the part of the property owners to acquire that piece of land between the highway and their back yards. Let me say though that anyone who knows the area well would recognize that that strip of land is very well kept by the NCC and I am hoping that while acquiring the land will certainly enhance the property

value of the owners that the NCC does not see it fit to abandon responsibility for keeping that area in the kind of splendid way in which it is presently kept. What could happen is that certainly we know that some portion of the land off of the highway is under the responsibility of the NCC. But having sold that land to the property owners, I am not so sure that the NCC has a legal responsibility to maintain the strip of land the way they did previously. So I am asking the question whether this is because of the desire of the NCC to keep the environment beautiful or is there a legal obligation to keep that area in good condition? Could it be the case that the NCC can abandon their efforts at any given point in time if a squabble ensues? So in light of that I fully support this Resolution and, as was said, the efforts were made by the property owners to acquire these portions of land years ago and that it is now being facilitated after years, as we know, of the slow movement of the engine in Government.

On that score, I have no hesitation but to warn that during heavy down pours the area is susceptible to flooding and, therefore, it may be also in the interest of Government to seek to provide a channel for the water to run off appropriately. This in fact can be done by digging some channel under the road that allows you to access Brighton Beach which would then carry the water straight into the pond which occupies the area at the back of the restaurant on Brandon Beach. Therefore, I am asking to what extent would it be feasible for Government to do the appropriate thing and make that area even more desirable to look at and also the swampy area which is to the left of this piece of land. So I look forward to an even greater initiative on the part of the Government to assist the constituents of St. Michael North West and in so doing make it far more appropriate for efforts to be made to acquire any support that is required within the next 2 to 3 years.
4.05 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, you rarely exude such enthusiasm in supporting a Resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I support this Resolution wholeheartedly but there is one comment I need to make regarding this land at Spring Garden, which I think belongs to Light and Power and all that big and ever expanding equipment. I think we need to keep a close watch on what is happening at Spring Garden Highway, because the complex is expanding and it blows out a lot of black smoke and black cloud. Sometimes if you are wearing a white skirt or a white blouse and you are sitting down and cooling out at Spring Garden – I know this because that is where I cool out and there is where I buy my fish – the smoke rains down on your clothes and leaves all sorts of black dust. So I think that one needs to institute a measure of control regarding the pollution of the atmosphere because it is also affecting those persons who are residing within this area.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, what I am saying is we are becoming very environmentally conscious and we need – I am not talking about litigation but about the need for education – education of these persons because there are various bits of equipment that can be put on to these machines and these engines to filter out the soot. The equipment is available in England. I know that in England, in the midst of soot and smoke, they were able to buy something. I don't know what it is called but it is attached to the outlet and it filters out the soot and therefore prevents the pollution of the atmosphere.

Mr. President, I do support this Resolution.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I am happy to support this Resolution and I am glad to see it before the Chamber because this is something that goes back to the 1970s. After the Spring Garden Highway was constructed, or in fact before it was constructed, Government had to acquire a portion of land for construction of the Highway with the result that you had this land running off towards the south and towards the houses in that area. The late Tom Adams spoke about this from the very beginning when he said that rather than let it run into bush etc. And I am glad to hear Senator Rickinson speak about Barbadians being environmentally conscious. At that time there was no thought about what to do with the land and all kinds of grass and weeds grew along there.

The late Tom Adams brought this before Cabinet when he said it was better to dispose of the land to the adjoining owners so that the place could be kept clean and tidy. It seems to me that it has taken quite a number of years to achieve this position whereby it is now before this Honourable Chamber and I am glad to support it because I know many of the parties who live along this strip of road. I know at least 5 of them, because our own Administrative Assistant of Parliament, Mr. Ken Cumberbatch, is one of the persons who lives along this strip of road and I have spent many Sundays at Ken's house and the people who used to live there used to go out and cut the grass etc. It was then owned by the Government. So it is just right that they have been able to purchase this land. For my own view, I would literally have given them the land because they are maintaining and keeping the place clean. It is better for visitors who drive along the highway and I would have thought that Government would have been more than generous to get rid of land with the necessary conditions that they could not build on it but at the same time they would have kept the highway in a very respectable manner.

I am glad to see it here but I am sorry that these persons after all the years since the Spring Garden Highway has been built and since they have been

keeping the land tidy would still be required to pay this kind of money for it when they can do no more than keep it in a proper manner. I know the Minister of Finance has the ability to waive any financial charges and I would hope that he will take this into consideration in the same way that persons in this Chamber get up today and say that the rents people pay to live in houses should be credited towards purchasing the houses. The money these people have spent in keeping that land free of grass should be credited towards the cost. This is a *quid pro quo*. Once you say one thing you cannot come back and say something different.

Since 1978-79 these people have been keeping that land clean at their own expense and that is my view. You can rebate the money. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I want to thank Honourable Members for their contributions, particularly the Honourable Senator who made a very strong case for the interests of those residents of St. Michael North West and he was ably assisted by the Honourable Deputy President of the Senate.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF LEASE OF PROPERTIES TO THE BARBADOS NATIONAL TRUST

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, approval of the Senate is being sought for the lease of properties at Grenade Hall, St. Andrew and Buckden, St. Joseph to the Barbados National Trust. Both properties Sir, are already leased to the Barbados National Trust. In fact, they were leased in 1969 for a period of 25 years. You will recognise Sir, that both these properties, Grenade Hall and Buckden in St. Joseph which is really the Cotton Tower form part of the chain of signal stations of which Gun Hill would represent the other. These would have been used, Sir, as you are quite well aware, as means of communication before we had the other modern alternatives. Information was sent from the high tech of that era – semaphore, I believe is the correct terminology – that method of signalling and communication using flags. 4.15 p.m.

These properties represent an important aspect of our buildings heritage. It is really part of the Government's plan for tourism development to seek to develop where they remain undeveloped, and to maintain where they have already been developed, these and other aspects of our buildings heritage. It is these 2 properties, Cotton Tower and Grenade Hall, which have been developed over a

period of time, Cotton Tower at an earlier date than Grenade Hall, but they both form very interesting attractions to the tourism plan.

Few will dispute the fact, Sir, the various surveys which are being done on international tourism will indicate that the emphasis and the preference of visitors is moving away from what has become the standard fare of most tropical regions, that is, sun and sea. Some may argue some other "S" comes in there, but barely sun, sea and sand, these are standard things that are offered wherever you go.

People all over the world are becoming more interested in the lives and cultures of other people. Therefore persons are seeking to go to tourism destinations which would allow them to explore the heritage of the destinations to which they travel, and destinations which offer a heritage component are ranking more and more highly on the list of attractions worldwide.

Government recognises that it is not necessarily in the best place to actually implement all of these various projects. It is therefore working with various agencies such as the Barbados National Trust, the Garrison Committee and others to develop a number of these heritage sites.

Now, Sir, the particular terms of the lease are very much similar to the previous terms, except that this particular lease is for a period of 50 years rather than 25 years. As before, the lessee would be responsible for all outgoings and land taxes. The lands, of course, should the need arise, would revert to the Crown for nil consideration.

Looking at some of the other possibilities which exist with respect to heritage tourism, I believe that we can be proud of what development we have so far. Gun Hill is one example. In the case of Sunbury House, which was unfortunately destroyed by fire, that is now being restored even as we speak. We also have Tyrol Cot, the Sir Frank Hutson Museum at Port Vale factory, we have the entire area of the Garrison which has been recognised as a historic area, and the Garrison Committee is working on a general restoration of the historic features of the Garrison.

In fact, Sir, I want to note the work on the cannons. Barbados apparently has a very interesting history in cannons. Note, Sir, particularly, the work of Major Hartland who was somewhat of a cannon specialist, if there is such a thing. He has done tremendous work, and apparently Barbados has one of the largest cannons from that particular period.

I am trying to locate the action that the Senators are being asked to take today within the wider context of an overall approach whereby Government would not be the

owner of a number of these heritage locations, it really is not, like I said, always best placed to complete the development. It is really part of a co-operative and collaborative action by Government, the private sector and non-government organisations to develop this plan.

In fact, Sir, the Government's plan for what is now called in the "Buzz World of 96", nature-based tourism, is really being developed by using this approach where the Ministry of Tourism along with the Barbados National Trust, the Garrison Committee, the Museum and the Historical Society of Barbados, have formed relevant task forces to look at the two major aspects of this nature-based tourism. That will be, Sir, those relating to the environment and those relating to buildings heritage and the other heritage.

Some of the more interesting activities which are being proposed, Sir, would include, not only as I mentioned before, the renewal of individual structures which have long history – including, for example, these Parliament Buildings which we use for our sittings – but also, Sir, moving towards the concept of redeveloping entire areas which have particular heritage value. For example, one could look at entire areas such as Baxters Road and Roebuck Street. If we could refurbish those areas in their traditional style, they would become heritage areas.

Also, places like Rock Hall, St. Thomas, Sir, being of historical significance, being the first village of free persons in Barbados. Areas like that, if they could be maintained as regular residential areas, but maintained in their traditional style, would become heritage sites.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: This is really being developed out of a recognition that the trend in nature-based tourism is to have the heritage maintained and utilised in a contemporary context, whilst maintained in the features of the old. In short, Sir, visitors do not just want to see museum pieces. They do not want to see buildings which have no other use other than being a show piece. They want, Sir, to be able to visit, for example, traditional villages, traditional districts, to see real homes and to see real activity, Sir.

That kind of approach has informed the approach to places like Tyrol Cot which, although it is no longer a residence, Sir, is being recreated as an active village where within that village setting the chattel houses are being used for the sale and production of items. The traditional rum shop is being used there for a very proper and practical purpose, Sir, to quench many a thirst and a yearning for the local flair.

Sir, I am aware that the Ministry of Tourism is also commissioning studies to look at the feasibility of developing even new areas, Sir. They are looking, for example, at the usage which can be made within the context of nature-based tourism of areas such as the Graeme Hall swamp and Chancery Lane swamp. They are looking at the whole issue of expanding the potential of areas like Carlisle Bay, in terms of marine park activity, Sir.

There are a number of private individuals, NGOs and others, Sir, who are looking at developing nature trails. For example, areas that lend themselves very well to the whole concept of nature trails would be the strip between Bath and Congo Bay, Hackleton's Cliff to Joes River and areas like Farley Hill to Speightstown, using an internal route.

We are satisfied that there is a lot of potential for nature based tourism. The whole potential of this area will be developed as a collaborative and co-operative effort with the private sector, the NGOs and the Government. Our action in renewing this lease of these heritage properties at Cotton Tower and Grenade Hall Signal Station is just part of that ongoing plan to enhance Barbados's nature-based tourism product.

With that, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution to renew the lease on the properties at the Cotton Tower and Grenade Hall to the Barbados National Trust do now pass. 4.25 p.m.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Mr. President, once again I will be very brief, just a quick point. I notice today on the Order Paper we have 7 items and of the 7 items three of them are dealing with leases. I was just wondering how long it takes the Government to get leases put into place. The reason I say that is because I recall coming in here approving the lease of land in Oistins to the Lions' Club and also lease of land to the Swimming Association at Wildey for a peppercorn rent of \$100 a year. I complained then, as I am complaining now, that the Barbados Shotokan Karate Club has a licence and is paying \$5 000 a year. I said it was ludicrous at the time. It was double standards.

The Ministry which I called sent a letter to us in late December saying they were quite happy to revoke the licence and they wanted our approval. We applied in the affirmative in January. Only in a matter of hours it would be August. I would like the relevant Ministry, the Ministry of Housing, or Legal Affairs, or whichever Ministry this matter pertains to, to expedite this matter as soon as possible so that like the rest of all the other leases we can come in here in the next sitting or the next two sittings and I will be able to thank the Government for giving us this new lease they are promising us for 25 years at only \$100.

With that, Sir, I have no other comment to make other than this is the third lease that I supported and it is the third lease that I support on today's Paper.

Thank you.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I am very pleased to support this Resolution. The National Trust has done excellent work in the past and continues to perform very well indeed. It seeks to recognise, protect and cherish the beauty of our environment and to arouse and foster consciousness of the need to maintain distinguishing man-made features of Barbados which illuminate the history and character of our people.

Mr. President, it has been fortunate to be led by such renowned citizens as Sir Donald Wiles and dynamic, competent executive directors like Mr. Paul Foster and Mrs. Penny Hynam-Roach. In its 35 years it has achieved a great deal.

The Signal Station at Gun Hill has recently been restored, so has the cook house. The open air patio is being roofed over and discussions are also taking place about the restoration of the barracks.

The Leader of the Senate mentioned Tyrol Cot. Senator Murray has mentioned it before. The restoration of it has been highly praised recently by the Deputy Prime Minister in the Other Place. As a member of the National Trust and of the Tyrol Cot Committee, I have had the privilege of serving on the Tyrol Cot Committee for a number of years. I am still a member, and have been fortunate to have served with such distinguished citizens as yourself, Mr. President and with the Deputy Prime Minister. These meetings have been chaired by Professor Henry Fraser, Vice Chairman of the Committee, and more recently Paul Altman both of whom have put in sterling work. Mrs. Margaret Dowding, the Manager, has also displayed a great deal of energy and commitment.

Plans are afoot to build the Museum section, the chattel house, the recreation of a blacksmith shop and to restore the stables. The stables will also be adapted to a restaurant and the garage will be restored with a replica of Sir Grantley's car. Those of us may remember even the licence plate M820 which will be attached to it.

Now, Tyrol Cot, as some Honourable Senators may know, was built by Mr. William Farnum in 1854. It is a very imposing building containing memorabilia of Sir Grantley and Lady Adams and of their son, former Prime Minister Tom Adams. These memorabilia speak eloquently of their lives and role in the history of Barbados and the struggles of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s.

Since its opening in April last year, students from some educational institutions have visited Tyrol Cot. I think there were 356 students overall from 8 institutions, 8 primary, 2 secondary and 1 tertiary. But I am confident that Principals and Heads of the Social Science Departments and History Departments will in the very near future send children in large numbers, and students generally, to be exposed to this rich heritage.

The Trust has also, Mr. President, identified several other important houses of leaders worthy of preservation such as the Nightengale Children's Home, which was the home of Samuel Jackman Prescod, the Eyrie, the home of Sir Conrad Reeves, the Garden in St. Lucy, the birthplace of Prime Minister Errol Barrow, Nesfield, the home of Dr. Charles Duncan O'Neale, and Bostonville which is the home of Sir Frank Worrell.

Morgan Lewis Mill has been recently placed by the World Monuments' Fund and American Press in the International List of the 100 most endangered heritage sites in the world. This is really a great recognition. It is in the first stage of restoration.

Mr. President, Welchman Hall Gully has become a great tourist attraction. It is the first eco-based tourism site of the Trust and the Trust is also trying to restore Wildey House as its headquarters. That will be on the first floor, and then upstairs will be a show house of Barbadiana glass and furniture of the late 19th Century.

The Government is to be heartily congratulated on its promotion of heritage tourism and collaboration with the other task forces that the Leader has mentioned. Again, I have very great pleasure in supporting this Resolution.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I too want to make my contribution to this Resolution. I want to commend the National Trust for the work they have done in the country in the last 30 years. I, however, have one or two concerns. I recognise that the last speaker touched on some of those concerns. There were in 1981/82 about 380 properties in Barbados listed for special consideration in terms of conservation and heritage where a decision was taken that the front of these properties could not be changed and that these properties should be restored and kept for future generations to see what the past architecture of Barbados was like. Within the last 15 years my understanding is that we have lost some 30 of these properties and a number of them are now in a serious state of disrepair.

There is a particular one at Checker Hall Great House in St. Lucy and also one at Buckden, just a stone's throw away from the same Cotton Tower which is really a nice property but is in a serious state of disrepair. I am

hoping that in much the same way as the National Trust was able to get some funds through overseas funding to restore the property at Morgan Lewis that perhaps the Trust would look in the direction of not only looking for Government's assistance but to use their contacts overseas to acquire whatever is necessary to help us to stop any further losses of these significant heritage properties in Barbados. I know that there have been some problems encountered by the owners of these properties as a result of the fact that there are no tax incentives where someone could recover the money that they would spend to bring these properties to a reasonable state of repair.

4.35 p.m.

I am hoping that in the near future the Government as they develop the heritage tourism aspect of our tourism product would put measures in place to ameliorate this situation. A good opportunity could be had in the area of special development projects where such properties wherever they exist could be listed as special development areas and get the same type of incentives so that we can really hold on to the really interesting heritage properties that we have.

There is another area of heritage that concerns me as a Barbadian. I am one who is particularly proud visiting an institution such as this and you look around and see the type of furniture we have in here. I am particularly concerned that over the last couple of years we have lost a lot of the architecture of our traditional furniture which I think all Barbadians should be proud about. The old mortice joints have now been changed to other forms of joinery we do not see any longer and I am hoping that the Trust and the Heritage Foundation when it is formed, make all effort to reach out to the still existing joiners out there. I know a particular guy in St. Matthias who is around the age of 70 or 80 and who is still actively involved and I would like that the Trust and the Government take the opportunity to capture these people while they are still alive and assist them in passing on this knowledge to future generations. It is an area in which we can develop a very serious pseudo antique type furniture business in Barbados.

There is also even a more serious concern. I had reason recently to be in conversation with rum manufacturers in Barbados and had expressed an interest in getting a small hogshhead for my own personal use and someone said to me, but you know we do make them here anymore, that they are only now two people in Barbados who are capable of doing this sort of work.

It interested me too when I heard the former speaker refer to the blacksmith shop. I know there is one young guy who is now working with Mount Gay or Hanschell Inniss who has recently taken the opportunity to learn the trade and in a country where unemployment is still a serious problem we are importing lots of these hogshheads from South America. I think that the opportunity must be

taken now to institute the building of these sorts of things that we need for our rum industry by offering apprenticeships within the rum industry or courses at the Samuel Jackman Polytechnic.

I also think it would be remiss of me if I did not say a little bit about the number of old windmills which are working. There are still quite a few in Dover, in the area of Sayes Court where there is a lot of vegetable agriculture going on and they are still in working order. I think that the opportunity must be taken to hold on to these things which are serious remnants of what Barbados used to be.

It is on these few points, Mr. President, that I really comment this Resolution to the House and hope that it gets the full support of this Honourable Chamber. Thank you.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SALE
OF LAND TO MICHAEL COZIER TOGETHER
WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON AT
GLENDALE, ST. THOMAS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, approval of the Senate is being sought under section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225 for the sale of land together with buildings thereon in Glendale, St. Thomas to a Mr. Michael Cozier for the price of \$265 000.

Sir, this matter arises out of a series of advertisements which were placed in the Press inviting tenders for a number of properties which were no longer required by the Government. As a result of that tendering process in conformity with the Government's tendering rules, Sir, the Tenders Committee made an assessment of the offers that were received and have recommended that the sale be made to Mr. Cozier who was the highest qualified bidder on this particular property. The approval of Parliament is required under Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act. I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Honourable Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

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

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