
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, December 17, 1997

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, December 17, 1997, at 11.20 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Fred GOLLOP, K.A. (President)

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

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

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

Senator Miss C. Y. FORDE (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture)

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

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

Senator D. T. GILL

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator J. A. WORKMAN

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

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

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Mrs. V. J. DAVIS

Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON

Senator J. D. E. BOYCE

Prayers were led by Fr. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, it is always with sadness that one has to make contributions of this nature, but still when duty calls, one has to rise to the occasion, forgetting sometimes the pain that it might bring with it and indeed, pay due remembrance to the lives of those who might have passed before. Today, Sir, I want to take a few minutes of the Senate's time to pay tribute to the life and times of the late Dr. Carl Clarke who was buried about two weeks ago at the St. Stephen's Church Yard in the parish of St. Michael.

I met Dr. Clarke at a time when he would have been quite mature and indeed would have entered into his business life and that is when he first returned to Barbados around 1983 from the IDC in New York, where he would have served this country as an Officer for an extended period. Certainly, from the reports which I have been able to glean, Dr. Clarke's contribution in this area of business development was one of which we Barbadians can continue to be proud.

It would have coincided, Sir, with a difficult period in the Barbadian Industrial Development when indeed we would have been moving from industry which was associated with production of items. When I say items, I mean things that are tangible, things we can see and touch and feel to an era in our development when services and the development of the services industry started to take the lead. Dr. Clarke would have been at the centre of this change over. He served this country well.

From his humble beginnings in the parish of St. Joseph where he was born in 1933, Dr. Clarke went to school at Combermere School and then went on to study in the United States where he eventually capped his

academic career with the achievement of a doctorate degree in Business Administration.

Dr. Clarke lived and worked in the United States both in teaching and as I said before, as a Business Development Officer with the Barbados Ministry of Trade through the Industrial Development Corporation. When I met Dr. Clarke, too, it coincided with a very challenging time in his own personal career and it is at times like these that we are forced indeed to reflect sometimes on the cruelty of what has become known as this life of politics. Not all Senators, Sir, are engaged in the very difficult life of politics. Some Senators serve more in the capacity as legislators and are not politicians.

Indeed the story has been told that Dr. Clarke might have, at some stage in his career been one of those who would have fallen victim, if that is not too harsh a word, Sir, to the political nuisances of this small island of Barbados. Obviously, Sir, he overcame that period and was able to rise in his political life within the Democratic Labour Party, first of all to contest the General Election in Christ Church South. A constituency, Sir, which I have the honour of following in his footsteps, indeed, in trying to develop a permanence for the Democratic Labour Party. I am sure his work and mine combined, Sir, will be manifest in the next occasion when the good people of Christ Church South, go to the polls. He started, Sir, a constituency branch in Christ Church South. It was a constituency which some say, again story has it that it might have been created with again, some other than clear political direction and Carl's contribution at Christ Church South would have been against those odds, against the stories that were bandied that the constituency might have been created for one person or the other.

Of course, Sir, we are not part of that story. He built a constituency branch therefore which saw the coming together of a number of Members of other constituencies in Christ Church at the time. Namely Christ Church East, Christ Church East Central and what was then Christ Church West Central and I even believe Christ Church West, Sir. As one mingles and work with these people today, it brings to the fore the reality that we live in a truly small community and the people who we interact with invariably have connections directly or indirectly with people from all areas of this little island. Barbados is a small island.

Dr. Clarke therefore started his political career when he contested that seat in 1991. He was unsuccessful at the polls, but after the Democratic Labour Party formed the Government in 1991 he was appointed to the Senate, Sir, and served as Minister in the Ministry of Trade. Indeed, he would have also served as a Minister at a very difficult

period in this country's history, a period of restructuring in terms of our economy and how we did things. This period was characterised by much public outcry and indeed it would have been an extremely challenging ministerial career which Dr. Clarke would have had to serve.

In 1994 he did not, as I intimated before, contest the Christ Church South election again, but retired from active politics. However, he was insistent in extending that hand of help to those who followed in his footsteps in that particular constituency. When I heard of Dr. Clarke's illness some three months or so ago, I was indeed shocked and I was forced to reflect on that fragile thread which we endure in this existence called life – as that dividing line between life and death is truly a mere impression. At any time, any of us, as we hear so often preached from the pulpits of this country, any of us can be called to that service for which so many of us are not prepared.

I am assured by those who spent long hours with Carl during his last days, however, that Carl went to his death a Christian soul. We must be reassured in that confidence, Sir, as we reflect on his life, his contribution to this Senate, his contribution as a Minister in Barbados and his contribution as a citizen of this country.

Sir, on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party, on behalf of Senator Thompson who has indicated to me and the Officers of the Senate that she will be late, Sir, on my personal behalf and on behalf of my family, I wish to extend to Carl's family and relatives my deepest sympathy.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On behalf of the Members of this Side I want to join in extending condolences to the family of the late Dr. Carl Clarke and to wish them all God's blessing and God's support on this, their hour of need and sadness.

Sir, Dr. Clarke's death meant that three persons who sat with the Archdeacon and myself in the last Senate Chamber have passed on to higher service. It leaves us even more cognisant of the fact that this existence is only for a time. All 3 of them were not old by any standards. Nevertheless, Sir, life must not be measured in terms of years but rather in terms of the contribution one makes towards society. In other words, it is not the years in your life; but the life in your years that matter.
11.30 a.m.

Dr. Clarke came into public life at a time when the Government was under some stress in 1987 following the resignation of the then Minister of Finance. Sir, he was catapulted into high office and probably did not

even expect, given the way how things were going, that he would have achieved the rank of Cabinet Minister in his lifetime.

As I said, he came into power at a very difficult time for this country. It was a time where the country had not too long lost its former leader and its Minister of Finance and the Government at the time saw the need for someone with his qualifications to assist them in the arduous task of running what is basically a fragile economy.

The history of the period of Dr. Clarke's tenure, both as Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, as well as Minister of Trade and at one time Minister of State responsible for Tourism, will show that that was one of the most difficult periods in Barbadian economic history. Much will be said about that period but what we can say is that it taxed all of us. No matter what side of the fence you were on, it taxed us greatly, and Dr. Carl Clarke would have felt the enormous weight of responsibility descending upon his shoulders.

I wonder if we recognise the price that those in public office pay for the sake of their country. I was in the Senate Chamber with him and I know some of the agony that he went through, and I am not too proud to say that I may have helped contribute to his agony, because the debates at that time were extremely rousing and even to some extent fierce, and Dr. Carl Clarke felt the full weight of my knowledge and expertise in that area; but he took it like a man, which is testimony to his fortitude and we remained, in spite of everything, good friends even until his death.

He was a man who understood what public life was all about and he was prepared to take it as it comes. Even after he exited public life and gave over the constituency of Christ Church South to – I almost said a lesser mortal but I will not say that – another mortal, he remained committed to Barbados and we had some lovely exchanges. Whenever we met we would all be exchanging notes, as it were, and I learned a lot from the intercourse that we had.

His experience was wide, both in the United States and in Barbados and, as I said, the history of that period is a matter of record. In spite of what happened we are thankful that this country was able to produce a man like Dr. Clarke who was able in his own way to help steer the ship of state.

I am glad I knew him and I value the experiences that we had in the short space of time because I only knew him since 1991. I knew of him before but I only met him and had talks with him since 1991 when I entered this Honourable Chamber.

He has gone. He has done his task here. Others are left to follow. People like Dr. Carl Clarke showed that our educational system and the value we placed on it is not totally misplaced because we are still producing people of which this country can be proud, who in their own way, have contributed towards having this country where it is today.

I can say this for him that as far as I know he was not an overtly partisan person. He was a Dem but I can always say that he was not overly partisan, especially towards me, and he showed signs of humanity and maturity...

Certain remarks made by Senator Barker were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. President.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I was impressed with his humanity and his understanding and the way how he related to me as a person.

With those few words I want to convey our sincerest regards to the widow and family of the late Dr. Carl Clarke and wish them well.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I join this period of encomiums to the name of Dr. Carl Clarke, not from any partisan position from where we sit in here, but as one representing a constituency that is even bigger and broader than Barbados, the constituency of Combermere, that spreads all over the world.

Senator Barker paid accurate and telling testimony to some of the most outstanding characteristics of Dr. Clarke. He spoke to his humanity, his maturity, his broad-mindedness, his breadth of vision, his gregarious approach to life and people. I would like to think that by having been such a person, Dr. Clarke would have exemplified all and at least some of the best and most positive attributes that are inculcated into all Combermerians. He was a Combermerian par excellence and, like Senator Barker, we have stood at various times across a political divide and never ever, in any way, whether it be informally or formally, did Dr. Clarke allow this to in any way inhibit his warmth of dealing with myself and other persons. To me, that means that he had risen above some of the most bitter and petty characteristics that can emanate from politics and he was not concerned about any change in boundaries to create any constituencies. Rather he was involved in removing boundaries, removing barriers, and he lived in a broader constituency, the constituency of life and the constituency of mankind.

Therefore, Sir, I am honoured to be able to pay tribute to his memory, to his work. We have already heard about his contribution to the economic and other sectors.

I know from my dealings with him when I was a journalist that he was also a writer interested in writing scholarly pieces on the economy, business and commerce. He was always very open to the approach of journalists and to persons who wanted to tap into and benefit from his knowledge. Though his tenure and life might have been relatively short, I have no doubt that it was one that was worthwhile, that was telling, and that Barbados as a society has been the better for it. Thank you.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I rise to associate myself with the eulogistic remarks made by those who spoke.

Prior to 1991 I did not know Dr. Clarke very well although I knew of his life, his work and educational background and so on.
11.40 a.m.

It was in 1991 when, as Senator Barker said, we were instituted as Senators that I got to know him better at close quarters. I found that Senator Clarke was good for his party, a committed Minister and one who apparently enjoyed his work. I think he was hardworking and that he used his opportunities and good graces to help persons with certain acts of kindness, and I could testify to some of them but I will not here today, indicating his real care for humans regardless of their own political attachments. I can vouch for that myself.

Secondly, I found he was very concerned as to how what he said was received by his opponents. In the term opponents, Sir, I refer also to those who were Independent Members of the Senate at the time who would speak, as we all do from time to time, what we really feel.

Dr. Clarke would always seek to answer in his rebuttal when he was the Minister that was presenting the particular Resolution or Bill to the Senate, and from time to time he and I would have a tete-a-tete in the dining room in the lunch break or at other quiet times when he would be at pains to say what exactly he had said lest he should have been misunderstood. I thought that was a good trait for one who, perhaps, could have ignored our own feelings about what was going on in the Chamber at the time.

Thirdly, Sir, I can vouch for the fact that Dr. Clarke was a good Christian person who not infrequently found time to come down from St. Joseph to the St. Stephen's Church where he seemed to like to worship. I never discovered what the real connection was to come that distance, but he came. Sir, it was because of that, while I myself was attached to that Church for a brief period, that

I was able to minister to him for a short while during what I did not know, and he might not have known, were going to be the last days of his life. Therefore, as a Christian and a Christian Minister myself, I am happy to note that he was in attendance in his Church. We cannot judge anyone as to what was the quality of his religious life but there were the externals that indicate that he cared about his Maker and about his life.

So, Sir, I think we are the poorer for having lost such a man and I would wish to express my deep condolences to his extended family, and to all those who have been associated with him.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to make a contribution by way of tribute to the life and work of Dr. Carl Clarke. Dr. Clarke and I have one or two things in common. Certainly we are not members of the same political party. That is not what we have in common. We, however, have had the pleasure and the distinction of having served in similar organisations at different times.

Dr. Clarke and I have both had the opportunity to serve our country as Ministers of Trade, Industry and Commerce and matters of that portfolio. We have also had the opportunity at different times to have had the privilege of serving the country by working at the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation as it was then. I can therefore associate myself with many of the thoughts, the experiences and the challenges which Dr. Clarke would have faced in his years in public service.

In terms of his Ministerial service during the seven years that he served as a Minister, I believe he was Minister of, as I said, Trade, Industry and Commerce at one point. He was also Minister of Tourism and International Transport. He was also at one point Minister of Labour, Community Development and Consumer Affairs, as the portfolios were associated then. In several of those Ministries I have had the occasion whilst Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce to meet with Dr. Clarke in terms of dealing with a number of issues which would have affected the private sector development.

I remember our discussions on issues ranging from consumer affairs to matters in the Ministry of Labour and other trade and industry matters. As I said, he was always most congenial and most accommodating toward the approaches which the private sector made. When we disagreed, and we did from time to time, the disagreement was dealt with always at the level of the issues and not of the promoters of the alternative points of view. We therefore had a relatively easy working relationship with Dr. Clarke while I was with the private sector.

Dr. Clarke would also have served with some distinction at the Industrial Development Corporation in a period which predated my time of service. There are many fond memories and stories of the work of Dr. Clarke in that organisation. In fact, a bit of a standing joke developed which suggested that based on what had happened to Branford Taitt, to Carl Clarke and then to Reginald Farley that perhaps if you wanted to aspire towards leadership in the Ministry of Trade then, perhaps, somewhere along the line you needed to do your term of service within the Barbados IDC.

I want to basically commend the work of Dr. Clarke and his contribution to the areas which are nearest and dearest to me, that is of the development of the business sector generally, but particularly in the areas of manufacturing, small business and generally the development of an entrepreneurial culture in Barbados.

I would want to add my condolences offered so far to his surviving relatives and wish that he may rest in peace.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I should like to associate the Chair with the tributes paid to the late Dr. Carl Clarke. I first knew Dr. Clarke in the early 1980s when I served as Chairman of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation and he was one of its senior professional officers. As such, he made regular presentations to the Board. I was therefore in a position to form a judgment on the quality of his intellect.

Dr. Clarke was a quiet man but I think he embodied some of the, what are now regarded as, old-fashioned virtues of dignity and courtesy. Later he was to spend some years in this Honourable Chamber and to serve this country at a high level as a Member of Cabinet.

He spent many years, of course, out of Barbados where he enjoyed a distinguished academic career but he was still able to devote some years in a relatively short life to the public service of Barbados.

I agree with Senator Springer that we are the poorer for his passing. May he rest in peace.

I will now ask Honourable Members to stand for two minutes silence in tribute to the memory of Dr. Clarke.

The Senate stood for two minutes silence.
11.50 a.m.

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 Annual Report of the National Council on Substance Abuse for the Year 1996.
2. Guarantees Granted Under the Exempt Insurance Act, Cap. 308A to the following:

Beacon Re-Insurance Inc.

C. T. Insurance Company Ltd.

Woodbridge Insurance Inc.
3. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 20) Order, 1997.
4. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 21) Order, 1997.
5. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 22) Order, 1997.
6. The Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1997.
7. Report of the Audit of the Accounts for the National Insurance Fund for the Year ended December 31, 1995.
8. Annual Report of the National Productivity Board for the year 1995-96.
9. Urban Development Commission Order, 1997.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTING OF THE SENATE AS MOVED BY A MINISTER

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to introduce the following Bills and to beg that they be read a first time.

1. Bill to make provision for the payment of Government debts by the use of serial bonds.
2. The Barbados Cricket Association (Amendment) Bill, 1997.
3. Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, Cap. 12.

4. First Street Abandonment Bill, 1997.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – TO MOVE THE MINOR
OFFENCES BILL, 1997

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, just by way of explanation. Members will recall that further consideration of the Bill was postponed as we were about to move into Committee. The views and comments of the Honourable Members were considered by the Attorney General. The Amendments were circulated and subsequently an amalgamated Bill was also circulated.

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the SENATE resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee of Supply.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Madam Chairman, I would like to propose an amendment to Clause 2 Section A and I will explain why I would like to propose this Amendment.

It was always my understanding that in legislation if one said 'he' that it would include 'she' but in Section B we will see that the legislation is talking about maintaining himself or herself so therefore I would like to include feminine in Section D. For example that "in any street, highway or public place accost a passenger and offers to take him to the house or residence of a prostitute" and I would like to say "and offers to take him or her to the house of a residence of a prostitute", because we have both male and female prostitutes, and make sure that there is quite a lot of education regarding various aspect of this Bill because there are some persons who go and sunbathe topless etc. and nude on the beach, because we have both male and female people who are accosting female and who are also accosting male.

12.00 noon

In section (e) I would also like to include before "loiters", "curb calls or loiters in any street or highway and importunes passengers or pedestrians for the purpose of prostitution".

Madam Chairman, I would like to add curb calling because this would also include men who get into their cars and go into the streets and curb call to pick up prostitutes as well.

Curb calling: In England there is legislation against men who curb call, get into their cars and go and pick up prostitutes and I would like us to introduce this as well so that one could refer to those persons in their cars and not only to persons who loiter in any street.

I am proposing that an amendment "curb calls or loiters in any street or highway and importunes passengers or pedestrians for the purpose of prostitution".

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Are there any other comments?

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: I would like to second the comments because I think that we should have somewhere in this legislation, sanctions against men. I feel that we must not see prostitution just as a woman's affair or even if we see it as a man's affair but I think the partners, the people who are serviced by these people must also have sanctions that we recommend in law that they must also have to bear. I would support the Senator Rickinson amendment.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Chairman, I want to speak on this Bill in Committee because what characterised the debate on the second reading of this Bill when it was done some eons ago was that Senators had a difficulty with the language of the Bill as it appeared in some cases sexist or indeed in some cases discriminatory. Not only in a sexist way but indeed, Madam Chairman, in a social way and really I thought that today we would be looking at a Bill that addressed all these problems instead of having sat and waited for 6 months, being presented again with a Bill which brings up the same concerns from the Senators.

I will not be told what to do by Senator Forde. When she gets her turn to speak, Madam Chairman, I am sure she will make the necessary amendments she wants to make. I am saying ...

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Are you referring to the Honourable Senator as she?

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I said that I am not going to be told what is to be said by any person. I come to my conclusion and form my contribution based

on deliberations which I from time to time make. I am saying Madam Chairman, that the Senate, when we were considering the Second Reading of the Bill, was concerned with the language of the Bill. All this time has passed and we are again confronted with the same objections. I think it is an indication that enough work has not been done with respect to addressing the concerns of a much more sensitive society that we are dealing with in Barbados and as we go on to other clauses in this Bill I will be making other contributions in relation to the same thing.

I think, Madam Chairman, you might want to ponder as to the expedience of even continuing this exercise at this time and may we ask the Senate Leader to once again refer the Bill for adequate modifications and being brought up to the times.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Madam Chairman, I would just like to comment slightly on this Clause 2. Oh, I am sorry.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Madam Chairman, in relation to some of the comments that have been made in relation to the "him" and "her" and so on the Interpretation Act, as far as I am aware, takes care of that particular issue.

As far as the law is concerned a "him" is a "her" and a "her" is a "him" and therefore this business of prostitution and taking to the house of a prostitute, the law is quite clear concerning whether it is him or her or any combination thereof. The Interpretation Act takes care of that.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Madam Chairman, I did ask in addition to that that there was also another amendment that I requested that did not include him or her and that is clause 2(e) that I requested "curb calls or loiters in any street or highway and importunes passengers or pedestrians for the purpose of prostitution".

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Chairman, again the Honourable Senate Leader has got to appreciate that we understand very clearly the law of Barbados. We know what it refers to. I understood the Honourable Senator who just sat to request that there be consistency in the reference to him and her, not that she had any difficulty with whether "him" includes "her" or "her" includes "him" so I think we are bound, Madam Chairman, to address the queries that are being raised by the Honourable Senators and that is what Senator Farley should concentrate on.
12.10 p.m.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Madam Chairman, without any reference to the Chair, there are so many amendments we are trying to amend at the same time and

I think we should take them subsection by subsection, with clarity and understanding of all persons so that we know what we are really discussing and what we are going to vote on and if we are going to vote. I would like to suggest that we take them in alphabetical order as they come within the draft.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Madam Chairman, my first amendment was with reference to No. 2, section (b) where I did say briefly that I thought that in the legislation "he" includes "feminine" as well. However, in section (b) it is talking about maintaining "himself" or "herself" and if we are going to apply the Interpretation Act, therefore one has to delete "herself" and be consistent.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Clerk, would you read the amendment for us please?

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I would like to second what Senator Workman proposed for purposes of getting this thing done.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We accept that. That is why I am now asking the Clerk to read the amendment for us. Start it in alphabetical order. That will be 2(a), 2(b)

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Those sections just have to stand, because a person who is going to maintain can be the man or the woman. So when you are going to make reference, it has to be either "himself" or "herself". This is not sexist language. This is explicit language.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Senator Rickinson would you accept that and withdraw yours in the light of the explanation by Senator Workman that it is just explicit and not sexist language?

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I did not ask for (b) to be amended. When I asked for (d) to be amended, I referred to (b). I did not put forward an amendment as such to (b).

MADAM CHAIRMAN: So it is (d) really that you have put forward the amendment?

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Madam Chairman, for the guidance of the Honourable Members and particularly to the Clerks, could I ask through you that Honourable Members who propose to make amendments do so in the time-honoured traditions of Parliament so that we are all clear on what amendments are proposed and we can get on with the business of the Senate. Because you seem not to be clear on what the amendments are, so I would really invite Honourable Members who

have proposed amendments to use the time-honoured traditions of Parliament to make those amendments so that we are all clear.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I take it, it is now an amendment in writing of (b).

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Madam Chairman, what Senator Rickinson is referring to here is the need for consistency. She is not proposing that (b) be changed. That is how I understood her, but that the change to be consistent has to be done in (d), and to prove what she is saying, she pointed out how "him" and "her" and "himself" and "herself" have been accommodated in (b) already. So why not do the same thing for (d) that would be her first amendment and that is what I listed it to and I support what she is saying.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Will the Clerk please read the amendment now that has been submitted in writing?

"in any street, or public place accosts a passenger and offers to take him to the house or residence of a prostitute;"

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Has she omitted the word "highway" now?

"in any street, highway or public place accosts a passenger and offers to take him or her to the house or residence of a prostitute;"

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We have to put that to the vote now. You have heard the amendment. We vote now on the amendment.

A division has been called for.

Noes: SENATOR the Hon. R. R. FARLEY, SENATOR the Hon. P. C. GODDARD, SENATOR the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY, SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE, SENATOR T. E. BARKER, SENATOR D. T. GILL, SENATOR J. C. ODLE, SENATOR N. P. WELCH, SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN - 9

Ayes: SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON, SENATOR C. K. LAURIE, SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS, SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON, SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE, SENATOR the VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER - 6

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Are there any other amendments proposed for Clause 2?

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Yes. There is another amendment which I have handed to the Clerk, Clause 2(e) and the amendment is to add curb calls or loiters in any street or highway and importunes passengers or pedestrians for the purpose of prostitution.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: I beg to second that.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We are voting now on the amendment to (e).
12.20 p.m.

DIVISION

The question was put and resolved in the negative, the Senate dividing as follows:

Noes: SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY, SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE, SENATOR T. E. BARKER, SENATOR D. T. GILL, SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE, SENATOR N. P. WELCH - 8

Ayes: SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON, SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN, SENATOR C. K. LAURIE, SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS, SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER, SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON and SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE - 7.

Clause 3 was called.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Madam Chairman, not to get back to this question of the sexist business but in section (c) I understand that there was a previous case in the law courts where a lady was charged for being nude and exposing her person on a beach and she got away because the law courts deemed that she did not have a person. In that case, I really do not think that what we are saying here is that a woman who walks nude in a lewd manner down Broad Street cannot be charged. This Act must treat both sexes fairly and I think we should remove the word "person" and put in the word "body" or if we want to create for the first time that a woman has a person, we could say his or her person.

I do not think to leave it like this and have the laws interpret that a woman does not have a person would be fair. I would like to make the amendment that we add the words "or her" just to make it clear that a woman has a person.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: I would like to second that, Madam Chairman, and to say that not very long ago the Act relating to rape was revised in this Chamber and at that time it was determined that both a male and

a female have got persons. Prior to that, Senator Laurie is quite right that the law had given us to believe that only a man had a person and now I think that this has to be changed to bring it in line with that kind of thinking, the new thinking and the new legislation.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Madam Chairman, I do not think that would be the answer because if the court held that a woman does not have a person the mere fact that we put here "her person" would still be a nullity. What we would need is a definition of "person". That is where the answer lies. Private parts is a word that is better known in the States, but what is "private parts?" There is always contention so that the true answer would have to be to define what person is if we are to really tighten this up.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Chairman, again I am assuming, because you have not said otherwise, that you are dealing with the entire clause 3 in spite of our earlier ruling that you will deal with clause 2 alphabetically. Because you are dealing with clause 3, I want to refer to certain items. Remember we are giving unto the police in this case certain powers of arrest, powers of detention and for these reasons and sometimes as was the case of the old Vagrancy Act which lay dormant for some time and indeed was not widely applied, we are operating in Barbados today against a background of calls by some members of the community for very stiff treatment to be meted out onto people whom they see or whom they interpret as one or other bother to society.

We have to be extremely cautious in terms of what powers we bestow and I want to look at clause 3(e) where we refer to...

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We are dealing with amendments to (c) and unless there is some relevance I would prefer that we move on.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I asked if we were dealing with the entire clause because you did not state specifically if you were dealing with (c) I want to make a contribution about (e).

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Senator Boyce, even if we are dealing with the clauses we cannot deal with all at the same time.

Proceed, Senator Boyce!

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On what, Madam Chairman? I am waiting for (c) to pass.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Proceed and continue to make your point!

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On (e)? Okay. I am grateful, Madam Chairman.

Clause 3(e) therefore refers to certain tools which certain crafts persons might ordinarily carry. I am not saying that this was not in existence before but because of the heightened awareness of what is loosely termed "harassment", especially in our tourist areas, we could find certain trades people coming under new pressures because of this new legislation. Remember that there is a variant view as to who are the vagrants and who are the harassers.

Even yesterday, I was listening to a programme on my way home last night, a discussion on tourism. It does not matter who the contributors were I do not recall them now but the point was made that whereas the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association is reporting something like 75% tourist harassment, the actual harassment which can be attributed to what we loosely call vagrants is only 1%.

So we have a tremendously difficult job in terms of the perception being bandied abroad in Barbados in respect of who is doing the harassment and I am speaking only, Madam Chairman, based on the statistics which I heard referred to or indeed the kind of harassment being meted out.

We have had a lot of discussion on the fact that tourists find, for instance, the time-share sellers as harassers too and they do not only refer to the very rare case of persons who might go up to tourists and throw their arms around them, a situation which I abhor, but those persons who do that are not to my mind vagrants. They are people who we need to deal with in a very specific way in terms of the wide treatment available in Barbados for people who have fallen foul of drug abuse.

12.30 p.m.

We have a number of persons, few who would likely now, but given the constant reference to the increase in use of drugs in this country, we can only speculate as to what that figure is likely to be at some time in the future. I therefore believe that we need to go the route of some more compassionate business people in the same areas of business as the hard-line, so to speak, and we should look at the creation of facilities for extensive treatment to the growing population of drug abusers in this country.

Madam Chairman, one has to be particularly mindful today of the kinds of inclusions in a Bill of this nature. I want specifically to refer to Clause 3(e) where we talk about being in possession of a key, for instance, a crowbar, or a jack.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I hear noises, Madam Chairman, but I will not be distracted by them.

The question of intent is up for interpretation and it is precisely the point I am trying to make because the person carrying out the arrest or the challenge – and it has not been unheard of where items have been placed on people even during their searches. Thank God the incidences in Barbados and most of the instances which I have come across the Police in Barbados have acted with great aplomb and great distinction in this regard. But there have been cries by persons in Barbados of being less than treated fairly by our police in pursuit of their duty.

So one has to be very careful in the types of implements we include and not bring upon ourselves a large grouping of persons whom we might then find falling victim to a less than conscientious officer of our law. We would then be putting not only the citizen under pressure but we might indeed be putting the officer of Her Majesty's Force under undue stress, so that is our responsibility. We need to consider carefully the items we include in such a clause.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Madam Chairman, I would like to speak on Clause 3, section (c), "wilfully, openly, lewdly and obscenely exposes his person in any street, public road or highway or in the view thereof or in any place of public resort."

I would like to draw attention to the fact that there are certain persons who are mentally ill who might wilfully expose their person and therefore, according to this legislation, they would be liable for conviction before a magistrate for a fine or for two years imprisonment when that is not really the answer. The answer really would be to have treatment so that they could be made well. In that case I think we need to make an exception to the rule.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: On a point of order, Madam Chairman. The Mental Health Act covers all of that and the magistrate has a discretion so I do not think it would be necessary.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I am making my contribution and therefore I will continue to make the contribution to the Senate as I see fit. The Mental Health Act needs to be amended. We have been asking for several years for it to be amended and nothing has been done so I am dealing with what is before me so that this could be brought to the attention of this Honourable Senate. The Senate need not accept what I say but I am here to make a contribution and so be it. I am making it.

Aside.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Proceed, Senator Rickinson.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I would like to propose an amendment to read "wilfully, openly, lewdly and obscenely exposes his or her genitalia in any street, public road or highway or in the view thereof or in any place of public resort."

I would also like to make sure that there is quite a lot of education regarding various aspects of this Bill because there are some persons who go and sun bathe topless and nude on the beach so that they will know. We need to put posters at the airport so that people know when they enter Barbados they are not allowed to lie nude on the beaches. I am saying that because I live on the beach and I see them come and take off their clothes and expose all of their parts to me and lie nude on the beach.

We need to let the tourists know that it is an offence as well. Therefore when one is marketing tourism they need to let them know that they are not allowed to do this because in France you are allowed to go and bathe topless *etcetera* and there is no problem. It needs to be brought to their attention about it.

I will write the amendment and pass it to the Clerk.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Could you do that immediately please, because we cannot proceed without that.
12.40 p.m.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Madam Chairman while Senator Rickinson is writing, I was able to get *Shrouds Judicial Dictionary* which defines 'exposing his person'. It specifically say that it "is not limited to private parts but it includes such parts of the body as would be liable to insult by exposure in a wilful, lewd and obscene manner" so it is not just limited to genitalia. There is a legal definition for person which has been tried and tested and I think that our culture from time to time will decide what is lewd and what is obscene and what becomes private parts. I think as the law stands here the provision is sufficient to cover what we in this Chamber understand as lewd or obscene exposure of your person.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Chairman again on Clause 3. As you look at the fines for the offences, it jolts your mind again as to how we do things in Barbados sometimes. We have had talks about Penal Reform and the need for alternative punishment arrangements. Here we are, however, dealing with person who we recognise will be unable to help themselves if prosecuted.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Who do you mean by we?

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I mean Barbados, Madam Chairman. We would find ourselves then having to impose fines for instance of \$2 500. Remember that we are working against a background of people who believe that the punishment meted out to the offenders in these cases must be as severe as possible. So the magistrate then if he does not have the alternative punishment mechanism has to resort to a fine for instance which cannot conceivably be dealt with. I am merely contributing and if the Madam Chairman would protect me...

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Boyce are you questioning my conduct of the Chair.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: No, Madam, I am only asking that you protect me from those who would not want me to speak, not from yourself.

I am saying that the fines that are contemplated for instance would further dig the graves of the persons who are likely to be found guilty of the offences being contemplated. I am merely saying that it would have been much better to have all these alternative punishments available to the magistrates at a time when we contemplate this Minor Offences Bill.

I am grateful to you Madam Chairman.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Madam Chairman in view of the explanation of the legal definition, I withdraw my amendment.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: I am prepared to withdraw and I would like to speak at this point Madam Chairman.

Two things worry me about this Bill. One is the way that "with intent" has been inserted in so many places. If for example I am found going down Broad Street with a cutlass in my pocket, it seems to me that according to this Bill I can be arrested and then I have to prove that I have no intention of using that cutlass to do anything. I see Madam Chairman that the better part of the Senate is agreeing with me that they would not wish it to be that way. I am saying it but it seems clear to me that that is how it is and some of these offences are really very minor things, just someone looking suspicious and being in some public place can be arrested and charged for appearing to be suspicious or having intent and he cannot prove that he had no intent. That is my first concern. The other one is to do with what Senator Boyce referred to, the penalty. I would have thought that in this day and age when so much prominence is being given to community service and other

alternative ways of administering punishment that there would at least be that alternative available to the magistrate in question. It is simply and either/or, the person pays the fine between \$2 500 and it goes up and up, or that person gets locked up for two year or three years or whatever, as the case may be. Should we not try to have the alternative in cases where the offence is not so severe, to have the person sentenced to community service.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Madam Chairman, in relation to what I can only term as an allegation by Senator Boyce that there is no possibility of there being an alternative to the punishments that are offered and that nothing has been done with respect to penal reform. The fact of the matter is that even within the present framework without all the changes that we have proposed, magistrates are already able to use community service by way of sentence. So to suggest that that is not available and that the drafting of legislation in response to Senator Springer that speaks to a fine or imprisonment excludes other alternatives.

When you go before the magistrate there is a set of rules and procedures upon which he acts in relation to his sentencing options. And the plans by the Attorney's General Department, Ministry of Home Affairs in relation to construction of a facility where one can have – I did not want to use halfway house – but really a halfway house, essentially a night care facility where you are partly free and partly not so free, for community service properly laid out and properly supervised, all of these are matters which have been the subject of a detailed study by the Committee on Penal Reform. There is a report which has been published by that Committee and that Committee in doing its work did not go into idle speculation. That Committee not only looked at the nature of criminality in Barbados but it looked at the factors which affected persons who find themselves involved in criminal behaviour, their age group, their profile....

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Chairman, on a point of order. Less the Honourable Senator misleads the Chamber on what I said I merely said that we should be dealing with both together. The fact that studies have taken place have never been denied by me. I am aware of the studies that have taken place and I am merely saying that we are passing into law today and would it not have been more appropriate to pass into law alongside it the same reforms which are contemplated and which have been studied now for a long time.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. Proceed Senator Farley.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I heard the goodly Senator twice and I am still not convinced. His points are nothing more than allegations which cannot be supported by fact and the facts of the matter is that the work of the Government in relation to penal reform has also been informed by the observation by relevant officers of what happens in other jurisdictions which are even more advanced than we are as far as penal reform.

They have visited facilities in the U.K. and elsewhere to see exactly how the things are done and all of this, the matter of penal reform, alternative sentencing is proceeding parallel to all of these developments and the fact that one does not, in a given piece of legislation, spell out the 15 or 20 sentencing alternatives which the magistrate has at his disposal is really a matter which speaks to the way legislation is drafted rather than the facts of the matter.

The Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act and so on will take care of all of those issue and they are other areas in which sentencing is dealt with. It is really a misrepresentation of the facts of the matter to suggest that the way this legislation is drafted would preclude the use of alternative sentencing by the magistrates.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Madam Chairman I just want to allay the fears of the Senate particularly Senator Springer who raised the question of 'with intent to break in'. Those words must be there otherwise policemen will run havoc through the country. They can only arrest if they believe there is intent and that will come from questioning. So it is not an arbitrary thing that takes place. Every crime must have intent, what they call "*mens rea*" so that provision is there to give protection to the citizen, because if I am just walking down the road with a cutlass in my hand I may just have bought it from Carter and Company and walking across High Street and the bag in which I had it got cut open.
12.50 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: No it does not matter if he is John Workman or otherwise. The point is we have a law which is here to protect all people and that is why we have lawyers so that if the rights of the poor man, as you will want to suggest, are not being protected those rights can be defended and this provision here is to give that protection to every person and this law is dealing with persons. That is why section by section says, "if a person". That gives the protection to that person to be able to carry a pickaxe, a picklock, a crow-bar. All of those are things I carry from time to time and I can walk the street with it. But if there is intent ...

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I just want to seek to clear up the impression that might have been created by Senator Rickinson that there is currently no literature or education available to visitors on the question of nude beaches and nude bathing and what not.

For many, many years there has been a multitude of pieces of literature which are made available to people at the airport and in their hotel rooms etc., spelling out how to dress. There are posters, there are brochures that spell out and suggest the ways in which you should dress and that there are no nude beaches or private beaches in Barbados. So to me the situation is being dealt with already and there is no need to reinvent the wheel.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Madam Chairman, I said even though I am hearing that these exist. I said that I live on a beach and I see nude people on the beach and they need to have posters at the airport. I have never yet seen a poster at the airport saying that they do not have any nude beaches. I am sure if anybody goes up there you will not see a poster informing them about that.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Madam Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 3 stand part.

The question that clause 3 stand part was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Clause 4 was called.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Madam Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 4 stand part.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Madam Chairman, I would like to speak on Clause 4 because it refers to even a larger fine and as others have said it is my view that quite a lot of people who will be charged with some of these offences do not have money in the first place. If you are begging and you are charged a fine it means that you do not beg if you have money so that means they will go to jail a first time and then when they come out they will go to jail a second time. I would like to see included in Clause 4 an amendment, "is guilty of an offence and is liable to a conviction before a Magistrate to a fine of \$5 000 or to imprisonment for 3 years or rehabilitation". I would like to see some form of rehabilitation included in the legislation to make sure that these persons are given some form of assistance when they are convicted. I think it is sorely lacking.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Are you proposing an amendment in that Senator Rickinson?

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Yes, Madam Chairman.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Will you put it in writing?

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Yes, Madam Chairman, I will put it in writing immediately.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Has the Clerk now a copy of the amendment? Could you read it for us, please?

Yes, Senator Workman.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Madam Chairman, while I understand the sentiments expressed by Senator Rickinson the clause in the Act would be the wrong place for having it because rehabilitation should come at the first offence. This is for habitual criminals, those whom we believe have gone beyond that stage. So while I appreciate what she is trying to do I do not think it can be achieved under this section.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Senator Rickinson, are you prepared to withdraw it after that explanation?

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Madam Chairman, I am not prepared to withdraw it because I feel that rehabilitation should be included.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: All right, we will put it to the vote.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Chairman, having been the greater for the wisdom of the Honourable Senator, why can we not move for a reconsideration and allow Senator Rickinson to move her amendment to clause 2 for instance and add it on to Clause 2 where we are referring to earlier offences and not specifically... it would require your agreement, Madam Chairman. Of course we can do anything ...

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No. That cannot be done now at this stage, Senator.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am informed, at your discretion of course, Madam Chairman, entirely at the Senate's discretion.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Madam Chairman, I feel very strongly that rehabilitation should be included because if someone did something once and did it again they would need to be rehabilitated because obviously they have not been and if rehabilitation has been tried it needs to be tried again.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Senator Rickinson, there is no dispute about that. It has been added on and we are just going to put it to the vote.

The question was put to the Senate and negatived.
1.00 p.m.

Clause 5 was called.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Madam Chairman, in Clause 4 we talked about any constable or any peace officer on the last line of section (b). Here, we go and use a different terminology for some particular reason saying, "a police officer or parish constable." I would like to point out to the Honourable Senate that the Parish Constables Act was amended to create "island constables." We no longer, as far as I know, have parish constables. So what I was thinking that we should use similar terminology to that in clause 4, any "constable or peace officer," rather than a "police officer or parish constable." This would make a lot of sense and everything would be just regularised.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Are you suggesting an amendment and putting it in writing, Senator Laurie? Do you have a seconder for it?

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I second that, Madam Chairman.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: The amendment is, I am suggesting in the first line of Clause 5 that it should read "a constable or other peace officer" may arrest any person, *etcetera*. Therefore, remove the words "police officer or parish constable" and substitute it with the terminology in 4(b), "a constable or other peace officer." I also explain too that this would include security guards which have under the Security Guards Act have powers of arrest. If you say, here, "police officer or parish constable" you specifically eliminate those other peace officers who have powers of arrest.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Chairman, I just want it to be clear that I am seconding the amendment which changes "parish constable" to "island constable". That is the amendment I am seconding.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: That is not what Senator Laurie has read out.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I do not mind if you say, "a police officer or other peace officer," I am very happy with that amendment to my amendment. Instead of "parish constable" let us replace it with "peace officer" because then that would cover the whole run.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Has the Clerk got that amendment now? Have you a seconder of this amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I second it, Madam Chairman.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Senator Boyce, have you withdrawn your seconding this and it is now being seconded by Senator Rickinson? And has the Clerk now got the amendment? Please, could you read it?

"A police officer or other peace officer may arrest any person who is found committing an offence under this Act and shall immediately take him before a magistrate to be dealt with in the manner prescribed by this Act."

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Madam Chairman, I thought we were adding another group of persons and that we would have three, that is to say, "a police officer, constable or other peace officers."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, that is not what Senator Rickinson has seconded and that is not what Senator Laurie has said, Sir.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I would ask Senator Workman really to comment on this. My interpretation of "peace officer" would cover the whole thing, constables, island constables, everything. It would cover anybody who has the right to arrest. So that I think that if we just said, "police officer or peace officer," it would cover everything.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Madam Chairman, I think that the reason why the draftpersons (and I am using the sexist language, because I think there are ladies up there, that would satisfy a lot of people) have inserted the words "or other peace officer" in section 4(b) is to cover not only the present also the future. This is what drafting is about, not just for "now and now", but down the line. So, I thought this was what Senator Laurie was getting at when he said a "police officer or constable or other peace officer", so that it fits into the same general pattern for 'now' and for 'ever'. Because, from time to time we may just decide that certain other categories of persons are "peace officers" and they will be covered here without coming for another amendment.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Will the Clerk please read the amendment?

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: If Senator Laurie is prepared to accept an amendment to his amendment then I second that one.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: For simplicity sake, let me withdraw my amendment and then if Senator Workman would move the wording and Senator Springer would second it we could clean the whole mess up.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I would also withdraw my seconding.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Madam Chairman, I move that the words "and other peace officers" be inserted after the word "constable".

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I second that.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Has the Clerk now got the new amendment?

"A police officer or parish constable or other peace officer may arrest any person who is found committing an offence under this Act and shall immediately take him before a magistrate to be dealt with in the manner prescribed by this Act."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I put that to the vote.

A division has been called for.

Noes: SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY, SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE, SENATOR T. E. BARKER, SENATOR D. T. GILL, SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE, SENATOR N. P. WELCH – 8

Ayes: SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON, SENATOR C. K. LAURIE, SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS, SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON, SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN, SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE, SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER – 7

The motion was negatived.

Clauses 5, 6, and 7 inclusive were called and passed.
1.10 p.m.

Clauses 8 and 9 were called and passed.

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

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Madam Chairman, before you leave your seat I said rebut, before you got up, and I was ignored and I would like to know why.

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

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass and be cited as the Minor Offences Act, 1997. I also ask that a

message be sent to the Other Place informing them that this Bill has been passed with amendment.

DIVISION

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Senate dividing as follows:

Ayes: SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY, SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE, SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS, SENATOR D. T. GILL, SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE, SENATOR N. P. WELCH, SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN, SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON, SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE – 11

Noes: SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON, SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS – 2.

Abstention: SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.30 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2.30 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
1.20. p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF \$750 000 FROM EDGHILL ASSOCIATES LIMITED

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to start a debate on this Resolution which seeks the Senate's approval for the borrowing under the provisions of the Special Loans Act, Cap. 105 the sum of some \$750 000 for the construction of a jetty in Speightstown. As you would be aware, Sir, the Special Loans Act, Cap. 105, makes provision for Government to borrow from virtually any corporate entity as prescribed in the Act:

“ ... to borrow from ... any bank, corporation, company or other institutions sums of money not exceeding in the aggregate \$500 000 000.”

Of course that limit has been adjusted from time to time. It was last adjusted in 1987.

Basically, this provision is for Government to finance a number of its activities from time to time. What in effect has happened in this case is that this is really part of a new trend of public/private sector partnerships which are being used around the world as a means of facilitating development of infrastructure in various communities in countries around the world. The nature of this project is that Government rather than having to find \$750 000 in a single year to construct a jetty is basically getting into a private/public partnership which has features somewhat similar to what the modern terminology would loosely describe as build/operate/transfer arrangements. It has those features not that it is the classical model, where a company is going to be constructing the jetty to recover costs over a period of time from Government and the legal framework within which that is done because, in effect, it constitutes a loan by a company to the Government and would be a loan under the Special Loans Act but, in fact, there will be no transfer of funds from the company to the Government for construction of the jetty.

Sir, this whole question of public/private partnership is one of the modern features of governance around the world and, as I said earlier, Sir, it is being used as a means of developing infrastructure around the island.

It is important that these partnerships be set up within a particular framework and I think that the high level of cooperation and trust which exists between the social partners in Barbados provide the underlying framework within which that kind of development can be pursued. We have other examples of where public/private sector partnerships have been used to develop infrastructure which is considered necessary for national development. We have seen this model used, for example, in the case of the cruise terminal at the Bridgetown Port where the Government originally had a proposal for the establishment of this cruise terminal to provide comfortable accommodation for passengers for cruise ships as well as provide opportunity for cruise ships. The Government recognised at the time that it would cause some strain on the Government to find funds up front to construct the facility on its own and it also turned out that the model which was being proposed by the relevant department of Government for that facility was one which was relatively more expensive than the final one which was agreed to.

It was agreed by the Government and the private sector that a cruise ship terminal would be built and the costs which the private sector incurred at the time would be recovered by way of a particular arrangement over time. Whatever view one may have on the precise nature of the agreement and so on is another matter.
2.40 p.m.

The fact of the matter is that the public/private partnership was one way by which the country was able to benefit from the construction of the cruise terminal and the private sector funds which were used were recovered over a period of time by the agreement to allocate a portion of the head tax revenue for the company which had built the cruise ship pier.

Similarly, an arrangement was entered into at the airport where additional duty-free shops were built somewhere around 1992/93. Again it was recognised that the country would benefit from an increased availability of duty-free shopping space at the airport. The Government at the time was not in a position, through lack of funds and so on, to actually do the construction and some private companies actually funded the construction of the infrastructure with the condition that they would have the concession for a particular period of time.

These are some of the examples where in Barbados already we have used public/private partnerships. Like I said, these are part of a general development around the world which sees the fast-tracking of the provision of infrastructural development and so on and you are likely to see much more of this type of activity.

Indeed, the Government is in the final stages of developing a framework which will set the ground rules for the development of future public/private partnerships. This can be used to develop anything from industrial parks to roads, to airport expansion, seaport expansion and other goods and services can be provided via that route.

Basically, this public/private partnership arrangement is one in which the risk as well as the rewards, if there are any, of providing this infrastructure are jointly shared by the Government and the private sector. Although, Sir, this Resolution is stated in the form of the borrowing of sums under the Special Loans Act, I want you to set the matter in the context in which there is an outstanding amount due by Government to the company. It is not by way of a cash transfer to the Government to construct the jetty.

What will, in fact, happen, Sir, is that the jetty will be constructed by the company which is in the construction business and the Project Management Team which will include both Government and private officials with their auditors and so on will keep track of the costs, and the repayment for the sums expended in the construction of the jetty and associated facilities would be made to the company by way of waivers of corporation tax in subsequent years, so that the Government repays its loan by way of that method.

This project, Sir, is part of the wider development of the Speightstown area which all have agreed for many

years is a location with tremendous potential. It is a place where, thankfully, the dreams are now becoming reality. What is inspiring in respect of Speightstown is that much of the development that is occurring there is being driven by the community.

For example, Sir, there was the Speightstown "Paint the Town" competition which was done in 1994, 1995 and so on so that even before the major physical developments were embarked upon, the community in association with the private sector was able to obtain paint. They were able to spruce up the town and get the benefits of an upliftment of spirit which then was able to add fuel to the already simmering fire of their desire to have a rejuvenated Speightstown. This rejuvenation is beginning to bear some fruit. We are already beginning to see an improvement in the aesthetics of the area.

Remember Speightstown is one of the remaining places in which the traditional architectural styles of Barbados are still very much evident. It has enough of that kind of built heritage as would make it an attractive location for business, for pleasure, for locals and visitors alike.

We have also seen a resurgence of business in that area because part of what we are aiming to do with Speightstown does not relate merely to having an aesthetically pleasing location for people to stop, stare and go away but having a community which is enlivened and which is fully supported by commercial activity which would therefore provide jobs and wealth creation opportunities for the residents of Speightstown and indeed the other areas of the north which have Speightstown as being their city, the people in St. Lucy, St. James and other parts of the northern part of Barbados for whom Speightstown is a major location for doing business and for pleasurable activities.

Now, Sir, this project therefore forms part of the Speightstown redevelopment process. It may not be recalled by many people, Sir, that the building of a jetty in Speightstown is really a matter of replacing what was lost some time ago.

Speightstown did, in fact, have a jetty years ago. As a matter of fact, Speightstown was the whaling capital of Barbados. There are still people alive who can tell you that up to the early 1900s whales were still caught and landed at Speightstown. There are still people who will tell you about catching the boat to go from Speightstown to Bridgetown so that the construction of a jetty there is really restoring part of the built heritage of the town and it would provide an opportunity for two things the way it is designed.

It is deliberately designed to provide an opportunity for the docking of coastal cruise vessels as well as for the loading and unloading of fish, so it really serves a dual purpose in terms of the design with the different heights of berthing and so on.

The relevant authorities, the Barbados Port Authority, and all the other relevant Government agencies, have been very much involved in the planning and design of the facility. Right through all aspects of the project that element of Government and private sector cooperation is there to ensure that not only the plans which are developed and approved by the relevant agencies, the Town Planner, the Coastal Management Unit and so on are consistent with what is desirable, but also that by way of implementation that the plan as implemented is the same as the plan as proposed. So that we will be able in short order to restore to Speightstown some of what it had many years ago, that is the capacity to have ships berthing in town. That would also provide opportunities again for increased economic activity as visitors and others would go to the town to engage in various pleasurable or business activities.

The potential of Speightstown, therefore, for future development will be very much enhanced by this project. It is therefore, in our opinion, a very fit and proper project for a Government to be involved in and to which Government will seek to provide the financing because ultimately Government will pay for the construction of the jetty. This loan that we are seeking the Senate's approval for under the Special Loans Act is designed to do just that.

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.
2.50 p.m.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I cannot but help but be amazed sometimes at the way Resolutions are dealt with by the Honourable Leader of this Senate when he introduces them. On this occasion, I am flabbergasted by the fact that the Honourable Senator is talking about an event in the future which has already occurred because unlike the Honourable Senator, Sir, I am acutely familiar with Speightstown having lived all my years as a child in Speightstown and having frequented the very areas which the Honourable Senator sought to try to deal with a moment ago.

One thing he said which was very, very correct is that Speightstown always had jetties. The jetties being located at what was known then as Fort Denmark which was an area more familiarly known probably to some of us as the Speightstown Almshouse and the other large jetty would have served the Six Men's area for the loading of sugar on lighter ships. That event has its own history and indeed it

was the subject of much debate during the 1996 election in St. Peter where I think it can be truly recorded that there was a social revolt by the people of Six Men's when the change-over in the handling of sugar was imminent and their jobs were obviously going to be threatened. History will record the other events associated with that.

Sir, the jetty which the Honourable Senator referred and the one which is supported by the documents which he has loaned me is not to be constructed, it has already been constructed and it therefore leaves a number of questions for this Honourable Senate, Sir to answer. Not least amongst these questions is whether the proper accounting rules of this country have been observed by the Minister responsible for Finance on this occasion. We must not allow our exuberance, our excitement about the development of one area of the island even to the detriment of other areas of the island to cloud our good judgment and to cause us, Sir, to transgress the financial rules of this country. We on this side are totally familiar with private sector/public sector relationships. We were architects of these arrangements especially during the period of 1991 and forward during structural adjustment but even in looking back at history, can the DLP necessarily because of the events of that period of time, lay claim to any special consideration by way of private sector/public sector arrangements?

Barbadians are familiar with arrangements of that sort and even before structural adjustment the Government of Barbados by way of public funds participated actively in the activities of such entities as Arawak Cement Plant, the Barbados External Telecommunications and to a lesser extent the Barbados Light & Power Co. Ltd. We, Sir, participated in the development in the thrust for tourism development in this country when we attracted and supported the investment of the hotel chains like Hilton International and more recently what has now become the Almond Beach Resort which started out, of course, as a private sector/public sector joint venture owned by the Government of Barbados and run at one time, I believe, by Wyndham and subsequently by another hotel chain.

So private sector/public sector relations are not new things and the Honourable Minister must be seized with that fact. He is therefore not breaking new ground when he talks about an alliance between the Barbados Government and Edghill Associates on this occasion. The new ground he is breaking is as I have intimated.... the questions which are raised in our minds. The first question as to the specifications of the project. Is Edghill Associates as they are right to do, they are a construction firm and they have a long history of experience in the field of construction....if Edghill Associates set out specifications for a particular construction, who were the Government representatives in terms of consideration of the specifications which

Edghill Associates would have put to this construction, this piece of engineering, who set these specifications, Sir.

I know that we are blatantly aware of situations where if specifications are not met and are not adhered to by contractors we can lead to one catastrophe and the other. And I refer specifically, Sir, to the questions being raised today about the South Coast Sewerage Project which I am sure that we will have numerous opportunities unfortunately to revisit over the next two years or so before we get that project going again.

Sir, the first question before this Chamber therefore is, who set the standards for the concrete to be used, for the wood splints that have been laid down? Who decided whether they should be 8 or 10 inches or 2 inches, who set the strength of the concrete, who decided on the content of steel? I need to get the facts of history firmly planted in the mind of the Honourable Leader of the Senate. Those who observed the construction which ended about three weeks ago have commented on the fact that a lot of the material used was in their opinion and I say this quite cautiously, because they did not boast of being engineers themselves and even then would not have had the advantage of specific laboratory testing, but in their humble opinion a lot of the material that was used appeared to have been either second hand or sub-standard or both, Sir. A question which I would hope would not come to haunt us because I, like many other Barbadians especially from St. Peter would not want to stand in the way of the development and the progress of that great little parish.

Sir, the private sector/public sector relationship which the Honourable Senator who just spoke referred to also, the one specifically involving the leasehold improvement of the Port in terms of the investment by cruise terminals into the expansion of the passenger facility were characterised then and continue to be characterised by scathing criticism from the Barbados Labour Party Members. They said then and as they continue to say today that the Democratic Labour Party was selling out the birthright of Barbadians to whites. 3.00 p.m.

If that is not what they said, Sir, I am prepared to sit down while they tell me what they said. The records of this country will show that even today when a young, black Barbadian shareholder of that company can get up and state categorically what the real position is, there is no retraction coming from that side. And in full breach of the Financial Rules of this country they are asking this Honourable Senate today, Sir, to go along with them and pass this Bill.

They build and operate. Build and operate is not a new term. In my area of endeavour, in mechanical engineering, we often have opportunities to make proposals

based on build, maintain and operate by way of installation of equipment, be it large air conditioning cooling systems or be it prime electricity providers. Indeed this is being fine-tuned today to even include much smaller entities if we are to explain the term.

In other words there are some facilities now who would come to a mechanical engineering company or would offer to mechanical engineering companies to make presentations to them based on not only supplying, say, their electrical power but offering them the entire gambit, indeed in some cases even managing the situation by way of provision of manpower and technique.

These corporations, these build and operate arrangements, however are characterised by ensuring that the client gets the best deal and there, Sir, I come to my second question.

Where is the evidence before this Honourable Senate today, Sir, that there has been an attempt by the Minister of Finance to ensure that he got the best price, or to use the language or the tense of the Honourable Senate Leader that he gets the best price for this proposed jetty? I put that in inverted commas deliberately.

Sir, we have become accustomed in Barbados to ensuring that aspect by resorting to a process known as tendering by which an activity is advertised for the participation of any people or any business who feel themselves competent to carry out the activity. This development at St. Peter is void of such attention. There is no evidence of tendering having taken place for the award because that is what it turns out to be. It is simply an award of a contract of \$750 000 to Edghill Associates and, Sir, one cannot blame Edghill Associates. One has to be concerned about those whom we have put in charge of our finances when activities like this occur and the public continues to await comment from the Barbados Labour Party Government in respect to the tendering process which accompanied this award, an award of \$750 000.

There was a time in Barbados when one Government ministry could award contracts up to \$25 000 without reference to the tendering process. I believe that over the last couple of months this has been modified for one reason or other but certainly the Auditor General's Report of 2 years ago would have had some part in the modification where he commented on the fact that there were departments of Government which were deliberately subdividing contracts into less than \$25 000 so as to conveniently avoid the tendering process.

One can only conclude that the Barbados Labour Party Government was practising giving contracts to their chosen companions.

This is a situation which we cannot tolerate. So we moved the limit from \$25 000 to \$100 000 and I believe unless there has been another modification that is where the public of Barbados believes it now stands. I am therefore calling on the Minister to explain to the public of Barbados why an award of \$750 000 can be made to a contracting company without any resort to the tendering process of this country.

3.10 p.m.

This Barbados Labour Party Government must stand condemned unless they can provide at this late stage some evidence, Sir, of a tendering process having been entered into. This is serious business, Sir, this goes to the very axis on which the finances of this country are operated. And no amount of grandstanding about the need to include the private sector in our development, because I have been careful in my introduction to make the point that the private sector has always been part of the development of this country and I anticipate that they will be, for a long time. Of course they have a way themselves of withdrawing support in one form or other from time to time, and having the resulting effect, but that is their business.

So, it has been reported, for instance that in explaining the reason to go this route, the Minister of Finance has sought to say, Sir, that this method of doing business would fast-track the development in Barbados. It would by-pass all the bureaucracy and although these words are not attributed to his quotation, Sir, to my mind it would also bypass any controls that have been put in place deliberately and solely for that purpose to ensure that Government in the use of taxpayers' funds has the best deal at all times. Even when we were entering into legitimate expansions and cooperation programmes with the private sector, those Honourable Members over there whom now sleep, Sir, were loud in their criticism of the Democratic Labour Party's Administration in pursuit of a cooperation arrangement with the private sector. A Democratic Labour Party Government, Sir, which led the way in terms of restructuring of the economy and even today, Sir, with all the economic boasts of the present Minister of Finance, we are hearing more recently, in more sober times now that the economy of Barbados might indeed still be on floundering ground and that there is still a basic problem with the way it operates. I think it is obvious, Sir, to any Barbadian that there are problems with economic matters in Barbados.

We only need to walk or drive around this country and observe where things are happening and what is happening. Where is the food in the ground? Observe how we have become consumer people. Observe the demise of manufacturing, where nothing has happened. I am not

saying nothing has been done, where nothing has happened about manufacturing over the last three years and, of course, the Honourable Senator who led this Bill, Sir, is the one who is half in charge of that portfolio in Barbados. I say half and might need to explain it.

There are two Ministers of Commerce in Barbados, one responsible for international trade, Sir, and one responsible for local trade. It is meant in all seriousness and is not in any way meant otherwise.

Sir, the jetty in Speightstown is built and I want to assure you, Sir, that if you visit Speightstown right now, if we had time, I would beg that we go down there now.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not available.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I thought you would say that, Sir, because when I invited you to go and see the condition of the pedestrian lights at the top of Broad Street, you said the same thing. I understand the pressures of work for the order of the day. I would not do it now either, Sir, except with your leave.

But, Sir, if we went to Speightstown now and went to the fish market together, or as a site visit as they call it. In the courts they have a special term for it where you go out and visit the scene of the crime. But you will see behind the fish market a completed jetty, Sir. So unless this jetty belongs to somebody else, it bears great likeness because I must admit some knowledge, Sir, of interpretation by way of engineering drawings and it bears some likeness to the document handed to me by the Honourable Senator, Sir, in terms of its orientation on the map which is numbered job number B605, drawing number 01. This is not a document that belongs to the Government of Barbados, this belongs to David Lashley and Partners who would be working, of course, for Edghill Associates. It just happens to be a copy. But this jetty, the one that we would see, if we went to Speightstown would bear great likeness and we must therefore conclude that it is the jetty we are considering. Its length is the same, Sir. I paced it out myself. I did not go the full distance, I must admit, Sir, being a little timid of the ocean when not in secure surroundings. I went about half way. My partner paced out the rest and we have confirmed the measurements to agree with this document. What was strange is that before Senator Farley handed me this document the only evidence I had, Sir, was what I could dig up from the Town and Country Planning Department, that is the publicly available document. The thing about digging up, Sir, is that you can only dig up what is planted. So, if only a certain amount of information is available that is all the information you will get. I did not get everything from the Town Planning Department, but I made it impossible for Senator Farley not to share the full document with me before he began the debate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Would you like to rephrase that? I would not like to think that.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I made it impossible for Senator Farley not to share the full document with me before he began the debate.

The entries in Town Planning even, Sir, lend question as to what has gone on in Speightstown.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order. Mr. President, I want to make it clear and the point of order is, Sir, that the Honourable Member is misleading the House. It is a long-standing convention in both places that in matters relating to land acquisition, and other matters where either of the two Houses is being asked to make a decision that the file is there and that the copies of the plans with respect to locations are normally exchanged. I am therefore objecting strongly to the suggestion that there was any effort to hide information and that therefore one Honourable Member had to trick another Honourable Member to obtain information which is normally available and which is shared. There is no secret, confidential or private information and I strongly object to the imputation that in this matter there is any information that one would have to obtain trickery in order to obtain.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think the mischief was corrected. Thank you.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: What has not yet been corrected, Sir, and what would have been addressed, Sir, is the question of who tendered, how much they tendered and why they won the tender. But, I think that with or without coercion the Honourable Member will not be in a position this evening to answer the question about who tendered for this job. Sir, Barbados will stand to judge him. Barbadians will live to judge him and the other members of this Cabinet over time in respect to this act. I say categorically that even by way of not being able to pull sufficient information from the Town Planning it seems that some information is hidden away from public scrutiny but as the old saying in Barbados goes, "You can hide and buy land, but you cannot hide and work it." You can hide and arrange for a jetty to be built but as long as that jetty is going to be built it will become visible to all, and the fishermen in Speightstown and surrounding areas have seen the jetty. I spend a lot of time with them. Remember the Honourable Member was at pains to talk about the development not only as he put it of coastal cruise liners but of the fishing industry. I was going to say, ignorant as he is, but that would probably cause him to get up again. 3.20 p.m.

Because he is unaware of how the fishermen in Speightstown operate, he would be minded to say something like that. A cursory visit to Six Men's confirmed something that I knew for a while, that fishermen have long stopped coming into the Speightstown port *per se* and prefer because of the prevailing tides to use safe harbour at Six Men's. Maybe even in the time which I referred to there was knowledge of this because that is where the lightermen worked and where the jetty was that loaded the sugar and brought it to Bridgetown for on-shipment.

So the next question is how many fishermen was this jetty built for, or is it that this jetty is really built for coastal cruise liners? You see an interest which the mass of Barbadians are involved in. It is a special group and remember the Democratic Labour Party and John Boyce least of all have no difficulty with business development but we have a situation where the livelihood of thousands of Barbadians are at stake by way of the fishing industry and they do not have any safe port on which to land their boats in Speightstown. They have to anchor their boats some distance out to sea at Six Men's and those who are daring enough would then swim ashore. The others would wait until they return with their moses and bring them ashore in the normal way which we would have known in many years gone by.

I would have thought, Sir, that any development of that area would have paid some attention to that economic activity. It would serve two-fold. Not only to provide the opportunity for these small Barbadian people but it would also serve to provide balance, that much needed balance which I referred to in our economic activities and in terms of the development of our people.

I say categorically when you drive into Speightstown today and take a drive on that road from the by-pass, from the time you leave the street lights you believe that you are no longer in a community of Barbados. I was shocked two weekends ago taking home a guy to Boscobelle to see Barbadians stretching to look over the wall at Port St. Charles to look into the yards of others. This is not the kind of development that I see for my people, Sir. This is not what I expect in terms of taking my people along. This is not what we elect governments for.

Sir, this is brought home even more strongly when you recognise the restricted access which is now available for Barbadians to utilise the beach facility of Heywoods area. It is an absolute travesty of justice, to my mind. We are going to pay for it and I am nothing to do and I do not care how much they rant over there about the DLP this and that. I am talking about 1997. I am talking about the watch of the Barbados Labour Party under the current administration and the present Cabinet. Nobody else am I talking about.

So the choice for change which we heralded in 1994 might not be the choice for better. We are not going to sit by and watch this kind of skewed development and we have to refer to it in here time and time again but if this is the lot which has fallen me I will do it with all resolve. We cannot stand idly by and watch skewed development which puts the fishermen of Six Men's completely out of the picture whereas the cruise line operators or the small coastal cruise line operators can look forward to facilities to enhance their business activity.

The next event one can anticipate is that what is now the fish market in Speightstown, just before you get to the bridge almost contiguous with the bridge as you head back towards Bridgetown between the church and Jemmott's Variety Store, before long, as Barbadians would say, you will find that the fish market which used to provide economic life and indeed good nutrition for Barbadians will become a terminal for human heads and instead of counting fish and weighing fish we will have a head count while the conductors of the cruise boats collect their respective \$1.50 or whatever they charge on those lines.

We are not seeing the parallel development. As a matter of fact, I hope that we are not seeing an exclusion of the provision for economic facility by way of changing the use of the fish market and shifting the people away from their known activity. Sir, the only correct historical reference to this project which the Honourable Senator made was when he referred to "Paint the Town", because given the time span that I would rightly expect a construction of this nature to take, it probably started when the Paint the Town promotion took place. Of course the paint has long faded and Speightstown is now back to what Speightstown used to be, save the lights and they will remain on.

The paint has faded and the construction of the jetty which I would want to hazard a guess was probably formulated at the time of "Paint the Town" and the commitments might have been made then.

Of course, this coincides with the head of the Speightstown Project who used to be a good friend of mine. I hope he still is, Mr. Mackie Holder. Of course now we know and history will record what has happened and what has become of him in terms of his movement in the Prime Minister's Office. He was partly in charge of the activities in the Speightstown redevelopment to liaison between this Government and the private sector.

I hope that the lack of scrutiny which attends this has not attended all the activities related to the Speightstown Redevelopment Project.
3.30 p.m.

I hope where Government funds are involved there has been the appropriate scrutiny applied by way of ensuring that the Government appointed officers participate fully in the decision-making in respect to the spending of our people's money. I hope that this right has not been handed over to a select few in terms of carrying it out because the circumstances still which have surrounded this manpower change have not yet been fully ventilated in public. I do not support rumours so I am not going to refer to any of them. As I said, Mackie Holder is my friend. We grew up next door to each other and I know him very well. I also know his family well.

Sir, the development of this jetty in Speightstown has clearly left out the fishermen. What it has also done is that it has drawn my attention and the people of Six Men's attention to the fact that there is much needed development in terms of vending facilities at the same Six Men's. Instead of this kind of money being allocated at this time to this venture, one might normally have seen that money channelled through the Ministry of Agriculture into the development of appropriate facilities for vending of either fresh fish or cooked fish which has now become a very popular business in Barbados.

The conditions at Six Men's are, to my mind, deplorable. They could be much better than that given the resources which the Government of Barbados today boasts, the kind of funds it says it has at its disposal. It is a crying shame that the fishermen and the fish sellers of Six Men's have to undergo the kind of torture they have to undergo to carry out their legitimate business. Worse yet, Sir, is to contemplate the conditions under which we go as citizens and visitors to Barbados to enjoy the ware being offered by them.

They can take examples, Sir, of some of the development. Oistins is not like it was going to be breaking new ground. The point is the Oistins Development would have pointed the way of the kind of minimal facilities because again the Oistins facilities are only a start of the minimal facilities that we should be accepting today.

In today's world, with the kind of exposure likely to all types of infection, *etcetera*, not to say it did not exist then or a long time ago in terms of the exposure to illness if you did not treat food properly, but with the knowledge now that we have of what can happen if food is not dealt with properly, I am sure Senator Laurie when he makes his submission will be able to visit this topic, especially meat and fish, the facilities that are presently offered to the vendors of Six Men's cannot be considered appropriate, not given today's expectations and not given the standards which we know we should offer. We need to offer our Barbadian people and our guests alike only the best as it relates to this kind of service.

Indeed, this would offer the economic opportunity for the vendors of Speightstown and the vendors of Six Men's to participate fully in that development of Speightstown. It would not then be a "Paint Speightstown" but it would be a whole movement of a people with a new economic power toward that ever fleeting goal of empowerment and of self-sustainability.

Sir, I want to make it clear that the answers to the questions which I have asked must be provided. If they are not provided in here, we will ensure that they are provided elsewhere. The people of Barbados must know why the contract we are contemplating to satisfy today by way of the passing of this Bill was awarded in the sums that it was awarded, to the party that it was awarded to and why were not others considered.

I know at least two other contractors who have spoken to me, Sir, and who could build this jetty. They were not given the opportunity to tender. This is an unacceptable precedent. It must be nipped in the bud and we should not attempt to hide it either by the passage of time or by the language.

I refer again to my notes on the newspaper reports of November 27 where it clearly states that the Prime Minister is talking about a jetty to be built, and like a clone, we have had repeated today in the same language "a jetty to be built, a loan to be made" to this person and that person in the full knowledge – I must admit that Senator Farley made it clear to me he did not know so I have to take his word for it. He made it clear to me that the jetty was now being built in a conversation. So we are misleading the public of Barbados two-fold by this use of language.

I am saying to this Honourable Chamber that whereas private sector involvement in public sector development and in the growth of our economy and, indeed, provision of opportunity for our people is a worthy cause. And whereas the Democratic Labour Party does not stand in the way of such development, we certainly stand in the way of acts which contravene the rules of this country, rules which have been built on the back and sweat of our forefathers, and in some cases their lives. Conventions and rules which we have become accustomed to and which we expect. Conventions and rules which inform our everyday activities and by which we intend to stand fast.

The Barbados Labour Party Government therefore, Sir, stands condemned for this act. The Democratic Labour Party will ensure the full ventilation of the obvious transgressions and no amount of reference to fast-tracking, no amount of reference to avoidance of bogging down in bureaucracy can move us from our mission.

The Barbados Labour Party would like to be commentators of convenience and criticise vehemently private sector participation, likening it unto special interest arrangements when it is convenient, and then come in here today on December 17 and expect this Honourable Chamber to go hand in hand with them in an activity which does not bear scrutiny which is full of – I have to be very careful with the choice of language because it is clear that the events surrounding the award of the contract to build this jetty which has necessitated the Bill before us today are less than crystal clear.

3.40 p.m.

I would not be so uncharitable as to refer to private conversations which I have had with the contractors because they are people who I know both professionally and personally and I think it is our responsibility as legislators to control these organisations. That is why we are put here and when sometimes Parliament is referred to by anyone as being a special interest institution we should not be surprised, not if we are going to bring this kind of legislation to Parliament day after day, we should not be surprised when the people out there, the poor people in Sayers Court who cannot find a home to live in, the mothers of this country who have to suffer in circumstances less than pleasant, in situations where children in this country in spite of what the Barbados Labour Party propaganda might want to say, are forced to go to school without meals or without adequate meals. In a situation where our tourism product is being threatened by the wanton abuse of people who are suffering because of their addiction to drugs and there is no visible activity in bringing to justice the perpetrators of drugs in this country. Then we come in here and we pretend that we are administrators of the people's interest and bring special legislation from time to time which seeks only to fatten a certain group.

I want to make it abundantly clear that the Democratic Labour Party opposes this Bill, Sir. We will urge Honourable Senators on both sides to measure the content of this Bill very carefully, measure especially the implications as it speaks to the transgression in the Ministry of Finance, measure the implications as it speaks to the continued skewed development in this country and measure them, Sir, as they speak to the lost opportunity, for instance for the many fishermen of Six Men's who could have used the monies contemplated in terms of building their facilities and building their stock of equipment.

Sir, I am utterly flabbergasted by this development. I am a supporter, as I said before of private sector involvement. I as a private sector person myself, look forward to working hand in hand with Government from time to time but I would like, as applies to me and as applies I am sure to all Honourable Members that

the Ministry and the Ministers who we put in our charge shall continue to maintain good judgement and observe the financial rules of this country as they go about their daily business.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I understand the predicament of the Honourable Member who just spoke, over anything that happens in St. Peter. His party has a historical record and a historical attitude towards St. Peter which was summed up in the memorable words, in the immortal words of their late leader, and I quote "Boscobelle is off the map and Black Bess is behind God's back". That leader was the late and their great Errol Walton Barrow which meant that nothing ever was to be done in St. Peter. He said that many years ago. He was Prime Minister from 1961 to 1976 and he maintained that policy. When he became Prime Minister in 1986 one of his first acts was to halt a fishing development, the equivalent of what took place at Oistins or in Bridgetown, for St. Peter.

I am therefore amazed and in other places I would talk about hypocritical, but I know I cannot say that. I am amazed at the sanctimonious attitude, the sanctimonious acting and stance and performance of the Honourable Senator who now seeks to grapple with fishermen of St. Peter, particularly with those of Six Men's with hoops and steels to quote Shakespeare. I am really amazed.

He also talks about the Speightstown jetty and Six Men's jetty. He makes no reference to any other part of the coastline in St. Peter and I think what he really wants to talk about where Six Men's is concerned, is the failure of one of his supporters, a Mr. Broome, to get the development he wants in St. Peter. He should really talk about that in Six Men's and not about the so called fishermen in St. Peter.

Sir, I sat in awe and from the way I was looking at him he probably thought I was impressed by the content of his speech. I was not. I was literally in awe at his seemingly limitless capacity to take any innocent situation and give it a political twist that is absolutely amazing.

Sir, at this time of the year when we are thinking about the birth of Christ, I believe that if we were today to bring a Resolution to this Chamber to commemorate the birth of Christ, to record the fact that Christ had been born, the Honourable Senator would give a twist to it that nobody could believe and make it seem as though it was a bad event for the rest of the world, as he is doing now with this. Sir, he talks about the BLP having been accused of selling the birthright of the Barbadian public to special

interests. It is a fact that it is a tradition of the Democratic Labour Party to make such a change... Sir, if we go back to not only the most recent events at the Bridgetown Cruise Terminal or Heywoods or BET or BARTEL, but if we were to go back to HARP whereby your Government allowed a facility to be set up supposedly to test guns and the citizens of Barbados had no legal right to sue anybody if they suffered any damage for it. Is not that selling out? HARP, MOBIL where they were guaranteed 12.5% profit after tax. CARSICOT. The list is long and endless. 3.50 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Murray, could you please make some reference to the jetty at Speightstown.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: The jetty, Sir, is related to Mobil because Mobil provides the fuel for the fishing boats that will go there. Be that as it may, Sir, I need to deal with some of the technical specifications of the jetty we are talking about. First of all, he makes a big song and dance about there not being a tender and a contract has been awarded. If one reads and understands the whole arrangement for this jetty ... Sir, this matter deals with an interest free loan in the sum of \$750 000 to the Government of Barbados from Edghill Associates. Do you put out a tender for interest free loans? Have you ever heard anything about a tender for interest free loans?

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber. People do tender for loans, Sir. May I just give an example, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Murray, please continue.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, he makes some further song and dance. He talks, Sir, about observers, people who observe the project have told him about second hand materials being used. He does not give any source of this at all. He does not say who it is, whether it is ...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: All he is seeking to do, Sir, is to castigate people by innuendo. The facts are, Sir, that the jetty is being built on steel piles with a concrete super structure.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. Sir, the jetty is complete. It is not being built. The jetty is complete. The construction has moved

away and the jetty is ready for use. I think this Honourable Senate, Sir, must be mindful of this fact. It stands at the crux of my presentation, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I am speaking on the basis of my knowledge of the jetty. Last time I saw the jetty it was still being built and I am not yet in a position to take the word of the Honourable Senator that it has been completed. I would rather trust my knowledge, what I have seen with my eyes and what I know, rather than anything the Honourable Member says. So I must reject that. The point is that the jetty, as I said, is being built on steel piles with a concrete superstructure in-filled with a greenheart deck. It will be 100 metres long by 4.2 metres wide with the maximum water depth at the end of 4.5 metres. The deck will be 1.8 metres above the water level.

This is the point. He talks about cruise ships and other vessels being able to use the facility and it has no room and makes no accommodation for fishermen. But the jetty's secondary lower deck will accommodate the landing of fish by boats and will be at 1 metre above the water level. I do not think that the cruise boats he is making reference to, Sir, or the party boats, will be landing fish. I am quoting that, Sir, to establish that the jetty was built both to accommodate the traditional fishermen and also to accommodate the other services that will be provided at the facility.

He acts, Sir, as though such a jetty could be built overnight, in secret, with nobody seeing or hearing what went on. It was not built in secret. It was not built in isolation from the rest of Government. Just like any other project, it came under the scrutiny of the Town and Country Planning Department. The matter was referred to the Barbados Port Authority for its comments and the Ministry of Health was involved, so therefore one cannot properly try to make people believe that the only way that this was done was by some secret deal with the IMF or something like that. To try to make it seem that this is another example of some secret deal with the IMF is really misleading the House.

The point is that the other agencies of Government were brought in and they gave their comments, they gave their input to make sure that the project withstood the scrutiny of all that we know to be good government, particularly under the Barbados Labour Party.

The Honourable Senator, Sir, also made a reference to the \$25 000 limit that has now been raised to \$100 000. What he also should have told the Chamber is that \$25 000 limit was set in 1971. One only has to take into consideration what has happened to the value of money. In

1971, \$25 000 was a lot of money. Given inflation and all the other factors obtaining in the economy, very few things as a project could now be costed at \$25 000, so therefore Government felt there was a need to raise the limit to allow it to carry out its work and it has been done under the full glare of public scrutiny and therefore there is nothing to be ashamed of or to apologise for.

I do not understand, Sir, how the Honourable Member could talk about people peeping over the walls of Port St. Charles. The point is that anything good that happens in St. Peter literally sticks in the craw of the Democratic Labour Party. The only thing that did not stick in the craw of the Democratic Labour Party as a "project" was the St. Joseph Hospital of which the Honourable Senator would have intimate knowledge through familial connections. So therefore, we know he can appreciate all that has gone on in the St. Joseph Hospital. He did not mention anything about St. Joseph Hospital, but rather that the \$750 000 being spent on this jetty should have been taken to rehabilitate the St. Joseph Hospital or seek to find out who spent the money in St. Joseph Hospital, but I will pass on, Sir.

The point is that it is untrue to say that there is limited access to the beach at Port St. Charles. I was there about 3 weekends ago. I drove down there just after the rowers arrived in Barbados. I saw where they landed. I saw the balcony on which they received their prizes was still there and there is indeed free access to the beach. There were lots of Bajans driving in, walking in, looking in, bathing, all around the project, so it is not true to say or to give the impression that this is some special project where poor, black people, the small black man, as his party likes to refer to, could only peep in like the dog looking up at the master's table. It is inaccurate, it is unfair and it is untrue, above all. But, Sir, that is all in keeping with his party's approach to these matters, that wherever possible they seek to play the race card either explicitly or by innuendo, to make it seem as though the Barbados Labour Party is seeking to create two Barbadoses, "a white Barbados" and "a black Barbados". Very soon I expect them to resort to reference to the "white shadows" and "dark shadows" again. That will come. As he gets tired, I am sure that will come.

The point is, Sir, that this is a project which will have immense benefit for St. Peter. One of the reasons why the route of relationship and this arrangement emerged between the Government and Edghill Associates, was that when thought was given to the reinstatement of a viable jetty in St. Peter, not a jetty that is closer Six Men's and now full of nostalgia, but one that would take into account all the developments in St. Peter, all the needs currently in St. Peter, a jetty that would be closer to the heart of Speightstown and that you would not have a jetty that

has no real relationship to sustaining and contributing to the immediate economic redevelopment of Speightstown.

The point is that studies were done, international agencies came and examined the project and it was estimated conservatively that under the present arrangement it would take a minimum of 10 years for one of those agencies to contribute to the funding of the establishment of a jetty in St. Peter. Now, if it was the Democratic Labour Party that would be fine, because they would never want to see anything happen in St. Peter but this Government and the Parliamentary Representative of St. Peter, were not of that mind. He realised he had to redress some of the historical imbalances that had been perpetrated on St. Peter by the Democratic Labour Party and therefore he sought this innovative move.

I am amazed, Sir, that a measure which had debate and discussion in the Lower Chamber could now be given such a menacing ...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of
4.00 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, we have no apologies to make for this project. The last time I saw it, it was near to completion. If it is not completed now, it should be very soon completed, and the people of St. Peter, as I know, Sir, I was in St. Peter as recently as Sunday and the people of St. Peter are looking forward to the full realisation of this project as a means of giving the town, particular in Speightstown the boost that it would need.

Now there are all kinds of proposals being made for Speightstown and this jetty. There was a proposal where, Sir, you are going to have a jetty but alongside the jetty would be duty free shops and all kinds of restaurants which meant that if that were to be put in place there would be no traffic into Speightstown. The whole objective is to redevelop and redefine Speightstown and therefore it was thought that the best thing would be to provide a mechanism, a medium in the form of the jetty of this type along which people can proceed into Speightstown where they can wine and dine, they shop, they can walk about, but what they will be doing, they will be taking their business into Speightstown into the existing infrastructure of Speightstown and not seeking to move whatever business there might be that might come throw the erection of this structure out of Speightstown and that would only mean that what life blood there is in Speightstown would be further siphoned off by this activity.

Therefore, Sir, I have no doubt that this project, like I said, will inure to the excellent benefit of Speightstown

in particular and in St. Peter and it adds to a growing list of funds and development that is taking place in St. Peter. The point is that St. Peter is ready for development. We just discovered it is not only interested in St. Peter. It is also interested in St. John. Not so long ago, Sir, we had the official ground breaking ceremony at Villa Nova for an inland hotel project in St. John. But we know that St. John, Sir, has a legacy at the hands of the very same Democratic Labour Party despite 39 years of Democratic Labour Party representation of gross neglect, not a single development you can point to in St. John.

We are not going to discriminate against St. John in the way the Democratic Labour Party has discriminated against St. Peter. So therefore we have thrown the full weight of Government behind that project and we look forward to the people of St. John being part of one Barbados. One reason why we established the Rural and Urban Development Commission is because we have said in our Manifesto a challenge for change that we did not believe in there being two Barbadoses a rural Barbados and an urban Barbados and it is a great disparity between the two.

Therefore we are taking St. John which is traditionally a rural parish into the full scope of development in Barbados, just as we have taken St. Peter, just as we are doing in Christ Church, just like we are doing all over Barbados through the Rural Development Commission and through the Urban Development Commission. So the people of St. John can rest assured that the representation and the development which they did not enjoy under the Democratic Labour Party Government, they will enjoy under a Barbados Labour Party Government. We look forward, Sir, to contributing to the full infrastructural development in St. John, like we did in the only housing development in St. John that was done by the Barbados Labour Party. The completed Gall Hill Centre and Clinic, not polyclinic as is known then, was done by the Barbados Labour Party. The Democratic Labour Party did the unfinished polyclinic in St. John. We did the finished clinic. Most of the roads in St. John were done by the Barbados Labour Party. I could rack my brain and come up with a whole list of things. But the point is, Sir, that we have an attitude toward evenhanded development in Barbados and, because we are seeking to see one Barbados, we are contributing wherever possible and we are taking the innovative. We are going to break the tradition where we think it is fit to do so. We are not going to be held bound by tradition just to satisfy an old concept of development and approach of doing business to satisfy the Democratic Labour Party. Where we see that new ground can be broken, where we see that innovative steps can be taken, we will take them as long as the rules and the procedures for good governance in Barbados are respected and the Barbados Labour Party, Sir, has a full record of good Government in this area and we will

do nothing, Sir, to diminish that record, but will do all we can to enhance it even if it means doing more of these kinds of arrangements as has obtained in the case of the jetty. With that message, Sir, I give this measure my full support.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Before I ask the next Senator to speak, let me just make the point that a number of irrelevances have been creeping into debate on this Resolution. I will just urge Honourable Senators to observe the rules, particularly Standing Order No. 35 (1).

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I rise to speak on this Resolution and to admit that I am confused up-front. Part of the debate says that the jetty is more or less completed. The Resolution says the money is for the purpose for constructing a jetty at Speightstown, which means that it has not yet been constructed and the last speaker said that the last time he saw it, it was near completion.

Obviously, Mr. President, all of these things cannot be right. What concerns me is not the jetty, I am very glad for any development in Speightstown because Speightstown has been neglected for many years and it has turned into a ghost town where most of the people left Speightstown and went elsewhere. I fully support any attempt to develop Speightstown. However, Mr. President, despite the fact that I support the economic policies of this Government, because I feel that they are doing good in the economy and I like the economics, I still need to call for some measure of transparency.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: It is not what they have done and what is being done, as I said, I support development, but it is how it is being done. I feel that they need to pay a bit more attention to educating the public more about their plans and also try not to do what I call, put the cart before the horse.

Mr. President, I heard about this jetty for many, many, many months so I took it for granted that the finances were available and one did not have to come to this Honourable Senate to seek finances for the construction of the jetty. But, Mr. President, according to this Resolution, the Government deems it necessary to borrow the sum of \$750 000 from Edghill Associates Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act for the purpose of constructing a jetty in Speightstown.

Mr. President, I know there are several ways of financing projects.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order, if I may help the Honourable Senator the point is, on a point of elucidation now, I am trying to help the Honourable Senator. The point is that it is an interest free loan and it is in the proposal that the loan will be set off against the future corporation tax liability of the said company.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you for your attempt to explain to me that the Government is getting a loan but is not paying interest for the loan, but borrowing money. Whatever is set up it is taxpayers money however you get it, whether it is in the form of bonds, whether it be in the form ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, do not let me interrupt you, just from the point of view of clarity, attached to the Resolution is an addendum which forms part of the papers before you. So, I would merely ask for the sake of good order that you look at that as well, because it is before the Senate.

4.10 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I read the addendum which said and I read it again:

"This resolution seeks approval for Government to borrow the sum of \$750 000 from Edghill Associates Limited for the construction of a jetty at Speightstown as part of the Speightstown Redevelopment Project."

[That is borrowing money, Mr. President.]

"The loan shall be free of interest and the repayment of the loan would be set off against the future Corporation Tax Liability of the said company..."

Which tells me, Mr. President, that this company is not going to pay the Government taxes. Therefore, the taxpayers are not going to get the money it should get from this company.

Mr. President, it tells me that the taxpayers are not going to receive the money that they would normally receive from this company.

"These companies will be exempt from the payment of corporation tax of an amount not exceeding \$750 000..."

which means they are swapping money in my estimation. I think that the Government is swapping money. It is a transaction but, in my humble estimation, it is still the taxpayers' money because the taxpayers will not be getting taxes.

Mr. President, I really do not have any problem about this mechanism of getting money. My problem is not that. If that is the way the Government is going to finance projects I feel that it should be more transparent than it is. I feel that several different types of persons should be given the opportunity to more or less swap money with the Government and not selected companies. The only way different types of people could be given the opportunity to be involved in this type of transaction which I am not criticising is by making it public and letting us know that the Government would like to build a jetty and anybody who wants to put their money up front corporation tax will be waived. That is my problem. It is not what has been done.

Mr. President, to me, as a layman, it looks as though... The Interpretation Act says a "he" is "she" and "she" is "he".

Mr. PRESIDENT: Perhaps you should say "lay person".

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I do not mind being called a "layman" I was a man downstairs for the toast.

Mr. President, my problem is not the very arrangements to do different projects as the Leader of Government Business said. I have no quarrel with that type of financing or the financing of bonds. In fact, I would go further. I would like to see something like this done for the Psychiatric Hospital. I would be very glad if they can do that type of arrangement but please let us know about it up front because it looks as though something not too good is going on behind the scenes. That is the impression it is giving. It might not be true but that is what is coming through to me and to several people in Speightstown.

Mr. President, I am from Speightstown and several people have told me that they started a jetty already. I said, No. They were certain about it since last year this time. It is a long time ago that that jetty has been going up. We are happy about the jetty but what I am saying is that you need to look at your methodology in doing these things so that when it comes to the Senate you do not get this type of argument and everything is going to be so sudden.

I am going to vote for it, but I still need to let you know how I feel about it as a person. If I am questioning

it other people might be questioning it as well. Therefore, when you go to do this business you look at the comments made by people and say the last time I did this transaction these comments were made let us make sure that we do not make the same mistakes twice.

Mr. President, I am very glad about the fishermen's boats being able to use the jetty. As was said by the Leader of Government Business it would provide opportunities for docking coastal cruise vessels and fishermen's boats and I take it from the Leader of Government Business that is what is going to happen.

As far as coastal cruise vessels are concerned, I think that one has to look carefully at what is going to happen because in St. James where the cruise vessels go and dock the people have been complaining about the sound of noise and about the flooding of the beach *etc.* and the garbage that is strewn when they leave and these are things that one has to look at and try and plan for them before they come about.

In St. James they are very concerned about the cruise ships bringing tourists ashore and they come out and picnic and they disturb the peace even though the beaches are public but you still need a bit of peace if you are living on the beach. So we need to look in terms of what type of amenities will be made available for the persons who are on the cruise ships which will be docking at Speightstown.

Mr. President, I would like to end by saying that I support the Resolution but therefore try to be a bit more transparent and do not wait until the project is completed to bring the Resolution to the House, try and bring the Resolution to the House at the beginning of the project where full debate can take place and any amendments made, and make sure that all Barbadians who can finance these opportunities have an opportunity to make contributions.

There were the same type of comments made about the Port and people are still talking about them. People feel that only a select number of people have been given the opportunity to invest in places like the Port – that was mentioned by the Leader of Government Business – and are making the profit and other people who might not have so much but who might have been willing to contribute something, have been left out.
4.20 p.m.

I think that if we are talking about development in this country we need to let everybody feel that their contributions are important and welcome. We need to find a way to include as many people as possible into making contributions to the development of this country.

Mr. President, we have an aging population. We have people who have gratuities. There are not many ways to invest money and there are a lot of people who would be willing, even if it is just \$10 000 or \$20 000 to make a contribution to such a form of development if they can foresee in the future that it is a development that will bring some form of income rather than leaving the money in the bank to be eroded by inflation.

When you are planning these types of projects, think in terms of the other people who are not so wealthy who do not have the \$750 000 upfront but the small investors who will have the \$10 000, \$15 000, \$20 000 and be willing to contribute to the development of Speightstown, even people in Speightstown. I am from Speightstown. I am willing to help as well. I am a pensioner. We are pensioners and are willing to help. You really need to look at it.

I am not being critical but I am just telling you that this is what you need to look at. Do not let it look as though only the very wealthy could benefit from the development of a town but there are those who have stored a few thousand dollars who would be willing to invest. Make them feel welcome and then you would get a much more cohesive society that you are looking for. You would have more support for the good work that you are doing and I believe you are doing good work but be careful how you do it. It is not what you do but how you do it. With this, I support the Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution and to express the view that I am not surprised at the confusion that exists after Senator Boyce has spoken because the Senator has raised several doubts in people's minds, which he is very skillful in doing, setting up "what ifs" situations...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Senator is misleading the House. It is not my intention by skill or otherwise, or it is not my training to raise doubts in people's minds. I asked certain questions. If my questions raise doubts, it is another matter but I do not intend to go around raising doubts in people's minds. It is not my business to raise doubts. I asked certain questions which if the Barbados Labour Party Government would answer them there would be no doubt, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No doubt, and no point of order. Senator Goddard.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: I would have to say, Mr. President, that the construction of the jetty which has proceeded at a pace which is unrivalled by the

public service, or through other activities, has been immensely successful. Now, the nature of the transaction is such that the Government did not have to ask for money before the project proceeded, and because of the slow speed and bureaucratic process involved in the paper work as it flowed through, by the time the Resolution has come to this Honourable Chamber the construction has proceeded at such a pace to which it may or may not have been completed. I am not sure because I have not seen it myself, but I would not be surprised if it were.

What I would have to say is that this is a new type of financing and because of this it is not clearly understood. It does not come under the Financial Rules as such but even if it did I would like to inform the Senate of the Financial Rules, 137A which reads as follows:-

"Notwithstanding any contained in this Part where in the opinion of the Cabinet it is necessary to procure goods and services that -

- (a) are of a specialised nature;
- (b) are not normally available in Barbados; or
- (c) as a matter of extreme urgency the Cabinet may authorise the goods and services to be procured otherwise than by the invitation to tender and may direct that procurement be through direct open negotiations to be conducted under such arrangements as the Cabinet may direct."

That is clearly in the Financial Rules. However...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Senator is misleading the Chamber. There is nothing unique about building a jetty. There are facilities available within Barbados to build a jetty. There is no urgency about a jetty so the Rule that the Honourable Senator is referring to does not apply.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, you are making a new speech. Senator Goddard, please continue.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I quoted this Rule, 137A so that the Senate might be aware of its existence and that there are certain provisions which allow for entering into contracts. The Senate itself will recall that when the Corporate Registry was computerised...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, I do not wish to hear your voice. You have spoken at great length on this. Please allow other Honourable Members to speak. You can only speak within the Rules. You are out of order.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: When this information sees the light of day it probably irritates some people, Mr. President, but that is a fact of life and this is the way we have the rules.

Now, this is not a normal procurement. This operating and transfer of this jetty is by way of a special loan from the company to the Government of Barbados which is interest free which means that it is the most economical way of getting funds, that it will be paid by taxes from earnings of the company in the future, so this is money down the road.

We are getting something today for which the company must make a profit in order to generate taxes and therefore forego those taxes, so there is a risk to the company because if the company does not make a profit in 1998, 1999 or the year 2000, there will be no corporate tax for them then to deduct so before people rush in and think that this is a one-way street, there is risk for the company involved and a risk which I daresay many members of the public would not be willing to undertake so it is good for everybody to know both sides of this fence. If they make profits they will then have corporate tax to pay and it will be deducted to the amount that it costs us to build the jetty. It is transparent and it is open.

In fact, I would daresay, Mr. President, that this project has not been hidden from the public view. It is something that is very obvious. I am certain that it has been reported in the Press. It has been on television and it has been in the local media so to suggest that this was done in a stoutly manner or whatever, is an inaccuracy which I cannot support or even abide by. I think this is an open situation. It is an innovative way of financing Government projects and it is a very effective way of financing Government projects. Now, a few other things were mentioned about the participation of people in financing Government projects and I would agree with Senator Rickinson that there is a great need to involve the widest possible public participation in the infrastructural development of Barbados, the opportunity to invest in Barbados and I support anything that would promote that. 4.30 p.m.

I also recall that when it was proposed that the Cruise Terminal be a public company and a public offering be made, which it was, that there was a limit placed on the minimum amount that a shareholder could invest, which at that time was set at \$5 000 which excluded many, many members of the public. And it was said by the then Government of the day and the comment being made was that they did not want to have the bother of having all the taxi drivers down there, own shares in anything in the Port.

So I would say that we are hunting with the hare and racing with the hounds. It is quite the opposite with this Government's policy where we have stated and we make every effort to ensure that we are widening the opportunity for the wider public to invest in Barbados. On this particular instance the method of financing has a significant element of risk for the company and we should all be aware of that.

Thank you very much, Mr. President, I support this Resolution.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I too would like to add a few comments to this debate and to support this debate in every sense of the word. I will not be sidetracked and get into the cross talk and I will try as best as possible to make what I have to say fairly brief in the light that a number of areas that I would have liked to touch have been expressed already.

I support the view and I support this particular Government in particular because it uses this Barbados Labour Party Manifesto as a social contract unlike what we would have heard from the last Administration when they did not think that the pledges that they made to the public of Barbados were so very important and therefore I think that we need to continue to look at our Manifesto and to fulfill some of the pledges that we have made to the public of Barbados in that respect.

I want to add to the discussion regarding the jetty at Speightstown to say that it is not only this venture but to include the refurbishment of the All Saints' Boys School. That was also a community venture where many people in the community put their resources together to upgrade the facilities at that school and I think that that is the approach that we in Barbados need to look towards because the Government cannot do it all.

I also want to make mention of the chapel and the cemetery walls at Speightstown. It is a joy to see what it looks like now compared to what it looked like two or three years ago where all the walls were all fallen and in a state of disrepair. I think that too is also another excellent venture to upgrade the facilities at the cemetery in Speightstown.

It is in the minds of many Barbadians that a Government must do everything and I want to say how happy I am that this Government has seen it fit for the involvement of the private sector in helping with various activities. Almost every time you move around the village communities you hear we want a pavilion or we want a playing field or community centre, we want all these things and we expect Government to foot the bill. I think that

it is wise as we approach the Year 2000 that this Government draws on the support and the resources that are available in the private sector to help to build Barbados.

In the Manifesto on page 29, there is a paragraph that in essence says that Barbados belongs to everybody, those in the urban and those in the rural. But for too long people of the rural districts have been more or less ignored in some aspects of development. I think that the approach to Speightstown is very timely and very significant in that the residents in these districts too would be able to enjoy the stability and prosperity of the building of Barbados, so that we do not have two Barbadoses, if you want to call it that. I am happy for the business enterprise and I support what Senator Rickinson stated and would encourage all other business houses to get involved in this whole aspect of assisting in the development of projects that will be to the benefit of all Barbadians.

I also see this venture, Sir, as providing locals with the opportunity to travel by the jetty to Bridgetown. To my mind that will help to cut back on some of the heavy traffic that is usually on that road and as a matter of fact, it will also give a good experience for people who cannot pay \$35 or \$60 as is with the cruises like the Bajan Queen and the others without advertising them, but it gives them an opportunity to really make use of the resources that are available. I am really happy that jetty will afford opportunities for business and pleasure and Barbadians will be able to get opportunities to benefit as a result of that particular aspect.

I am happy to know too that the local fishermen will get an opportunity to land their catch in a more sophisticated and modern manner, if you want to call it that, so that they will be able to reach the buying public and to do their business in a very progressive manner.

I support this Resolution one hundred percent and it only goes to show that this Barbados Labour Party has been from existence a Party that has looked after the interest of its people when it comes to the development of social legislation and the implementation of social legislation. This Barbados Labour Party has and can score highly for looking after the interest of the people of Barbados.

I want to commend the Government for this venture and to encourage other Barbadians, local and otherwise, to get involved in ventures such as this because at the end of the day we are all proud Barbadians who want to see our country grow from strength to strength. I am happy for the emphasis that is being placed on the rural districts. I know the urban ventures will come but in the rural districts we

are extremely happy to be able to enjoy some of the benefits that the rest of Barbados have enjoyed for so many, many years.

With those brief comments, Sir, I wish to lend my support to this Resolution and to continue to give support to the various Resolutions that help with the social upliftment of our people in Barbados.

Thank you.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 9 – THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1997

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to read the second reading of this Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act. This matter, Sir, relates to a very important aspect of our democracy in that it relates to the function of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. The Electoral and Boundaries Commission as you would be aware, Mr. President, is established under the Constitution in section 41 of the Constitution and it sets out the role and function of that body. That body as you know, Sir, is one which is not part of the partisan political process. It is independent and protected under the Constitution and we can be thankful that with the guidance of strong electoral and boundaries commissions over the years we have been able to uphold a long Parliamentary tradition of free and fair elections. 4.40 p.m.

An important part of the whole electoral process is the matter of the registration of voters. The registration of voters as we know is of fundamental importance to the conduct of elections and that is a responsibility that falls squarely on the shoulders of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. In pursuance of that, being able to register voters and to ensure that only qualified persons vote, the department also is responsible for the issuing of I.D. Cards which is another important part of the process.

They maintain right through the intervening period a register of electors. They also maintain the national registration which has been issued by this department. They ensure as well that in terms of spread of representation that the constituencies are relatively well balanced as far as numbers of electors within the constituencies are concerned. Of course they supervise the allocation of political broadcast time in elections.

So the matter of the registration of electors is really a matter which relates as much to the overall number

of persons on the list as well as the spread of persons across the constituency and following on the formula which allows for no more than a 10% spread between what is considered to be the average number of voters. But the reality is that the numbers of persons on the list of persons eligible to vote really includes a number of persons who are no longer eligible to vote. They are no longer eligible either by virtue of the fact that they are dead or that they have been out of the island for more than 5 years. However there is not as it stands a process by which the list can be kept in a clean state. I will give an example. The list published at the 31st of January, 1997 lists some 213 728 electors, that is, persons who are eligible to vote, made up of 100 298 males and some 112 800 females.

Now, at the end of the last enumeration period and you would know, Mr. President, that whilst politicians and political parties tend to focus on these matters at defined times – during election time, the Electoral and Boundaries Commission continues to go around and do their household surveys and checks and so on.

The last enumeration programme at which they went around and they visited every house and checked on who lived there and who had moved to where which ended in July 1996, Mr. President, it found that some 32 187 persons could not be found and that is a substantial number out of the overall figure of 213 728. The breakdown of that would have been 16 156 males and some 16 031 females that could not be found at the 31st July, 1996.

Further checks by the registering officers and each constituency has a registering officer, they sent out some circulars to these 32 187 persons asking them to identify themselves – make themselves known if they are in a position to do that and that exercise resulted in the number being reduced by only 4 052 persons. So those might have been persons who were perhaps floating between constituencies or who would have been away at the point in time. But you can see, Mr. President, that there were still some 28 135 persons who were either deceased or who were out of the island for over 5 years. But it is a fact, Sir, that candidates canvassing in an election and so on, at election time they all send out election circulars and so on and it is a fact that within the 28 constituencies there are 600 or 700 of these circulars that are returned because people in the neighbourhood know, well John is no longer living in Barbados. He is living in Miami or he is living in London or the person has died and so on. These are the realities so that it is known and it is agreed by all that there is a situation in which the electoral register is bloated because of persons who should no longer be there.

Like I said, this number is still after having gone through the process of the letters being sent and the

newspaper advertisements and so on. So that basically the impact which that has had is that it has distorted the whole matter of the representation given by constituencies as well.

So far, according to the formula set out in the Third Schedule to the Constitution the average constituency should have some 6 628 persons. As it stands, the approved differential is you can have 90% of that or 110% of that which would make the smallest allowable constituencies some 5 996 persons and the largest allowable constituencies of some 7 290 persons.

As it stands now there are some 14 constituencies that are within the approved range and there are 6 which are above the larger size and some 8 which are below the smaller size. However in light of the fact that there are these 28 000 persons that are known to be overseas or to have deceased but are still on the list then any adjustment to any proposal to bring those constituencies in line would obviously have to depend on having a clean and realistic list.

The other factor of course, less significant, except to statisticians, like our eminent statistician on our side, my goodly Senator Barker, an economist and statistician, would note that when one looks at participation rates, when you look at the number of votes cast and you look at the number of persons on the electoral register you hear these fantastic claims about persons being disenchanted with the electoral process and a low voter turn out, when in truth and in fact a significant percentage of the people on the list really are not in a position to vote. So that the cleaning up of the list would make for a more realistic analysis of the extent of public participation in elections and would really give a true perspective on the involvement of the people in what is essentially their process, the process of democracy. 4.50 p.m.

What is being proposed therefore, Mr. President, by way of the legislation, is that it makes provision as is set out in the Objects and Reasons to the amending Bill, Sir, for the deletion from the register of electors after due notice is given and that the number of persons who have died, for example, and those who are not foreign service officers who have been absent from the country for over five years, but it also goes on to do some other things which I will mention shortly.

In terms, Sir, of this major aspect of deletions from the register, the procedure which is being proposed in the legislation is that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission will publish in the *Official Gazette*, as well as at least twice in the local daily newspapers at intervals of a week apart, so two consecutive weeks, publish the names of those persons who they have not been able to find and you will remember, Sir, that this is not the first step in the

process. Remember that out of the enumeration exercise where the officers actually visit your houses and inquire as to your whereabouts. Whether you still live there or you have gone to St. Lucy to another constituency and then still send circulars but after that and they are proposing to delete you because they have not been able to find you. This is the final step in the process where the advertisement is given.

The advertisement also provides for a minimum of a four-week period in which anyone who has information about these persons can come forward and provide that information within the deadline date set, which is a minimum of four weeks after the first announcement and it makes provision thereafter for the deletion of names. Names that are so deleted are required to be published in the *Official Gazette* and the local newspapers. It should indicate, Sir, that those persons who, for example, might be deleted from the register by virtue of having lived overseas for over the five years, when they return to Barbados can easily be re-registered. So it is not a matter of disenfranchising anyone. One can simply go through the process and be very easily and expeditiously re-register when one returns to a state of qualifying to vote. So that basically is the process which is proposed.

The other matters which are proposed for the amendments that we make here today would be to increase the allowable expenses incurred in the conduct and management of elections. As it stands now, candidates are allowed expenses not exceeding \$1 per elector in the constituency which really is an unrealistic figure which was set sometime ago. What is being proposed by the Electoral and Boundaries Commission is to bring the figure into some sense of realism and also to set it at a level which would allow for some flexibility over time. It was not proposed that one would have to revisit this figure year after year, after year, to make minor adjustments. So the last figure of \$1 was made some long time ago and what is being proposed is a maximum allowable figure not exceeding \$10 per elector in the constituency which the candidate is contesting the election.

Another amendment which is proposed, Mr. President, is the matter which relates to the facilitating of incapacitated voters and what is basically being proposed now, Sir, is an amendment which would give the voters more flexibility in terms of choosing their companion for the purpose of voting. And what this section provides for is for the individual to indicate to the Presiding Officer that this person is their person of choice to assist them in voting.

In the earlier amendment the person had to be from that same constituency which is not necessarily always

practical in respect of grandchildren helping their elderly relatives or cousins or others who may themselves live in another area and who may be the closest persons, the ones who are trusted to transport and to exercise the right to vote on behalf of their incapacitated companions. This in large measure relates to persons who are blind particularly and who need assistance in moving around, mainly persons who are blind.

Now, Mr. President, there is also an amendment which is designed to facilitate the exercise of the vote by persons who work on election day as election officials. There has long been a difficulty for persons who work in the process, the Presiding Officers, the other clerks in the polling stations who themselves are entitled to vote. Those persons often have to travel from the station where they are working to another one either within the constituency or elsewhere in the island to cast their vote, which poses a problem in terms of time. But, there is a provision already in place by which they are able to have their votes cast by the Presiding Officer of the particular station in which they should vote. So that if you are working in Christ Church East for example, or anywhere else in Barbados and your polling station would normally be in St. Christopher's School but you are working at a polling station in Parish Land, then it means that you would have to make arrangements to notify the Presiding Officer of the station at St. Christopher on how to exercise your franchise for you. There is provision for that already.

However, many persons working in the system are uncomfortable with having somebody else know how they will direct their business. So what is being proposed by way of change of arrangement is for provision to be made for the voting on a day prior to the election day of those election officials. The process is laid out in the legislation whereby the appropriate number of ballots are prepared. Special Presiding Officers are sworn in for the conduct of that part of the process. The boxes are sealed and secured by election officials and provision is made for them to be remunerated along with the constituency for which the votes are intended to be cast. That, I believe will provide the persons who work in the elections with the opportunity to exercise their franchise as they are entitled like any other person.

5.00 p.m.

Those basically are the proposals which have been made for the amendment to the legislation to facilitate the conduct of the work of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission as it continues its excellent work in the conduct of elections and matters incidental thereto in Barbados.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, while the noises on the Other Side worry about who is leading, the point must be made on the amendments proposed in this Bill in terms of the Representation of the People Act. The presentation by the Honourable Senator who just sat although I thought rather interesting was void of realism and one would immediately recognise why, not being himself experienced in having faced the electorate and, as far as we are aware, still not declaring his hand as to whether he will be facing the electorate. His presentation, therefore, lacked realism and even as he attempted to describe the constituency of Christ Church East we could see that he was still mixing it up with my constituency Christ Church South. I hope as he goes on and with practice he will get it right and decide what he is really going to do.

Mr. President, the Representation of the People Act is a very serious one and like all legislation in fact but, sometimes, we sit and we deal with these amendments and these Bills and it is all taken in the spirit indeed which I believe it is mostly intended and that is for the purpose of improving the laws and the quality of delivery of fairness in this case as we grapple with elections.

Sometimes this objectivity can be clouded or can certainly suffer from aberrations as we come face to face with the reality of an election campaign. I am sure that we will all be around some time in the future when aspects of this Bill we attempt to deal with today are dug up probably by the same Members on that Side who are now leading the Bill to be thrown in the face of one or either of us.

I say that in all seriousness and especially having seen public comment only today about comments made in other places in respect to the spending on political campaigns and, specifically, I believe the report was referring to the Deputy Prime Minister of this country who was reported to have indicated that the advertisements taking place now in respect to a programme being championed by the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable David Thompson, a family first programme, is in any way connected to an election campaign and the jury will be out. There will be discussion and debate on that and that is why I say we sit and we put these amendments and bring them for consideration sometimes not recognising what will happen down the road.

Remember too, Sir, that at the time of elections there are bandied about stories especially where there are close polls. There are insinuations of impropriety by certain officers even the same Presiding Officers who are sworn to secrecy and to honourableness and these stories have stretched from the sublime to the ridiculous.

I have heard for instance in the first St. Peter by-election which was very closely contested – I believe that is when the person who today sits as the Prime Minister of this country would have defeated, if my memory serves me correctly, Mrs. Sybil Leacock. She might have won by one vote and there was a subsequent by-election or re-by-election if you want to call it that in which the incumbent for St. Peter won by the slenderest of margins. One heard stories bandied about, even the swallowing of votes. Can you imagine that, Sir?

I heard stories about people of the cloth who were reported to have swallowed a number of votes during that election. I will not be distracted by the noises of Senator Symmonds, Sir. When she has her turn to contribute on this Resolution I expect to hear what she has to say. I am sure you are going to make sure, Sir, that I am heard now.

The point is that the public of Barbados are the ones who hear these stories, they are the ones who suffer and who have impressions created on them because of these stories. So we have to be very mindful of the fact that no matter what we set out to do it is the interpretation at the end of it all that will stand the test of time. If we, as is intended here, seek to purge the list of persons who are either dead or absent from the jurisdiction for 5 years or whatever, if this exercise is wrought by continual protest by one side or the other and there is not a conclusion on the matter of whether a person resides in Barbados or out of Barbados...

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: As recently as the by-election and I do not have to go far for examples. If Honourable Members will just constrain their excitement and listen for a while they would probably be more understanding of what we are dealing with.

As recently as the by-election in St. Michael North West we had a situation where the campaign manager for the Barbados Labour Party was challenging no less a person than the candidate himself as was her right. This situation almost resulted in a court case.

As far as the campaign manager of the Barbados Labour Party is concerned her political mileage might or might not have been created. History now will tell us that it did not succeed in moving the people of St. Michael North West in any way and they voted resolutely and in one voice for the Democratic Labour Party as usual and Mr. Clyde Mascoll. The point is the impression created out there in the public was one that there are even candidates seeking public office who might seek to be less than honourable. If we can come to this interpretation about candidates, what makes it so difficult for us to agree

that although the Bill in its form and its good intention as set out here, there are persons out there who at convenient times, like the Chairman of the Barbados Labour Party campaign, will use events to skew the thinking of the public so we need to be very careful of this.

5.10 p.m.

Indeed, I am very mindful of those officers who give of their time for very small remuneration. What they get for it is not a large amount, either by way of Presiding Officers or indeed those who work in the Electoral Office because they become the targets of this enthusiasm and sometimes they can be misunderstood. Sometimes their lives are ruined. Their reputations are thrown aside forever and they never recover especially in a highly competitive environment where we can find this kind of situation arising. No matter what they will say on the Other Side, those are the facts as far as the experience of the Barbadian is concerned. None of them on the Other Side has been electoral officers or presiding officers. They are more generally caught up in the heat of the campaign so they do not have reputations in that regard to bother about. They might want to seek to pretend that is not a matter for which we need to ponder.

Sir, I certainly support the purging of the list and I want to agree with Senator Farley that in my case in Christ Church South I certainly received, besides a rather rude return mail, but that was all right – that was obviously planted but besides that one, the returns from the Post Office did amount to about 500 persons. I would think that is a reasonable figure which the Honourable Senate Leader chose. There are about 600 persons on average in nearly every constituency in Barbados who cannot be accounted for.

As recently as three weeks ago I completed a small area in Christ Church. I completed a thorough canvass of this area, an area which is purported to have 150 residents and having visited every house and made a list even of persons who were not at home at the time, at the end of my check I could only account for 75 persons of this 150.

We are left to conclude whatever we want to conclude in this regard but the facts are, I was using a list prepared by the Electoral Office of this country and I was using the same list that the Member on the Barbados Labour Party Government side would have to use were he to visit the constituency of Christ Church South, so that is the point.

There are names on the list which need to be purged and removed from the list for one reason or the other, those of which have been stated here, and the method, of course, of going to the *Official Gazette* and the daily

newspapers with the appropriate advertisement is indeed a time worn tradition. I am glad to see it being used in this case because when I talked about it earlier in another offering I was being dismissed as being a rumourmonger almost because I said that other things we have considered in the past in this Senate might not have had the same scrutiny by the public as this one is obviously going to have.

Sir, I want to turn then to subsection 4 which, of course, deals with money. Again, this is a very sensitive area at election time. Again, Senator Farley is quite correct in that those of us who might be candidates might be forced to make returns under the existing legislation which do not necessarily allow us to include every single item that can be normally attributed to order. It is a reality. I am not afraid to have my name ascribed to that view.

There were at least two candidates who after the last campaign deliberately filed in contravention of the numbers allowed by the Act what they termed were their real costs to make the precise point, so it is not surprising indeed that this matter is being dealt with. It certainly will allow, as we move toward a more modern method of managing political campaigns in Barbados, us as candidates to go out there and seek funding in a broader way and it will allow us to declare where our funds come from in more cases.

Presently, Sir, the debate goes on in this regard and as recently as two or three nights ago I was watching the same point being dealt with by the leaders of three Jamaican political parties who face the electorate tomorrow. There was tremendous difficulty in dealing with the question of campaign financing. I believe that in the near future – indeed, this debate about financing of political parties will take the time of this Senate. I would look forward then to hear the contribution of a number of the Honourable Senators, especially the Independent Senators whose views on these things can more often reflect the voting public because, obviously, the Members on that Side and the two Senators who represent the Democratic Labour Party do represent political parties and are therefore already what one would term, caught up in the fight in the actual election campaign.

Sir, in section 5 the Bill deals with the casting of votes by election officers. Again, the methods normally used to deal with this situation is to select the election officer to suit the areas in which the officer votes. This will avoid the need for a letter to be written. I think nowadays the officer has to write a letter, hand it to the returning officer who then carries it to the Polling Station where he wants to vote, a most unwieldy process and one which will never work. Who will write a letter stating "I want to vote for John Boyce" and hand it to X, Y or Z or, for that matter, to Reginald Farley?

Therefore, what is contemplated by this Bill is, of course, the special ballot box but I can already see problems being created by that. There will be inferences. If in an election as we are accustomed where there are not these special boxes one can get stories like the one I referred to earlier, imagine what we can get as the imagination of us Barbadians start to work what can happen with the special ballot boxes as they will be so labelled. Although the numbers of votes, *etcetera* will be carefully counted, one never knows how far one opponent or the other might want to go in respect to distorting the activities.

Sir, the final section which I want to refer to in this Bill is the one relating to the companion, in other words, the person who can vote for a person who is incapacitated and this, again, has caused great difficulty with the Presiding Officer being the one who nowadays judges who is a companion and who can be a companion. The companion, it is hoped, would be a person who would not influence the vote of the incapacitated person one way or another. We will continue to grapple with this situation, and this is an attempt to bring it in line with the fact that once you are 18 years old and over and you present your I.D. card to the Presiding Officer then there should be no question about whether you can accompany, for instance, a blind person to the poll. I think that these are developments which we will have to grapple with. I am not going to stand here and say that they have answered all the questions that are asked from time to time about the workings of the operations of our election system, I believe they do not and I am sure that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission will continue to make recommendation and hopefully as they become law they will help to make the carrying out of our elections more transparent and devoid of any question.

5.20 p.m.

Sir, I want to touch on a couple of areas which have affected certainly constituents that I have come in contact with and maybe what the Electoral and Boundaries Commission will want to deal with more closely and that is the provision of polling stations. I think that this will continue to be a problem in Barbados as polling stations are moved from time to time from one area or the other and as people at the time of voting invariably want to discharge their responsibility with independence. A number of people insist on going to the polls on their own and not being taken to the polls in vehicle provided by one person or other because they fear that certain influences might come to bear upon them in these circumstances.

I am sure that those members in this Chamber who were to experience an election would have experienced persons who have said that the polling station is too far

away to walk and it is not comfortable to walk and really we need to look at our allocation of polling station in respect to resident population. I know the idea is to look for polling stations which are secured for instance and which can be controlled very easily but sometimes we may even have to look at private premises in the area other than the traditional school and church, the sanctity which is normally placed on a school and church. We have sometimes to shed that mould and encompass even more locations so as to achieve convenience.

I think especially in my experience of people in Amity Lodge and Rendezvous for instance who have to vote presently at St. Lawrence School and that is quite a journey and when you look at the population of the Amity Lodge and Rendezvous area we can see that there is justification in locating a polling station in that area. Again in the case of St. Christopher, the movement from St. Christopher Church to the Sayers Court Centre also causes some inconvenience and indeed with a population that is increasing in apathy and do not care to vote at all in some cases we need to make it more attractive and more convenient for them to go. We do not only do this by putting forward candidates like myself who will bring out the voter but we need also to put the infrastructure in place which will allow the electorate easy access to executing their franchise, a franchise, Sir, which we fought very hard to achieve.

Sir, with those few comments and with the caution of likelihood of interpretation and innuendos, we have no difficulty in supporting the intent of the Bill.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I rise to support this Bill before us, The Representation of the People Act and to do so very happily. As Senator Boyce said some of us have been there already and some would even say been there and done that but I would want to say too, as Senator Farley said, that the whole question of representation of people speaks to the heart of our democracy.

Last year I was privileged to serve in the capacity as an observer in an election in one of the African countries and it really showed up in my view the complacency of the electorate in Barbados. I cannot speak for anywhere else because I have not witnessed an election anywhere other than here and in that particular country. It reinforced how important the role persons offering themselves for public office have to play. Apart from the actual role once you have been elected but once you offer yourself for public service we have an absolute responsibility in trying to encourage people to maintain that democracy so well fought for us so many years ago by the likes of Sir Grantley Adams and many others of that time, who fought for Adult Suffrage.

Mr. President, in that election to which I referred to a moment ago, the voter turnout was something tremendous. People on that occasion in Ghana went on foot, some went by boat or took whatever means possible to get to the polls and it really instilled in me the need for us, certainly in this Chamber and for people in the other Chamber and the public generally, to have an understanding to ensure that you do whatever possible to ensure that the electorate who may be somewhat complacent and who are apathetic about the whole question of voting and fighting to maintain a democracy, realise how important it is that we do the right thing and the right thing in this case is going to the polls and casting your vote for whomever you choose regardless of party. Of course, I would want them to choose the Barbados Labour Party but this is neither the time nor the place to canvass so I will not go down that route.

Mr. President, as I look at the items before us I am very pleased with the methodology we would want to employ to clean up the voters list. There are individuals who have admitted to me that their names appeared on more than one election register and because, according to them, they were citizens of good standing, they only voted once. I would want to see a time come when in addition to our identification card when one arrives at the polls to cast your vote that some other means is used to ensure that once you have voted once, you cannot vote again. In Ghana because of the questionable history of the elections they chose to use many other methods and indeed they used the aspect of punching a hole in the voter registration card and they also used indelible ink smeared around the cuticle of the thumb.

I know people who have voted more than once. Of course, I was appalled by it. This list to which we refer, if we do not clean it up soon one of these days we could really end up with a real problem. So I would really want to see it done before the next election. An additional measure to the identification card needs to be used to indicate that people have already voted so that they cannot go and execute that vote again.

Senator Boyce spoke very widely on the correspondence that comes not only from the Electoral Office but from the individual candidates as well. Last time being a candidate in the election for the first time it was a bit awesome and I am sure there are others who may have been in the same boat because there you are with this list and correspondence being returned and one wonders exactly how do I make an analysis of this particular situation.

I am very happy to see that the register is going to be cleaned by this method and of course I realise that

individuals will have an opportunity to challenge if their names have been removed wrongfully so I am very satisfied with that aspect of the Act before us.
5.30 p.m.

As I look, Mr. President, at the question of voting by election officials prior to polling day I would want to agree with Senator Boyce that it might be a good idea that individuals, wherever possible, be chosen to work in a polling station where they are on the voters registration list for that area. It would certainly make things a lot easier. I do realise that often times this may not be possible. In the event that we do have voting prior to polling day, again this was something I witnessed on the occasion I mentioned before and on that occasion the security forces were also allowed to vote prior to election day and their security services were the Police, the Defence Force, Coast Guard, *etc.* because that state had a history of military intervention and the need to have all hands, not to arms on that occasion because there was a noticeable absence of guns at and around the polling stations so you would not want to say at arms but ready and willing in case. But in Barbados I would want to say in the unlikely event that persons would want to do foolishness and have need of a strong arm to restrain them, on that occasion too it may not be a bad thing for persons from the Force to be able to vote prior to polling day.

My concern however is that as long as that is done methods of security be employed to ensure that those votes are kept safe and secure and under lock and key and whatever else necessary to ensure that they are no way tampered with prior to election day.

I would also want to see a situation where those votes not be counted until the election day, along with the votes cast on that day.

As I go on Mr. President and I look again at the increase in the allowable expenses incurred in the conduct or management of elections, candidates I know for sure would be glad that this allowance has been increased. I myself as a candidate thought that one dollar was a joke but of course one tried to stay within those means and use whatever resources one could to complete the task at hand and so I am happy to see that it would be increased to a maximum of \$10 per person which is far, far, in my opinion, more realistic.

I would also want to see however some funds, as we talk about finances for elections, used in voter education. I personally feel that this would somehow help with the apathetic approach and by help I mean that voters may feel that if they could for argument's sake see posters around, encouraging you to vote, encouraging you not to sell your vote, what the whole question of democracy really

means, all these sorts of things in simple terms so that it is there before your very eyes. Because like it or not, Mr. President, we in this country speak of having ninety something percent literacy but I really would have cause to question that and I believe it may be approximately in the range of 10% and 15% of persons in this country as a rough estimate who may not even be able to, when they go to the polling station, understand what is written there. I have met people over the last few years who cannot read nor write. They may be able to reason somewhat but certainly if you are talking about literacy they cannot read and write and when it comes to pictures and photos it speaks for itself. So they will understand what it means because sometimes you talk and say, you know you should vote and this is what it means and so on, but it goes in one ear and comes out the other. This needs to be reinforced and I would like to see some funds allocated towards voter education so that there is real meaning and a real understanding not only about how and why to vote but even the question of spoiled votes.

I have a percentage worked out here and while it may be a small percentage my rough estimate gives me 0.52% of rejected, I should not say spoiled, rejected ballots. In an election every candidate knows that every vote counts and what a shame that that vote would be wasted because of not quite understanding how to do it. It is on the line and all over the place and sometimes on the corner of the paper not anywhere near any names and worse yet some people, those who can write, write in the name of the person that they would want to vote for. These are things that cause votes to be rejected.

I think a very strong and vigilant education programme would certainly redound to the benefit of the electorate in Barbados as a whole, but specifically in terms of reducing the apathy and encouraging individuals to really come out and exercise their franchise.

On the question of extending the word companion I would really hope, Mr. President, that something again could be put in place where you do not have this companion assisting disabled persons, or rather incapacitated voters, 10, 15 and 20 times, particularly if it is in the same polling station.

I am hearing an aside that people choose them. Sometimes, Mr. President, one has to wonder. I would want something put in place, I do not know what, but just to raise a consciousness to ensure that a person's will is not oppressed.

Mr. President, people feel that because persons are incapacitated they can run rough shod over them. This

companion aspect should be very closely looked at and closely monitored.

I would also, Mr. President, again based on personal experience and maybe I ought not to be too general in this comment, but when we speak about training for officers to man polling stations not only the individuals who work on behalf of candidates but the individuals generally who are selected by the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, I would want to see in a general sense a very non biased approach and I say this because in my personal experience as a candidate I witnessed a different handling of individuals, if I could put it that way. What was good for the gander did not seem to be necessarily good for the goose and while I make no specific or pointed accusation I would like to think that professionalism would be the order of the day on election day. Partisanship has no place if you are put in a position of public trust. Manning a polling station means that you should execute your powers without bias.

It is understood that in a society as small as this, Mr. President, individuals will have political parties or individuals that they may favour, but when called upon to do a task we would want them to be consistent in that task. It is not okay for candidates, for example, to be bringing meals to workers in that polling station if that worker is not working for you. I am speaking about workers who work on behalf of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission or who were asked by the Government of the day to do that job. It is one thing to share and so on but, Mr. President, incidents have occurred. It sends a strange signal and the asides are rife on my right hand side over there and I am going to ignore those but I would want to urge that professionalism be the order of the day as we execute the job at hand and that we put Barbados continuously before the people as a place where you would want to ensure that democracy continues to exist and that you will in no way feel that you would be marginalised on this very, very essential and important day in the life of any democratic society. Thank you, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 6.00 p.m. today.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. President suspended the Sitting accordingly.
5.40 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Sitting is resumed.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Sir, I want to make a brief intervention here. I want to speak on this matter because I believe it is at the very heart of our existence. As a people, we, as Barbadians cherish our democracy and we like to shout from the mountain tops that we are one of the most democratic countries in the world and I believe that in order for us to maintain this reputation and to keep this reputation as an untainted one, it is very important that we, from time to time deal with the Representation of the People Act which is the legislation that governs and controls what really happens on Election Day.

But one of the reasons I want to speak on this legislation is not to deal specifically with what happens on Election Day, but for us to ask the question, "why do we still have elections?" Because I heard mentioned this afternoon of individuals not turning out to vote and some of the things which we must do in order to encourage people to vote. I take a different view from what I have heard earlier. I believe people see voting as an expression of their interest. When people go to the polls to vote they do so because they believe that they are vesting responsibility for their future, immediate, short-term and long-term, in the hand of the individuals whom they believe are best suited to take care of that future.

Therefore, when in any election in any country there is a low turn out at the polls I believe there are several questions we should ask ourselves. As a responsible Parliament one of the first questions we must ask is, "is it that the people believe that their interests are not being properly represented at the level of the Parliament which they elected to represent them in their country?" Therefore, I do not believe that a process of posting the importance of voting, or of telling stories of how many people have been disenfranchised, or even if we repeat the South Africa story and say that in a country in which the numerical majority should be in control that for years they were suppressed and oppressed by the numerical minority that that would help Barbadians to feel any more excited about voting.

I think what is very important is for politicians to understand. The message is not for the electorate. The message is for those who seek to serve, those who seek to represent the people, the message is for such individuals to understand that they are the servants of the people and not the masters of the people. As we today deal with this matter beforehand, even though this is not the elected House of Parliament, there are sitting among us, individuals who are seeking to become Members of the elected House and therefore this message should not go unnoticed. I think it is vitally important that we recognise that the vote is the only meaningful instrument which the ordinary man and/or woman in any country has in order to determine his or her

affairs. Also, that those individuals who seek to offer themselves, must recognise that Parliament is not a place where we come to show off our debating skills or to show off our intellectual capacity, neither is it a place where we come to represent our special interest groups, but that Parliament is a place where we must make sure that the majority and the interests of the majority are properly represented.

The reason I want to make that point is that sometimes I sit here and have to remind myself that I am in Parliament and not in a Board Room of some business place somewhere in this country and we ought to be very careful about this. The pieces of legislation which come before this Parliament from time to time which, when the case is put, we are told we are meant to create some kind of economic activity to get certain things happening. But, at the same time the message which comes from this legislation is that we are practising trickle down economics in Barbados and we have to be careful about that.

If there is one thing we have to explain to people in order that we do not send the wrong signal as we debate these matters in Parliament, is that we really recognise that we have to do these things for the majority. Because, in Barbados there is a large percentage of people who barely make it and there is a large percentage who cannot barely, a very large percentage of our population who function at the subsistence level. The percentage of Barbadians who can afford to eat well, dress well, enjoy good transportation and have an excess to invest, not only save, but invest is still a very small percentage of our population and we need, as a Parliament, representing the people's interest to recognise this.

Therefore, I believe that as we debate this very important piece of legislation which, as I said earlier, is dealing with what happens on polling day, we need to do some introspection. When you ask somebody to do something for you, should they do it without expecting something in return? When you ask people to vote for you, should they vote for you because you have a fancy slogan or because your candidates are attractive? Or because you are able to mount the biggest political campaign? Or should they vote for you because they believe that in you their interest can be best represented?

I would like to say that one of the reasons I fully support the cleaning of the register of electors is because I want to see for myself what percentage of this electorate has really reached the level of synergism that it no longer wants to go to the polls. I would like a true picture of the level of frustration and dissatisfaction with the political system of this country.

Now, I believe that once we are able to get a true picture on this and I hope for all of our sakes that the ratio is not as cute as it now appears. I would hate to think that in a country like Barbados, regardless of which side of the political fence you are on, we must recognise that we have come a long way. And, I would hate to think that we have reached the stage in this country that such a large percentage of our populace believes that the political system is no longer serving this country because then, we would have a serious problem and then, we would have to carry out a very meaningful investigation in order to find out what is it that has gone wrong with our system and what is it that has gone wrong with our system and what is it that we have to do in order to make sure that it is a relevant political system.

I cherish this democracy. I observe closely the debates going on in our sister territories and in the other territories which became independent before us, 1991/1992. I believe Jamaica and Trinidad became independent in 1962, the same year they broke away from the Federation. There is still in those countries a number of questions about whether elections are free and fair. In a country in which people are exercising their right to vote and do not feel that they are doing so under a fair system there is always social and political unrest. This eventually undermines the whole economic base of that country and helps to make the people worse off. It also helps to create poverty too, because when a country is socially and politically unstable no one wants to take a risk of investing in that country. If there is no economic activity, social services and all those other safety nets which are important to those people who cannot afford to help themselves have to be cut back and so you find yourself going further and further in a downward spiral of poverty. Therefore, I would consider it very important that we treat this matter with the degree of seriousness which it deserves.

The question of expenses on Election Day. I note this question was thrown at one of the three leaders of political parties in the debate the other night for the Jamaican elections.
6.15 p.m.

I still feel and I believe that we are probably inching our way there in Barbados but there must be some way of having at least some percentage of election expenses covered by the State. I say this because at the end of the day persons, be they corporations or individuals, who put up sums of monies in order to have persons elected to the Parliament of this country expect that when they make a call that there will be an answer to that call. I do not think that we should fool ourselves about it. I believe the current Prime Minister of Jamaica responded in a similar manner to this question.

The question would be then, can we afford at this time as a country to support election expenses. Let us face it, if you are saying \$10 per capita in any constituency in which there are 6 000 people we are seeing a maximum of \$60 000 multiplied by 28 which is \$1 200 000, and then close to \$2 million we are talking.

Barbadians will scoff at that figure and say why should the State put up that to cover the elections. Yet alert as we are, we will then scrutinise what is then going on in Parliament to find out when the interest of those interest groups who supported candidate and parties in the election are represented in Parliament.

We have a problem. This is something that we have to look at carefully and it is going to take a lot of time but we need to debate it. I think it is at the heart of the question of democracy. If people at the end of the day believe that after they have voted that there are others who can come and have their interests represented above theirs because of funded election campaigns, was it really a democratic process? We have to ask ourselves that question.

To me, the Representation of the People Act is just a very small part of the whole national debate which is necessary on the democratic process in this country and I hope it is one which we will pursue with vigour which is necessary but I think that Barbadians have to be really brought up-to-date on what is going on, what is possible, and what is necessary. Those goals we should set ourselves and one of the goals which the electorate of this country must set is the time should come when we the people who vote will spend the money to have elections carried out because then we can put our politicians on trial as they serve their term of office.

The other matter dealing with companions I fully support. I heard Senator Odle's point, but I just want to make the point that there are some individuals in Barbados who are really very trustworthy and because they have proven this trustworthiness it is possible for 15 incapacitated residents in one neighbourhood to choose one individual to be a companion on polling day. That person is probably cashing their pension cheques and never took a penny out because they have their accounts joint with that person in the bank. And I would not like to see that after we have made this kind of amendment that we retract to want to say one individual cannot go with more than one person to the polls. This must be a very trustworthy individual and what is important here is that the legislation is saying that the person is selected by the individuals to be the companion. So it is not that the person has been foisted on, forced on, and even though some influence can be made, incapacitated individuals when they have lost certain senses are stronger in their other senses and if it is

one thing, they are very headstrong to show what they need and I do not believe that undue influence can be brought to bear.

Therefore, Mr. President, I have no difficulty in supporting this legislation which seeks to make an electoral process one that is fair. It is already fair but it gives it greater transparency and also gives the political parties in this country an opportunity. I hope that once the true figures of eligible voters are released after the next election because we know that you have to go to the polls to test it – that political parties in this country can have a real picture of what is going on. I hope that after that exercise we as responsible citizens of this country must be, for were we not, would we be here in the Parliament of this country dealing with such serious matters as legislation? I hope that we would do the right things in the interest of the electorate of Barbados. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I would just like at this point to congratulate Senator Thompson on a very forthright and realistic, honest, erudite and essentially a very stateswomanlike speaker.

As a matter of fact, it further reinforced my long held view that she should be reinstated to be leader of that Side.

Mr. President, in all fairness, I think the measures covered in this Bill will go towards bringing further reform to the Barbadian electoral process. I, too, like Senator Thompson think that if everything goes well and I suspect it will go somewhere towards eradicating the popularly held belief, the conventional wisdom, as is said among social scientists, that a high percentage of Barbadians have become alienated and marginalised from the electoral process based, I suspect, on the large disparity between those numbers of electors on the register and those who actually vote.

For example, I refuse to believe when I look at the figures for percentage of participation as a whole in 1976 some 74.% voted, in 1981, this fell to 71.6%, in 1986, this rose to 76.7%, in 1991, it fell again to 63.7% and in 1994 to some 60.9%. I really do not feel as one who has been very close to elections since I was about 8 years old in 1951 when I heard the great Grantley Adams make a massive speech in front of Grace Hill School and I was hooked on politics from then. I refuse to believe that this really represents the true feeling of Barbadians towards the political process.

I suspect that all things being equal it will go a long way towards giving a more accurate and true reflection as to the level of participation by Barbadians in the process.

I, too, believe that one of the things that we shall have to do would be to eliminate some blimps and blemishes that pop up from time to time at election time over certain aspects of the electoral process. For example, these large numbers of people who cannot be found from time to time will trigger an accusation that someone is trying to disenfranchise somebody fiddling with the process and I do not like to hear this because I think that that in a way goes towards helping to diminish the rather longstanding high reputation that Barbados has always had for the high quality of its electoral process, the integrity of the process and the administration of the elections.

When one hears some of the stories that you have been hearing over the last few weeks as to what has been transpiring in some of our neighbouring countries which are going through elections for the administration of the ballot and the ballot boxes and the ballot papers, I say thank God that we have been spared from such a mess, to put it mildly. Like Senator Thompson, I take pride in the quality of our electoral culture, if I can put it that way, and think that this will go a long way towards enhancing and reinforcing it because I value very highly the possession of the vote and the right to vote, particularly when speaking today on the virtual eve of the centenary of the birth of Grantley Adams who was the champion for the vote in 1951. I have to appreciate it, especially as I witnessed the debate that transpired on television some days ago and when I combined it with all the stories we are hearing both in the newspaper and on TV of what is happening I had to say that we laid a good foundation, that Grantley Adams laid a good foundation and that other leaders have built on that foundation as well. The end result is that we have a process of which we can be very proud.

6.25 p.m.

Sir, Senator Thompson also, like I said, gave a very accurate, forthright, honest, practical and objective appraisal of the situation. She quite rightly bemoaned the fact that there are still too many Barbadians who live either below the poverty level or exist at a subsistence level. I must remind her that this is the very same reason why this Government has instituted the Poverty Alleviation Programme and has started off with some \$10 million toward the poor. We recognise that and I am glad to see that she has come on board with us and while not enunciating it in those terms, at least has had it to say in her presentation that she is with the policy of the Barbados Government.

Again, Sir, she has come on board with us regarding her support for the question of the State being responsible at some point for contributing toward election expenses among the parties. I too think this is necessary because I think Government gives subventions of various sizes to, one figure I heard was nearly 100 organisations

in Barbados, to all types, social, scientific, sporting, whatever. If the parties can help to make the process possible, can help to administer the country, help run the economy and produce the means and wherewithal by which we can contribute to these organisations, I think it is only fair that the parties themselves that help to safeguard the democracy in Barbados, that they themselves benefit from some of the wealth, to put it mildly, that they produce in that manner. I think it would go a long way toward eliminating some of the accusations of vote buying and influence peddling that have dogged politics in Barbados from time to time.

I know, the Senator did not say it, but this is the reason why this Government has started the whole question of subventions to political parties because we think this is a first step toward that. I know her party has recognised that and has begun to accept the money because they, of course, want to safeguard the democracy that they have helped to build over the last 42 years or so and I welcome them on board.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Yes, they took the money. I am trying to be as honest and as forthright as Senator Thompson. I welcome it. It is the spirit of Christmas, Mr. President, and I am trying to rise to the occasion. But in the same way that the Barbados Labour Party has had from time to time to suffer the indignity of being accused of being influenced by contributors and benefactors, by being the party of David Seale, and we have worked hard to shed that image, not that it was true but that was a perception promoted abroad. And while it is not true, we understand what it does to the democratic process.

The same way we have tried to fight this, I am sure they too would like, by letting Government help to pay for election expenses or letting Government help to support subvention to the parties, to be rid of the accusation that they are being financed by CLICO, or Julie-N and that kind of thing.

We have to understand, Sir, without saying so, that we are really of one spirit and we are joining forces to safeguard the electoral process, to safeguard democracy, to safeguard the integrity of our parties and in that way contribute to a better Barbados which future generations can enjoy from time to time.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I too would like to make a small contribution to the

Representation of the People Act. I am glad that attempts are being made to improve the voting process, *et cetera*. But one query that I have is with those persons who are absent for five years. I wonder why five years was the magic figure? What happens with those persons who have not been in the island? Does it mean that those persons who are out of the island for 1, 2, 3, 4 years could come back and vote but those people who are away for more than five years cannot return to the island and vote? We do know that when elections are called people do return to Barbados to cast their ballot.

Now, one of the ways that maybe we can get around that and make it the same for everyone is to have an overseas vote so that Barbadians with Barbadian passports can go to the Embassy overseas and cast their ballot and then one would not have to have the magic figure from one to five years. It is done by many countries. Many countries have an overseas ballot and people once they are Barbadians with their passports can go to the Embassy, cast their ballot like anyone and then they would not feel the need to come back to Barbados in order to vote for one party or another. That would make the elections a bit more fair.

Mr. President, I would also like to make a contribution regarding the confidentiality and suggest we know that no one knows when elections are called so therefore there is not enough time when elections are called to get a cadre of people together and do the type of training you would like to do because there is so much work to get in.

What I would like to suggest is that they get a cadre of people who could be chosen as supervisors or presiding officers, have a list of them and have continuous training stressing the confidentiality aspect of voting. If they are worried about it, well interview them, give them some counselling and let them know how important it is that they must not divulge any form of information whatsoever.

Several statements have been made regarding the apathy of voters, or perceived apathy, or maybe it might not be so simple because there are some of these dead people or people who are not available on the voters' list.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Okay. I would like to contribute to that. I think there is apathy among a lot of people who say they are not voting because they are fed up with politicians and politics so therefore it is the duty of the politicians to try and motivate people and change their attitudes. I think that one way of doing this is to start radio broadcasts of debates so people could have an idea of what goes on in their Parliament and how

important it is that they should vote and hear what contributions people make toward the development of their country. I think the sooner that is done, the better.

Also, I think that there should be an electoral school so that persons could be given some form of training to be politicians. You train to be an electrician. You train to be a doctor. You train to be everything else but people do not train. They just jump in the ring, and they are politicians. We all know that some of them really leave much to be desired. Even if they are selected by the party I think they should be exposed to some training and should not be seen to have too much freeness, free dinners here, free dinners there, *et cetera*. It is not only the money that people think they contribute and buy the party and therefore have a say in policies, they are other things like free travel, free golf, free holidays....
6.35 p.m.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: In America. Mr. President, we can learn from other countries and we need not to make the same mistake as those other countries and I am serious about some form of training for our politicians if we are really to make it a profession and try and entice some of the younger people to put themselves up for office because we need people in Parliament who can speak out and who can make contributions to the development of the country. We do not need all yes people, you need some yes people if not there will be difficult to control the party but you need some people who can speak out and make the contributions.

As far as the expenses that people have been talking about for political party. I am not too sure how I think about that. Let us face it this is a small country and we know they give both parties. They will give more to the one they think is going to win. What people might ask for is disclosure and I cannot see that coming in Barbados because Barbados is so small that I do not know if it is realistic to expect that political parties are going to sit down and say that so and so gave me so many thousand dollars. I think that we need to debate this and find the best way around it. We need to be really realistic and do not pretend that you are going to give a party a sum of money and they are not going to take money from somebody else because we know that they take money for some other persons because they do not have the money to finance campaigns.

We need to be a bit more up front and honest about that and see how we can get around that and maybe to encourage the parties to do a bit more fund raising and be a bit more visible in their fund raising so that people can

feel that some of the funds are being raised rather than given because if somebody gives you money you have to do them a favour if not next election you are not going to get as much.

Anyway, I support this Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: I seem to preface so many of my contributions with the words that I am not going to be long but I really am going to be brief, Mr. President.

After hearing other Honourable Senators speak, I felt compelled to make a point that I do not think has been made and that is to do with education and what Senator Rickinson described as apathy and perhaps I would call accidie. There is that feeling of indifference and cynicism among so many people and I think that it stems from a lack of education and interest early. I am not of course talking about partisan politics but it is a very important something that I have been clamouring for, for years when I was in the system and that is to have civics in the schools. I am one of those who, of course, feel that with an overloaded curriculum you cannot keep adding subjects but civics is certainly one that is extremely important and I know that there are some plans and it has been mentioned in the White Paper on Education that citizenry will be taught. I do not know that that programme has started yet and you do find that children at school when elections are on especially whose parents are political are very interested but even with clubs and with things like students councils, even with prefects you can have mock elections that are very close to the actual one and all those things will tend to stimulate interest.

There are so many adults in our society who will tell you that they have never been to Parliament, they have never visited the Senate, and I think that is because from the time that they were young there was not this interest aroused when they were in school. It will teach them to be greater citizens and also to instil in them the true meaning of democracy and even patriotism. It has so many implications and therefore I think that we have Senator Forde here and we need as soon as possible to have civics introduced into the schools and introduced on a broad basis.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise on conclusion of this very interesting debate just to clarify two issues that were raised by Senator Rickinson.

First the suggestion that politicians who are elected by the people should then go to some school to do politics

101 or a finishing school is, I would not want to say that it is a ludicrous suggestion but it is impracticable. You do not run a country by committee. You are not appointing a set of ex-officio managers of the country. You are talking about people who have passed the scrutiny of the ultimate and basically it is at that process, the process where they are tried and tested and proven in the context of their work in their constituencies, by the assessment of the individual guardians of democracy that they decide who the people will. Because the next logical step to this matter of training you will find that pretty soon you will need to have some minimum qualification to be a candidate and then it goes on and on and on. And if at any point in history the people of a given constituency believe that they want the priest, the cook or the candlestick maker whoever it might be to be their representative based on whatever they perceive their interest to be and who best represent their interest to me that is fine. I do not think that anyone would need a certificate from the finishing school of politics to qualify as a representative of the people.

The other point I would make is that the reality is that in terms of giving professional development to persons who are in politics, a number of things happen. But even beyond that when one becomes a Member of Parliament, when an organisation like the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association either through its central executive arm or through the various chapters, the Barbados Chapter, for example, in the first session of this parliamentary term started in 1994 conducted a seminar for new parliamentarians and Members of the House of Assembly and Members of the Senate were given the opportunity for professional development.
6.45 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: That is not the same thing. The opportunities exist for persons who are involved to obtain training and development and so on. So I just wanted to make those two points that I do not support the view that there should be any qualification or any other basis. It is the decision of the people. It is the qualification that one requires and beyond that mechanisms already exist for personal and professional development.

But, Mr. President, all that remains for me to do is to beg that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was passed and cited as the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1997.

ORDER NO. 3 – THE SERIAL BONDS BILL, 1997

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the second reading of this Bill which would make provision for the issue and use of serial bonds as a means of payment of Government debts. This Bill, Mr. President, was born out of a decision by the contributing territories of the University to find a mechanism to avoid a problem which has plagued the university for some time and it is related to the inconsistency of flow of funds into the university by way of the Governments meeting their obligations. Therefore all of the Caribbean countries who are contributing agreed to examine possible mechanisms by which the continuous flow of resources could be ensured.

The basic problem stems, Mr. President, from the fact that individual governments from time to time, because of cash flow issues, may not forward their resources to the university on a regular and consistent basis and there the university is placed in an awkward position, not only in terms of financing its on-going operations but also in terms of its capacity to present a balance sheet which would suggest that there is a consistency of funding and good management of funds and all of the other positive attributes which would assist the university in attracting international funding whether it be from foundations, corporations or other benefactors who are interested in supporting the university.

Several meetings were held mainly of the University Grants Committee which is, as you know, made up of the contributing territories and so on and it was agreed that this short-term instrument which is used in other jurisdictions be developed to allow for bonds to be issued, not simply as a means of dealing with late payments and defaults of payments but really as a means of ensuring regular contributions to the funding of the university.

What is basically proposed in terms of the functioning of this instrument is that every year contributing governments would issue to the university 12 bonds for

the monthly allocations of funds to the university. Those bonds, as you will notice from the Bill, do not accrue interest or they do not incur interest in the first 12 months so that in terms of meeting current payments there is no charge.

However, the bonds would begin to accrue interest in the event that they are not redeemed by the Government within that 12 month period and in fact the bonds have a basic life of 12 months. They are not intended as long-term instruments. It is really a rolling instrument. An extension can be granted as provided for in the Act of a period of no more than 6 months so that at the long shot the bonds cannot be any older or have a maturity date of greater than 18 months. Therefore if the bonds are not cashed by the due date interest would then start to accrue. The interest as defined there in the Act would be the average of the treasury bill rate for the previous six months plus a 2% spread.

Basically how these bonds would work is that the university, if the Governments are not in a position to redeem the bonds during the individual months for which they are due, the university can use the instrument as it is a negotiable instrument, to sell to a finance institution, to a bank or other entity as described in the definition section of the Bill to obtain the cash to finance its current commitments. At a time when the Government wants to redeem the bonds, it would redeem the bonds, from whoever happens to hold them at the point and time, whether it is the university, the finance institution or whomever.
6.55 p.m.

It therefore means that the Government will have ultimately honoured its obligation to provide financing for the efforts of the university, but the university would not have been in the 2, 3, 4 or whatever number of months of temporary absence of flow of funds into the university, that the university would not have suffered from an absence of cash, and therefore an inability to meet its obligations, including its payments of staff, maintenance of equipment, procurement of additional equipment and other payments.

Basically, what we are doing here today is part of that overall agreement by which we will provide for the ongoing financing of the university. So the bonds will therefore take care of both the ongoing current payments and if the payments are met on a current basis, then no interest will accrue. If arrears are accumulated, then interest payments will be made to whomever will be the holder of the bonds.

In terms of the specific details of the Bill, Sir, the Bills makes the definitions of what constitutes the

institutional investors, the insurance companies, finance companies and so on. The interest rate as indicated is the average of the 90 days Treasury Bill rates for the past six months, plus 2 percent. It sets out the need for the approval of Parliament for the issue of these bonds and sets out that the bonds can be of any denomination as money convenient for the purpose.

So, although the instrument is set out principally for use in solving the university's problems, as you can see it is a general instrument that can have wider applicability. It basically sets out the maturity dates and the other features dealing with the processing of the bonds and that basically, Sir, is the issue which the bonds are supposed to deal with and I beg to move, Sir, that this Serial Bonds Bill, 1997 be now read a second time.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, while this Bill and the information given on it gives the impression that it is being passed mainly to facilitate those transactions which occur between the University of the West Indies and member territories of the Caribbean, I will say that I welcome the introduction of this instrument and then I will qualify my statement.

For sometime now in this Senate whenever we have debated compulsory acquisitions, I have been asking the Government of Barbados to come up with an instrument which can be given to people in this country when the Government compulsorily acquires and sometimes for me it is a confiscation rather than an acquisition because, it does take some time for Government to pay over these sums to individuals.

Now, in the same way that Caribbean Governments have recognised how their delinquency in settling these amounts between the university can in some way, affect the creditworthiness of the University of the West Indies, I am calling on the Government of Barbados once more to recognise that when properties of individuals have been acquired by Government that these individuals are placed in a position that they can go nowhere sometimes. I was glad to hear the Leader of Government Business say that this instrument can be applied in other circumstances.

I want too, at this time to appeal to the Government of Barbados to utilise this stripped bond, which it is really, because it does not carry the interest-bearing coupon which makes it a full-fledged bond. It is stripped of its coupon and in financial terms is referred to as a stripped bond. I am therefore calling on the Government of Barbados to utilise this financial instrument to compensate Barbadians. I believe you can attach a certain sum, because I recognise that it can be a significant liability to incur in any one financial year. Since the life of the bond is one year with a possible extension of a further six months, it means

that the bond does really have sometimes, a life of only 18 months. Recognising though that sometimes these areas of land taken up, can come to significant sums I believe then there must be some ceiling.

But, I really feel for those Barbadians who have no other property, who have no other asset which they can take to a commercial bank or other financial institutions and say "here is a piece of collateral, give me X thousand dollars, let me start again." I really believe that this is the answer to that problem and I would want to make this appeal that we consider applying the use of this bond as we go about our compulsory acquisitions in Barbados.

I do not want to say much as it relates to the University of the West Indies. We all know the University of the West Indies has done us proud as a Caribbean people. As we look around in this Honourable House and in the Other, we can see our young men and not so young, who are graduates of that institution and of whom we are very proud. We want to make sure that the University of the West Indies can retain the kind of creditworthiness that would qualify it for recognition by international institutions for funding grants and whatever.

So, I would want to support the Bond as it applies to the University of the West Indies. But, my reason for standing, and I repeat, we all know that I represent the working class of this country. When we acquire lands in rural areas of Barbados we temporarily not only dislocate but disenfranchise those people whom I represent in this Parliament. Therefore, again I do not think I can repeat it too often on their behalf, I would like the Government of Barbados to consider the use of this serial bond as a form of compensation for such individuals. Thank you, Sir.
7.05 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I am absolutely delighted to speak on the reading of this Bill. What fascinates me most about this is a theory that I have always had that we within this Caribbean civilisation have the solutions to our problems. When I did read about this notion of the Caribbean Governments paying the university in this manner I thought it did take a little while but we did come up with something.

When we think about this institution of which we are so proud because so many of our illustrious sons and daughters have come out of this institution and we of course want it to continue to grow from strength to strength because we need to have the assurance and the certainty that all the projects, all the facilities for our people to study, to research, must continue. We want to see on our non-campus territories the work of distance education. We want to see research and one of the things I feel very

strongly about is that we are not doing enough research in our university. We have to spend more money in researching educational, health and social issues.

There is no reason why – and I like to think about the experience of our sister territory, Cuba – the sort of research that the Cuban people have been making out of such frightening sacrifices that we in this part of the world could be doing that kind of research, when we think about our problems in education. We talk a lot about the whole issue of the difference in educational attainment of the sexes and we have not been looking seriously to research these issues.

We have all sorts of social problems that we have to find money to do the research on. Having said that, I am also thinking about the whole question of the percentage of students in our general population which go to the university. When we are talking about funding our university it is a very large question that we have to put our minds to.

I am concerned that in generating funds towards the university in terms of all these projects we have to attract the best teachers, the best researchers. We have to be able to find a way of increasing our student population. All these things require money. One of the things I am concerned about, and I am waiting to see when our governments are going to deal with this, is the continuing disparity between campuses where certain campuses now have to ask their students to make contributions.

I think the governments will have to deal with this situation very realistically in terms of what is happening in the Caribbean. Today it is Mona, tomorrow it is Trinidad and Tobago and the proud boast that in Barbados we will always have free university education.

When I look at the situation, as I said, in terms of the money for research, the money to find out the source of some of our problems and I look at that same situation in Cuba, I think of what sacrifices those people who were at the universities make in terms of their own lifestyles and the ways in which they are prepared to live to contribute to the society, I am still not too comfortable with the fact that we are telling our students that, yes, this is a privilege that we can go to universities and not have to pay but there must be a concomitant responsibility and I can see that the governments of the Caribbean are going to have to work out some sort of process by which some territories would not seem to have to be bearing extra burdens of having to pay and others do not.

There are all kinds of issues with this question of funding and what our universities have to take care of which we have to think about very seriously. I think

that one of the messages we must send people in our territories, all young people, is that education comes with advice but there is a certain kind of responsibility to our nations – I hope one day very soon we will say in our Caribbean nations – that education must demand of us a certain kind of commitment.

I am very happy to say that I support this Bill and that I hope that the inspiration of our sons and daughters, prime ministers, all those people in the Caribbean who have benefited from university education will motivate our young people to allow for greater commitment to the societies which have produced them and give them the kind of confidence that they ought to have as products of this university. Thank you.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, I really had no desire to speak today with the Yuletide season in full swing. Nonetheless, it would be remiss of me for this to pass the Chamber and not to make some contribution. Unlike my good friend, Senator Boyce, I am not hopping all around today, not suffering from what I would identify as suffering from the "hops", hopping from here to there.

Mr. President, Sir, it is a fact that university education in no part of the world is cheap. What has helped to push our education up even more significantly, is the fact that we are not one landmass but we are divided by water and the cost of doing business is even greater than if we were in England or the continent.

Nonetheless, Sir, I would like to remind the Chamber that one of the first things which this Barbados Labour Party Administration did on coming into office was to settle some rather outstanding debts with the University of the West Indies, something which sort of set the tone for other Caribbean islands and did a lot to lift the position of Barbados in the eyes of the rest of the Caribbean.

It is also heartening to see that the Administration has adopted yet another innovative way of doing business. Already today we have seen such in Item No. 2. That shows innovation. It shows creativity. It shows the will to settle perennial problems. Every year, I receive an invitation to subscribe to my old university by way of some charitable donation or the other. For universities to exist and to stay alive they have to be very novel in their way of thinking and be creative.

Sir, some universities have been going the way of selling memorabilia. They are constantly bombarding you with it – ties on sale, mugs on sale, pins on sale, scarves on sale. They do not let up. They even go much further than that. They have their own banking facilities. They

have their own insurance plans. All are a way of keeping it within the family and making business less cumbersome.

I would not like to see the day, but I guess it will happen, and I would not like to be misquoted, when they start trimming certain faculties at UWI as is the case in North America and England where they have had to cut and trim certain faculties, which actually brought to a halt the study of certain programmes. I would hate to see that happen but, as I said, the world is but part of a continuum.

I have seen professors and deans in big countries being asked to come up with exciting programmes to run parallel and meaningfully to the cutting edge of technology. Unless they can do that, it signals death to the particular faculty or the particular area of study.

7.15 p.m.

I think it was only in my last journal which I received, I saw again innovation and thought. I saw one professor and his wife, the husband he is now retired, but he had taken out a mortgage which would help him in his retirement but at the same time it was a fairly complex deal but it all goes in assisting in the running of the university. At the same time it would assist in that particular department for which he was Dean for several years. Between the two of them they have no children and they thought this would be a good way of putting back something to the university and keep the university going and, at the same time, make their retirement days less stressful. So, again, Sir, business is not the same as usual, particularly the universities.

I remember over the past two to three years my niece and nephew – my niece has gone into the Medical Faculty at Jamaica and her brother preceded her by two years. Being a female it was a little difficult for her in the early days where she was constantly calling home to find out if the monies had come through. We know that this is a perennial problem and anything which could go toward making life in the early days of your campus courses a lot more meaningful and less difficult should be welcomed rather than saying we do not know how this will be. You have to try. You have to take the problem by the horns and see how best you can deal with it.

Senator Davis spoke about research and I am a little weary about the research. I will tell you why. If research means, now I do not want to be misquoted, trying to reinvent the wheel, if other countries have already done that research then what you do is to look at those countries. If there is a particular problem characteristic of the society, by all means, but do not do research in areas which have already been researched having a duplication and triplication. If that is the case, you are doing research for the sake of researching.

I think it was last year, Sir, I read a paper where that body which supervises universities in a part of Canada, they were saying that the professors were going down the line now of too much research and not teaching. It could be a dangerous thing if there were just drawing down on grants and getting their personal CVs to look a lot better and just drawing for the sake of drawing for research. If the research, to use the phrase, at the end of the day, is going to impact significantly like on our sugar industry, on our solar energy, on our environment, by all means, yes, but if you are going to go back and do research of things which were long in place studied all through Europe, America even Cuba, then I say...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Gill, I say you are making an interesting presentation but I am not sure what it has to do with the Bill.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: It has to do with the dollars and cents at the end of the day. It pushes up the real cost of running a university and of doing business with the university.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I might add that the word "university" is not once mentioned in this Bill although I have allowed previous reference to it but it seems to me that you are straying far and wide from what is before us.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: But it is implied. Nonetheless, Sir, I take your guidance.

It would be remiss of me, Sir, as I said in the opening, not to support the Bill which is before the Chamber. We know that in coming sessions you are going to see new and innovative ways of doing business be it at the university level, be it with the small entrepreneurs or be it with big countries looking to do business in Barbados.

Sir, I am most obliged for your patience.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, being myself a graduate of the University of the West Indies, I could not let a Bill like this pass without contributing especially since in introducing the Bill the Honourable Senate Leader was at pains to point out that the Bill being considered was, in the first instance, to deal with the debts owed to the University of the West Indies by the contributing territories. He made it very clear that this was going to be a short-term solution which was contemplated by the member countries as a way of dealing with the outstanding monies owed the university by way of their contributions.

We know that the University of the West Indies has been constantly crying out about its inability to achieve

certain programmes because of the lack of funds. We know too, Sir, that constraints are being put constantly on our young people as they attempt academic careers in terms of their entitlement to tertiary education either by way of matriculation which is the achievement of the minimum academic standard and, indeed, secondly by way of the ability to finance themselves through it.

The financing of most of our students through a university career has been, certainly in the Barbadian experience, and I believe it is repeated in many territories in the Caribbean by way of Government support either by direct grants or by way of scholarships and different grades of scholarships that are awarded annually.

We know how proud we are every September when we look through the papers and see those bright young faces of Barbadians who will now enter the world of tertiary education and will eventually bring back to this great little island the training which they will acquire.

What we also tend to be concerned about is the fact that more and more they are tending to move away from education at the University of the West Indies and moving for one reason or the other through opting for training outside of the Caribbean area. It might not be a particular problem today but certainly we have to concern ourselves with how the University of the West Indies is equipping itself to deal with this problem.

The serial bond issue which we are contemplating, and I will certainly be speaking to the whole question of serial bonds as I continue my contribution, is specifically designed to deal with some of the shortfalls in funds which the university has to meet.

Sir, as recently as two weeks ago I was summoned to a meeting between past Presidents of the Barbados Association of Professional Engineers and the Faculty of Engineering of the University of the West Indies. They are touring the Caribbean trying to update member territories on the status of the university degree as it applies to the engineering disciplines. They felt that they would come and sit with past presidents of the association and practising professional engineers in Barbados for the engineers to hear what the university is doing, and then for the engineers to try to guide the university in the way they feel the training should go because our business people, and especially in the field in which I am familiar, engineering, do have a tendency to constantly look at our young graduates and tell them they are not in a condition to contribute.

7.25 p.m.

I believe that it is a misuse of words, I want to be kind in my comment about that statement that I hear. I believe that it is a misuse of words and it is not what they intend.

They might intend to say, more accurately that with more training and with more experience the graduate of the University of the West Indies will be even more of an asset than they are at the beginning of their tenure as workers. Sir, I have grown up knowing that a university degree from the West Indies have been well accepted almost without reservation in every college and university throughout the world and I always recall the story very early in my tertiary career of the University of Waterloo when a visiting Professor at the Faculty of Engineering insisted that the work which we were dealing with at that time was way beyond the contemplation of similar students in Canada where he worked.

Although we are not standing in the way of Government in going ahead and dealing with the issue of these serial bonds, I think that the Barbadians must contemplate what is really happening. The last time I heard about bond with such consistency was around the time when we were grappling with a previous crisis in the economy of this country and it was suggested that maybe a solution to some of the problems which we were facing would be with the issue of bonds to workers of this country. Bonds which like these bonds would be useful to them at the time of redemption and bonds which would be useful to them as collateral very similar to the bonds that we are contemplating today.

I am not an economist and I am not one of those steeped in the business of investment and finance, I do not know whether they are stripped bonds or whether the bonds are fully clothed but I know that they sound to me like almost the same thing and they are negotiable instruments, they can be redeemed for money at some stage I do not know when that stage is, in this case there is a reference to time of six months or eighteen months.

Those members over there walked the length and breadth of Barbados and abused the solution seekers of the time in the worst way. Those Honourable Members over there were part of a group who walked the length and breadth of this country, Sir, and made sure that the worst condemnation possible was laid at the feet of the solution seekers of that time. We are not going to be that ungracious. We have not been that ungracious in our contribution tonight and we acknowledge the use of the bonds in seeking to solve the problem with which the Government is faced today.

This Government when it came to power in 1994 was at pains to point out to this country too that the Democratic Labour Party Administration had refused to pay the university in cash because that was the implication but you have it now but you still cannot pay it, you still have to look for bonds now to cover up your indebtedness to the

University. If I am wrong, I will sit down, Sir, and hear the answers from that Side, Sir. The Honourable Senate Leader in introducing this Bill, and we can refer to the records, said that they will be used in the first instance to deal with the indebtedness of the contributing countries to the University of the West Indies. That is what I heard, Sir.

That sounds to me like if they owe the University of the West Indies money, Sir, and they are going to use the issuing of bonds to pay the University of the West Indies. The University of the West Indies will take these bonds to some institution, it is all stated here be it bank, insurance company or whatever and on presentation of these bonds, Sir, will be entitled to the face value in terms of real money because the University of the West Indies cannot pay nobody with bonds, they have to have the real cash. Despite all the protestations over there the facts are clear and the issuing of the bonds is a clear indication that maybe and I say maybe the cash and the economic guruism that we heard talking has not really come to place and I am minded...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member sought to quote me and he invited us to check the record. What I did say is that the bonds will be used to deal with the financing of the University. I did not reduce that financing to payment of debts or indebtedness because I did indicate that the bonds are instruments and once they are current no interest will accrue. If it so happen that a territory become indebted then interest will accrue but the bonds are for ongoing finance and they are not for settlement of arrears necessarily and because the Governments of the region have agreed it does not necessarily mean that one or all are indebted. They can bring the figures to show that Barbados is not in that category of indebtedness. They are not instruments to meet arrears, but they will be instruments that are used for the ongoing current financing and they can also be used as a debt instrument in the event that territories at some point in time are not current.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am grateful for the assistance which has been rendered to my presentation by the interruption of the Honourable Member. The point is clear.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It was an interruption within the rules.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: It was in keeping with my presentation. It did not contradict anything that I said. He contemplated it as a point of order and it does not mean that it was necessarily a point of order.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I determine if it was a point of order and I have so determined.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am governed by your ruling. The point being that even as a point of order it serves to re-inforce my position that the bonds are used, can be used and shall be used as payment of indebtedness to the University. That is what financing is all about and I stand to be corrected or for other Members during their contributions to elaborate on these things, Sir.

I want to deal with a point to do with the University and that is about the almost sometimes confusion as it relates to the quotas that are allow by our young people. The same young people who I talked about, the happy faces who we see in the September issue of our newspapers, as recently as this last semester have had to suffer to the extent that they were not sure whether they would have been allowed to carry on their tertiary education as contemplated and in some cases, as assured, by this Administration.

We can look back at the public pronouncement of the period which was attributed to the Minister of Education and which, on the other hand was attributed to the University of the West Indies as it relates to the specifics of the matter. The point is that there were quotas contemplated. It threatened the tertiary education of a number of young Barbadians and it required the intervention of parents of some of these children to move the Minister of Education and her Ministry to ensure that all these young children were assured a tertiary education of their choice.
7.35 p.m.

Sir, when we look at the solutions and when we comment on these solutions I beg only that history records the facts as they relate to the track record of the Barbados Labour Party Members and the kind of comments which were attributed to them and which some of them are very well aware were made when solutions of this sort were contemplated in the early 1990s.

Sir, before I sit I want to just, with your kind permission, refer to a special member of our graduate community in Barbados and indeed a member of this Senate, Senator Viola Davis, and congratulate her, Sir, on her recent attainment of a doctorate from the University of the West Indies and of course we know too, Sir, of the recent issue of her book about the children of the African Diaspora. I want to be associated with congratulations to a graduate of the very University of the West Indies which we are considering at this time. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am sure the whole Senate will join with you in congratulating Senator Davis. I only became aware of it today and I personally congratulated her earlier.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I do not intend to be long. I just want to set the record straight regarding some allegations made by the previous speaker regarding this whole question of the phenomenon of bonds.

My recollection, Sir, is that basically what the Honourable Senator was seeking to do was to rehabilitate the reputation and vindicate the reputation of a previous Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Prime Minister Barrow, who is now dead. At that time I was a journalist at the Nation, Sir, and we carried a front page story, I remember it like yesterday, which said that Barbadians were going to be offered bonds for income tax purposes.

In other words, instead of getting a cheque that you can cash at the bank you were going to get bonds instead. Mr. Barrow denied it vehemently. He called a Press Conference. I think it was at the end of a DLP conference he called a Press Conference and denied it vehemently. Only afterwards and with his departure, it came into being. The point is that there was a twist given then and they are now trying to say that what is being done now really was in keeping with that. But that was a denial that became a reality.

In addition, Sir, it reminds me, that you seem to be seeking to justify the damage done to this country by your previous administration.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Who is "you", Senator?

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Of course not you, Mr. President, you have no party or you have no administration. It was the DLP Administration, Sir, when they cut wages and now they are seeking to vindicate that and prove themselves right by having done it in the first place. So that kind of thing does not wash with me. I just want to remind Honourable Senators, Sir, that it was the DLP Administration, Sir. When we came to office, Sir, we inherited a situation.

The Honourable Senator was grandstanding and almost weeping about the strictures and the trauma suffered by poor Barbadian students because of some alleged failure to meet their obligation by this Government and the current Minister of Education. I remember, Sir, we had to rescue the very young people of Barbados, Sir, from a situation where that Government, the last DLP Government, had committed itself to having students pay at the University of the West Indies, at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the Barbados Community College and we reversed that decision and therefore it never happened. So the Honourable Member or his party cannot claim to have any monopoly on the welfare of the young people of Barbados but we by our record have proven that we

are willing wherever we see an ill to rectify it. I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, just a short contribution to the issue of these bonds which I wholeheartedly support as a method for meeting financial commitments. I am glad that it has been brought early before this Honourable House.

Mr. President, I sincerely hope some of the nurses who went to Jamaica for their education, there was a rush to get there before the Government stopped paying the economic cost of students. They were told that there was a cut off point whereby within the next two years or so the Government was no longer going to pay the economic cost. I sincerely hope that this is not true and that by the issuing of these bonds the Government would be able to continue to pay the economic cost, at least the economic cost of students, because some of these nurses do get loans and pull their pockets in order to improve themselves and the country does benefit from the education and training they receive, be it in Jamaica or Trinidad or wherever although we are losing some of them to psychology *etc.*, but nevertheless the country is going to benefit in some way.

I myself am a graduate of the University of the West Indies and I am very glad. I am a graduate in Economics and for that reason I can look at some of these Bills and talk in a sensible way about them and I have to thank the University of the West Indies for the education that I have been given and I would like to stress that in Barbados we do not have oil, we do not have gold, the only thing we do have is education of our people. Our basic resource is our people and therefore I sincerely hope that I would never hear that we cannot finance at least a first degree of our young people because that forms the basis of country whereby you can do research, inventions, *etc.* It is a jumping off point that is why we have done so well without having oil.

I sincerely hope that we will be able to continue and if it means that we must have bonds, I support it wholeheartedly. Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I just want to make a short intervention and I want to commend this Bill to the Honourable Chamber and I would invite Members to read the Bill because a lot of those who spoke before me, especially in the corner where the DLP Members sit, obviously have not read the debate and it shows a lack of ignorance...

Mr. PRESIDENT: A lack of ignorance is not what you meant to say, but if it is, it is quite flattering.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I mean a lack of knowledge. Sir, the point is that the Government of the day has instruments for raising money. Now this is a special bond and, Sir, we must see it not in terms of Barbados but in terms of the other islands also because some islands owe the university as much as \$100 million. This is a creative way of ensuring that the University of the West Indies which we all treasure and I am a proud product, a distinguished product of the University of the West Indies and I know the difficulties that the University had, especially under the DLP when, from month to month the finance officer of the University did not know where he would get the money from to pay the staff and I was on staff then so I would know a little about these things.

Sir, for the first time now the University will show at the beginning of the year that they have money in their hands so that then they can plan their programmes to the benefit of the young people of the region. If we are going to be castigated for that, let us be castigated. I heard lots of talk about marching up and down Bridgetown and all that foolishness without understanding the full intent and the impact of this piece of legislation.
7.45 p.m.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: This has nothing to do with me and with the sort of foolishness that the last Administration was forcing upon the people. This has nothing to do with the last Administration wanting to pay income tax arrears with bonds. Do not equate the two. This is something completely different. This is a response to a problem which is not Barbados' problem, because we, as Barbadians know, are reasonably current with our university dues. But, the fact remains that a lot of the other islands are causing the university serious problems.

Our Members here should be glad that the university, which we treasure, at least can plan and operate with more certainty than in the past. Sir, we must remember that these bonds are encashable at any time. Because, Section 6 (2) say that the bonds may be sold to any bank of an institutional investor by holders of the bond. So, at any time the University can go to any bank or any institutional investor, like a pension fund, or whatever because the term institutional investor is defined on page 2 of the Bill, and get the cash. It is a simple and good way of doing things. To bring it up now in connection with, I mean with what the last Administration did to this country, is looking sort of scandalous.

Sir, before I close, I want to respond to a point that was made by Senator Thompson, where she is saying that we can use this methodology to pay the people whom the Government has, as she said, has confiscated their land.

Sir, from all the information we get, the problem with people being paid for their land had nothing to do with availability of funds. In most cases it is the title. As we all know, lots of people here do not have clear titles to their land and this poses the most problems. As Senator Workman would know from his own experiences, a fellow may be the owner of land for 50 years, but he does not have the title deeds to the land.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Precisely! So the problem with people being owed for land has more to do with that sort of legal problem than it is to do with money. Because in most cases the money is there, but the land title is what is causing the problem. So we do not need this sort of approach for those land payments. They can be handled in the ordinary courts affairs. But, as I said, the land title issue is the problem.

Sir, I want to commend this legislation to the House and I want to offer my congratulations to the Governments in this case, for coming up with a way of ensuring that our premier institution is put in a place where it can effectively plan so that they can then come up with creative programmes now for the benefit of the societies in which they operate.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to add two points, Sir, to all that has been said from this side and to express my support for this particular initiative. I wish to remind Honourable Members of the Senate there is a history of some Caribbean Governments not fulfilling their roles regarding the payment of their pledges to the University of the West Indies. Therefore, the University ends up with a large overdraft because the funds are not coming on a reliable or timely basis. I therefore think that this particular Bill will help to ease that situation.

The two things I want to touch in particular are to do with mention made by Senator Murray of the Government's role in taking on the responsibilities of paying of the finances for students in Barbados and to say that as a result of the initiative as well, of training or retraining that just over 200 students last year were able to use those facilities at the University to be able to upgrade themselves.

The second thing I want to mention is that the Caribbean Governments have agreed to set up a target of approximately 15 percent of the population in each of the territories to help students attend the Universities. I think

that this too is also a good initiative in the light that these students will be coming from secondary to tertiary. It will give our populations in the Caribbean a stronger educational and social background in order to be able to carry our countries toward the Year 2000, giving us the hope that our future is safe in the hands of our people.

Sir, I support this Serial Bonds Bill to say that it is a very timely exercise on behalf of this Government and I trust that other Members in this institution will support this venture.

Thank you.

Asides.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 – 9 inclusive, were called and passed.
7.55 p.m.

Clauses 10 to 12 inclusive, were called and passed.

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

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

ORDER NO. 7 – SECOND READING OF THE BARBADOS CRICKET ASSOCIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1997

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the Second Reading of this Bill which seeks to amend the Barbados Cricket Association Act in order to provide the Association with the clear legal authority to raise finance by way of loan for the expansion of the facilities for cricket in this country.

The Barbados Cricket Association Act is a 1933 Act and it is interesting to know that some 9 persons are listed including one Grantley Herbert Adams who, as I understand it, was a Barbados wicketkeeper of some note and who was a player of note for Spartan and these 7 or 9 persons petitioned the Parliament of the day to have support for a private Bill to establish the Barbados Cricket Association.

In that Act, no clear arrangements were made in respect of loan financing although the Act made provision for the Association to form its rules to govern its affairs and the rules do make some reference to the capacity of the Association to raise funds for development of cricket but the overwhelming legal opinion as had been sought indicates that the rules cannot purport to give a power to the Association that the Act does not. So the subsidiary aspects of governance of the institution by way of the rules cannot purport to grant more power than is inherent in the general Act.

This amendment basically puts beyond any question of doubt the capacity of the Barbados Cricket Association to be able to raise those funds and makes clear provision for the association to enter into contracts in its name to raise or borrow sums of money whether a mortgage or other charge on the property of the association, or bonds, debentures or otherwise might be required to enable the association to carry on its lawful business. That wording is also deliberately much wider than the wording in the rules which specifically spoke to the development of cricket which it was recognised could also be narrowly construed and the wide reference to the lawful business would include other aspects of its commercial operations for example which while it may raise finances in the way of there being for example a memorabilia shop and other activities may not subscribe to the very narrow definition for the development of cricket.

Sir, the Government is pleased to sponsor this amendment to the legislation because we recognise the critical importance of cricket as part of the national psyche of Barbados and Barbadians and Barbados being a part of that wonderful West Indian grouping of cricket to the West Indies in general. The particular plans of the Association which has necessitated this amendment to the Barbados Cricket Association Act by way of its capacity to obtain finance relate to the improvement of the facilities at Kensington Oval.

As you would know, Mr. President, the facilities at Kensington have in recent years proved to be inadequate for the accommodation of the large numbers of persons who are interested in Test Cricket and One-Day Internationals. But also the inadequacy has been felt by

way of the capacity to accommodate an expanded membership whereas the membership waiting list is perhaps even longer than the list of actual members as well as the capacity of the Oval to house the many journalists from all over the world who come to Barbados and who converge on that cricket Mecca of the Eastern Caribbean to cover these international sporting events.

What is proposed therefore, by way of the longer term development plans of the association involves a 3-phase development programme in which in the first phase the works will immediately relate to the improvement of the south side of the Oval in the area of the Mitchie Hewitt Stand. That component will provide for some 1 250 seats including some additional boxes. That area will basically look like its counterpart on the northern side. This one will be a 3-tiered stand which will also make provision for an expanded media centre. That expansion which, basically, as I said, would provide that additional seating and full media coverage.

8.05 p.m.

In Phase 2 there are plans to upgrade the scoreboard by way of making an electronic scoreboard, making expansion of stands in the area on the eastern side which would be in the Bleachers and the Havolin Stand area which is a relatively under-utilised area.

In the final phase, whenever that comes on stream, would be the upgrading of the northern end which would be the Pickwick Pavilion, the Challenor Stand which is there for members but would provide expanded seating for members and thereby enable the Association to offer more memberships and the like.

The start of these developments by way of Phase 1 becomes more urgent and pressing in the context of the relatively active international programme which the West Indies has for its cricket. For example, in March next year would be the English cricket tour. Then, of course, during that particular tour there would be the Test match as well as the two One-Day matches. There will also be the Vice Chancellor's fund raising match. In addition, the West Indies will play Australia, one Test and a One-Day match and in the Year 2000 South Africa is supposed to be there to play a Test and a One-Day match.

We must also bear in mind that in terms of the longer term the West Indies has been considering making the proposal, if they have not formally made the proposal already, to host the Cricket World Cup in 2003. If we hope to be able to host a major cricketing event such as the World Cup, we must ensure that there is an overall development plan for a number of grounds around the region, not only in terms of the quality of the pitch and the surrounding field which is obviously of good quality,

but the physical facilities and having a media centre which will allow for the broadcast of the games and the other transmission of media information about the games because the World Cup will obviously have media interest from all around the world. If we want to be able to maximise the benefit from such a premier event we would need, of course, to have a large number of seats available so that no one would be dissatisfied in terms of their interest in these particular games.

Government, in addition to providing the legislative framework to facilitate the BCA obtaining their financing, will also be assisting the Barbados Cricket Association by way of providing a Government guarantee for part of the loans which are to be raised from a consortium of local banks and insurance companies as well as by its own injection of some financing in support of these efforts. Again out of the recognition of the critical importance of cricket and the role which the BCA has to play not only in the context of the examples that are given by way of developments at Kensington Oval but by way of the role of the BCA in continuing to organise and host the national competitions. In terms of the First and Second Division Cricket and providing opportunities for players of talent to rise through the system through the Secondary School competitions, through the First Division Cricket, through well organised regional cricket and ensure that the Barbados Cricket Association plays its roles in creating the environment out of which will emerge the cricketers of the future who will restore some of the pride of West Indians in their cricket which pride has been, in the last few months, a little tried, tested and bruised.

We are satisfied that it is through efforts such as what we are making today to assist the national associations that they will continue to provide that avenue by which the young talented players would be able to travel from being unknown players in their communities to international stars that would continue to fly the flag of the West Indian nation in its cricketing endeavours.

Mr. President, I am therefore pleased to commend this Barbados Cricket Association (Amendment) Bill, 1997 to the Honourable the Senate and beg that the Bill be now read a second time.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 9.00 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 9.00 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
8.15 p.m.

RESUMPTION

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, like most Barbadians, I am passionate about cricket and my interest was developed in childhood. Frank Worrell was a very close family friend who played cricket in our back yard and I grew up playing on Empire cricket ground during holidays and weekends and attended what was in those days called inter-colonial cricket matches at Kensington. I have been a life member of the Barbados Cricket Association for many years and presently chair one of its committees and therefore I am specially pleased about this Bill and the Government is to be applauded for its assistance to the BCA. It is interesting to note that there are other Governments in the region, Cayman Islands, Antigua & Barbuda, St. Kitts, St. Vincent & the Grenadines who have all come to the assistance of their respective associations.

The BCA, as most Honourable Senators would know, is responsible for the under 13, 15, 19 and 23 groupings and for the First Division Premier, Intermediate and Second Division and for the Fire & General Cup and Shield. When the Instant Money Game was profitable, the BCA improved pavilions and Kensington Oval. Of course, there are additions to the Hall and Griffith Stands and to the Garfield Sobers Pavilion.

As our leader mentioned, we have to look at cricket in the short-term and in the long-term and as our leader has pointed out, there is presently a lack of adequate accommodation and an extensive waiting list. It has to be remembered that cricket is the one sport where our top performers have received Commonwealth and indeed international recognition and some have gained universal respect and acclaim over the years. I think of cricketers like George Challenor, Herman Griffith, Manny Martindale, the Three Ws, Charlie Griffith, Malcolm Marshall, Sir Garfield Sobers, Joel Garner and of course Haynes and Greenidge. The game has stimulated, particularly in previous years, a great deal of hero worship, albeit it somewhat in decline.

Regrettably, young people are being attracted to other forms of sports, basketball, volleyball, hockey, squash and tennis which is by no means the elitist game that it used to be and there are some people who will tell you that they do not want to spend six hours in the sun. But Mr. President, I think that there is need to bring back competitiveness in the game in the clubs themselves. There is also need for more organisation, more infrastructure and particularly more coaching especially between those children 12 and 15 years old, and interest to be put into cricket at the development level and besides more money needs to be put into cricket at the development level. This question has to be urgently addressed. We need to produce a crop of young

interested players and in order to do this, cricket must be glamourised. They must be bombarded with cricket on television and again I repeat that for all these reasons the amendment to this Act is very welcome.

Senator Farley has already mentioned that the Mitchie Hewitt stand is going to be rebuilt and able to accommodate persons at the lower and upper levels and that there will be a media centre. He has also mentioned the other important factor that the WIBC has indicated their interest in holding a World Cup. As it stands now, as is generally known, the World Cup is held every four years but there is a new idea which has been mooted and discussed – that it should be held every two years – and if this materialises then there is a strong possibility as has been pointed out that the WIBC will host the World Cup in the Year 2003. Therefore it is vital that we have the correct infrastructure. In fact, the WIBC has conducted a survey of each ground to make sure that they meet certain international standards and so that there is proper security, each person has a certain amount of room. And it is because of this too that Kensington has lost some of its seatings and chairs in the aisles are forbidden. This, of course, will bring the Oval under more manageable control and it will now be able to accommodate about 10 000 people. I also understand that a study was done by KPMG and it has shown that through Sports Tourism the contribution of cricket to the economy has been substantial.

It is incumbent on all BCA members as well as the general public to give the BCA their fullest support and to ensure that our young people are so coached that they restore some of the glory that has begun to fade. Recently too, it was decided that there would be an increase in membership and that seems to be a sore point with people that there is a ceiling. But I think that it is pretty obvious that there has to be ceiling because members do not pay for Test matches and if we had an unlimited number well then, there would be no funds and for that reason and for the fact that you want to be sure that the people who become members do not just join so that they have easy access to tickets for Test matches but that they are genuinely interested in the game itself.

It is pleasing to note Government's support for this venture and for the rebuilding of the stand and for the media centre. Those of us who are members and who have had sometimes to have their view somewhat blocked by the TV stands that had been put up, will now be able to watch in greater comfort and therefore it is with the greatest possible pleasure and commendation that I support this Bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I believe the only reason this matter is engaging the

attention of this Honourable Senate is the fact that the Cricket Association like a few other organisations in this country gained its birth through an Act of Parliament hence I believe it is only correct, politically and otherwise correct that in order for changes to be made that this matter should engage the attention of this Senate of Barbados. However, I am pleased that this matter is before us today because it gives me an opportunity to comment and to express from my conscience and the depths of my heart my feelings on the status of not only Barbados cricket but West Indies cricket today. I would therefore not want to engage myself this evening with the matter of whether the funds will be used to extend stands or whatever matches we will have in the future in Barbados.

9.15 p.m.

For us Caribbean people cricket has been that force responsible for the acceptance of us as a people at the international level. No one can deny that were it not for Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir Everton Weekes, Sir Frank Worrell and all other great West Indian cricketers, people further afield would have known nothing about Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad or any other Caribbean island. So today we are therefore debating a matter which is at the heart of the progress and development of people of the Caribbean as a recognised people of the world.

What concerns me somewhat, Sir, is the way we discuss cricket. Cricket is a social tool. Cricket is a character building mechanism. The conduct and actions of the cricketers of Barbados and the West Indies are reflective of the character, conduct and behaviour of the people of these territories at the time.

Now, in this modern world today when, as we look around, we see large economic and trading blocks coming together as single unifying forces in order that they can hold their own in this whole new sphere of things the one force which has given the Caribbean recognition and identity is falling apart and we have to ask ourselves some questions. Why, at a time when nations which have even been enemies in the past have been able to come together, bind themselves together, form brick walls to not only survive but progress in this modern world? Why is this one institution which has succeeded for so many years falling apart? I have been doing my own analysis and one of the things that has come home to me is that in the midst of change the people responsible for the management of cricket are standing still. In the midst of change the administrators of Caribbean cricket are standing still and we know that when there is movement and anything or persons stands still it would be swept aside. And this is a word of warning for those individuals, those groups which manage cricket, not only in Barbados but in the West Indies.

Mr. President, Sir, could it be real? Could we be realistic? I am a cricketing fan. I do not go to cricket nowadays when I can watch it on my television and I enjoy it very much because I have a problem with crowds from time to time. I have been trampled already and I really relive that whenever I find myself in large crowds.

Mr. President, as I go around Barbados I ask myself the question, does the composition of our cricket administration in Barbados reflect the composition of our society? The individuals who play cricket in Barbados, almost all of the individuals who play cricket in Barbados, what I want to say is that they come from varying backgrounds but gone are the days when a young man in this country aimed to be a cricketer because that is the only way he would be recognised. We have now and for some years made education available to our people that they may have other areas into which they can go and gain full recognition. So no longer would they be looking to their cricketing skills in order to be accepted as people in Barbados.

We have to be realistic about these things. One of the reasons our former cricketers did so well appeared to be so polite, never answered back, one of the reasons for that is that cricket was the only outlet they had to be seen as somebody. We run away from facts in this country. Today boys and girls of that same background are now going to Harrison College, Lodge, Queen's College, The St. Michael School, and those other institutions and are gaining acceptance in this society hence they no longer need cricket to make them. What do we have to do in order to hold those individuals in our cricketing field in Barbados? I am saying we have to embrace them by giving them opportunities to become administrators in this country. They must feel that people with whom they can readily relate are the individuals to whom they are going for their concerns.

I do not know much about the Barbados Cricket Association. I respect all individuals who represent voluntary groups in this country but the question I would like to ask of those individuals who have inside information on the BCA is, what kind of orientation programme is there in the Barbados Cricket Association? Do we deal only with cricketing skills and interpersonal relationships, or are we at this time, as we seek to help develop our cricketers, introduce the same civics and other social sciences that we talk about to help to build a conscious Barbadian and a conscious West Indian, so that we can have that strong cricketing body that we want to have represent us worldwide? I do not know why we want to deal with these things in compartments. I do not have a brain that compartmentalises things. I see things and I see one thing associated and connected to the other and I

follow them right through. That is a problem we have in this country. We believe we can deal with cricket and talk about cricket and talk about bat and talk about ball and talk about a pitch. That is not the complete person. We have to deal with the complete person.

I listen to West Indian cricketers. I listen to Vivian Richards speak of his experience as a cricketer. Vivian Richards said when he went on that pitch, for him it was war, for him it was an opportunity for a black man from a poor country in the West Indies to say to these big powerful forces, here I am and I am more than the size of my country. Let us walk around and see how many people today have that view of themselves and their cricket.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: That is the spirit we need in order for not only Barbados cricket to succeed but for West Indian Cricket to succeed. Cricketers are as much politicians as the individuals who sit in the Lower House and those who sit in this Honourable Chamber, Mr. President, and I want to say it. I am not happy that this body called the Barbados Cricket Association, if this body would subject itself in some form to the public scrutiny of Barbadians...

9.25 p.m.

If a ballot were taken around this island to get the real opinion of Barbadians on the Barbados Cricket Association, the members of that body I believe, would be in shock. I think the Barbados Cricket Association members must accept that there is a general feeling out there that the administrators of cricket in Barbados are not really in touch and in tune with the realities of the society of Barbados today. This is supposed to be a democratic country. Why in Barbados today do we still have what is perceived to be a body of privileged individuals in this country who are untouchables? That is what Barbadians believe about this body called the Barbados Cricket Association.

Therefore, Mr. President, since we have to come to the Parliament of Barbados in order to deal with the affairs of this body and since at some time in the future the Government of Barbados will be expending public funds by way of grant, loan or whatever on the Barbados Cricket Association, it must accept that the most ordinary person must feel free to comment on the administration of cricket in this country. I will not be stopped because there is one thing I always say, I allow my conscience to be my guide. When I speak on something I do not pull back because I have spoken from my conviction.

The Barbados Cricket Association must do a thorough self-examination. It must seek to make sure that the

game which it claims to be representing that those individuals who are most important to cricket, the people who go out there and face the balls, stand in the broiling sun and rain, I looked at the fingers of a former West Indies wicket keeper, Jeffrey Dujon and his fingers cannot even stretch out. All his fingers are curved. You can look at the fingers of the people in the BCA.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: What I am saying that those are the people who should matter in cricket and their views must be heard. They are the important people in cricket in Barbados and in the Caribbean. I get really very angry when people sit in their high towers and believe that the individuals over whom they are lord and master are not competent enough to express themselves. I heard Senator Symmonds, my former teacher of English and Deputy Head of the St. Michael School which I love dearly, say that one of the reasons they cannot increase membership is because it would mean that a large number of people would enter test cricket free of charge.

Let me ask a question. Why do members of the Barbados Cricket Association have to attend cricket free of charge anyway? The other thing, how many times do we have test cricket in Barbados? If the administrators of cricket are properly, ably and competently managing the funds of the Barbados Cricket Association, what is Test Cricket that the people cannot attend free, once every three years or whenever it is played. But, better common sense and economics on finance would say that you should extend the membership of your association to interested parties. I do not want to join the Barbados Cricket Association. I believe the people who want to join are people who have a genuine interest in cricket at that level. I do not think people would want to join because there is some social club in which they want to be accepted and they should therefore be kept out because they have not reach a socially acceptable level for membership. I would like to say to the Barbados Cricket Association that until the association opens up its membership...

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: We have some clubs in this country...

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, on a point of elucidation. I thought that it had been made clear to Senator Thompson that accommodation is inadequate and therefore the Barbados Cricket Association cannot accommodate a large increase in membership. The very fact that they have had to seek

help through the building of the Mitchie Hewitt Stand, I think, is an indication that there is inadequate seating.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: This is what I mean, Mr. President, when I say that in the face of change others are standing still. Maybe in the original charter of the Barbados Cricket Association membership meant a seat. What I am saying today therefore, Mr. President, in the face of change, should membership still mean that you must have a seat? Do you believe that everybody who is seeking to be a member of the Barbados Cricket Association wants to have a seat? Do we believe this? We have to democratise these institutions. When there were clubs in this country catering to individuals by skin colour only, we fought such. We said that down with those things in Barbados. Those things create volatile situations which can lead to violence. We must not underestimate the capacity of this matter to create social unrest in this country. Cricket means too much to the people of Barbados and I view it as such a serious matter. If it is important and serious enough to come to the Senate, then it deserves my scrutiny and I have nobody to make any apologies to. These institutions must be democratised.

Therefore, I am calling on the members of the Barbados Cricket Association to take a careful look at this body and society, to recognise the social stratification of Barbados and to make sure that the membership of this organisation truly represents the social stratification of this country.

I have kept very silent on the matter of cricket but today I have to speak, Sir. Mr. President, when we belly ache about the problems facing cricket in this region today, Sir, many of us comment on the problems by saying...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please. I am hearing voices other than the Honourable Senator on her feet. I recognise that Members have been here for a long time. But, I am not going to tolerate interruptions. Please continue.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Sir. We say that our cricketers let us down and I have heard all types of recommendations made on how we can improve our cricket to get us back to that point at which we were in the past and we pay little attention to the fact that our people are changing. They pay little attention to the fact that, yes, our people love cricket. But, no, they do not have to be cricketers to be recognised, not any longer.
9.35 p.m.

I repeat for emphasis that until we recognise these things and make the modifications our problems will continue and increase. Therefore, Mr. President, there is need for a proper analysis of the problems facing cricket in Barbados.

I am terribly turned off in 1997 by individuals and institutions that believe that we can still carry on this massa attitude. Massa day done! Without the cricketers, the BCA is nobody. The people can get together, they can drink cognac, they may sip the finest scotch but, at the end of the day, without those fellows who go out there in the hot, broiling sun and the rain and put their skills and their love for the game, the BCA cannot exist.

Therefore, Mr. President, I am calling today for a proper marriage, a better relationship between the players of cricket and the administrators of cricket, for until this happens, our problems, as I said earlier, will not only remain with us but they will increase.

I know that a number of people are not going to be happy with what I have said today. Mr. President, I am in Barbadian politics because I believe I have a contribution to make to the improvement of the lot of my brothers and sisters. I am not here because I want to be accepted by any special social group or the other. Therefore, when I have to speak on any matter that I believe affects the livelihood, the quality of life of my people, I will do so and face the consequences; but I will continue to live in Barbados.

Therefore, Sir, I am going to support the Resolution but supporting the Resolution does not mean that I am not free to comment on my concerns. I have done so and I hope it will be taken in the spirit in which it is given because there is a problem I have in this country with a lot of people who believe that because you express a concern you are against it. There is something called constructive criticism and that is what I have sought to give this debate. I hope, Sir, that my comments will be taken in that vein. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, Sir, I would like to start with the mere fact that since this debate has generated such high emotion and such great heat, if nothing else it proves the important part that cricket plays, like the Leader of the Senate said in the psyche of Barbadians. If it had been unimportant it would not have generated such stirring speeches, especially by Senator Thompson, full of passion, but woefully short of objectivity and facts.

Senator Thompson's speech is a classic example of why the BCA needs to start to open its operations to the public, to educate the community. I know she means well.

I believe her that she means well. I know when she is speaking from her heart and her head combined. This time I think she spoke only from her heart, leaving her head aside because, Sir, the fact that her head was not in it means that she spoke out of a great deal of well-intentioned ignorance at how the BCA is structured and how it operates and what are the aims and objectives of the BCA.

For one thing, the BCA has not been set up, even back in 1933 to teach cricketers the social graces. It is there to establish, to control and to promote cricket. Basic. Full stop.

Therefore, Sir, quite rightly what the Senator is saying is that cricket in Barbados has certain problems. Obviously the BCA has certain problems. I think people are forgetting that only 3 years ago when they threw out an old administration there was a recognition that the organisation needed to make adjustments to the current thinking of society in order to be positioned to take on the future properly.

That process has already begun in the change of administration voted for by the members. It was a democratic process in which we had hundreds of people converge at the Dover Convention Centre and they voted democratically in an election supervised by an established and highly reputed accounting firm, and changes have begun to be made.

Therefore, what we are talking about is not that the BCA or cricket is falling apart, but that cricket and the institution that represents it in the form of the BCA are both dynamic institutions. There are changes being made in society and both will have to make changes and adjustments to what is happening if they are to survive. No amount of pop psychology, no amount of armchair and superficial reasoning and rationalisation and so-called analysis, can do the job. It cannot be done that way. One has to look at the facts and see that the society, as I said, is in a state of change. The values of a society are always changing and I think we have come to the point where we are having rapidity of change and the same thing is happening to cricket.

Therefore, one cannot separate a social institution, particularly one that represents such a major focus in a society from the rest of society. What happens in one impinges on the other. Therefore there are complicated forces between cricket and the BCA.

The point is, Sir, that cricket like any other social institution or any other sport does not perform just the role of giving people an opportunity to run up and down a field spending 5 or 6 hours a day in the hot sun, knock a ball, chase a ball *etc.* Cricket, like the Senator said, and

she made some very good points at the beginning but then I think she started to get into a speed wobble, cricket, as she said, helps to demonstrate and reinforce the social values – cooperation, honesty, fair play *etc.* That is the role of cricket and that is the role of sports generally. It demonstrates how the society views itself and what it sees as desirable traits or how people get along and play together.

It also helps to bring about group cohesion, identity and solidarity. That is why when Barbados or the West Indies cricket is doing badly we suffer psychologically and emotionally. Because there is a sense of solidarity that permeates the society of the region through the binding force of cricket or any other sport for that matter. In that connection, Sir, the Senator was very correct and I commend her for that kind of analysis.

From then on things started to go downhill. The point is that I am a member of the BCA. I am proud to be a member of the BCA. I did not join the BCA last year. I joined the BCA way back in 1985 because I realised that for the fees that one had to pay for a year, it was the best bargain in town. I am sorry now that I did not become a life member then because it would be even sweeter now. 9.45 p.m.

The point is there are certain people who failed to recognise the value and now because of the numbers that want to get in, they cannot get in, they are disgruntled. They are unhappy and they have a chip on their shoulder. The point is that there had to be a limit. There is no club that has unlimited membership, not even Heaven. You have to pay dues to get into Heaven. You have to live a certain life to qualify to be in Heaven.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: The point is, Sir, there is a lot of misinformation, ignorance, ill-informed comment and rumour being regurgitated about the BCA, because the BCA is run like any other organisation. It is not made up of some elitist group that comes out of a cocktail party. It is voted for democratically. People who are members have a chance to democratically do that. Therefore, talking about democratising the BCA is only so much rhetoric. It sounds good. Democratising and all those kinds of nice sounding buzz words and phrases are good to spout.

The reality is that if you go to a BCA Annual General Meeting you see a cosmopolitan group of Barbadians there, a cross section of Barbadians of all the professions, colour,

classes and creeds of Barbados. So therefore it is unfair, untrue and inaccurate to give the impression that it is run by some cartel, some elite clique who will only be looking after its interests and those of its friends.

On another note, Sir, the way people are talking about the BCA, out of ignorance, reminds me of the kind of debate that used to go on about the Royal Barbados Yacht Club years ago. It is not the same. Anybody who claims to be interested in cricket and is a cricket fan owes it to himself to become familiar with the way the organisation that manages the sport in Barbados operates. If they do that a lot of what was said by the particular Senator would not have been said.

In a way, Sir, I am glad that this debate is happening because it underlines, like I said, the fact that the BCA has to drag itself more into the 21st Century. It has to open itself more. It has begun the process.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Yes, but the Senator spoke as though it had not started at all. I am saying that the process has begun. I am a member. I have been to annual general meetings. I have voted. I have listened to discussion *etcetera*. I have participated in the process. I am saying that the process has begun. It has to be furthered.

I have no doubt that even if only out of enlightened self-interest and because of the social forces as evidenced around this Chamber tonight, and not always at the highest level, that at the back of it speakers mean well. People have cricket and the BCA at heart. That in itself should help to impel the BCA to make further adjustment for survival.

Sir, if I might go a little bit closer to the Resolution, the reason for this measure is to make it possible for the BCA to borrow funds to improve its physical structure, facilities *etcetera*. Just like in the jetty we talked about earlier tonight, work has already begun. Therefore, I am surprised that Members who have cricket so much at heart have not spotted that work has already begun and that this measure is coming after work has already begun. Be that as it may, I am particularly glad that this Government has come to the point where it is enlightened enough to seek to ensure the future development and the future longevity of cricket by taking this progressive measure to help safeguard the long-term interest of cricket in Barbados. It is also in keeping with one of the founding members of the Barbados Cricket Association way back in 1933 by the name of Grantley Herbert Adams who also was the founder of the Barbados Labour Party.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: It is a historical fact. The Act to incorporate the Barbados Cricket Association speaks of, if I may quote:

"Whereas William Bowring, Ernest Allan Collymore, Edwin Richard Denys Moulder, Hampden Archibald Cuke, Conrad Arthur Louis Gale, Grantley Herbert Adams, Edward Lisle Goldsworthy Hoad, John McColl Kidney, Frederick Archibald Conrad Clairmonte and others interested in promoting and controlling the game of cricket in Barbados..."

So his farsightedness allowed him to associate himself with persons of like interest whose social backgrounds, their colour or whatever, transcended the interest of cricket. The interest and intent of promoting cricket transcended all the other barriers and they were wise enough to come together to form the Barbados Cricket Association.

In addition, Grantley Adams did not stay there. He also helped to found the Barbados Cricket League in 1937 so nobody can accuse him of being only interested in the so-called elite of the Barbados Cricket Association in 1933.

In 1937, Sir, he was the first President of the Barbados Cricket League. The second President was a man called Chrissy Brathwaite. The third President was a man called Cameron Ramsey, the fourth was a man called F. E. Tony Hinds, as you all know who used to work at the Advocate for many years and who spent 39 years in the BSCL, 17 already as President and 22 as Secretary. Mitchie Hewitt was the founding Secretary and basically the BCA was formed because some people who could not join the BCA because out of the social barriers existing at the time formed the BCL to help it. Therefore, there is a close allegiance between the BCA and the BCL, between Grantley Adams and the BCA and Grantley Adams and the BCL.

As I said, Sir, I am glad that the Barbados Labour Party Government is able to have an allegiance with an institution which its founder helped to found in 1933 in order to put it on a proper founding and not just take pot shots at it on the sideline, not just stay and criticise it on emotional grounds for populous appeal to say what people want to hear, but to have taken firm and constructive steps by making Parliament available to amend the law to give opposition to reformulate itself and in that way reformulate and refashion an association which will be compatible with the current and future thinking and aspiration of the Barbadian society, and in that way help to produce a standard, an institution and a game that will ensure that

cricket survives, obviously with certain adjustments because it has to compete, like Senator Thompson quite rightly said, with other forms of sport and entertainment.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Senator Symmonds, a very astute observation on her part, said that it has to compete with other games which are promoted by high technology *etcetera*. The point is that anybody who knows the issue of the BCA knows it has made adjustments over the last 63/64 years and that if it is to survive, and I have no doubt that it is intent on surviving, will continue to make the necessary adjustments and therefore ensure that the Barbadian society, its individual members and players, are able to benefit by playing and enjoying a game which has done so much for Barbados and Barbadians in the past, which has put Barbados on the map in a way that has made Barbados synonymous with cricket in a way that probably only Barbados has become synonymous with, sugar, rum and things of that nature. We have produced first-class cricketers. We have produced some of the finest rum and sugar in the world.

I have no doubt that the Barbados Cricket Association will rebound as a refashioned group to continue to play its role in the further social development of Barbados. I therefore, Sir, give this measure my fullest support.
9.55 p.m.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, this remind me of a night cricket match and I can imagine your position as I likened it onto an umpire in a cricket game who sometimes indeed might feel that they would want to make a contribution to the game and probably guide its destiny astutely especially since I have heard the last contribution by the Honourable Minister who now in an asides states that he is a member of the BCA. His contribution, indeed was just like a member of the BCA defending territory regardless of where he stood and he bandied from left to right, never looking around to take proper guard as to where his stumps were. He was run out at least twice, he was clean bowled and when he eventually got himself in front of the stumps, he was lbw. The Honourable Senator who just sat, as I have learnt has never played cricket anyhow so that is probably one of the reasons why his contribution was so scattered.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: On a point of order, Sir.

It is inaccurate to say that I have never played cricket. I played for my form and I even played for my gap quite unlike the Honourable Senator who could not leave home to come out and play cricket in St. Peter.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think Senator Boyce if you press Senator Murray he might tell you that he helped the West Indian team now that it is in a difficult spot.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Exactly, Sir.

Sir, I think that at this stage I should establish my credentials and I will not boast of any great cricketing career. I certainly, at school was not any great cricketer but that might have been because they were so many greater cricketers than myself associated with my time and I only need call the names of persons like William Bourne for instance who was my contemporary and at his age as they say, age for stage, he was probably the fastest bowler that Barbados has ever seen.

I recalled William Bourne pushing back the likes of Robin Bynoe and that kind of opening batsman on many occasions on a Saturday afternoon as Harrison College took on one of the club teams in the BCA competition.

Sir, on reflection on persons like William Bourne, we reflect too on so many great cricketers of that time and we wondered where that talent is today and where is its contribution in Barbados cricket first of all and ultimately in West Indies cricket.

Sir, we are considering a Bill tonight which is going to generate continued debate in Barbados and maybe we have drifted a little bit away from the reason for the Bill. I do not believe that this is going to be the last that we hear over the next couple of months of the Barbados Cricket Association either outside in the public debate which is inevitable, or indeed in this Parliament either in the Lower or in this particular Chamber because we know that the Barbados Cricket Association is engaged in an expansion programme at Kensington Oval which is going to require between 10 million and 15 million Barbados dollars to see it fulfilled. There will be certain guarantees required to see this objective through and no doubt the Government of Barbados will be called upon again to, in some form or fashion support or lend credence to the Association as it seeks to raise the funds for this venture. A venture, Sir, which even now as I stand is not necessarily fully supported by all members of the Barbados Cricket Association and I am not talking about that broad body that gathers every September or so at Dover to vote for a President and a Committee of Management. I am talking about a much smaller body which is given the power to manage the affairs of the Association and I know for a fact that they are those in the Cricket Association Management who do not necessarily feel that this is the direction that we need to go or at least this is not the extent to which we need to go at this stage.

I think that this is where the debate probably in part has to focus because when the Association borrows the money then the Association will be duty bound to repay that money to whom it has borrowed it and when we examine the accounts of the Association at their meeting and I declare an interest in that because I am a member of the Association.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I do not know how I got in but I applied and I became a member whether I got in through the back door or front door but I will be coming to that question in a short while.

I would like to join sides with my fellow Senator when she called upon the Barbados Cricket Association to establish a position of membership which is not necessarily associated with a seat.

It is really a remarkably simple solution to a problem which the BCA seems never able to handle and all the reasons that have been put forward to support that difficulty in moving with change. I support it and it is a fact that the successive administrations have not recognised that you can enter into a membership of the Barbados Cricket Association which does not necessarily entitle you to no free entry. The point being, Sir, that when we are defending territory, as Senator Symmonds has done in her contribution, and when we are defending territory like Senator Thompson has urged, we have to look around and see what is changing.

When I was nominated for the Presidency of the BCA, Senator Symmonds was still voting for Peter Short so I do not know what she is talking about. She is not talking about change or progress, the Senator is not talking about change or progress, she is talking about convenience. We have heard public comment in which the BCA has been akin to a social club and there have been Resolutions brought to Annual General Meetings where members have objected to other members watching cricket at Kensington Oval and enjoying a beer or a conversation. We have had reports about too much noise in the stands. These are not rumours, Sir, I know what I am talking about. I am not talking from a position of ignorance of cricket like the last member who spoke. I am talking about an Association which I know about its operation. I was on the management staff of Banks Brewery when we consistently contributed large sums of money to the support of cricket at Kensington Oval to the Barbados Cricket Association.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I do not know that that is the reason why I was admitted so speedily but if it

was it lends more credence to the argument being put forward this evening that the membership of the Barbados Cricket Association is not open and is not available to all. It is in fact, Sir, seen by some members as a special interest group and we have alluded to that before.

10.05 p.m.

Sir, I want to move on now to the question of how the Barbados Cricket Association is going to be able to repay the funds and the only way the Barbados Cricket Association can raise funds is by getting people to come to Kensington Oval to watch cricket. The only way people are going to come to Kensington Oval to watch cricket is if the cricket is worth watching. Right now, I am putting it to you, Sir, that the cricket that is being played by the West Indies and indeed by the Barbados Cricket Team is not worth watching. There are many members of the Barbados Cricket Association who used to pay \$100 a year as membership and for a seat but who now will have to pay \$200 a year as membership and for a seat and who, like me, do not bother to go to cricket but to an appointment to have lunch or something because the cricket is just not worth the time watching.

The BCA, Sir, is responsible and I want to quote ... The Honourable Member who just spoke, Sir, was very proud to quote the preamble to the actual Act that incorporates the Barbados Cricket Association and he called a number of names whom I will not repeat at this stage but the point is that they came together as a group who would be promoting and controlling, and we get back to controlling but the point is to promote the game of cricket in Barbados and in the West Indies. It is referred to in the actual Bill as the West Indian Colonies and British Guiana but it is what we today know as the West Indies Cricket Team. So the Bill itself, Sir, would indicate to Senator Murray, if he had gone past the names of the members, the purpose for the BCA.

Sir, even as recently as last Sunday I was at a cricket game, and Senator Farley might be interested in knowing about this game, between Dover, Sir, and Wotton. It is sponsored by the Barbados Cricket Association. It is for the Second Division Intermediate Championship of the Barbados Cricket Association competition and the point is this game is being played at Lucas Street, the home of Windward Cricket Club. But I was able to hear members of both clubs comment on the fact that the game had been taken away from say, a place like BET or Banks, or even the Deighton Griffith School where more members of the Christ Church communities would have been able to attend and enjoy and watch their heroes and not only their heroes, their brothers, their fathers, their uncles and their children, play the game. Even in that, Sir, the Barbados Cricket Association stood condemned in its choice of venue. It was

relatively insensitive and I know if Senator Symmonds knew of the defense she would probably have intimated that it be played at a non Christ Church ground, precisely why I suggested BET at first or Banks which are non Christ Church venues but which are in the easy reach of public transport. I am sure we would have had thousands of people at BET or Banks enjoying that cricket and many more young people would have been able to participate.

One cannot get to Windward Cricket Club unless you have private transport. Nobody is going to bother to go to Windward Cricket Club on Saturday afternoon unless they have private transport. So even in organising a little, as Barbadians would say, pooh-pooh intermediate finals, the Barbados Cricket Association has shown little or no foresight, Sir, and have not been able to put together a package which would be able to involve many more members of the communities whom they target, Sir.

This debate goes beyond that too, Sir, because as we go about the promotion of Sports Tourism in Barbados, as we go about the development of sports around which our tourism can grow and of course we have all, in this Chamber, accepted the importance of tourism to the Barbados economy.

Even today one is shocked, Sir, to hear of the resignation of yet another of the Lotto players. Yet another of the dream team has taken flight and gone to a place in other parts. We, on this Side, warned early that this ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, that is totally irrelevant. Please stick to the Resolution. You have had a fair amount of latitude, other Senators as well, but what you are now saying is totally irrelevant to the Resolution. 10.15 p.m.

Sir, are you referring to Sports Tourism, or the fact that Mr. Griffith has resigned. Sir, Mr. Errol Griffith has resigned from the Barbados Tourism Authority. He was a member of the Dream Team that was the architects of this new found tourism thrust. A new found sports tourism which included cricket, Sir, and Sir Garfield Sobers is another officer of that Association, the greatest cricketer the world has ever known, Sir Garfield Sobers.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, this is a serious Chamber. I will say no more at this stage.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, even last night in public debate, Sir, Sir Garfield was making his comments in respect to his contribution to Sports Tourism. So, I am serious in contribution on this matter too, Sir. I am as serious as Sir Garfield Sobers is. Our cricket will play a pivotal part, Sir, in the development of our Sports Tourism. If our Barbados Cricket Association does not have its

act together in a way that they take it forward effectively, then our Sports Tourism Programme is also doomed. This is what I mean and that is the linkage between cricket and tourism and sports tourism in Barbados, Sir.

Sir, the Barbados Cricket Association is responsible for the development of our cricketers from the cradle, as they say, Sir, until they reach a stage where they can be selected for higher office at the West Indies level. We have noted a rapid decline in terms of the abilities of our cricketers in terms of their abilities to concentrate at the wicket both in their batting and their bowling. This, to my mind, Sir, is an indictment on the programmes of the Barbados Cricket Association and if this slide is not arrested, we will not be able to attract the kind of patrons, then, Sir, at the Kensington Oval facility that will allow the facility contemplated to be paid for. That, Sir, is the linkage between the aspects of the Bill before us tonight, Sir, and the fact that the Barbados Cricket Association must be mindful of the changes that are required to bring about a revival in cricket in Barbados and the West Indies.

All of our recent attempts have met with little or no success and as we listen to the commentator and to the public at large, we recognise the extent of confusion as the contributions range far and wide as to what the solutions might be. They range, Sir, from cricket academies to going back to the days when our cricketers went to England to play League Cricket or went to Australia to play Sheffield Shield cricket and now, Sir, even going to South Africa to play in the different tournaments in South Africa.

Sir, I know it is getting extremely late, but this cricket debate is very important in respect to the social life of Barbadians and when we create a monster at Kensington Oval which cannot effectively pay for itself, well then we are creating a monster for the taxpayers, eventually, of Barbados. Because, that facility will remain unused and abandoned and eventually vandalised. We will get to the stage where it will be occupied by anybody else but the cricketers for which it was intended, Sir.

So, Sir, the foresight of the group that sat and formed the Barbados Cricket Association in 1933 must be replicated in the foresight of the group which presently forms the Barbados Cricket Association management. That is all I am saying. They are bound, especially in light of the kind of monies contemplated in this expansion to demonstrate that they have programmes in place for the development of Barbados cricket and ultimately West Indies' cricket which would bring back the crowds, Sir, to Kensington Oval and bring back a full participation in cricket in Barbados. They have got to start, Sir, at the schools. They have to start at the very young children in our communities.

Sir, the tendency is, like in other sports, that we take the kids on a mini league programme, but then we abandon them at the crucial age of say, 10 to 14 or 15 and then we expect to pick them up again at 18 and find heroes. It just is not happening. We have too many examples of young men at 18, for instance, joining the Barbados Cricket Team because of what would be the term "flash in the pan performances." But, because they have no real intrinsic training in the sport of cricket, they soon falter and become unusable contributors to the game. I need not call any names, the public of Barbados would be, and I am sure the Members of this Chamber, Sir, are fully seized with the numerous examples of young cricketers in Barbados and indeed in the wider West Indian community who have gone this route.

Indeed, Sir, one of my personal criticisms of the approach of the Barbados Cricket Association and further the West Indies Cricket Board of Control or the West Indies Cricket Board, as it is now named, Sir, although in truth and in fact the comments which one hears from the cricketers and some members of the association would lead one to believe that the control is even more tight now that the name has been dropped and that indeed the recent organisation of the Super Bowl, as they call it, Sir, was an indication of the fact that without the control in the name, Sir, the control was even stronger in the game and this is exactly what we do not want.

So, Sir, there has been an attitude to almost prevent young cricketers even at our selection policy from coming forward at the appropriate times. I cannot end my contribution to this debate without referring to the genius of a young man like Brian Lara, for instance, who had to wait around, while certain persons who had life membership it would appear, of the West Indies Cricket Team continued to fail. So that when Lara did join the West Indies team eventually at age 19, he had probably spent two of his best years, as history will probably write, two of his best years in frustration waiting for the likes of the Logies and the Hoopers and whatever to fulfil their membership, Sir.

Sir, therefore the controversy in West Indies cricket and in Barbados cricket will continue until, Sir, as has been said, those who are put in a position to manage the cricket do not get so enthused with their new found power that they forget the purpose for which they were put there and start to focus more on the trappings that come with presidency or chairmanship of the association instead of getting out there in the highways and byways of Barbados, Sir, hunting the talents and bringing it to the Mecca of West Indies cricket, the Kensington Oval of which we speak this night, Sir.

I am grateful to Your Honour.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I will be very brief, but I must make my contribution to the support of the amendment to the Barbados Cricket Association Act in order that they can development both the personnel and the cricket itself over the years for the Year 2000.

However, Mr. President, like some of the contributions, I myself see cricket as a discipline that takes a lot of patience upon the part of the players. What one must understand that in today's society quite a lot of the younger people are short on discipline and patience. For example, a nurse told me that her young son refused to eat meat. I said, "Why?" "It takes too long to chew." I said, "Did he really say that?" You see, this is the sort of lack of patience and lack of discipline that is running through the society and I do not know the reason for it.
10.25 p.m.

Also contributing to the fall off of young people being interested in cricket was the rise of volley ball, basketball and football. These are fast playing games that give instant results. They can see results and do not have to wait 3 or 4 days to find out who is going to win.

They themselves want games where more and more people can participate. From the time we started having satellite TV and all these basketball matches and promoting them one should have seen that we were going to have a problem, in that people are going to compete with these other fast moving games that get instant results and for which they can participate much more and are not so difficult to understand like leg break and googly and all these various things in cricket that are so difficult for them to understand, and they are not willing to sit down and learn about them.

As some of the members are saying, we are going to have to get them from kindergarten and put a bat and ball in their hands if you really want to reintroduce cricket and start placing more emphasis on it. For example, even the beach cricket that they used to play at Batts Rock, they play volley ball now. They are not playing beach cricket anymore. They are not interested in that. They just put a piece of thread across and 2 sticks and get a ball and try to play volley ball as they see it.

These are really serious issues that we have to look at if we really are going to spend a lot of money and try to revive cricket and hope that we have future cricket players.

My last point, Mr. President, is to use market forces in cricket – supply and demand. Too many people say they joined the Barbados Cricket Association to get free tickets for the test matches. They pay \$100 or \$200 and then they

have free tickets and free entry. It is time to stop that and open up the doors and they will have members. Let them also pay to go in and see cricket, even if they pay half price. Then you will be able to get a larger quantity of persons interested in cricket rather than making the majority of us feel that we are shut out and cannot get in because it is an elitist club and you can only get in if you are of a certain standing in society. This is how a lot of people feel when the test matches come and you want to get a ticket and you cannot get it because the tickets are sold overseas and to various people. We have to take a different look at this and try to open the doors so that when we build the stands we will have people to put in them. It is no point building all of these stands and then you cannot fill them.

In other words, as Senator Symmonds said, they have to make short-term and long-term plans for the cricket. Well, this is the short-term plan. But we have to plan in the long-term and I would support the establishment of coaches attached to the school to coach the young people in cricket and carry right through the secondary school.

I sincerely hope that this amendment to the Act will bear fruit.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to close quickly this very interesting debate. This debate had all of the elements of the game of cricket. It had its ups and its downs, its high points and low points. There was excellent bowling. There was great spells of batting. Some people were stumped, some were whatever. It really had all of the excitement. We even had a few no-ball deliveries.

Nevertheless Mr. President, I believe that the variety and the depth and the divergent points of focus in this debate illustrate, as C. L. R. James pointed out, that cricket really goes beyond the boundary. Cricket is of major interest even to non-cricket playing persons.

I think it is therefore incumbent on the Barbados Cricket Association to pay some attention perhaps to the many interesting views, sometimes competing views, that have been expressed in this matter and I believe that there are several suggestions that have been raised in the course of the debate which could be of some use and guidance to the association as it seeks to chart its future.

It is clear that in keeping with the objects and reasons, for which the association was established in 1933 and the basic ones being to promote, to use the words of the 1933 Bill: "to promote and control cricket in Barbados" that they have an awesome responsibility. That responsibility will be to ensure that they take all such steps to continue to inspire public confidence and support for the game of cricket and to take also steps to ensure the continual availability

of players of talent and calibre to ensure that as a contributor to the West Indies team that Barbados continues to produce in abundance.

In fact, I look forward, as all other Honourable Members, to the day when Barbadians will have to stand in queue behind other Barbadians to get into the West Indies Team because of the over abundance of qualified talent and persons will probably have to hope that they were born at some other point in time, because the talent is there and as some Honourable Members indicated, some persons who although they have the talent, could not make the team simply because there was no room in the inn. This is the kind of thing that we want.

That responsibility really falls squarely on the shoulders of the BCA. Therefore, if I were to be in the position of leadership of the BCA – I am only just a humble member. However, I was a member before I was a Minister. I was not born a Minister. There is life before being a Minister.

However, Mr. President, there are a number of issues and, as was quite rightly pointed out, the BCA and cricket will continue to be a point of focus for some time to come, whether by virtue of the performance or non-performance of the West Indies team or the performance or the non-performance of the Barbados team, the choice of the manager for the upcoming tournament, be it the level of organisation and the arrangements which are made for the upcoming season or whether it be the matter of availability of tickets for the upcoming England/West Indies test match. The BCA must recognise that as an organisation which is hoping to embark on a major expansion and which would depend on public support by way of paying patrons attending events at the location that it cannot disregard some of the views, as different as they might be from their own, in some cases, of the consumer.

In issues, it would be interesting to see how the issue of managing scarcity, scarcity being the resources available seat-wise. The competing interest of visiting cricket fans and local cricket fans is an issue that obviously has to be handled with sensitivity.
10.35 p.m.

I would not attempt to suggest to them how they should solve that but just to say that there is cricket beyond the boundary and that the impact on cricket will also come from outside of the boundary and how issues like that are handled will have an impact on whether in the barren times whether the general population on which you are hoping to draw support will be supportive.

Interesting points have been raised as well in relation to the overall financial situation of the organisation and its capacity to embark on the kind of expansion and development which is required for the sustainability of cricket. The question will obviously have to be asked as well whether the kinds of policies which are applicable to an organisation in times of plenty are the same policies which can apply to the organisation in times of need.

Therefore, in relation to whether it be members' dues, whether members pay for games or do not pay for games, whether they pay for games but at a discounted amount because they are members, whether they all sit in one stand or whether they distribute themselves across the various stands, those are important issues which will impact on the bottom line. And if in the interest of an expansion of the facilities, if at a time when the organisation is obviously tight for cash because of undertaking this investment because the organisation is obviously in an investment phase, investment in new facilities, investment in young players, then, perhaps, members will have to ask themselves whether they do not as well have to join forces with the financial institutions that are providing cash and, in fact, agree for a time period coinciding with the investment phase and also make a greater contribution than is being done at the present.

Certainly, whether it be in a "for profit" business or a "not for profit" business, third parties which are looking to invest or provide financial or other support always look to see what is the equity position of the shareholders in the case of a "for profit" business, or the members in the case of a "not for profit" business so that to the extent that the members are able to demonstrate that they are going to dig a little deeper in their pockets and show some effort for what is their organisation, then that will have an impact on the extent to which the general public, the corporate community in general and other well wishers will be willing to participate.

I would commend this discussion to the wider public, but more particularly to all members of the association and particularly to the leadership of the association. I believe that out of the deep and abiding interest which all members of the Honourable the Senate have in cricket and all persons in Barbados – In fact, and perhaps one of the tragedies in this game that we love so much is that sometimes the comments and contributions which are made are sometimes judged based on the cricketing talents of the persons who make them. Even at the very highest levels in West Indies cricket you always have this discussion between who would make the better manager, or the better advisor, or the better strategist, whether it has to be somebody who has played at the highest level or whether a keen observer would be able to make some deductions which persons who are not in the heat of battle are able to make.

Therefore, I would hope that in terms of the management of cricket that the leadership of the Barbados Cricket Association would see themselves more in the role of trustees on behalf of the 263 000 Barbadians and although they have the power to execute certain actions on our behalf, they must in all of their actions, be guided by what would be in the best interest of the persons for whom they hold this sacred trust.

Mr. President, I am pleased to commend this amendment Bill which will give the Barbados Cricket Association the flexibility it requires to embark on this investment in the future of our national pride, our national heritage in the form of cricket. I urge all members to continue to give their support to the organisation but I also urge the organisation to recognise that just as we on the outside as members of the general public, and I am wearing my other hat as a member of the general public and not as a member, are willing to give support to the game that the persons who are the trustees and the shareholders, for lack of a better word, in the association will also need to show that they themselves are willing to sacrifice to forego some comfort, some pleasures and be willing to accelerate the pace of change from within in order that all of us can together celebrate the resurgence of Barbados cricket.

I look forward to the days that I enjoyed as a youngster when out of some West Indies team sometimes you would have eight Barbadians, not because they were Barbadians but because the level of talent was there and when the organisation of our First Division cricket was a model which others looked on as a means of developing local talent and generally to ensure that West Indies cricket through the contribution of Barbados cricket will return to the level of glory.

As I indicated, cricket goes beyond the boundary and let us all remember that the rest of the world may not know too much about the West Indian islands, they may not know about the high level of civility, the cohesiveness of the society, the great governance in the islands, the economic prosperity of the islands, the wonderful tourism destinations but they know about cricket. Much of the positive perception that they have of us as a people has really been fashioned out of the respect that we have been able to earn and demand because it was not given easily or likely, but the fact is that we have been able to generate some very positive impressions of our West Indian people by virtue of our talents in cricket.

In fact, in the early days of cricket they thought we were cavalierish in cricket, calypso cricketers and undisciplined people and it is only on the basis of our ability to perform as a strong fighting unit to show that we had the grit and determination and that we knew what it took to win that they were able to recognise that as a

people we had the qualities they revered and respected. Therefore, the respect the game has earned us has been positively transferred to respect for our politicians, our leaders, our businesses people, our students and generally for our people. So this matter is not merely about cricket and what happens between the two stumps and the players dressed in their lovely whites, or the physical developments of the Oval, all of which I am sure will be successful, but this is really about our pride and place as a West Indian people on the world stage.

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

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

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee of Supply.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

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

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Barbados Cricket Association (Amendment) Act, 1997.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 10.00 a.m. on Friday, December 19, 1997.

Speaking quickly on the Suspension, Mr. President, I just want to remind Members of the relevant Standing Orders in relation to the Resumption of a Sitting after Suspension and that Members are required to form a quorum on the hour. If there is no quorum on the hour, the bell will be rung and at the end of the ringing of the bell Members are required to be in their places and

therefore the same flexibility does not apply in respect of suspension as applies in respect of an adjournment and a new Sitting being called.

The question that the Senate be suspended until Friday, December 19, 1997 at 10.00 a.m. was put and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
10.50 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 10 – SECOND READING OF FIRST STREET ABANDONMENT BILL, 1997

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the Second Reading of this First Street Abandonment Bill, 1997. This matter is one which relates to the final steps in the process which was set in train several years ago back in the early 1990s. Around 1992, a decision was made by the Cabinet to approve the abandonment of First Street Hometown so that a property which was divided by the road upon which a hotel was going to be constructed would be able to make better use of the area. The owners owned property on both sides of First Street, Hometown.

There was a link between the first and second streets in Hometown via that portion of the road. The Cabinet acceded to the request of the owners of the property for the inclusion of the 60 metres of roadway in the property. Basically, the construction as you would know has already taken place. However one cannot fully and truly abandon the street unless due legal process is completed and what is being provided for some 5 years after the fact would be the legal process by which the street is no longer a street. In fact, you will know as well that an alternative has been already constructed so that the link between First and Second Street continues by a new road which is now called the Hometown Link Road which runs parallel to what would have been that particular 60 metre portion of First Street, Hometown.

Therefore, Sir, this is what the matter is really all about. We are giving the legal effect to that matter which has already been very much taken care of and it will mean that First Street will no longer be a street within the meaning of the Highways Act and other relevant legislation.

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I would like to make a few comments on the Bill before us recognising fully that time has passed and actually the events as the Senate Leader has indicated which we are seeking to put in law have already occurred. What has happened in the area is that we have had a fairly significant development in terms of a hotel and accommodation for our tourists. This is necessary, of course, if we are going to be able to deal effectively with a tourism industry which is constantly making new demands on us.

Only this week, Sir, we would have had the debate about the fact that Barbados lost the opportunity to host I think the name of the entertainer is Sinbad, a black entertainer from the United States, who would have reportedly brought with him a large following and would therefore have allowed Barbados and the hotel industry to derive some significant revenue.

The changes at First Street in Hometown would have allowed for the development of Mango Bay property at Hometown and this obviously gave us more hotel beds. However, I think it would be remiss of us if we do not constantly remind ourselves and caution ourselves, even if it is only an exercise in looking back, about the mass development especially on the treasured coasts of our island and even more especially on the west coast. I think there was some time ago there was a group, I do not know how large the group was, but there was a movement who were for what they termed windows to the sea and they had identified a few remaining areas of windows to the sea. Windows to the sea being areas on the coast line where one would be able to see right out to, I suppose, the horizon. The truth is that if we drive down the West coast of Barbados today those windows to the sea have essentially been shuttered.

I can only think immediately of the area which I call Paynes Bay on the opposite side of...

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: ... the Good Shepherd Primary School. The Government Side is today being very charitable and I hope that this charity will persist through the entire Sitting.

However, Sir, the last window to the sea besides this one which I just referred to was of course eventually taken up by the champion of the windows to the sea. I think it really was a situation of one creating straw men and then blowing them down, because here was a cause which sought to have Barbadian environmentalists and Barbadians more aware and alert to the need to have these windows and here we found that the champion of this cause deserted the team. It was like the proverbial case of the

young school boy leader who went to the headmaster and said as he entered the headmaster's office, "Sir, myself and the others with me would like to protest X, Y or Z..." And the headmaster retorted, "Who are the others?" When he looked around there was no one behind him. In this case, the head deserted the cause.

We will have, I am sure, more opportunities to visit this question but I think out of that story comes an urgent responsibility for all governments of Barbados to pay attention to the exclusion that might be created in our quest for development.

In the case of First Street I recall there was a lovely rum shop and I think the person who operated this rum shop was very fluent in German and it was an area where a number of us would gather on Saturday evenings and enjoy his ware which would include things like fish cakes and other traditional Barbadian delicacies and at that time there was no Tiltman Beer so you had to drink something else.

Sir, this is long past and what has happened if you visit that area frequently as I tend to do, not so much to stay anymore but to do business quickly with one or other of the shops that have been created, you drive across the very Link Road which is referred to in the Bill we are dealing with, a very narrow road, by the way, which only one vehicle can pass at a time and in the event someone is parked to have dinner or lunch at one of the restaurants it becomes very difficult to manoeuvre.

What has happened is that you have a development now inland without the ambience of the beach which is now directly inaccessible to the locals.
10.10 a.m.

The hotel development itself is an all-inclusive property. That, by the nature of its business, is even more inaccessible to Barbadians because we know the rules *vis-a-vis* all-inclusive properties where many of them, but not all, do allow local access under certain conditions.

Sir, my caution is, and I am sure this is a caution which will be joined by the members of the Other Side, that we be really mindful of the way we go about our development for tourism or for whatever and ensure that the ambience of the Barbados coastline is preserved and that it is preserved for the enjoyment of all of us.

We would like to leave a Barbados, Sir, which our children can enjoy some of the nice things that we enjoyed about Barbados. We need to look very carefully around this little island over the next couple of years as we contemplate any new land development policy as to where

we will put up our "No Entry" signs or our "No Development" signs. I speak about this subject very emotionally because I am truly concerned with what has become of the whole western side of Barbados, and I am talking about if you take Highway 2A, for instance, and take a drive from Warren to that great landmark, my father's home, at the exit from Highway 2A when you get into Mile & A Quarter proper, right at the junction by Mackie Holder mother's house, and if you are going north the entire west coast appears to have been taken over.

Sir, the entire left hand side has become almost exclusive and successive Governments are responsible. I am not here exempting anyone from responsibility. When I look to the right, this is when I am going north, and I look at those cliffs – they are not very high but what would amount in Barbadian terms to cliffs – I wonder if they are not the next prey for our developing international creditors.

I beg, Sir, that we be extremely careful in our development and ensure that we draw some line at this stage and make sure that development reflects a studied consideration of our eco-system, of our environment and of the ambience which we treasure so much.

Sir, it is with those words of caution that I make my contribution to this debate. Of course, Hometown is an area which is really very beautiful. It has a lot of historic interest. It was the place where it is alleged the first settlers of Barbados landed and that was back in 1605, I think. The historians will correct me.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I hear 1628. Of course, there were already people in Barbados. We know how some historians report the events, some different to others in terms of emphasis. We have seen a lovely development in this Hometown area. I speak specifically of the Hometown Police Station and that complex which was the hard work of the Democratic Labour Party in extremely trying times. To find the money to do that development was in some minds considered a miracle given the economic constraints of the time.

In the same Hometown area, along this same First Street that we are talking about, after you leave First Street there is a canal which runs into the sea. It is near to Discovery Bay Hotel. There are difficulties with this canal in terms of the stench. We have had constant reports of the evidence of dumping in this canal. It has affected both residents and visitors alike in the area. Indeed, the other significant characteristic about the development in Hometown and this area is the constant flooding. From the time the Almighty ordains that there should be rain in the area of Hometown, ever since the successive

development following – I would think the first one would have been Caricana. I think that was the name that was used in the original development of the Holetown housing area – ever since that has occurred, we have had an increase in the attendant flooding in the event of rain.

Again, obviously the engineers who have worked on that project have not paid sufficient attention in terms of their planning to these kinds of catastrophes. I think it could be used as a model of what we should be looking for when we look at the development of Holetown. Of course, immediately springs to mind the plans for St. Peter and the Speightstown area. One would wish certainly that we would be cautioned by what has happened in the Holetown area and that along with taking steps to correct the situation, we would ensure that any new developments in Barbados, or any ongoing developments in Barbados would be attended by the requisite considerations and the effective use of engineering to ensure adequate drainage, adequate removal of effluent and adequate handling of any problems that could develop.

At this stage one might want to urge that the West Coast Sewerage Project which is in the prefeasibility stage, I believe, be carefully assessed. I know a lot of work is being done to make sure that it is correctly carried out. It is going to be an extremely large project. It will also be very costly but it is necessary for Barbados that we have the West Coast Sewerage Project on stream sooner rather than later.

Certainly, on this occasion I hope that the Barbados Labour Party Administration, although I do not anticipate that they would be managing the West Coast Sewerage Project, because being now in the prefeasibility, the Democratic Labour Party will be charged with the responsibility of implementing that project some time in 1999 and as things are going we will probably have to complete the South Coast Sewerage Project too, Sir, because that has its own difficulties.

I say this, Sir, with all seriousness. I hope that the Barbados Labour Party Administration really takes it to heart. It is not only Senator Boyce who is saying these things. If it were only Senator Boyce I would feel that I had broken new ground but I know I am in good company. 10.25 a.m.

I know that they are many people in Barbados that feel the way that I do in respect to the kinds of developments that are taking place and I believe that we are in good company and this Honourable Senate would be very, very happy to be associated with the sentiments which I have shared on this subject.

I am truly grateful to you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you Mr. President. I am supporting this Bill although it is a bit late. Why I do not really know, but there are a few comments that I would like to make in connection with the roadway and the sidewalk itself including others. I would like to make sure that this sidewalk is kept very clean and if when the leaves are swept up there are not left standing so that eventually as soon as we get a down pour of rain the leaves are all scattered and washed right back into the gutter.

I am aware that a new department of drainage has been established to deal with drains *etc.* but it seems as though it needs to be expanded, because not only this sidewalk but the one outside of Batts Rock, where all the drains are clogged up and it seems as though they cannot get the opportunity to get around to all the important drains to prevent any sort of flooding.

Mr. President, what happens, if the water backed up, then we get the mosquitoes breeding which could lead to dengue which I have just recently had and I would not like anybody to have it and when it gets very serious it puts additional strain on the nurses at Q.E.H. So we would like to make sure that the environment is kept clean including this new roadway and sidewalk.

In connection with the ambience in Barbados, this is a new hotel and I sincerely hope that they will not be erecting any billboards similar to what we see going up very quietly throughout the island which is a distraction to drivers. We should not be looking and trying to read what is on a billboard other than directions and I think that it is spoiling our beautiful island for us and for the tourists themselves. I think that Town & Country Planning needs to pay attention to this. At one time they had made statements about billboards and said that they were illegal and if one had to put up a billboard they would have to get permission from Town & Country Planning, but they are so many billboard I sincerely hope that Town & Country Planning is not giving permission for these billboards to be put up including those on alcohol.

Regarding the canal that is quite near to this, I do not know what can be done. I walked there this morning and it smells bad and it is not only in a short space, it smells for a very long time and I think some outlet needs to be done and the exit to the sea needs to be cleared more frequently so that the water can flow and not be as stagnant as it is. Also in connection with this canal and in the interest of debushing to keep the island clean and healthy and prevent mosquitoes, they did clear the bush but what did they do? They threw it into the roadway where the water is to flow and left it there. These are things that should

not be happening. We seem to be doing things halfway and if there is a down pour of rain it means that all of these leaves and grass that have been thrown right there are going to block the outlet of the water.

Mr. President, this is a hotel and we are making it possible for the hotel to use the land which is good and which I support. But we need to start paying attention to any absentee hotel owners who are not doing anything about their properties and preventing us from having enough rooms for our visitors. Something must be done. I am not so sure what can be done but it needs to be done to not only absentee hotel owners but absentee land owners to keep their property up to scratch.

The former speaker spoke about the development and what has happened in Barbados is that we have strip development and we all like to live by the sea. I live by the sea and it is beautiful. I do not know what the answer is but all I can say is that if there are vacant properties that maybe the Government can acquire some bits of land. I do not know if they have the money because land by the sea is very expensive but I guess that we can keep talking and see what can happen.

Last but not least, Mr. President, regarding the all inclusive hotels, maybe it is a good thing and maybe not but several people are complaining that they are virtually going out of business.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rickinson, I hate to interrupt but I have allowed some latitude in this debate but it seems to be that you are wandering far outside the scope of the Bill.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you Mr. President, I will come back to the Resolution to close off the street so that a hotel can be established comfortably. I will not talk about all inclusive hotels since that is going off the beaten path and maybe I will get another opportunity at some point in time but I sincerely hope that this hotel that we are passing this Bill for to make them comfortable, so that they can use the land, I sincerely hope that this hotel will not be all inclusive.

With that, I support the Resolution.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, I rise to give support to this Bill. Very briefly, Mr. President to say that area has been familiar to me for a very long time. From the time when I was child we would go for a sea bath and so on and I think that this arrangement to facilitate the removal of the street as a street from the maps of Barbados but allowing at the same time properties to develop, I think is really going to redound to the benefit of

the area in general and to many people in Barbados specifically.

In bygone days the area really was home to very few businesses and today that area has somewhere in the region of about 14 restaurants and you can understand what that would mean in terms of employment for people in the sector with the restaurants and services offered. The property that was facilitated by the development of the change in this piece of road itself has enabled many more persons to gain employment, going from something like 12 persons employed previously to something like 90 persons now employed and I think it really speaks to the development of the area in a positive way.

10.35 p.m.

Senator Boyce raised some concerns generally about the loss of the windows to the sea along the West Coast but as far as I can recall that would not have been an area that would have been visible from the road and therefore a window to the sea. Indeed it has not been obscured in any way. The property there now has really allowed for good visibility of the sea and it has really served to enhance the area.

So, Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill because at the heart of it, it has allowed for the development of entrepreneurs in Barbados.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President, I hate to interrupt the Senator but I think it is necessary. She is misleading the Chamber, Sir. A window to the sea does not have necessarily to be visible from the road. A window to the sea merely indicates that one has access to the wider beach at whatever point and I felt that definition was required to keep the debate in order.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Thank you, Mr. President. It was indicated to me earlier, Mr. President, through you, that I would be bothered by asides but I have promised to ignore them today and points of order which turn out to be no points of order.

In wrapping up, Mr. President, I want to say that it really shows that in Barbados, if you have the will to make a mark and a stamp on whatever area of expertise you have, the will only has to be there and then it is up to various administrators of Government to understand the focus and the vision of individuals who would want to enhance the landscape of Barbados.

In this particular instance this property which was previously called Palm Beach Hotel and now called Mango Bay is completely locally owned and it is the only one

on the West Coast that is in that state at this time. And while I too share concerns about land use on the West Coast being bought up by persons other than Barbadians I think this instance is not such a case and I would want to support this and wish that this Administration, with its foresight, would continue to make possible other arrangements such as this and others which can redound to the benefit of entrepreneurs and to Barbadians as a whole. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I rise very briefly to support the Bill before us but while I appreciate all that the construction of this hotel has done and is doing and perhaps will continue to do for the good of Barbados, both the public purse as well as employment and so on, I have a little concern which I think we, as a Senate, must record.

Surely the development of this hotel or any other development falls firstly under the ambit of the Town Planning Laws of this country and as far as I know the Town Planner does not have the authority to abandon a street and one must ask the question how was the permission given for this illegal act to take place in the first place, something we are trying to put right now by legislation. I am saying this in a very wide sense and not pointing the finger at any one but in the interest of our country because we have become a fairly indisciplined people and there is need for us to make sure that before anything is done whether it be for the best interest of our country or not all of the required channels are taken care of otherwise, Sir, we will find ourselves in a situation where every Tom, Dick and Harry would be able to take the law into his or her own hands and do almost anything. It is that particular principle that I am talking about today, Sir, as I support the Bill for the abandonment of this First Street.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the First Street Abandonment Act, 1997.

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION FOR THE SALE OF LAND AT HAGGATT HALL, ST. MICHAEL TO MR. GRENVILLE WEEKES

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to ask the Senate's approval for this Resolution for the sale of land at Haggatt Hall, St. Michael to Mr. Grenville Weekes. This approval is being sought under Section 28 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228. The land in question is some 304.7 square metres and forms part of a larger area which was acquired by the Crown some years ago. Part of the land in question was developed for recreational purposes. The land also included a small tenantry of some 10 to 12 houses. Mr. Grenville Weekes is one of those tenants on the land and he is now desirous of purchasing the lot on which he resides. An assessment was made with respect to the value of some \$13 100 which has been affixed by the Commissioner of Land Tax and the Senate's approval is being sought for the approval of this sale of some 304.7 square metres of land to Mr. Grenville Weekes.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass. 10.45 a.m.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, this Resolution is not going to receive any extended scrutiny from this Side, Sir. We know the area well and indeed public reporting at the time when this would have been dealt with in the Other Place would have indicated the sentiments of the representative for that area when he indicated his basic support. His only caution then, Sir, if I recall correctly, according to the reports was that he would have liked to be sure that the recreational facilities would not be unduly affected.

Of course, Sir, while I am on my feet, I am talking about the preservation of recreational facilities, I would like to make a special plea on behalf of Members on the Christ Church South constituency area, especially the Carters Gap area, Sir, in that they have constantly indicated that they need facilities for sports, cricket especially, Sir. This is an area which has brought to us, the talents of Joel Garners and Ian Bradshaws, more recently. I am sure there will be many others, I am not too aware of the specifics, but they certainly used to have areas where they played and what happened there is very similar to what we are talking

about today in that they used to play across what is now known as Enterprise Development on lands I believe belonging to Mr. Ward. I speak subject to correction, Sir, but with the development of housing by the lighthouse, especially the Enterprise development area...

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I own no property in Enterprise Development, Sir, I live in Atlantic Shores and in discussing the problem with some of the young men in the area, their concern is that they stopped playing, or they were being pressured, but they have been pressured all the years that they have been playing there, by the owners, of course, who did not want to see the land used too much. As we know, Sir, if land is used for a particular event too regularly and for too long a time, it can become subject for serious attention and then one could lose their rights in that area. They tell me that strange enough, they almost pulled away when they saw the development with the solar water heaters, especially, in a sense of responsibility, that they might have damaged someone's property. I think this is laudable and I think that the Government should move quickly to provide some facility for the young men of the Carters Gap area for recreation.

The only grounds available is the St. Christopher ground which is small and has to serve, for instance, Silver Sands. On the other hand those with cricketing prowess have to journey to Dover or BET.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But what has this to do with Haggatt Hall?

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I can appreciate the caution, Sir, because it is only because the land being acquired by Mr. Weekes, Sir, is part of what is acquired for recreational facility in the area at that time.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Not at Carters Gap.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: No, Sir. I merely beg your discretion, Sir, to include that comment and I am very grateful to the fact that you allowed me to make the point and then you cautioned me and begged me back.

So, Sir, the Resolution, as I said, has no kind of opposition from the Democratic Labour Party Side, Sir, and we would like to associate ourselves with the intent and hope that Mr. Weekes and the young people who use the area to recreate can live in harmony at this time and the story would go forever, ever more.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution approving the sale of land at Haggatt Hall to Mr. Weekes. In doing so, Sir, I want to centre my thoughts more specifically on the question of the sale of the land in a general sense, because I think we need to look more vigorously and forcibly and far into the long term concerning the sale of land in this country.

Land is one of our greatest resources, but it is our scarcest resource at this time. I am not very good at art or geography, but as I sat here, I drew a little map of Barbados and as I look at that map and think in terms of the sale of land it is fairly obvious to me and I hope it is obvious to the Government and will be obvious to successive governments that we, as Barbadians, are being pushed into the centre of Barbados where the land resources are limited. Limited in the sense not of acreage, but limited in the sense of the use, for into the centre of the island we will find the agricultural belt and this agricultural belt has been tapped time and time again and has been made less and less through development for residential purposes.

If we are to go forward as a country we will need to preserve the balance and reverse the imbalance as we seek to keep stable the percentages of land available for agriculture, industry and residential purposes. But, with the population we have, the sale of land for residential purposes is most acute. Because, as we move from the coastal areas and come inward there is that whole track which is the Scotland District and which is not available for residential purposes. Barbadians will find themselves, in the not too distant future, in a position where they are unable really to purchase land and if they are able to purchase, it will be at a very exorbitant price.

I think the result will be that we will move to high-rise accommodation and that is something that the Government has to consider at this time as we seek new ways and methods of selling land and property. Some of us will have to learn to trim our "champagne taste and mauby pockets" with the very large edifices some of us are building and are unable to maintain.

So, what I am trying to say, Sir, is that there is an urgency for us to look at the whole question of the sale of land in the immediate future in the medium-term and the in the long-term and to take some immediate steps to rectify this situation. A dispossessed people will become a very angry people and a very hostile people. This is so throughout history and I think we are at that stage now when we have the last opportunity to prevent Barbadians from becoming a dispossessed people. We need to act and we need to act now. I am not sure exactly what is the way we are to go. An Alien Land Holdings' Act may not be the answer because for every law we pass there

are schemes through which other legal persons will find ways to get around this situation.

But, we need to address it now, we need to take note now and we need to act now.

10.55 a.m.

I am saying that, Sir, to back up my contention that we are fast becoming and can become overnight, with our eyes wide open, a dispossessed people; and we will have to change our national anthem because "these fields and hills beyond recall" will not be our very own. At the moment, Sir, when we go and look at these hills and fields they belong to Barbadian companies but those are agricultural lands which cannot be changed into residential; but we will lose our heritage and I am urging this Senate to take note and I am urging all Barbadians to take note at this time. We must act now otherwise we will become a dispossessed people.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, most of what I had planned to say has been said by Senator Workman but I would also like to add that I am very glad that we are making it possible for a Barbadian to own a piece of land. We know that salaries are not very high in Barbados and it takes us a long time to own a piece of land if we have to purchase it on our own. This is another aspect that I am bringing to the ownership of land in this country. People who work overseas work for a lot of money and it is easy for them to purchase a piece of land in Barbados. I have heard far too many visitors who come to Barbados and enjoy themselves saying that they want to come back and buy a piece of land and use it as a second home.

Barbados is nice. We enjoy Barbados. It is a unique place and a lot of our visitors who come to Barbados and realise that they can walk about at night by themselves and they can go anywhere and enjoy Barbados which is not so when one goes to the big countries, and the people are friendly, would like to live in Barbados.

I feel that if they want to live here they should be able to lease a piece of land. In Switzerland, you cannot go and buy land unless you are Swiss and that is a country bigger than Barbados. We really need to start clamping down on the ownership.

I am saying this also because I am very concerned when I read about all of these different golf courses. A golf course does not take one house spot of land. A golf course is a big concern that takes a lot of land that needs a lot of water and it reduces our underground sources. There is no point anyone saying that they have their own wells. It is the same water that everybody is tapping into. We really

need to sit up and do something about it and cut down on the amount of golf courses that are using up the large quantities of land.

We need to put our land into agriculture so that we do not have to import so much food so that the food bill is not so high. We need to do that, not golf courses. That is a very short-sighted plan. We need to look for the best use of our land in terms of long-term planning in agriculture as opposed to golf courses which is short-term.

Another contribution I want to make about land is the building. I sincerely hope that we do not overheat our economy with the massive building that is going on. I think that we need to look at that because it has happened before and we need to pay close attention because then the civil servants will have to pay the penalty.

Mr. President, there may not be a salary cut but there are ways and means of taxing people to take their money away from them because the Government has to provide social services and it needs taxes and money in order to run the country and prevent people from being discontented and put as many people to work as possible. I am not talking about golf courses but something else. There are other ways of putting them to work.

Mr. President, I think I have said enough. I support this Resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution but as I sat and listened to my fellow Senators I believe they are ignoring the concerns. I genuinely believe that all Barbadians are concerned about the very large portion of our island home that is going into the hands of non-Barbadians, but I seem to think that we have ignored a very important decision made by the Government of Barbados in an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank that land would go for its highest economic use. That is a part of the agreement in the IDB document.

As we sit here as Members of this Senate, and as fellow Barbadians on the outside look on in awe and disgust and sometimes in pain at the loss of a number of our areas of land going into the hands of non-Barbadians we are ignoring the fact that we in that agreement gave up our right to certain areas of Barbados.

If at the end of the day tourism is the highest economic value that we can get out of the land, then the land will go to tourism, regardless of how many Barbadians want housing or how much agriculture we want.

I think what we have to do is call on the Government of Barbados, and I speak as a Barbadian. The document

is there for all to read and understand. Nobody has to give me information that has been circulated. Even if the Press printed it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson, I think you need to speak to the Resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I am supporting the transfer of land to Mr. Granville Weekes because I feel pleased when Barbadians are able to own a piece of their country, but I want at this time to express my concern about the wholesale foreign purchase of large areas of land in Barbados and to say, Sir, that we need to remind ourselves that as we signed away and we boasted of that agreement which was going to do so much for our development that we were agreeing that our land should go for its highest economic value.

I am calling on the Government of Barbados to come in a very short time with a land use policy that all Barbadians will be clear of what is going to happen in the future to our lands.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: You can criticise the DLP. I am not here for that. I think at this time we are looking into the future.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please!

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: At the end of the day, when there is no Barbados Labour Party Administration there would be a Democratic Labour Party Administration which will be saddled with the same concerns. These things do not change so I will not allow myself to be caught in any emotive trappings by the side-talk. We have to be very concerned about it and I am hoping that we can hear very soon from the Government what its land use policy is for Barbados.

We are at this time trying to attract a number of Barbadians to return home.
11.05 a.m.

We have stated that last year we got into the coffers of this country in excess of \$120 million out of the pockets of nationals residing overseas so it means that we have to preserve our land not only for Barbadians who live here but for Barbadians who want to return here.

We have also projected significantly larger sums. I note we have doubled the figure we expect to get over the next couple of years from Barbadians who want to return home. It therefore means that greater caution must be taken

as we go about the use of our land. We are only 166 square miles. I have not heard of any additions in recent times. I think a responsible Senate comprising Barbadians would be concerned at this time. We are looking to house not only our Barbadians who have remained here but those who want to return.

Mr. President, I support this Resolution but I wanted to place on record my concerns.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I had really hoped to avoid getting into this discussion because it seemed at the outset that it was going to proceed along very rational lines. But then, when one is assailed by the volume of emotionalism and rhetoric devoid of any facts or statistics, just speculation, where opinions are based purely on people's perception – it is a very popular saying today about land being sold to foreigners in Barbados. Nobody has produced any documentation, any figures, charts, quantities or what's not.

Land has always been sold to non-Barbadians in Barbados. There is nothing to indicate now that it is moreso than in the past. And while I, like other Barbadians, would not want to see Barbados sold out to anybody but Barbadians, I would wish that like as in any other topic, that the discussion on this matter proceed on a studied, scientific, rational basis and not just on speculation.

Therefore I look forward to the time, Sir, and I suspect it shall come very soon, when Barbadians will be given an opportunity to discuss the whole question of ownership of land generally and at that time all the authorities, all the self-appointed gurus on land use, land sale and land buying, will get into the act but do it in an informed manner and produce the kind of information and data that would allow the public to make a proper conclusion and understanding of the issue.

Senator Thompson spoke about Government having signed an agreement which says that land will be devoted to the cause which gives it its highest economic return. That is an over-simplification of the issue. The point is that there have been a series of discussions in Barbados. There were town meetings. There were public meetings publicised in the Press where there is a study going on about land use in Barbados and people are being invited to participate. There were some in Queen's Park, all over Barbados, the North, the South, even in Christ Church South.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Dover. You are agreeing with me. You are supporting my point. Therefore, the point is that this is not a settled position yet. There is a land use policy being developed and redeveloped at this stage.

I understand the Democratic Labour Party's obsession with seeking to find an IADB representative in Barbados or an agreement which would tell the Barbados Government exactly what it has to do, because the Democratic Labour Party is still quite very familiar with the situation where they had a resident IMF representative in Barbados in the best office at Government Headquarters, who told them everyday what to do. They literally could not go to the bathroom unless they were told what to do. He came to the House of Assembly and virtually dictated a Budget. So they are obsessed and zealous because of their own standards and their own record. We kicked that man out and the same way we thought it was undignified for a non-Barbadian, and to have an IMF representative to tell us what to do about Barbados' micro and macro economic policy, and how to manage Barbados' economy, we feel the same way about land use.

I know we are not going to allow the kind of oversimplification and the emotionalism that has informed largely Senator Thompson and Senator Boyce's debate, to dictate to Barbados what to do. I look forward, as I have said, Sir, to the time when we will have a rational, realistic, proper, objective, informed discussion about land use and that having realised that land is not an infinite commodity in Barbados – we recognise that. It is a given fact, therefore, like any other finite commodity, we have to make sure that it is managed and used to its best and optimal capacity to the ultimate benefit of Barbados.

I look forward then to our having a rational discussion like they do largely on education, or the economy, or cricket that the same kinds of strictures of intellect and rigorous examination of fact, will be applied to this issue and that people do not go down the road of pure emotionalism.

I thank you, Mr. President, and I support this Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise at the conclusion of debate on this Resolution, but I feel it necessary to clarify a point that has been solely and severely misrepresented by Senator Thompson and this is in relation to the matter of land use. I believe that in her attempt to summarise a policy position, she inadvertently by incorrect choice of words gave a suggestion, and it is a problem that occurs from time to time, where people confuse best, optimum, highest.

It is true that the Government, and any Government indeed, will obviously want to have a land use policy which is guided by the best economic use of the land. That is not necessarily the same thing as saying that your land use policy is guided by the highest economic value of the

land. There are entirely different matters so the concepts are important.

The Government of Barbados in entering into the agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank, as indicated by Senator Thompson, and she used that as her authority for making that incorrect assertion, because it is really a matter of having increased sufficiency in land use and having greater openness and transparency which would be a significant departure from the mode of the management of the land use policy which has seen many an interesting and very opaque set of land deals and planning permissions that have been granted in this country since 1966.

Now, Mr. President, in responding to that suggestion made by Senator Thompson and seeking to give clarity to what she said, the Government of Barbados in the letter from the Government of Barbados to the Inter-American Development Bank setting out the framework for the Investment Sector Loan, which is what she was referring to and which forms part of the loan agreement, and I am just doing this by way of clarification of that erroneous point that was made, it was indicated that it was recognised that there was a greater need for a more efficient functioning land market and that there be a three-part programme in relation to this matter.

There would be a revision of the Physical Development Plan which is sorely needed. That revision of the Physical Development Plan would be supplemented by an Area Development Plan where once it is agreed how the land will be used in Barbados, will be published documentation supported by the relevant Acts of Parliament which would make it quite clear for all and sundry of how we propose to go.

In addition, Sir, there will be the strengthening of the office of the Town Planner to facilitate that process and there will be a reform of planning procedures. The whole objective there, Sir – Listen to this, and I quote from the document, "Loan contract between the Government of Barbados and the Inter-American Development Bank" already a document of this House, page 6 of an attachment, that attachment being the letter from the Government of Barbados to the Bank:

"The fundamental principles that would guide these reforms are transparency in the formulation of land use policy and openness in application of that policy".

The Democratic Labour Party does not know what that means, Sir, that is not their *modus operandi*. What this will do in Barbados is to ensure that having gone through all of the exercise we are going through now where

the public of Barbados is being given the opportunity to make their input in the formulation of a land use policy indicating how the physical development plans should go, how the area development plan should go. So that, all of us will know if we want to buy a piece of land in a location whether we are likely to find that we are next door to a farm or next door to a hotel, whether we will be in an area for commercial activity or residential activity and that is what has been lacking in Barbados.

11.15 a.m.

The development in Barbados has been haphazard over the years, very haphazard and the principle there as quoted in the letter, transparency and openness, no room for shady dealing in this land use policy. No room whatsoever.

Sir, we will also be strengthening the institution.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, the Honourable Senator is misleading the Chamber. He is giving the impression that the Democratic Labour Party might have been involved in shady deals. This is not so. As a Government of this country, we would have taken responsibility for managing the affairs in a most astute manner, Sir. Not like the case with the jetty in Speightstown as was recently done.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I really would not have wanted to quote from the *Duffus Report* which is a document of this House which spoke to other matters but anyway, we will leave that for another place and another time. Basically, Sir, I just wanted to make that point of clarification concerning the process by which this Government is seeking to reform the land use policy and where all of the public meetings which are being held right now and the studies which are being done are all part of that process of moving towards transparencies and openness where documents will be published outlining the land use policy of this country. So that in moving land to the use of land for the best economic use that obviously implies the process of optimisation. Optimisation would speak to using your prime agricultural land for agriculture, your prime tourism and heritage site for tourism purposes, your other land for commercial activity. Optimising is the principle so it is the optimum economic value rather than the highest economic value and any first year economic student will know the fundamental difference and principle between optimal value and highest value, the two are not necessarily one and the same.

Mr. President, I just thought I had to make that clarification to ensure that the realities of what is included in the document here are reflected in the records of this Honourable Chamber.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDER NO. 6 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND
AT GROVES, ST. GEORGE, TO THE BARBADOS
AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY
LIMITED TO PROVIDE ACCOMMO-
DATION FOR A SUGAR CANE
TESTING STATION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President I rise to move this Resolution which is seeking the approval of the Honourable Senate for the lease of land at Groves Agricultural Station in St. George for the purposes of the continued use of a sugar cane variety testing station. The land in question, Sir, is some 6 185 square metres and has been for many, many years, in fact since I was a child, been in use at Groves Agricultural Station where one would get all of the regular services of an agricultural station. In addition, adjacent to that was the Sugar Cane Breeding Station in which in addition to their usual laboratory facilities which one would find, there were also areas of agricultural land adjacent to the building where specific varieties of cane were tested.

We know that over the years, Sir, I remember as a child growing up in that area of St. George where a lot of the experimentation took place we even got to know the different kinds of cane by number. I remember sucking some 141 and 248. The 141 was a particularly good variety, it was easy to peel with the teeth.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: In St. Peter you may eat cane but in St. George we suck cane.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Senator, please refer to the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I am sorry, Mr. President. I do not know what your preference is for cane but in St. George we suck cane and whatever others do with cane, that is their issue but to stick to the terminology of St. George because this Resolution is located firmly and squarely at St. George at the Groves Agricultural Station and we used to suck the 141 which like I said was good to suck. We also had the 'frozen joy' which was a yellow variety, again, good for sucking and there was also the juicy cane.

However, the reason why this Cane Variety Station was there was that the whole purpose was to find varieties which would meet the best economic value of sugar production, not the highest but the optimum. And the considerations there would have been resistance to pests, resistance to predators including the human kind who would suck the 141, "frozen joys" and "juicies" and the ease of harvesting, the ease of processing, the relative yield of cane per acre as well as sugar per ton of cane; the length of the growing period and all of these sorts of issues, susceptibility to droughts and floods and so on; all of those factors had to be combined in order to determine what was the best varieties to plant.

This station has provided a very, very valuable contribution not just to Barbados but the research that has been done at the sugar cane variety testing station has been applied around the world wherever sugar is produced and Barbados has in fact been one of the leaders in the research on sugar cane varieties, a number of which I said are grown now in other places. This Resolution does not speak to the establishment of a new sugar cane variety testing station but rather one of dealing with the situation from change of ownership issues.

We want, Sir, in commending this Resolution to the Honourable Senate to commend the staff of the Sugar Cane Variety Testing Station for their contribution to our knowledge and our choices of variety.

You will notice for example that you will not see much 141, "frozen joys" or juicy canes planted because in certain areas where there were fields, when you looked on the outside you appeared to have an entire field, densely populated with cane, however when one reached the centre of the field there were large barren areas and the only thing that was left there would have been the green cane tops and the cane peelings, the evidence that some persons would have been in there sucking away. Because in fact some of these varieties mature early and from November persons growing up in the district would cut them. Of course that is an entirely different issue from the problem which is faced today where a number of small holders particularly those persons who planted some of those varieties have been forced out of the business because of persons who now steal the canes as a commercial venture. Persons who sell sometimes these canes for juice. Of course there are many persons as small growers who grow canes specifically for that purpose and some are able to stagger their planting so that you can in fact obtain cane juice in June and July and so on because they are planting the canes specifically for that. There are others, less committed to their business venture, who are more content to move in with small trucks and take a tonne or two or three of canes and that has discouraged the use of certain

varieties which lend themselves to certain early maturation to a certain ease of crushing and so on.
11.25 a.m.

So that all of those factors, including the ones that I have mentioned really underscore the important work of the Sugar Cane Variety Testing Station. So I would encourage Members who have not as yet visited this facility to pay them a visit and you will see the demarcation of the areas, the specific varieties identified, the various experiments going on and it would give a greater insight and appreciation of the fact that the work of the industry is not just left to chance or to accident.

The basic details of this lease, Sir, are that it would be for a period of 12 years with a review at the end of the sixth year. The lessee would be responsible for the payment of insurance, maintenance, land tax and other outgoings and if the lessee is proposing to further develop the site by way of additional lab space or other buildings that would be undertaken at their cost subject to the approval of the Town Planner.

So, Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I listened very carefully to the introduction by the Honourable Senate Leader and wondered why, Sir, he would want to place this debate and characterise it with such a large element of...

Certain remarks made SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I withdraw entirely the offending word. I meant, Sir, to say that the Honourable Leader of the Senate referred to his youth when he would have been part of a group who would have gone into cane fields in Barbados and broke and sucked the softer, sweeter varieties of canes which were prevalent at the time. That would not have been a good thing to do, Sir, or in fact it would have been taking property which was not yours.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President, so that the record would be clear, the Honourable Member indicated that I was part of a group who would go and do these various things. In my case, however, since you might be talking about people in general, I am proud to indicate that my father and my grandfather were proud small holders who between both grandfathers and my father cultivated some 12 different lots of cane and out of those 12 I had my choice of varieties. I did not have to worry about being held by the police.

I was in fact sucking my own canes but I know of other persons who sucked other people's canes. So you cannot say that this Honourable Member was in the practice in his youth of taking property that was not his.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, even taking one's father's property without clear permission would have been considered ... But I want to move on, Sir, and deal with the substantive resolution. Of course sugar cane breeding and sugar cane cultivation and the subsequent production of raw sugar, because Barbados of course only produces raw sugar, it does not go into extensive refinement of sugar where there could possibly redound much greater benefits. Indeed, Sir, there is still a lot of discussion, albeit may be too late, as to whether Barbados should have entered into an arrangement for further refinement of raw sugar rather than engage in wholesale export of the raw sugar it produces.

Sugar has been the bedrock of the Barbadian economic development to this time and even now with a restructured Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation and the related organisations it still contributes significantly to the economy of this country, hence the need to maintain an agricultural station at Groves. And that is an agricultural station which deals specifically with the identification and the fostering and the development of, to sum up the words of the Senate Leader, of hardy canes which would be rich in sugar, strong in resistance to pest and easy to harvest. Ease of harvest is important because one recognises, over the last 5 years for instance, the move to mechanisation and the mechanical harvesting of canes. This has been an important development and we have had that technology led by some outstanding Barbadian scientists and engineers with the assistance of some overseas expertise which we never want to exclude. But the thrust has been led by Barbadian experts who have developed equipment and tools which they have then been able to, as in the case of the production of the sugar cane varieties, as the Senate Leader said, have been able also to even export the technology in terms of the harvester, *etc.* and the related equipment.

This work continues, Sir, and the fact that we should today be ensuring that all steps are taken to provide additional facilities for the cane breeding variety station at Groves is significant.
11.35 a.m.

The conditions of the lease are in keeping, Sir, with what has become normal where the Government is indeed playing its part in making it affordable for these kinds of activities to occur. It is in fact, another way of providing incentives. When Government provides a facility at what is

commonly referred to as "pepper corn rates" *etcetera*, to the cane breeding research station, it is in fact providing an incentive to the Sugar Industry for their work.

Of course, the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation at this time, Sir, needs all the assistance we can give in terms of grappling with the varieties of the production and marketing of sugar and one only has to look at international marketing trends to bring home the point that I am trying to make, Sir. The increased use of beet sugar, the unabated use of our land for other economic purposes and it is not only in our case. In other small islands in the Pacific the problems are very similar with the pressures to put our land to other uses. There has been added pressure on the owners, the operators and the negotiators of the Sugar Industry to come to new arrangements. Indeed, we contemplate the advent of the World Trade Order and we are already noting that the countries of the Caribbean and other small sugar producers cannot look forward to any significant concession by way of sale of their sugar come whatever the date of implementation may be. Let us for this debate say, the Year 2000.

Sir, one only needs to look across the Caribbean at the demise of the Banana Industry, for instance, which depended very much like sugar did, and still does, on certain concessions by the international consumers and these concessions have withered and with them have withered the economic viability of those island states who depended on the banana for their existence. We still are contemplating the tragedy which might await these economies in the immediate Caribbean area.

Sir, in the case of Barbados sugar, one of the things that characterised our structural adjustment programme in the 1990s and even now, has been trying to grapple with the Sugar Industry in Barbados because it had developed through the years, not only technically with its sound technical ability and its sound varieties, but it also developed a large debt by way of funds to the Barbados Treasury and certain arrangements including the creation of the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited. Those arrangements were made and the Honourable Senators are aware of the details of that arrangement where the properties which owed the Government of Barbados large sums would have been leased, Sir, and would have been operated with a view of being able to repay their debts, Sir. And eventually, I think the details reveal that having done so, one would have contemplated even a return of those lands to the original "owners." A clause does not enjoy popular support, but we are not dealing with that today, we need not dwell on that clause today, Sir.

The facts are that even that arrangement has not gone entirely smoothly and identification of the properties

which belong to, or might have belonged to the Barbados Sugar Industries Limited then and now, would therefore have been in the original agreement part of the Barbados Agricultural Management Company and now might even in the further arrangement, been under the jurisdiction of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust. The whole legal entanglement relating to this kind of negotiation has led for some very trying times in the economic viability of the sugar industry. We have seen, Sir, a situation where indeed in spite of the work of the cane breeding station, in spite of the development of the new varieties and the sugar yielding varieties, one is constantly faced with the question of what acreage can be optimally allocated to the Sugar Industry for the most economic production of sugar. We have had targets banded about of 60 000 tonnes and 75 000 tonnes and we have even heard the optimists wished for the day when Barbados could be assured of 125 000 tonnes of raw sugar.

The reality is, Sir, that the Sugar Industry has got to grapple with the world pricing structure and we need maybe to start looking at other economic values and benefits that could come out of the full use of sugar. The same energies which we have used to develop our cane harvesting expertise, our sugar cane variety expertise and one would want to note in passing that the story is told that it was a Barbadian indeed, who developed the technique of growing sugar cane from seeds. This is a great testimony to the work of us here in Barbados who have been, as the Honourable Senator indicated really leaders in the world of sugar technology.

Sir, we therefore need to start maybe looking at where we can have a totally sustainable sugar industry. The political convenience of sugar factories being placed at one place or another in Barbados will have to be placed in the background as against the economic reality of ensuring the best kind of activity for the sugar industry. Sir, the question of the efficiency of the so-called flag ship, Portvale Factory for instance, will have to be examined, because we know of the attending difficulties and the reality is that Portvale might not be indeed the most efficient factory in the island, but this award is more likely to go to a facility like Andrews Factory.

Remember, sugar too is responsible for the early entrepreneurship of Barbadians and dotted across the skyline of Barbados are a number of ruins of windmills. These windmills are many and it indicates an independence of economic activity which has always been the hallmark of this country's sugar production. Indeed, our factory development went that way for a long time until the reality of sugar prices and the coming of the questions on land use, sort of forced the price of sugar into an area which no longer made it totally attractive for economic development.

Sir, the development too, of tourism as an option and if one examines the early ownership of the hotels in Barbados, especially along the South coast, you will find that it coincided with a number of owners who would have left the sugar industry, taken a lot of their money out of the sugar industry and went into tourism as an option. Of course, when they went and built the hotels, so too did the workers of the sugar industry become attracted to the possibility of working in the much more congenial environment of the hotel industry and later on indeed, the manufacturing industry, rather than in the sugar cane fields. Because one thing that is real about cane peeling, Sir, the scientists and biologists attached to this station have not been able to develop a cane, for instance, that reaps itself. So we still have to go in there with cutlass or where it is convenient with the mechanical harvester and break that cane out of the ground, strip it of its trash and prepare it for the sugar factory. Sir, that is the background against which we must look at any cane breeding development in Barbados. As we look ahead to the new world order and the difficulties which it will obviously bring to small economies like ours we must as I began to say contemplate the development of a sustainable project which sees the sugar cane as being able to produce much more than just raw sugar that we use at our tables.

11.45 a.m.

We have for instance to look at the development of the related molasses industry. Even today the reality is that a lot of our molasses is now imported from Trinidad and elsewhere and of course we know that the molasses like the cane for instance is at the heart of our rum industry which is an international flagbearer for Barbados.

We immediately see the connection between the simple consideration of a cane breeding station at Groves and the long-term impact it might have on the larger and wider economies of Barbados even the international impact it might have on the economies of Barbados.

So, Sir, I want to be sure that the operatives in the sugar industry are looking at the possibility of taking a sugar and using it for the production of alcohol for instance which can be applied in energy substitution and other things and just as we would have very soon to look at the production of liquid natural gas if we continue to find larger and larger quantities of natural gas around Barbados. In order to make it affordable for distribution one has to liquefy and package it.

We need to look at what other energies we can get out of sugar because the raw sugar which our bodies so efficiently convert to energy and look at how we can apply the technologies that are widely known to achieve the objectives of alcohol production. We can look at the possibility of the larger use of bagasse for substitute

energy generation. This is something which does not get sufficient consideration in Barbados because we are becoming a luxury society. We do not have the large extended wildernesses and the areas of difficult terrain to deal with so production of electricity and the availability of transport when it is well managed is readily available. But if we were a country with the difficulties and the remote areas of say, Guyana and to a lesser extent of Trinidad one would have to be more urgent in looking at how we can take that sugar cane stalk and extract from it every useful bit of it.

The fibres can be used for making straw or wood. The bagasse can be used for generating energy as I said before or in some cases it can be compressed and mixed with other materials for making chipboard. We have to look at these kinds of economies. The green stalks when Senator Farley is finished with them, Sir, he could probably have packed the green stalks together and brought them in and fed the animals in his father's yard rather than leave them to wither and become part of the...

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: ... that is true. The natural process would have taken over and those stalks would have become manure. Indeed, all is not lost in the case of Senator Farley's contribution in that area.

What we are looking at is a Barbados which continues to depend to a large extent on some sugar production. We are looking at a situation where we might not necessarily be able to arrive at the best figure for sugar production. We are looking at a reality where the concessions that have been offered traditionally and specifically in the European market will no longer apply and this is coming very soon. In light of the competition from European beet sugars and subsidised crops from all around the world our sugar as we have produced it traditionally and as we look forward to selling it every year will not necessarily bring about the economic rewards that we are accustomed to.

We therefore at the Groves and other areas managed by the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited need to concern ourselves with these kinds of urgent considerations. Indeed, as one looks at the recent development for instance of the other lands of this organisation, BAMC, we are seeing the use change from the traditional sugar factory or plantation house as much as these properties were into other uses. I refer especially to the development at the old Four Square Factory where we now have a tourist attraction around an economic activity in the production of rum. Indeed, a refinery which is relatively modern and when one compares with the rum

refinery at Mount Gay or the one at Spring Garden the Goddards Refinery...

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Whether it be at Brighton or Spring Garden is irrelevant.

We have changed the use of that facility and I am not going to get into that. The Barbados Agricultural Management Company would have been the responsible entity at the time of the change of use and we have had all kinds of reports in the local media in this debate about the circumstances of that changeover and I am not privy to all the details in that deal and the fact is that Four Square Factory which is a Barbados Agricultural Management Company property whether it is sold or not is not the point. The point I want to make today is that the use has been effectively changed. I would not mind, and I do not know what the procedure is here, but I know a group whom I am connected to have certainly expressed some interest in another one of these properties. I do not know that we will necessarily have the economic support to go ahead but we certainly hope we can get going or then you might not need that much economic support anyhow if you go about it the right way. You might be able to get at least the use of the facilities.

11.55 a.m.

Even that, it has become extremely difficult with the introduction, for instance, of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust now which again there is the legal, as I said, when I talked about how the Barbados Agricultural Management Company's properties have moved very quickly when one considers the time frame over which they were developed and the time frame over which these events are occurring. It is very quickly how they have moved from almost being Government/private sector control in this arrangement to looking almost like they are back in the hands of the original owners again without the attending arrangement that we were talking about. Not that they can use it totally but it is something which as a non economic guru observer this is how it looks to me, not being steeped in how money and how land moves around. I am sure legal luminaries in here would be able, if they are so minded, to relieve me of some of my confusion in this regard.

The point is that the Agricultural Credit Trust now having taken control of some of these lands now may exercise more influence over what happens to them than was originally conceived under the development of the Barbados Agricultural Management Company who controls Groves and who are the party to whom the Government of Barbados is going to be leasing the land.

Sir, I know a number of young people and not so young too who work in this area directly and they are very proud of their achievements as it relates to cane varieties, testing and production. I think it is a real pity that we have so shifted that we cannot contemplate the research which my dream would require given the "recruitment" that is actually taking place. Because of the realities which I have been at pains to detail of sugar and its economic potential, many young people are not obviously going into the industry so it is unlikely that the push for the kind of sustainable project which I contemplate will come from within.

It is much more likely, Sir, that a push of this sort will have to come from elsewhere. Only a short while ago we discussed at length the work of the University of the West Indies and this is another opportunity for the University of the West Indies to come in and lend its expertise and indeed its expertise in respect to alternative energy. We can think of no less a luminary than Professor Oliver Headley himself who would, I am sure, be happy to lead any project of the nature which I have attempted to describe.

The University would have the ability to attract the kind of funds because of the way it is structured and the way it is viewed by international organisations, that would allow it to go into this kind of pilot project because traditional investors are not going to look too kindly at non-economic projects. They normally have some funds available for that but universities are in the business of finding the kinds of investors that would allow them to take over the research work like is done, for instance, at Groves and bring it into a larger sustainable project which would see all the opportunities for the sugar cane of the future being fully exploited and all the economic opportunities that Barbados as a sugar growing country would be able to make the most of.

Remember, Sir, as I draw to the end, that sugar cane is still the best crop we can grow in Barbados. It is clear that the soil type is the one that best supports sugar and although we want to push for diversification in terms of the production of other food crops, be it carrots, *etcetera*, at this time I have it on good information. While doing the research for the subject this morning, I spoke to a number of farmers, what we call the 5-acre farmer in Barbados, and these are apparently a very interesting group. They seem to be doing well in terms of being able to produce alternative food crops as they move away from the traditional sugar. Of course, with the tourism industry holding and the ability to sell their crops fresh especially to the hotels they have an immediate market.

What is true is that we have certainly failed even in this regard to establish a manufacturing entity that could

package our food crops in a more preservable state. We need to revisit that experiment too. I know it is not part of this debate but we need to revisit that experiment at Christ Church and look at establishing a factory, get it at the most economic size that we can box, can, dry or whatever our alternative food crops.

Also, the same applies to fishing. But we are talking about Groves today, Sir, and we are talking about land for the Groves Station. I recognise fully that the Resolution does not contemplate all the wide opportunities that I might have touched on but I believe that in looking around and in talking about these Resolutions as they come before us in the Senate we get the opportunity to share our views.

As I spoke, I included the work of the University. I think this is an opportunity for the two entities to work hand in hand and probably accelerate the achievement of the most economic use of our sugar stock. Indeed, too, Sir, the benefit of this kind of cooperation would be that we would come to reality. If the reality is that we do not grow sugar anymore, then maybe we have to face that reality too. All the predictions are that there will be a place for sugar.

I must make the point before I sit. Having worked in the beverage industry for a long time, we have had to grapple with the price of local sugar. I am sure that many manufacturers in the soft drink industry and indeed in the beer industry would love to be able to use larger quantities of the cheaper imported – as we call it – white sugar, Sir, as against having to pay the price we are forced to pay for the locally produced sugar, but that is the reality of the survival of our economies. We have to be prepared as business people, as legislators and as citizens to recognise that in order to survive the vicissitudes of the world market we have to put in place incentives. Because that is what it boils down to. The fact that if as Barbadian consumers we have to pay a higher price for the sugar we use in manufacturing etc., it is in truth a subsidy of sort to the sugar industry because of all the good economic reasons which we have put about the survival of the sugar industry. 12.05 p.m.

Certainly we recognise the need to continue this research at Groves. We recognise the need for the Barbados Agricultural Management Company and its related associate companies and the companies with whom it is forced because of its mandate to work in order to come to a resolution. A resolution in terms both of the production of sugar in the immediate future, in the short term and indeed in terms of the realisation of a solution to the indebtedness of the sugar industry to the Government of Barbados. And if at some time in the future we could see the arrival of some centre point which at least meets some of these objectives and allow Barbados to

remain competitive in the real world and at the same time to hold on to that great tradition in sugar, Sir, then our labours and our discussion this morning would not have been in vain.

I am very grateful to you, Sir.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I am by no means an agriculturalist and do not have the ability to give a dissertation as Senator Boyce has on the subject but I believe that as we debate this Resolution it is necessary for us to recognise that in spite of the approaches to development of sugar and agriculture in general in Barbados we still very much have a battle of attitudes versus abilities.

I do believe that we have within our country people who have the necessary ability to carry out the agricultural sector in our community but we are still by and large very much plagued by the stigma of agriculture which has been falsely fostered upon us over the years through some unfortunate statements made by people in high places in our country from time to time. It is necessary for us to revisit the importance of agriculture and to remove that stigma which has been created. In fact, Mr. President, from the time of creation the Almighty gave us the land to till and to keep. He created husbandry from the very beginning of time and it was seen through Cain and Abel as they brought their offerings to the Lord. These were offerings out of agriculture and diversified agriculture because one brought his offering out of the land and the other one brought his offering out of the animals; but all were inter-related and with absolutely no stigma. So we need to change this attitude and I am sure that Senator Symmonds will agree with me that we need to get right back to the whole process of education.

When I was a boy, not so long ago, we had opportunity to be exposed to agriculture in schools and I think we need to get back to that. Of course, today we will not probably deal with that by having the fork and the hoe and so on which we used in the small kitchen gardens at the school. But I am sure with the Edutech programme that there will be need for us to expose our youngsters to agricultural principles as seen in the larger countries of the world and to see that there is no stigma attached to it and that there can be great rewards through agriculture.

Of course, the problem that we have today is that we are a people who are mainly driven by a pursuit of monetary and material gains. And because agriculture may not seem to give that vast amount of material and monetary reward we shy away from it. But I believe that those who are truly dedicated and are called specifically to the task of agriculture will tell others of their great personal rewards

as they see the produce coming forth and the self-satisfaction which it gives to those individuals to whom God has given the specific ability to deal in agriculture.

Indeed, Mr. President I believe that we in this country need to get back to that position where we understand the specific abilities we have and to discover the great rewards, personal and otherwise which follow, as we seek to contribute to the general building of our nation and the general building of our economy through use of the diversified abilities which we have. I think that we need a little formula as we seek to get back to agriculture which Mr. President is that formula that we see in the graveyard – R.I.P. but not Rest in Peace but the 'R' is for "Remove". We need to remove that stigma and to see agriculture as an "I", that is, as an investment, an investment for us as individuals and an investment for the country.

Agriculture has been an investment for so many small people to which Senator Boyce alluded, those with the 5 acres. And so, I still think, Sir, that there is room for the peasant proprietor similar to the Farley family of years ago. We need to recognise that all of us will never be able to be involved in any kind of business, be it agriculture or otherwise, on the same scale; but for those of us who still have a few acres of land and who are still struggling to make a living and to eke out an existence in this country, I am sure that with proper education and with proper encouragement those small persons can still support a family for a whole lifetime and leave a legacy for those families to build on in the future.

I am sure, Sir, that Senator Farley is one who has come through that type of small investment. I have come through that; not in the agricultural sector but in another sector and I think that generally speaking we as Barbadians need to recognise that out there in this country there are still many opportunities, and even in agriculture on a small basis, to give us sustainable development for our immediate families and families on the periphery, and, at the same time, we will make some small contribution to the advancement of our economy.

With all of that we are still reminded of the "P" to which I referred which stands for "Praedial Larceny" which, Sir, I believe is one of the biggest problems we are still facing in the agricultural sector. Only two Sundays ago I was taking my wife for a drive and we passed some lush fields of carrots in the Windsor area just almost butting and bounding on Senator Farley's property and my wife remarked on how beautiful those carrots looked. And I said, "but hon, they are just there for somebody to steal them tonight", and that is exactly what happened. By Wednesday it was reported in the newspapers that those very carrots were stolen that Sunday night.

12.15 p.m.

Now, I am sure, Sir, that Senator Farley had no dealings with that, his dealings, Sir, as he has shown to us very clearly today, was his own sugar canes but we seriously need to be able to do something about that and I believe the Government is undertaking some study and I hope so, where we can really seek to combat this unfortunate situation in this country where others sit idly by and reap the sweets of the labours of others.

All in all, Sir, I think that we need to deal with our attitude towards agriculture and to seek in the future, and especially for the smaller people of Barbados, to recognise that there is nothing undignified in putting your hands into the soil. These same hands which go into the soil today come out tonight and can still do all the lovely things and you are still a decent person. With those few words, Sir, I give support to this Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution and to try to bring the discussion back a little bit to the actual research centre itself. I think that the discussion has gone far and wide thus far but as we become a knowledge based society the importance of this research centre cannot be underestimated. Barbados is the country where sugar cane breeding started. It was discovered late in the last century that sugar cane reproduced sexually as well as mechanically and from that Barbados became the premier breeding centre for sugar cane, and the research centre for creation of new varieties of sugar cane.

Now as we enter the next century the whole structure of research on variety breeding and development of new strains has also entered into a new vista where DNA research must be done, where genes splicing can be done and where we see new opportunities for creating new breeds of sugar cane which in the not too distant future may be able to fix its own nitrogen and soil which would bring inestimable benefits to the country, which could provide disease resistant breeds of sugar cane and this has tremendous value to Barbados because it is the development of this intellectual property that is the true value of the economy of the future. The knowledge that we could develop and create in this cane breeding section could be of greater value than all the sugar we have ever produced in Barbados if we go about it correctly.

I say this to point out that there is a new direction for the economy, that the development of knowledge is going to be the currency of the future and in this cane breeding section we have a tremendous opportunity to capitalise on the knowledge of the past and to bring bright young Barbadians into its centre where they can create new varieties of sugar cane and once again return Barbados to the pre-eminent position in the world that it once had in the

breeding of sugar cane. I think this is a most valuable enterprise, very worthy of support and I wholeheartedly support this Resolution, Mr. President.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 8 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
ORDER, 1997

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, earlier in this Session we debated, in fact just around July or August this year, we debated the Urban Development Commission Act which established the Urban Development Commission as provided for under Section 5 of that Act that the Minister may by order designate certain areas to be urban areas for the purposes of the Act.

It was further indicated that that Order would be subject to affirmative Resolution. What we are doing today therefore, Sir, is seeking the approval of the Senate, as required under Section 5 of the Act, in support of that Order which the Minister proposes to make and that Order basically defined the urban areas as that area which is on the one side, the coastline of Barbados, and on the other side, starting from the bottom of Holders Hill to going up the Holders Hill, Thorpes, Husbands, over to Clermont and then through Clermont to Highway 2A. This is near to Warrens, the Errol Barrow Highway, right through to Graeme Hall. Then at Graeme Hall, making a slight turn down hill then along Maxwell top road by way of the left turn there. Top Rock, Cane Vale Road, the top of Oistins Hill along the Church Road which is just in front of Foundation School and then to Thornbury Hill. From Thornbury Hill going in the direction of Oistins, but then turning at Pegwell Road and through Pegwell Boggs to Waverley Road. From Waverley Road, Sir, over to Keizer Hill and Keizer Hill toward its intersection with Enterprise Drive and then through Enterprise Drive right toward the coastline. Of course, then, you are back around the ocean. So that really, Sir, is the area as defined by the Order and that area will be the urban area within which the Urban Development Commission will carry out its functions as specified under the Act.

12.25 p.m.

Therefore, Mr. President, I will not get into a lot of debate about the Urban Development Commission. We have already had that debate fully in this session already. I simply beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, Sir, certainly the opportunity to discuss what is described here, Sir, as the Urban Development Commission Order, although the Urban Development Commission Act has been debated before, in the case of the Opposition, the opportunity to debate the Urban Development Commission Order also allows an opportunity, Sir, to expand on some of the points which we might have touched on during our responses to the Urban Commission.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not agreeing with you Senator Boyce and I refer to the relevant Standing Orders, specifically 34(2). We are not going to have that debate again.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I was not for one moment contemplating having that debate again, Sir, I merely want to deal with some of the items which the Order before us today refers to specifically, Sir. Having already commented on a number of land acquisitions to hear the area designated as Urban being spelt out to us by this Resolution, Sir, almost sets the dividing line in terms of what we have always been describing or what we have come certainly to realise and I believe, honestly, Sir, on both sides of this Senate, about the development of Barbados and the fact that a lot of Barbados is disappearing from us by one way or the other as we grapple with the need for economic development.

The area described from, and I would want so as not to bore the Chamber, Sir, to go from the other direction and start at Enterprise and continue along Enterprise Drive, as described, through Pegwell, Sir, Thornbury Hill, Church Hill, Oistins Hill, *etcetera*, The ABC Highway, through Thorpes, Sir, and on to Paynes Bay at the bottom of Holders Hill. In actual fact, we are really defining a large part of Barbados which we, as Barbadian people, still have control over. We need to look at that and maybe at another time, the Senators might want to engage themselves in that exercise and see how our ownership of the portion described by this Order relates to our ownership of the remaining portion which would in fact, coincide with probably, for lack of a better term, rural Barbados, Sir, and it draws us to the same considerations.

Sir, the Order would therefore contemplate that the powers which would have been granted in the Act to the Urban Commission would be allowed to be executed in the areas defined. I recall the public debate about the fact that the Urban Commission would have powers of removal of properties. They were questioned at the time as to who would determine these derelict properties and, of course, the questions too came, Sir, as it related to the opportunity for the Urban Commission to have powers outside of those controlled now by Government through Ministries, Ministries which have to report to a Parliament.

The Urban Commission does not have to report directly to a Parliament, Sir, and they are given wide powers which would be designated from time to time by the Minister. The designation of these areas too, again one must bear in mind that outside of the designated area, from time to time we can have other areas being designated by the power of the Minister and they would come before this Parliament for debate as this area is being dealt with today, Sir.

Remember too, Sir, that we have got to be careful that where these designated areas, coincide, for instance, with another now popular designation and that of Special Development Areas, Sir... Bear in mind that the area of the South Coast that is Dover, St. Lawrence Gap, and the Wharf, along here, would be part of the Special Development Areas and the conflicts which might occur by way of the Urban Commission's powers, might then be able to augment, Sir, the strengths already given by way of the Special Development Areas. We, the Democratic Labour Party's spokespersons, warned publicly that we did not want to see the Urban Development Commission become a political pork barrel. Not very often I take guidance from Senator Murray, but on this occasion, he is correct. We did not want to see it become a political pork barrel either way or the other, and, we meant that. Our records indicated that in that event, Sir, it would be disbanded once we recapture Government in 1999.

Sir, the areas contemplated by this Order will allow the Commission to move in and make certain determinations as to the conditions of houses and it will allow them, for instance, to demand the removal of certain properties for reasons which have been stated elsewhere. Sir, we spoke at length on this in terms of the duplication which this could cause, because we presently have institutions which are charged specifically with these kinds of responsibilities. Institutions, as I have said before who are answerable to the Parliament of Barbados and our difficulty will be that the Order now will identify the areas and identify properties and they will be given the power, Sir, to act on their own.
12.35 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, you are referring to a Bill which has already passed this Honourable Senate. We cannot reconsider any questions on which the Senate has already come to a conclusion. That is the reason for the particular Standing Order. I am asking you again to deal with the particular Resolution which is before us.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am guided by you, Sir, as always, and it is not my intention to discuss the Urban Commission Act in any way but it would be extremely difficult for one to talk about the areas and the Order which we are discussing today without in some

way referring to the powers that the Commission will have under the Act which I referred to very cautiously and which they will then be able to put in place in the areas being considered.

Sir, the point being that there will now be an Order which allows this Commission to move into the area, and as we are always at pains to point out, one is not afraid to deal with the concept as far as its intent is concerned. But it is sometimes the way it is interpreted in the breach that bothers most and it is the way when we have situations which will allow that breach to open into larger areas especially is when we get concerned. There are numerous occasions where one would go out and in pure innocence create laws or indeed not laws because we are not all in a position to do that, but where we give instructions which if obeyed in the way they are intended would be able to bring about the order we expected but when dealt with in the breach or by some person with less than noble intentions we can find ourselves creating the proverbial albatross.

I am repeating the concern that this Order ensures that the areas being dealt with for the time being and that the persons charged with the responsibility carry out this responsibility as I know they are capable if left alone in the highest possible manner and ensure that compassion... When one for instance thinks of some of the adjacent areas of Bridgetown and of places like those along President Kennedy Drive, or nearer here we think of the Church Village area and we think of areas like what is now known as Greenfield, one thinks about the poorer members of our community and if these matters are handled without the necessary compassion we can see extreme hardship being wrought upon maybe the innocent.

We, as responsible members of the community, must not allow politics to blind us to the reality that these things do happen. Let us be men and women or women and men whichever order we want to use and recognise that under either Administration in the past it has occurred where officers put in places have carried out their duties in a less than honourable manner to the attendant suffering of the members of our society.

Only recently we have had public outcry at the manner in which indeed search warrants by the police are sometimes carried out. Not that we are condoning criminal activity. No way, Sir. We are saying that when one goes about these warrants, we are not saying on the other hand that we go to the other extreme where when the warrant is about to be executed there is nothing to execute at all but we are talking about real situations and invariably whether the Members of the Government Side want to accept it or not these difficulties are wrought upon poor people. We must not be afraid to recognise it.

The rich and fortunate in our society escape those difficulties and we will say it on this Side as long as it has to be said. Sir, I pass through the Greenfield area often because I presently use an office in the vicinity both at day and night time. I know that the area, in spite of all the insinuations that Senator Forde might want to make when she speaks, when she has her chance to make her presentation on this Order, there are people who live in that area who can be accused of some measure of deviant behaviour but there are also young children in that area in the formative years who need to be guided.

We cannot in our condemnation and in our destruction and removal of these houses and replacement forget that we should possibly look at whether we want to appreciate it or not that we are impacting upon families because there are some people in this Barbados who have strange views about what families are and if you do not live in certain areas you are not a family anymore. We, Sir, can be identified with a clear position on families and family values and we are going to hear...

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Only, Sir, by way of commenting on the residents of Greenfield who are part of the area. In Greenfield, there are a number of homes which might give this Order the urgency to visit. There are unused buildings. They might appear to be unused and in some cases they are being used illegally. Where they are being used illegally again I want to make it clear that we are not condoning it but there are some too who although being used illegally form shelter and Sir, bear this in mind, I do not care how much the others on that Side can say it is Christmas and they want to go home. They have the power, let them decide when this Senate sits...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President, I take very strong exception to the suggestion, and let the record reflect. No Member on this Side in any contribution has made any reference to wanting to go home. The Honourable Member is casting imputations on the level of commitment and the character of Honourable Members by suggesting that Honourable Members have a greater interest in Christmas than they have in the business of the Honourable the Senate of Barbados. I would urge him to withdraw those remarks and have them struck from the records.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think, Senator Boyce, that there was any foundation for the unfortunate remarks which you made I would ask that they be withdrawn.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, does that mean that I start over my presentation?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have asked that the reference be withdrawn.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I withdraw the offending reference unhesitatingly. If the Honourable Members do not want to rush out of here then they should stop disrupting me while I am making my presentation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are not being disrupted. I would not permit you to be disrupted. Please continue! 12.45 p.m.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the point is the homes which will be identified in the areas contemplated by this Order shall some time though illegally form shelter for these families. I say families again.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Senator Forde does not agree with me that there are families but I say they are families. There are mothers. There are fathers and there are children...

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I wish please to ask that the Honourable Member refrains from making mention of me. I have not made any contribution so far in this debate. I am not disagreeing with anything. I am not interested in going home because I know that the business of Barbados is important even though I do have a family.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, please continue. Try not to be distracted.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I will try my best, Sir, but Senator Forde tries her best to distract me.

The families that I am referring to, and I am serious about this, Sir, there are a number of them and it is not only Greenfield. They do not always live in shacks or in shanty town or they are not always unemployed. There can be other legal reasons for the "illegality" occurring.

Let us therefore in our sober contemplation recognise the point I am trying to make. You notice, Sir, we are not getting the interruptions anymore because we have now gone home to the core of the problem. When we were clearly placed in Nelson Street or Greenfield everybody on that Side had something to say but now that we have indicated that there is no difference in fact whether you are doing it in Nelson Street or you are doing it in one of the more developed areas like Clermont which is part...

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Atlantic Shores is not part of the Order, Sir, so I cannot refer to Atlantic Shores. If you are in Clermont and you are residing in a home illegally, or using the property illegally you are as much in a position to be dealt with by this Order as if you were located in Nelson Street. Those of us who are now aware of the situation I am trying to highlight can hereafter hold their peace.

Sir, in terms again of the establishment of these areas, sometimes we sit down and try to define exactly where we want things to occur and even as we look back or as we contemplate the next move we recognise, have we limited ourselves too much in this definition of urban?

Indeed, the Order does not contemplate Speightstown and we know the intentions of the Barbados Labour Party Government in respect to Speightstown. If that is not urban development, Sir, well then we are not on the second floor of the Parliament Building either. The development contemplated for Speightstown is urban and I think we are hearing that almost every day.

There is also mention again, Sir, whether ambitiously or not of the development, I believe, of a town in St. Andrew. The Minister responsible for Housing is on record saying that he wants to see a town somewhere around Rock Hall. Again, Sir, are we limiting...

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: The last person I would have expected this from is...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not wish to hear that.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am sorry, Sir. That is almost an aside. It is just that the microphone is on.

Sir, this city was contemplated in Rock Hall, a traditionally rural area. So are we limiting ourselves too much? Again, I am minded to remember that we have an area of land designated as the national park, an area which we said would remain untouched. It would remain a place where we could go and contemplate, a place where we can relax and enjoy the values of nature. Today, Sir, we face the reality of an experiment, and I am only using that term to be kind, on waste disposal at Greenland.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, you must know that is totally irrelevant to this debate.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I have no intention of pursuing the specific Greenland question. I am just showing how we might limit ourselves by legislation and then have on the next step forward recognise where we have erred. That goes straight to the core of this Resolution where the areas have been clearly defined for the purposes of this Order today.

Sir, the designation of these areas also brings to our attention the hope that the developments contemplated will bear in mind the wishes of the citizens and the residents and that brings me to the question, for instance, of the St. Lawrence Gap area which is going to be included in that area.

Only two weeks ago we had a session, and this has been referred to earlier today even, where the main architects and a couple of engineers along with Government representatives met with the residents of Maxwell and St. Lawrence looking at what they have contemplated for submission to the Ministry responsible for Town Planning for the further development of, in this case, St. Lawrence Gap.

It certainly would characterise the meeting if I said that the development was devoid of resident input. The residents who were there along with myself were at pains to point out to the architects *etcetera* that in considering this area in St. Lawrence, they must bear in mind the wishes of the residents and they must try to include, for instance, the tourism development and integrate it into the existence of a primary school across the street at St. Lawrence itself.

It is these kinds of points as we contemplate development, which is going to go on and on in this Chamber as we look at acquisitions and special legislation to give people permission to do one thing or another, we are going to have to refer back to our people, the people who after all are the ones who go to the polls and entrust in the Government their future. If constantly we do not meet their requests, we will continue in a situation where they prefer to stay away from the polls all together than to get involved in electing one or any Government.

This Barbados Labour Party Administration, Sir, is characterised by its alienation of those people who have put it there. We are seeing more and more special interest legislation which bothers me, bothers this Senator. I say that, Sir, with no qualms whatsoever.
12.55 p.m.

I look forward to the day when our ears go back to the sounding ground from which they came and hear the

little needs of the people. It is not much they want. They want a start but we are always contemplating the creation of these malls and these large areas for one thing or another and never for instance to go into St. Lawrence and say well, along with the development contemplated for St. Lawrence why not encourage the continuation of the freehold fishing which is part of the culture of those St. Lawrence fishermen, getting into their *pirogue* in the morning going out to sea, diving and bringing in the fish. I do not want to start on the South Coast Sewerage Project today because it is part of this area.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I was watching you.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I do not want to start on the South Coast Sewerage Project today, Sir, because in truth and in fact if the Urban Commission by order were going to remove derelict equipment *etc.* the first thing that they should probably do is contemplate removing the shed and the shacks that impede our journey from Christ Church to Bridgetown on mornings and the contractors are not doing it fast enough in terms of removing the hazard. And even where it has been done, I believe the responsibility for this one falls with the National Petroleum Corporation but they made sure that last Sunday morning they created a large excavation, the largest excavation that I have seen that has been able to avoid the sidewalk and by Monday at least vehicles had lost their suspension in that area. It is madness, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order. I rise to question the relevance of the Honourable Senator's contribution. The Standing Order No. 38 relates to relevance and although the Order speaks to the geographic definition of urban area the fact that the legislation on which the Order is placed, the Urban Development Commission legislation speaks to specific function and limits the function of the Commission. I believe the Honourable Member really cannot test the patience of the Honourable Leader of the Senate by going into all matters relating to geographic areas without any constraints imposed by the function of the Urban Development Commission which is what they would be limited to performing within that area.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, my constraints and guidelines are laid down by you and only you. The only person I listen to in here is you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think that it is a valid point of order. You are in fact very wide of the bar. As I said, even though the Chair from time to time allows a certain amount of latitude, I think that you are pushing the Chair to the limit and there is not much more to go. Please for the final time stick to the Resolution.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I would not want to be said to have pushed the Chair of this Senate anywhere, Sir, and I mean that and I am guided by you always. I am not going to be guided by Senator Farley because Senator Farley is not in a position to guide me. He is the Leader of the Senate, the Leader of Government Business and it is Government's business that I am talking about and what they are doing in respect to the good governance of this country and the specific order today deals with the areas which will come under the Urban Development Commission and Maxwell is one of them.

We have heard the public debate as to whom the Commission will concentrate on and which derelict homes that they are going to go after when they start to remove and to publish in the paper and give you time notice and whatever their powers may be and I think of the people of Church Village. I mentioned the Greenfield, not in any more than it bleeds for other residents of Barbados and it is because we talk about the removal of these derelict buildings that I referred in passing to the very erratic erections which are the responsibility of the South Coast Sewerage Project and which are in the way because they are not serving any purpose now. They are impeding safe travel and they are presenting a hazard to road users and indeed in the case of especially one citizen, they are presenting a hazard to business. And this Government, whether it may be through this Order or some other Order must move swiftly to make sure that this situation is corrected and that life can either return to normal immediately on the South Coast or that the project be restarted.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce references to the project you mentioned is totally irrelevant and I must call the attention to the Senate of your persistence in irrelevance.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I will move away as directed from the South Coast Sewerage Project. Sir, I am going to continue to make my submission on the Order in front of us and I am going to ask that as these areas are contemplated and as they are brought into law that we ensure that the officers who are charged with the responsibility of carrying about the actions contemplated do so with all the considerations which I might have highlighted today and others which I might not have, for one reason or another been able to highlight and to ensure that the work they do in making sure Barbados continues on a correct developmental path takes along with it the required compassion and consideration for the less fortunate of this society as we grapple for that elusive dollar. It is not always the face value of the dollars that makes the difference, Sir, it is when we look into the faces of our citizens and we see smiling happy kids and families

that we know that we are heading in the right direction and that we as legislators know that we are working for a better society, a mandate, Sir, lent to us by the people of Barbados, only for a time.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, Sir, I rise to speak to this Resolution approving the Urban Development Order, 1997 but before I do so I would just like to make one or two comments pertaining to the last speaker. I know that the last speaker knows full well the difference between town, city, rural, urban because he would have spent a long time at his *alma mater* where as he came through the west gate he would have seen 'rus in urbe'. Every youngster would have known that and would have queried that and with his intelligence he would have found out what 'rus in urbe' meant and means and even if he did not discover it then having gone to England he would have heard of inner city and outer city, he would have known that there are cities in the north. For example when you go to Birmingham and then you go further south and what have you. Even if you cut that out and come to Jamaica you talk about up city and down city shopping. So, Sir, if he had stuck to the Bill as he did in the penultimate one where he was really at home. I enjoyed that contribution. As a matter of fact, Sir, I think it is the best speech I have heard the Honourable Senator make, the one referring to the BADMC.

1.05 p.m.

Nonetheless, Sir, I have seen personnel from this Commission doing preparatory work within this Order and I am pleased to report, Sir, that it is nothing partisan as the Senator would make this Chamber believe because I have seen and I know of Members of his political party who have actually gone into the field with personnel from the Urban Development Commission. If that is pork barrel politics then I must say that they are drawing down from the barrel.

So he should not have any fears. Only last week, I was invited to a site meeting not too far from here, Sir, in the Halls Road area dealing with urban tenancies and it is the charge of that Commission to look after such. Having now defined the Order and having passed the Order then works will continue as planned and I am pleased to see that those poor families from the Halls Road area, be it Roberts Road, Hinds Road, Marl Hole, will soon be able to own what they have lived on and their ancestors have lived on for hundreds of years. It is things like these which Senator Boyce has to address himself to.

I am also pleased to state, that there is no duplication, there is no replication here but, there is accountability of that commission to the appropriate Ministry.

I also see, Sir, this new Commission, and again they are waiting until they get the specific guidelines, working in tandem with the National Sports Council in bringing proper playing facilities, once the areas have been identified and earmarked.

I have also heard people enquiring about the Commission and when would they be able to have certain basic amenities in place. Sir, it is not a matter of duplicating what the other commissions have done or what they have not done so it is the first time that we are seeing this kind of business being executed in areas which are unfortunate and no Ministry seemed, over the years, be it under the Barbados Labour Party, the Democratic Labour Party or under the Conservatives, able to address. It is new, it is novel, it is vibrant and I would hate to think that a young senator like Senator Boyce, now in his early stages, could be blinkered and blinded to the new way of doing things.

Sir, before I wind up I would like to ...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, on a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber. I object to being referred to as blinkered, Sir. I am not blinkered I see only too clearly what is going on and I comment on it every opportunity I get, Sir.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Sir, he continues his record of "none for nuff". Nonetheless, Sir ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Gill the Standing Orders state that the debates must be conducted in the English Language.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Well, Sir, when I said "nuff" that was a french "neuf" meaning nine, meaning none for nine. Again it has to be in English. I am sorry, Sir. It was not the Barbadian nuff. Sir, he speaks about having work done for the ordinary man at St. Lawrence, the grass roots level man. I would like, Sir, although he seems to be courting the area, he seems not to know the area that well otherwise he would have seen the improvement of the kiosks at Dover. A lot of time was spent on improving those kiosks in the last month and a half.

I do not know any person who works for the income of the Senator or above, owning these kiosks. They are ordinary working-class people who make a living selling their ware at Dover. So, Sir, again another non-point for appealing to the emotions of those who are so weak.

Nonetheless, Sir, he cannot be allowed to go free from debate to debate, getting into emotional language, getting very emotive, and not attending to the Resolution

before him. So, Sir, as we debate this order, I think it could be the best Christmas gift to the people in urban Barbados to be able to outline and to get the works of this Administration rolling and there is nothing to fear. Come 1998, Sir, it would be smooth sailing and come 1999 it would be smoother sailing. Sir, I am obliged to you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Sir, a lot of what I had to say I have to delete because I find it very difficult not to refer to the Urban Development Commission because the two are not separate and distinct. My little mind cannot see them. I see them intricately entwined so I am going to try to divorce myself from the Urban Development Commission.

Mr. President, one thing I would like to repeat is that when we have something like this, such an involved Order to be passed into law that at least we get a rough map which brings it out much more clearly and help us contribute to the debate. It is not very difficult to get that from Town and Country Planning. What concerns me is the concept of this Urban Development Order. What I seem to gather from it is that suddenly we were brought up and taught that certain parts of Barbados are known as urban like Speightstown and Hometown and Bridgetown *etcetera*. When they taught us Geography they taught us about urban and rural areas. Now, what is happening is we are developing an urban area. We get progress and progress, Mr. President, but what we will have to do is to educate the public about this new concept because, I myself am not very clear about it. I still feel mixed up and confused about this Development Order, although it might be straightforward to some, to me it is not straightforward. My interpretation is that suddenly somebody has decided that they are going to write down some names and areas and say that these are now called urban in Barbados. That is what is coming through to me. It might be wrong, Mr. President, but that is what is coming through to me that someone sat down and decided.

1.15 p.m.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I said someone, because I am not sure where this is coming from. I have a document in my hand saying that after this Bill has been passed certain areas by law will be known as urban areas. That is my understanding of what we are supposed to be debating.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of elucidation, Mr. President. The areas in question were not derived by somebody jotting down some names. The Town Planning Department and individual professional town planners have, for a long time, spoken of what they call the Greater Bridgetown Area and this goes back into

the 1980's and that area is really what has been called the Greater Bridgetown Area. And what has happened now is for the purposes of an Order, it is being defined in the way that one would define a description for the sale of land or one of those things. But it is really, if you look at the map, the Greater Bridgetown Area that you have heard persons in the Town Planning Department, Lenny St. Hill and other persons speak of since the 1970s, 80s and 90s and that is really what it is. It has always been considered by the professionals to be privileged.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you very much. That makes it a bit clearer to me about this Greater Bridgetown Area. You see, if we had a map that gives us the information, I suppose as Senators we are supposed to do the research but I do the research now and I would like to thank you for giving me the laws of Barbados. I have been complaining about it. I have not complained now to say that I have a complete copy. I use those, but now I am running into trouble with other types of concepts that is why it would be nice if we could get a map.

However, it makes it much clearer to me about what we are trying to debate here in this Honourable Senate today, and I am glad to see that Batts Rock is included. So, therefore we would be looking forward to the most dangerous road in Barbados, Mr. President, where there are too many accidents, it is so narrow. I hope that when we pass this Order, something will be able to be done to cut away part of that rock from the Lazaretto so that we could be able to cut down on those road accidents. Day and night I keep having to give first aid and it is really dangerous. So if we are going to expand Bridgetown, does this mean that property values are going to go up with this Order? Does that mean it has implications for the valuation of land?

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I am asking this simply because I remember that after Wanstead was developed, they upgraded the properties and they had to pay more for those properties.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: What I am trying to ask here now, is to raise the question if something similar to what happened in Wanstead is going to happen in these areas that are now defined as Urban that were considered Rural. Because, we do not want to hear later on that these areas are now urban areas and therefore the lands should be valued slightly differently from the rural areas or from the agricultural area, *etcetera*.

We would like to know what is happening. Because we do know, Mr. President, that in the urban areas people know they have to pay more money if they are buying land in Bridgetown.

If my place is going to be greater Bridgetown, we would like to know what is going to happen about that. We would also like a bit more education about the plans. I know there is the Act. We have read the Act and we know what the functions of the Act are. It is obvious that everything cannot be done at the same time, but we would like to be informed about what the plans are, so that one would not hear various rumours about certain sections of the coast being brought up and owned only by certain people, *etcetera*, and are being turned into hotels, *etcetera*. So we would really like to be advised what is going to happen to some of these coastal areas and also the areas that have been mentioned in this Order.

There are no more queries and with that I will support the Resolution.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES APPLICABLE
AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO
PERSONAL STAFF OF THE
PRIME MINISTER

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution before us basically seeks to give effect to certain changes in the composition of the personal staff of the Honourable Prime Minister and to clarify an anomaly which has been created by the wording of the previous Resolution with respect to gratuities and the wording of similar arrangements in the wider public service.

Basically, what is being proposed is that the existing arrangement with respect to personal staff for the Honourable Prime Minister will be changed from a situation in which there is a personal assistant, a press officer/press secretary and executive personal secretary, three persons, but this time, a personal assistant, an executive assistant and an executive personal secretary. So, in effect, Mr. President, the proposal really sees the establishment of an office described as press secretary and instead, the duties which would have been associated with liaising with the Press and so on, would also be undertaken by the personal assistant. So it is really an amalgamation of functions where the personal assistant also undertakes those press releases. In place of that one post

at the same remuneration would be undertaken by an executive assistant which person will have the responsibility for the management of the political aspects of the affairs of the Prime Minister, the non Ministry of Finance affairs which Prime Ministers have to deal with, for example, and the executive personal secretary remains as previously. So there is no change in the level of salaries, in the numbers of persons or those areas. What the change is really is in the titles of the offices of the 3 members of staff for the Prime Minister and in the duties which they perform. This change has been made out of a recognition that over time the function of the office needed strengthening in particular areas. For example it was found that to have someone devoted to press operations exclusively did not provide enough scope for full and regular activity. Also, what was recognised, was that one of the areas of weakness was in the area of the executive assistant function: the management of the office, the coordination of certain activities.

1.25 p.m.

It was felt that a better use of the resources would be, rather than bringing in a 4th person, to make up for that weakness to amalgamate the duties of the personal assistant and the press secretary and have that 3rd person exclusively engaged in the management and coordination of certain functions within the office.

The duties and the responsibilities of the Executive Personal Secretary do not change and therefore the staff to the Prime Minister remains at 3 and all salary levels remain the same. However, as you will be aware, Mr. President, one cannot in the context of the persons employed by the Government simply undertake these changes without having the lawful and proper authority to do that in terms of the titles of the posts and their job descriptions and the like.

The issue of gratuity is one where there is no attempt to grant gratuities where there were none; but across the Service you have these issues which arise sometimes. The way in which the establishment of a gratuity for those offices, and they are entitled to a gratuity, the way in which the wording is currently phrased allows room for free or sometimes more interpretations and, depending on who might be doing the interpretation in the Accountant General's Office at the time, when gratuity is due you would get these different arrangements coming up.

These contract positions like other contract positions in Government have an applicable 20% gratuity. That is so across the Service whether you are being contracted to do some research work in a tissue culture lab, whether you are on contract as a manager somewhere or whatever the case might be.

The question is whether the 20% gratuity for service gave rise to 20% lump sum at the end only, whether one could have your 20% on an annual basis and those kinds of technical issues. In the general service the clear understanding by officers contracted in the Service is that you can opt within the first 6 months of your contract as to whether you want to get 20% paid annually or whether you want to have your 20% at the end of your contract period. What is being sought is a clarification of the wording of the Resolution so that it would reflect the same wording which is used elsewhere in the public service and therefore remove the difficulty and the anomalies which existed and have posed difficulty for persons in the Accountant General's Office in terms of their responsibility for making these calculations when the situation arises.

Mr. President, those basically are the details which surround this Resolution which would make amendments to the matters in relation to the personal staff of the Office of the Prime Minister. I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, without attempting to constrain in any way the rights of the Prime Minister in terms of how he distributes his staff especially when there is no effect in terms of dollars and cents is not my task and I certainly hope that this arrangement which is being put in place will redound to the continued good or whatever terms apply to the operations of the Office of the Prime Minister. The Office of the Prime Minister is one which goes beyond party politics and it really applies to any of us who might have the honour to serve in that position at any time.

We need to allow some flexibility in this regard and certainly we do not see any difficulty in respect to the specifics. However, if there is any information because there is usually a cause for any effect and if there is any cause which might have precipitated this change – and I am never one to get into rumours – at this time well, then, Sir, I trust that this will repair that cause and allow the work of this great island, Barbados, to be carried on.

I want to speak to 2 quick areas with your permission as usual. Sir, that is the notion of the conditions of government offices. I remember having to visit the Office of the Personal Assistant of the Prime Minister, both in the former Administration and in this Administration, and I think that contrary to popular opinion we are not doing enough as a nation to present a really proper picture to the public who have to interface with our government ministers and this applies to ministers too where the offices sometimes do not really meet certain standards.

I think that as a growing nation in the 31st year of our independence we must strive to let the offices not

by lavishness in any way – I am not supporting or recommending lavishness but certainly there are some government ministers and ministerial offices which require urgent attention in terms of bringing them up to a minimum standard, especially as they have to interface with the public. This applies to any office.

It applies to the provision of the annual Estimates to maintain this situation. As an example, new buildings after a couple of years are described as being tired and we have to constantly engage in face lifting, not only on the outside, but we need to go inside and redecorate and that is why we have the rise of professions like interior decorators and indeed interior design architects. It is not a case of decoration and just application of paint anymore. One is talking about architects where a certain effect is required, be it a businesslike effect, be it a sombre chamber as this one is, you need to apply certain real sciences and talents to achieve this kind of objective.

I would like, Sir, that very soon we see some attention being paid to this area of our development and bringing these areas into a condition which would befit the office which they serve.

Finally, Sir, on the question of the gratuity, this brings to mind the whole question of money and I note that the salaries, for instance, alluded to sometime earlier for Christmas, have not been forthcoming so far. Christmas is not here yet so it is still possible that something might happen. I would have liked to see our civil servants being able to have taken advantage of their increases at this time as was alluded to sometime but of course the reality is that the recognition of certain difficulties does not make this event so easy. That too goes along with the payment of, I think, \$350 promised to the needy. Some of them are still outstanding and I would like that before Christmas which is upon us, and especially at this time of giving when we seek to regularise and give on this occasion the adequate gratuities where they are due, that we pay some attention to that Christmas gift promised. As usual, Sir, it is the most needy that have not been necessarily met.
1.35 p.m.

I know of at least two cases, Sir. I will not, of course, mention them but I know that the good servants of our Government will make sure the word goes back and that all of us can look forward to a satisfactory, a pleasant and a merry Christmas. I want to take this moment also to make that wish to all the Members of this Chamber.

I am grateful, Sir.

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

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the adjournment of this Senate.

Speaking on the adjournment, this is the last meeting of the Honourable the Senate for the year given that we have cleared our agenda on Public Business and that the Honourable House of Assembly has adjourned until January 20, 1998.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you, Mr. President, and my fellow Senators, our Clerks and other staff all the best for this Christmas Season and all the best for 1998 as well, and to express my thanks particularly to the Clerks who I believe have had a very busy week this week particularly on Wednesday with all of the drafting of amendments and so on, but also to the other members of staff I want to thank them for their help during the year.

I want to thank the members of the Press as well. I would urge our two representative members to give our thanks and best wishes to their colleagues in the Press for their continued interest and attention to the business of the Honourable the Senate.

Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate be adjourned *sine die*.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I just want to endorse the comments of the Honourable Senate Leader in his sentiments toward the staff who make our meetings in here possible. I want to extend too to them on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party and this Side a very Merry Christmas and the reporters who have to work so hard to keep pace with the contributions, the members of the Press who do so well in reporting the speeches of the Opposition and the Government. I want to assure you, Sir, of our looking forward to rejoining next year whenever we do start and contributing again to this Chamber.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would like to thank all Members of this Honourable Chamber and the members of the Staff of Parliament for their splendid cooperation over the last year and to extend the hope that we will all find time for some rest and relaxation over the Christmas holidays.

A merry Christmas to all of you, good health and good luck in 1998.

The question that the Honourable Senate do now adjourn sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
1.45 p.m.

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DAVIS, Senator Mrs. V. J.
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FORDE, Senator Miss C. Y.
GILL, Senator D. T.
GODDARD, Senator the Honourable P. C.
GOLLOP, His Honour Senator Sir Fred
MURRAY, Senator the Honourable G. S. H.
ODLE, Senator Miss J. C.
RICKINSON, Senator Mrs. P. E.
SPRINGER, Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L.
SYMONDS, Senator the Hon. Miss O. P.
THOMPSON, Senator Mrs. A. P.
WORKMAN, Senator J. A.