
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, June 4, 1997, at 11:15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Fred GOLLOP (President)
His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN (Deputy President)

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

Senator the Honourable P. C. GODDARD (Minister of International Trade and 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. A. LYNCH

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator J. A. WORKMAN

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN

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

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Mrs. V. J. DAVIS

Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON

Senator J. D. E. BOYCE

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is now in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 3) Order, 1997.
2. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 4) Order, 1997.
3. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 5) Order, 1997.
4. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 6) Order, 1997.
5. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 7) Order, 1997.
6. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation for the year 1995.
7. The Annual Report of the National Housing Corporation for the year 1994-95.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, before we start Public Business today, I

want to express condolences on the passing of a former member of this the Honourable Senate, that is, Sir John Stanley Bruce Dear, better known as Jack Dear. His contribution to the social, economic and political life of Barbados stands well over half a century and can be described as no less than phenomenal. He passed away at the age of 72.

In terms of his contribution to the Senate he was privileged to have been among the first persons to serve in the Honourable Senate when it was established in 1964 as a replacement to the Legislative Council. He served in this Chamber until 1966. You can well imagine that during that period of two years, being the first two years of this Senate, that he, along with his colleagues back then, would have been responsible for setting up the framework which we as Senators today take for granted in terms of the Standing Orders, the procedures, and the very manner in which we conduct ourselves with a high level of decorum and so on.

Sir John was called to the Bar at Middle Temple in 1947 and over the many years in legal practice was able to establish a practice that was regional in proportions. The various Caribbean Law Reports and so on are replete with the name of John Stanley Bruce Dear, J.S.B. Dear, in terms of his presence and contribution to important cases throughout the Caribbean region. So there there are not really any of the other Caribbean islands in which he has not, over the years, participated in important legal matters.

After establishing his practice in Barbados in the 1950s, he quickly distinguished himself for his legal brilliance, his willingness to help young attorneys who, over the many years passed through his Chambers and otherwise were able to consult him as well as his contributions to the improvement of the Bar in general and the legal framework of the island of Barbados. It is not surprising, therefore, that at a relatively early stage in his career, in 1963, he was made a Queen's Council and that was a fitting tribute for his eminence at the Bar.

He was, as expected, and as had become associated with Jack Dear, an outstanding and outspoken President of the Barbados Bar Association. He also was the first President of an organisation known as the Association of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations. He was the first President back in 1968.

He was also the first Barbadian attorney to successfully argue a case before the highest court of the land, according to our Constitution, that is the Privy Council in England. Members would note that for many years prior to that, Barbadian attorneys would appear but be associated with London-based Q.C.s. He was the first to successfully directly argue a case before the Privy Council.

It was therefore totally within character. We expected it when a former President of the local Bar would say of him, and I quote: "He so conducted his professional life that he brought great respect to the legal profession."

Although we all knew Sir John as an eminent attorney, and it is true to say that he loomed larger than life in his legal profession, he was still able to contribute in equal measure to other worthy, social, political and indeed general civic duties.

He was, for example, one of the founding members of the Barbados Family Planning Association and made an outstanding contribution to the development of family life via that particular organisation.

He also served as an executive member of the Western Region of the Internal Planned Parenthood Federation, and for a 2-year period, 1977 to 1979 was the Chairman of the Central Executive of the Internal Planned Parenthood Federation.

Amongst his other civic duties, and I think this is one he is particularly known for, and indeed has found himself a part of Barbadian folklore, in 1981 he was made Chairman of the Board of Tourism and made a sterling contribution to the development of local tourism. In fact, he was one of the early persons to be outspoken on the matters of beach harassment in Barbados which everyone today recognises is a problem and everyone is working towards elimination of that problem.

At an early stage he recognised it was an issue that had to be tackled upfront. Of course, he was misunderstood in his efforts and as a result he was immortalised – persons may use other words – in song penned by one of our local calypsonians and that popular song was "Jack." It was a very good calypso even if it misrepresented what Sir John was trying to say in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Tourism.

In fact, what he was basically saying was, let us ensure that persons who come to our shores for rest and relaxation are able to go to the principal place for rest and relaxation, that is, the beach, and be able to do so in a peaceful manner. Let Barbadians and visitors alike together on the beach be able to enjoy the rest, relaxation, exercise and whatever their fancies may be. His intention was for all persons, Barbadians and visitors, to be able to enjoy the peaceful nature of the beaches of Barbados.

His contribution to national development was suitably noted and rewarded in 1991 when he was awarded the CHB and was thereby made a Companion of Honour of Barbados. That was indeed the second highest honour in Barbados scheme of National Honours.

Sir John was also able within that busy schedule to serve as a Director of several companies in Barbados, as well as several other charitable associations. He was an eminent legal adviser to many companies. It therefore was a most fitting tribute when in the 1996 Queen's Birthday Honours List he was made a Knight. He was made a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. In the citation it was indicated that this was awarded at the pleasure of Her Majesty in recognition of his contribution to the legal profession and to charitable causes.

Looking back on the life of Sir John Stanley Bruce Dear, we were able to see that his was a life dedicated to service. We are able to see that he recognised his civic responsibility for the development of his fellow man. In fact, the Reverend Billy Graham once said, and I quote: "God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding. We are channels made for sharing." The life of Sir John Stanley Bruce Dear is a reflection of that fact.
11.25 a.m.

He was able through his brilliance to receive on the one hand but he was also mindful of his civic responsibility and he gave freely with the other hand. We should all try to pattern ourselves after a life such as this.

I am certain that Honourable Members will join with me in expressing our sincerest condolences to the sorrowing relatives.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I would not want a moment like this to pass although it is sprung on me, Sir, with absolutely no warning but I certainly would not allow a moment like this to pass without adding my word of tribute to the life and the work of Sir Jack Dear.

I must at the outset, indicate that I did not know the gentleman himself personally but I know of his work and certainly in terms of politics the Democratic Labour Party wants to join with the members of the other side and indeed with all Barbadians in paying respect to this outstanding Barbadian lawyer.

I have heard much about his exploits in law and indeed his generosity did apparently transcend the political barriers. A number of friends of mine who worked in the legal fraternity have been proud to indicate how generous he was in giving assistance and giving guidance to many of them.

Service of this nature, Sir, must always be commended and as such, we too want to commend this aspect of his contribution to his honour. Of course, for me,

my greatest knowledge of Sir Jack would have been as referred to by the Leader of the Senate in his opening remarks when he made his fame as a calypso topic about the time when he was championing a cause which we all have to deal with from time to time and the Leader of the Senate called it "abuse of the beaches" by people who were harassing our tourist. This is always a very contentious issue and certainly, Sir Jack, has gone down in history in this regard.

I do know of a little story where he once visited one of his partners in law and when the Receptionist asked him "who should I say is waiting for Mr. X?", he replied, "tell him that the road march is out here".

Mr. President, Sir Jack was a resident of Christ Church South and as such I did encounter him on at least two occasions in my movings around. As far as success in any kind of support, I think I can clearly report not much success, although he did not wish anything ill of me or any one associated with us, so in that respect, he certainly went down as a gentleman. The last time I spoke with him in person was at the time when he lost his home to a fire and then we expressed our condolences to him and indeed we were able to share some of that difficulty with him. I know better his son, who was in school with me, the one who is a Hotel Manager now with Treasure Beach and certainly from that point of view I was able to personally express some condolences to the family.

The Democratic Labour Party wants to go on record as joining in the recognition of this great Barbadian in extending to his family and sorrowing friends heart felt condolences.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, Sir Jack and I were friends from school days. He was a contemporary, we were born the same year. I was at sixth form at Queen's College, he at Harrison's College. We were both taking modern studies. He was a pioneer at Harrison's College where Classics was the popular choice. While at Harrison's College he joined a club which I started, called "Young Barbados", and the majority of its members were sixth formers and they were a few fifth formers. There he showed debating skills and that incisiveness which was to become one of his hallmarks.

When he went to Cambridge we corresponded pretty regularly and his letter revealed his love for literature, his flair for writing as well as what you might call an eidetic memory and a marvellous wit. He was also interested in American history, which was not taught at school

and he bought books on American history and sometimes he would lend them to me because he knew that I was interested in them.

Our leader has talked about his kindness to young attorneys and indeed he was a thoughtful and kind person. Again, I recall a book written about the history of English language which someone had sent him from England and he called and said that he knew that I would be interested in that subject and he had actually ordered one for me. A few weeks before his last illness, he called me to point out an error in a book which I had written. That is just an indication of the sort of thoughtful person he was.

He belonged to several organisations, as have already been said, such as the Historical and Museum Society as well as the Barbados Family Planning Association, the Barbados National Trust and he was a zealous member to the Royal Commonwealth Society. He expressed his views in a very candid and spoken manner and again, I think it was early this year or perhaps late last year when at one of our meetings he stimulated a great deal of discussion which was reported at length in the media. He enjoyed life but he was no Philistine.

He was an extremely cultured, cultivated person and an example, I think, to those with narrow or insular interests. Besides this, he was undoubtedly a man of great integrity. A person so distinguished, so celebrated with such a record of service should not have his attainments and his deeds forgotten. Again, I offer condolences to his family and I pray that on another shore he will enjoy light and life and peace.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, much has already been said today concerning the life of Sir Jack Dear and his many exploits during his lifetime.

I always feel, Sir, it is not so much what we do in the lifetime that is of the utmost importance but what is more important is the lessons which we leave behind which are not etched in stone or marble or bronze but which are etched in the hearts of the lives of men and women of society.

Sir Jack Dear is one of these rare persons who has left much for us not only to look at and to learn from but moreso to inculcate in our lives as we seek to continue in the struggle for uprightness and justice and freedom for all people.

I believe it was his chosen career of law which gave him that analytical incisiveness and insight into so many aspects of human endeavour.

11.35 a.m.

Indeed the field of law does touch every aspect of human life. Sir Jack utilized his vast knowledge and his commitment and dedication for law to prevent lawlessness and to guide people to uprightness and a path of rectitude.

He was a very humble man and I do not think many people, unless they were able to get close to him, would believe that behind all of what appeared to be a raucous laughter and forthright, even telling off, was that tenderness of Sir Jack because the "telling off" was a chastening. It was there to help youngsters in the profession to understand what the rule of law was and what the legal profession was and is and ought to be. So for persons like myself who were fortunate to meet Sir Jack at the tender and fledgling years in the legal profession I can only say that it was good fortune to have been able to cross paths with him and also to work with him.

I learnt quite a lot from him when with him and other legal luminaries I was like the baby on the Barbados Law Reform Committee and to see the way in which he went about showing us all the direction we should go for the betterment of our community.

He was what I would call a valiant person and I think it is this valiant spirit of his that I would like us all to remember him by for in today's world we need men and women who have that courage to say what needs to be said, who will not join hands with all and sundry just for the sake of personal popularity but who will call a spade a spade so that the community will be a better place to live in. And so I would like to remember him and would like all of us to remember him in the words of William Shakespeare who said that cowards die many times before their deaths. The valiant never taste of death but once. Sir Jack was never a coward. He has died but once and we thank God for his life, his work and his witness. May he rest in peace and may God's continual comfort be upon his sorrowing relatives and friends and the profession which has lost a tremendous man. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I join this tribute to the work and memory of the contribution of the late Sir Jack Dear for the most popular way in which he is described because as one growing up in the nineteen fifties one could not help but hear of the name Jack Dear. He had loomed large in Barbadian public life for many years and was at the centre stage of many spheres of activity not only in law where perhaps he made his biggest name and biggest contribution but also at the political level and also at the local government level.

Growing up in those days I can recall the impassioned and the impressive way in which he made his presentations of various topics to the national debate on many

issues, politically wise. He always exhibited a very fine intellect, a great command of the English language and was in essence a fine speaker in his own right.

He also, Sir, has made a contribution to the field of journalism in which I still have an ever-abiding interest. He was a fine columnist, a very insightful and analytical editorial writer and I suspect that given his command of the English language both spoken and written that had he not been a lawyer he would have done equally as well as an outstanding journalist, journalist in the sense of one who made his daily living out of contributing to the profession.

As a journalist he was also very often regarded as an unpaid and even at times unsolicited advisor to journalists who if they were so wont to do could feel free to call on him at any hour of the day or night for explanation, enlightenment or guidance on any areas that this journalist might be venturing in for which he might not feel himself totally well qualified as an individual and therefore would seek the back up of someone of the breadth and depth of experience of Sir Jack Dear. Very often you would not even have to call on him but if you had written something which, like Senator Symmonds said was not exactly correct or which he thought could have gone another way or could have been amplified by another aspect he would very often write you or call you to draw this to your attention. Therefore he had some influence, I believe some manner of helping to shape some of the journalist we have produced in Barbados today.

Unfortunately, Sir, while we mourn his death and we sorrow with his relatives even at this late stage, were it not for an occasion like this I believe that unfortunately he would have been demonised by a popular Barbadian culture and a popular Barbadian perception and would have been judged mostly if not completely on the issue of the calypso "Jack". Those who would only have known of him in the 1980s therefore would not have had a knowledge or appreciation of his prior monumental contribution to Barbadian life but would rather might have judged him by a calypso which benefitted greatly from amplitude of poetic licence to distort a point of view which has now become acceptable but which came very much ahead of its time for most people.

I can speak about this, Sir, with some authority because at the time when he was Chairman of the Board of Tourism I also worked there as public relations manager and we had discussed this issue even before he went public on it and I had pointed out to him some of the pitfalls which I think he would have encountered if he were his characteristic forthright self on this subject. I did not quite anticipate the reaction and the distortion and the extent to which it was distorted for popular appeal but he was unafraid of that and nevertheless felt that it had to be said.

He had spotted a trend which he felt, if allowed to go unchecked, could prove detrimental to all of Barbados and to the economic well-being of Barbados and Barbadians. He felt he had a duty and an obligation to say it.

We all know the history of the issue since then and I know I had spoken to him not very long before his death and he was not by any means regretful of anything that had transpired there and then. All in all, Sir, he was a well rounded personality, a fine lawyer like I said, great intellect, a raconteur of great worth, a man who appreciated the finer things in life whether it be of literature or fine wines and fine food. And I believe that he would have enjoyed life to the fullest and would have made a contribution which I hope, at some future stage, apart from being known as Sir Jack Dear, would be remembered and immortalised in more permanent acceptable form. I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to join in the tributes to Sir John Dear, a man whom I have known for most of my life and who has been associated with me in several areas of activity, both in the commercial field through legal representation, as a co-director of the *Advocate*, as a friend and as a family friend of my wider family, the Goddard family.
11.45 a.m.

We have all known, Sir John for very very many years. He was closely associated with my father. He acted as an adviser, a counsellor and a source of great wisdom. He was a man who was generous and he did, as many people have said, sterling service to our community to many fields of endeavour, through charitable work and through developing the development of younger lawyers. He saw no barriers in our society.

He was not bias on the issues of gender. He was not bias on a class basis. He was truly a phenomenal person. He had scintillating wit, great intellect and he was a remarkable raconteur and source of entertainment at social functions which he attended and at which he enjoyed himself tremendously. He was a man of gigantic appetite. He brought humour and exciting commentary to the events of the day. He made life a pleasure for very many Barbadians and visitors alike who came into contact with him over the decades and his contribution to the social economic and political development of this country cannot be under estimated.

I think that we shall all miss him and we must thank God for the work that he has done amongst us during the period of his life and to his sorrowing relatives, I extend sincerest condolences.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Springer.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, much has been said and I just want to underline a couple of points. Just let me say that Sir Jack, which I believe he preferred to be called rather than Sir John, was a very big man, not only in stature but also in his approach to life. I understand that when there was some talk about what to do with a particular calypso that highlighted him, whether it should be allowed to be played or not that his advice was "why do anything about it, why ban it?" He liked it very much. But there are a few things that are associated with the Church which I would like to place on record and the first has to do with his term of office at the Family Planning Association.

I believe he was one of the founding members of that organisation here in Barbados. That was at a time when there was much misunderstanding about what family planning was all about and for the most part, Sir, it was thought that it was about preventing poor people from having children. That was a definition given. And, Sir Jack was able, by virtue of his own remarks from time to time, and who, by his approach, to make the point that family planning was about planning for families with a focus on planning, not necessarily limiting, but ensuring that those that were to be born were provided for. And that was a very significant approach because it gave family planning a new face to the position of the major churches in Barbados that had been opposed to family planning.

Secondly, Sir, I have no doubt that in the course of his legal career, he advised a lot of churches or church related people, but I can say that up until the time of his death he was one the main advisers of the Anglican Church in this country and he could be relied on for his consistency and his commitment even though he himself was not an Anglican.

So Sir, I wish to place on record his contribution in those areas and I too, join with other Honourable Members in offering condolences and sympathy to his surviving family.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The late Sir Jack Dear was a brilliant lawyer who had a consuming interest in public affairs. He always expressed his opinion in a forthright manner and was prepared to tackle even the most controversial issues.

His forthrightness was sometimes misunderstood. He was however, a man who loved life and lived it to the fullest. I had the good fortune, like Senator Workman, to have worked with Sir Jack from time to time at the Bar

and in a number of other endeavours over the years. He was a man of great generosity whose patriotism was unquestioned. He was always approachable. He made outstanding contributions not only to the Bar where he was President of the Bar Association, but I believe he was also the first President of the organisation of the Caribbean Bar Associations.

His period as President of the Museum and Historical Society was a golden period in the light of that organisation.

Sir Jack had read history at Cambridge University and throughout his career he maintained a great interest in matters connected with the heritage of Barbados. He attended the Constitutional Conference in London in 1966 and I believe he was a member of the Cox Commission which conducted the first review of the Constitution.

As a young man in 1966, he contested, unsuccessfully, a seat in the other place, but as the Leader of the Senate has said, he served with distinction as a member of this Honourable Chamber.

I join therefore, with other Senators in paying tribute to the life and work of Sir Jack Dear. A Barbadian Patriot. May he rest in peace.

I will ask that the sentiments of this Honourable Senate be conveyed to the widow and close relatives of Sir Jack and I will now ask Honourable Senators to stand for one minute in silent tribute to the late Sir Jack Dear.

Senators stood for one minute's silence.

11.55 a.m.

MESSAGES

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Clerk has handed me the following communication from the Governor General.

Dated May 16, 1997.

"Dear Mr. President,

I shall be away from the Island from May 17 to July 7, 1997 on a visit to the United Kingdom and Greece.

In accordance with the provisions of section 29(1)(b) of the Constitution, the Hon. Sir Denys A. Williams, K.C.M.G., G.C.M. will perform the functions of the office of Governor General during my absence.

As the Honourable the Senate will not be meeting prior to my departure it will not be possible

for the usual formal message to be sent down to your Chamber.

Will you therefore please bring my absence formally to the attention of the Honourable the Senate when next it meets."

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN BARBADOS TOURISM INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF LAND AND BUILDING AT WHARF ROAD, ST. MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Senate's approval is being sought in this Resolution which seeks to vest property in Bridgetown known as the old spirit bond in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation.

This matter is an interesting one. The building in question is perhaps best known as one of the buildings with the greatest potential but yet represents one of the major eyesores in Bridgetown today.

It is a building of tremendous potential to tourism. It forms part of the complex that used to be the headquarters for customs activities when the Careenage was our main port of entry and even for some subsequent period beyond that when the shallow draught operations were conducted therein.

The building was effectively vacated in the early 1970s and totally vacated by 1979 and is part of the original complex which is in 3 main sections with internal courtyards and other interesting features. One part of that original customs complex was sold in 1982 to Collins Limited and now one can see the difference between that section which is occupied and in productive use and the other section which has been left and now boasts of a tree growing out of the parapet gutter.

If we look at what the potential could be and consider that in the early 1990s the former S. P. Musson warehouse on the other side of the Careenage was converted in the early 1980s to be the Waterfront Café and the Warehouse Night Club upstairs then we can see what the potential is for waterfront properties.

This building dates back to the 19th century and like several of the buildings of its time was constructed of the ballast bricks which were used to secure the ships on the trip across the Atlantic to ensure that they were properly balanced for the trip. The ballast really found its way into the construction of Pavilion Court at the Garrison and several other brick structures which were popular in that period.

The building, however, was not always in Government possession. The Government acquired the building in 1903 when it was purchased for about £5000 from a company which had gone into liquidation, W.P. Leacock and Company. From there it was in active Government hands and formed the customs department as well as a spirit bond which was established for central warehousing of spirits and tobacco in Barbados.

Among the features which make the building very suitable for development and which make it a very sad situation that it has not been developed to its full potential, especially in a city like Bridgetown which is able to boast of historic structures such as the one that we are currently in and which has potential to develop a city of which we can be proud, both as nationals of Barbados as well as being a premier tourism destination and, of course, recognising that the new trend in tourism is towards tourism that allows visitors to explore the history and the culture of the communities which they visit – eco tourism and heritage tourism and the like, this building is in so many sections of inner courtyards and inner balconies. It has some wonderful cast iron work. The hoists and pulleys date back from its previous usage and it is really a building that must be saved.

Government is committed to taking steps to have that building brought into productive use. The building will be vested in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation which is a corporation established in 1979 and established for functions which make it a most suitable vehicle for Government to attain the objectives in respect of this particular project.

This company, the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation, was set up according to Cap. 332A to do among other things to purchase, take on, lease or otherwise acquire for its purposes any building or estate, easement or any other interest in real property and to let or otherwise dispose or grant rights over any real property vested in the corporation to establish, promote, assist and establish any company for the purpose of assisting or facilitating the performance of its functions.

It basically provides for an investment vehicle which will be able to drive Government's programme for investment in tourism and related areas. The main example of Government's use of the BTIC as a vehicle for direct tourism investment has been in its ownership and management of the Hilton Hotel. In fact, when the Corporation was established the second schedule to the Act was for the vesting of the Hilton Hotel property and the Heywoods property in the Corporation.

However, since those 2 properties were vested and were managed by the Corporation nothing new has been added. We see this Corporation as one which has

to be dynamic. We cannot start in 1979 to manage two properties and simply continue managing those 2 properties. There will be times when one will need to divest oneself of investment which has matured and be able to use those funds and to use the management and other resources that have been freed up to manage new projects.

Essentially, what a Tourism Investment Corporation has to do if it is functioning properly is to be able to lead the way, to move to directions particularly where private sector investment may be lacking but where from a visionary point of view we can recognise that there is significant long-term benefit to be derived.

The Corporation can therefore initiate the activity after the doubting Thomases in the general community or the private sector have been convinced it is possible to put the venture up for wide public ownership.

What is being proposed is that due to the vehicle of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation, Government either by itself through that Corporation or through joint ventures with the private sector will be able to put this building back into use for the first time in over 20 years and thereby be able to benefit from the use of the real estate value which is over \$1 million. It is some 15 000 or so square feet in the heart of Bridgetown as well as to enhance the city's attractiveness concerning the architectural features of this building and its proximity to the waterway going through the centre of Bridgetown.
12.05 p.m.

We believe that this building is eminently suited to be a shopping facility, particularly for small business persons. We see this facility developing as a location where small businesses can be established particularly those in tourism oriented fields of endeavour, be it arts, craft, other services, restaurant facilities, tourism information centre and the like as well as generally providing an alternative place of public gathering because the internal architectural features of the building are such that it provides wonderful opportunity to be a place of public gathering both for shopping and for general relaxation.

The urgency of this matter cannot be stressed too much. In fact, after the building was totally abandoned in 1979, there were a number of offers of interest in the building either to buy, lease, or do other things with, ranging from an offer to use it as a shopping mall to an offer to use part of it for public conveniences and a whole series of alternative options.

The important thing is that evidence of deterioration has been coming in over the years so that a visiting team in 1993, for example, led by one of the Ministries, found someone in there actually removing some of the wooden panelling from the building. While the outside may have

appeared secure and so on, someone had found a way into the building and was in the process when the team visited the building of stripping it internally. We have seen all too often throughout Barbados where there are buildings, both private houses, public buildings and other structures that have been literally stripped board by board, door by door, just simply by virtue of being unoccupied.

I can think of a house on My Lord's Hill next to the Texaco Gas Station there that up to two years' ago was occupied. It is a new house, but day by day, more and more boards are disappearing. I could think of a school up in St. Simons, a wooden school that was there for many years which, as you go through, it has somewhat disappeared. It is stripped board by board, and the list can go on and on. The urgency of this matter cannot be overstressed.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I was reminded that also in St. George by the Church that there is a building there that is being caused to disappear by virtue of it being unoccupied.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: The office of the Honourable Member for St. George North is very much occupied and is not being stripped.

Sir, getting back to this matter at hand, the urgency of putting this historic building into proper and productive use cannot be over-stressed, not only for the sake of the opportunities which are obviously there for particularly small business people to occupy and to have a place in the centre of Bridgetown for their economic well-being, but also the simple fact of the matter is that historic buildings are best preserved when they are in everyday use. One of the reasons why this particular building has been preserved over the years is that it has been kept in productive use. If the Honourable Senate and the Other Place were to remove themselves from this building, close it down for a year, we would all be amazed at the condition of the building.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Another example I am being provoked to refer to is the West Wing of this building which renovation was started many years ago. I believe it is nearly 10 years now, and the Honourable Members on the other side are asking about that building which is an historic building like the spirit bond in the centre of Bridgetown.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Farley, I have not heard any questions in respect to this matter.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: This Resolution, Sir, is for the vesting of this spirit bond in the centre of Bridgetown which is an historic building like the West Wing of Parliament, and which like the West Wing of Parliament was due for renovation for a long period of time. The fear I have is that if this Government does not take resolute action, as we are doing in the case of the spirit bond, that the West Wing could go that route.

I am pleased to note, Sir, that already the Government has reformulated the project as was originally conceived and the West Wing of Parliament will soon be able to join its East Wing in the splendour which one would associate with the seat of parliamentary democracy not just in Barbados but in the Western Hemisphere.

Sir, the Senate is being asked to support this Resolution which, as I said, allows the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation to pursue its mandate given to it in 1979 to act as an investment company, to develop properties for tourism and related purposes, and which we believe is the appropriate mechanism by which the inertia which has characterized the last 20 years of the vacancy of this building can be turned into momentum which will see the spirit bond in the centre of Bridgetown being a building of which all of us can be proud, which will provide an attractive historic location which we can all visit as well as provide economic opportunity for the many businesses which can be accommodated in the very spacious sections of that building.

With that, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution for the vesting of the old spirit bond in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation do now pass.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, the Opposition, I believe, would not oppose a measure such as this. We, having governed the country for some time recognise the importance of preserving our buildings which are a part of our heritage and which truly reflect the beauty of all that is Barbadian.

This acquisition is of particular interest to me since I believe it would give an opportunity for, and I hope that the Tourism Investment Corporation would in an attempt to bring this building back into public activity make sure that small business people in Barbados, particularly those who ply their ware in the area of tourism, would have access to this building in a prime location such as the Wharf and the surrounding Broad Street area.
12.15 p.m.

I think for a long time we have been calling for opportunities for indigenous people, especially those who do good work with their hands, to have access to properties that are in the forefront of business activity in Barbados. I

think this is a beautiful opportunity for the producers of jewelry, those who make shoes and bags and those into the area of ceramics and souvenirs of Barbados. This is a prime location for them to display their ware.

I was not aware that this building possessed such beauty because as you move around that area, you cannot tell and until the Leader of Government Business actually identified Collins at the front, I still was not certain of the location of this building. I have been asking for some time and I was not able to tell. It is good to hear that it carries within a courtyard and that nice, warm ambience which would allow locals, in addition to doing their shopping to gather around that area and support their own. This is very important and I hope we would not only be catering to the tourist sector but that we would try to encourage people to support their own. If we are going to be placing small business people in this area who are actually producing goods which nationals can use that we will encourage them to patronise the work of their fellow Barbadians.

There is not a whole lot more that I would want to say but I want to place this on record. I hope that the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation having brought this building back into good condition for use would not then consider it to be of such economic value that it should go to other business interests, but would make sure that those locals who are at present producing high quality and marketable work can have access to a place in this prime location in which to do business.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I speak to support the Resolution which is before the House today but in doing so I would just want to make a few brief comments. The first is to remind Senator Thompson and all other Senators that the beauty of something is not always judged from its outside and it is only when we understand the inside of this particular building that we are able fully to grasp its beauty and its potentiality. I see it, Sir, as being a place where great social intercourse can take place similar to the social intercourse which takes place on Friday afternoons at Bay Street at the Boat Yard, which unfortunately only today has been gutted by fire.

There is need for us to have this type of outlet particularly within the City where Barbadians and visitors alike can mingle and exchange culture, especially in a world which is becoming so small today that there is need for us to be able to exchange with each other the happenings around the world and to recognise that worldwide we face basically the same challenges and problems because we are all human beings.

I believe, Sir, that as we seek more and more to make use of this great corporate vehicle established

under the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation, we need to revisit and revise its functions. Senator Farley did quote and he quoted correctly because like a good lawyer he read it straight from the book and good lawyers must always read from the book and not from their heads and he did give to us the main functions of the Corporation as outlined in Cap. 332A. I believe, Sir, that he was led to look at that, as I was, but perhaps he not being a qualified lawyer did not look at it as closely as I did. I believe, Sir, that the functions need to be spelt out more definitively and to be enlarged.

We will be dealing later today, Sir, with the vesting of land in the National Housing Corporation pursuant to the Housing Act, I think it is Cap. 226 and Section 9 of the Housing Act gives very clear and definitive expression of the work which the Housing Corporation can do and is expected to do. I believe, Sir, that our legal drafts persons should be asked to look at this in closer detail and to expand and to define more clearly specifically what this Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation can do and ought to do and indeed so frame the amendments to enlarge its scope of operation and to show to all and sundry more clearly specifically what this vehicle needs to do or should be doing. What Senator Farley read was simply the first function as outlined in Section 41(a) but the other subsections that follow, from subsection 1(a) to 1(i) are rather general and I think, Sir, that we need to have these a little more specific.

What also is of concern to me, Mr. President, is a matter which I believed I raised last year when we were dealing with this whole question of the special development area. And I did speak then and on a previous occasion concerning the need for us and the Government to retain the valuable property which we have in Barbados. I believe that the vesting in this Corporation is an attempt to do so but my concern is the concern I expressed when we dealt with the special developments, which I think I need to express here again, Sir.

In Section 42 of Cap. 332A, we note that the property vested in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation can be divested merely with the consent, the approval of the Minister. As it is now, Sir, no Crown lands can be disposed of without the consent of both Houses of Parliament. It seems to me, that we are using an agency of Government and giving that agency greater power than the Government itself have.

I have every confidence that the present Government will not do anything to use that provision in a bad sense. I am not standing here to bring indictment on this Government or any Government but merely, Sir, to see that in our law we have entrenched provisions which will maintain the integrity and the transparencies of Government

for which this country has become renowned over the years. I feel, Sir, that that section should be amended to bring it in line with the disposal of lands which are owned by the Crown for in effect what the Crown is doing is saying "this is my land but you take it as trustee for me and develop it because we do not have the time nor the capacity to deal with that, that is your baby, you are a trustee for me". I do not see how the trustee can have greater powers than he who creates the trust.
12.25 p.m.

Mr. President, these are funny days. Days in which everything is dealt with in a roundabout method and this may be dealt with as a tool, as a roundabout method for getting around that provision of coming before both Houses of Parliament and we see that in many other aspects of life because, Sir, in the criminal aspect we discover that in the famous case of Pratt and Morgan there is a roundabout method to get around hanging. Of course the plain case of Morgan is simply roundabout. So I would hope, Sir, that we would plug this loophole so that this piece of legislation will not be used as a roundabout method by any Government to divest itself of valuable properties of this country without the prior approval of both Houses of Parliament.

I am obliged to you, Mr. President, to be able to make those few remarks on this important step which we are taking today.

I do believe, Sir, that this piece of property, as well as the other pieces of property which will be discussed later under Item 3, similarly vesting other lands in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation for investment purposes will go a long way in enhancing simple business in our city, will go a long way in enhancing as I said before, social intercourse between Barbadians and visitors alike and will do well in the overall development both physically and economically and aesthetically, of our city of Bridgetown. I have much pleasure, Sir, in supporting the Resolution.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I rise to add some comments to the debate on this Resolution for vesting the lands as indicated at Wharf Road in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation. And indeed the caution which has been noted by the Senator who just spoke and sat, are indeed placing even more pressure or more urgency on the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation to ensure that this acquisition or this vesting is manifest by development in a timely fashion. What has not happened today in presenting this Resolution is that we have not heard of any plans to revamp the building in question.

We have heard about what the building used to look like when it was being used but we even

heard the admission by the Honourable Leader of the Senate that when buildings are left in disuse as this one has been for at least 20 years now, one will encounter a large percentage of decay. I would therefore guess that a lot of the fascia and the decor and the architectural splendour which was referred to by the Leader of the Senate in introducing the Bill would be of no useful value at the time when any development which I join Senator Workman in hoping is very soon, in that any development which takes place whether this existing structure will be of use. A number of the buildings constructed in that period would have been constructed of material which is not used any more and indeed material which has now decayed and we can refer to the old rates and taxes building, for instance, which in truth and in fact is of no value as it stands although it has heritage significance.

I would have loved to have seen the Government today present a programme which would have shown us concretely what was going to be done with this building when acquired and not just refer us to look across the Careenage to the Fisherman's Wharf and to the Waterfront Café and to see what the potential is.

The Waterfront Café is not owned or is not vested to the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation and indeed when you look at the record of the Tourism Investment Corporation in terms of the properties which it has had to manage, and indeed the whole programme, which it has had to manage, one recognises there are limitations.

Is the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation in a position today to carry out the development as we have heard mentioned or maybe I should say, dreamed about in here this morning? Are they equipped as a management corporation to carry out this development in a timely fashion? Indeed the question of the amendment of the whole controlling act of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation as raised by Senator Workman again needs to be further examined as a prior step because there is still not clear policy lines as to what the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation should control and what it should not control.

We look at things like the Sir Garfield Sobers Complex which some view as being a potential tourism earner and others see it as a centre for cultural activity. I firmly believe it should be in the hands of the Ministry of Sports and our young people should be in there daily, exercising and practicing the indoor sports which that facility is capable of providing. So the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation's role will have to be clarified especially if we are going to put more properties under its management or under its aegis.

Indeed the whole management team at the corporation would have to be expanded. The kind of expertise that is

available there now would have also to be expanded to encompass the kinds of building management and engineering and larger accounting processes that would be required in an exercise like this.

Traditionally the Tourism Investment Corporation would have been in charge of things like the Hilton Hotel and Heywoods and indeed the Leader of the Senate neglected to mention the role they played in the Durants Golf Course, of course that was a disaster and nothing near to the moderate success which one can see at the Hilton Hotel and to some extent though to a differing degree, also the Heywoods Resort.

The BTIC does serve a purpose and the Government has to spring-board certain activity. I do not believe though that Government has to spring-board the development of Bridgetown. The development of Bridgetown has been spring-boarded or whatever the appropriate term would be and is well on the way and the private sector are doing their share. Government in some cases has attempted to retain some areas of Bridgetown much to the criticism of the members on the other side when the Government insisted on acquiring the property on Broad Street for the Barbados National Bank. They were criticised the length and breadth of this country by the members on that side who at that time graced the corridors of the Opposition.

We are not criticising this acquisition. We are simply saying and my comrade Senator Thompson indicated that she would like to see when usage of this facility is applied. Of course we do not know when because we have no time frame under which to report.

12.35 p.m.

And indeed it brings me to a point where the BTIC and the Ministry of Tourism, if there is a timetable, should be looking at completing the Sherbourne facility before even venturing into new areas of activity. Instead of utilising that facility, again they criticise for political convenience and yet are forced to comment on its potential and indeed its present viability.

This country was able to demonstrate not too long ago, what an asset we have at Sherbourne when we were able to host the conferences surrounding the work of the visit of the President of the United States and the coinciding conference of the Caribbean Heads of State, Sir.

I would have had more confidence in a Ministry of Tourism or a Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation vesting, if there had been some track record over the last three years that the Barbados Labour Party has been in government, which indicated that they now had the willingness to complete tourism related projects like Sherbourne, even at a time that they are

venturing into vesting the building at Wharf Road in the hands of the BTIC. So I have no tremendous confidence in any development in that area too soon, but if it comes, I would like to share, like Senator Thompson, that the opportunity be given for small businessmen and small crafts persons in Barbados to ply their trade and ply their ware as part of this facility.

Again, Sir, this Barbados Labour Party's administration does not have a good record in respect to the treatment of the small craftsmen and we refer, of course, to a couple of years ago when we had the shoe crafts men of Shepherds Alley being evacuated and put at Temple Yard.

And again, today, as if a cycle of events have come full circle, we are hearing mumblings of what is going to happen to them next. So we are saying, quite clearly, that if business space is going to be provided in this building we want to see some of it allocated to small business persons and small crafts persons so they too, can enjoy the benefits of being able to trade in an environment in keeping with the image which Barbados so proudly boasts throughout the world.

Indeed, Sir, it would be like the property which we are seeing now being completed on Roebuck Street at the bottom of Palmetto Square. A facility which we started and which we had a lot to do with the development of, the facility for the vendors which will soon be opened in the Palmetto Square, High Street area. And I look forward to that opening, Sir, and I hope that at that time the appropriate kudos, Sir, will be placed clearly on the administration of the Democratic Labour Party for their contribution.

Sir, the warning which was raised by Senator Workman must be echoed by this contributor because the loophole is always the one that we have to guard most and I would beg that the appropriate action be taken in respect to the Act governing the action of the BTIC so that the powers which the BTIC is given or indirectly transferred to the Minister in charge of the Corporation, would not be able to be abused in any way or used in a manner not intended. I would like to see that change taking place sooner rather than later, Sir, because these, as we were warned again, are strange days that we are dealing with.

So, Sir, passing the resolution today is not enough. What should be happening is that we should have been painting the scenario, not historical scenario of what has been or what could have been, we should have been given a futuristic plan at least giving some inkling as to what usage the government of Barbados has, even if it is only a figment of their imagination, for this building on Wharf Road in St. Michael.

Although supporting the resolution, Sir, I am very disturbed at not hearing of any plan for the building. Because in the words of the Senate Leader himself, to vest it in the BTIC and leave it, it just continues to be vandalised. So there is no protection from vandalism by vesting it in the BTIC, so unless....

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the Senate. I said no such thing. And I would ask to have the Honourable Member's reference to that thing that I did not say, struck from the records.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please clarify your point of order. I am not sure what it is, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: The Honourable Member is suggesting I said that to vest the property in the BTIC and just leave it would incur further vandalism. I made no such reference, because there is no proposal to vest the property in the BTIC and just leave it. The clear indication and the whole thrust of my presentation was that we vest it in the BTIC so that we can correct the neglect which his party, Sir, has heaped on the building and therefore allowed such acts to occur.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I trust that in the wrap-up presentation, Sir, the Honourable Member will be able to visit some of these plans which he is now even alluding to and so allay my tremendous concern. Because, I still stand on the point that to vest the building in the hands of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation without an accompanying plan for development does not protect it, Sir, from the potential of vandalism. That is a straight forward position and I am saying that because we have heard of nothing this morning and I hope that when he stands again, Sir, to wrap-up the debate he accompanies his contribution with something about the plans, if he knows about them, because he probably does not. There might be none. If there are none tell us there are none and that you are just shuffling cards. And I am saying that if you cannot demonstrate to me "the tourism goodwill", as I call it, Sir, by completing a building like Sherbourne and make it fully useful for the tourism product of Barbados, what faith can I have in your intentions of properly utilising the building that is being mentioned in this debate?

Sir, we spoke of the allocation and we hope that the allocation of spaces in this building will reflect the composition of economic activity in Barbados and will include participation at all levels.

12.45 p.m.

I hope that the whole programme of city development and the bringing of it to full potential under this administration does reflect this type of Barbadian

picture. Indeed, although supporting the Resolution in question I want to commend my comments and my concern for the consideration of the Government Benches. I thank you, Sir.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I have had to say in here before that Honourable Members do not seem to understand the structure of Government and it is more so when Senator Boyce, a new Senator tries to heap scorn upon a government without first understanding the basics of government.

One of the problems in this society is that young people seem to think that they know everything and they always jump in foot first and leave their heads exposed to battle. I think that is the problem with the Honourable Senator.

I have had to say in this Chamber before that corporations were developed by the British Government and one of the first things that I recall was that the British Government took a Labour Party Minister and made him Chairman of the Coal Board in Britain. It is the principle because of the structure of government and the way government does things, that you heave off these development projects into corporations because corporations do not have to report to government other than to the Minister and the Minister makes a report to Parliament at least once a year.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Senator Boyce is trying to say that the Minister comes in here and does not even know plans for development. He is not supposed to know that. That is why he has gone to a corporation. It is for the corporation to carry its own development programme and report to central government. Central government then reports to Parliament. The Honourable Member should look at the Act of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation if he knows how to read and understand law because the Act gives the corporation certain powers which government could not use. If the government in its wisdom seeks to transfer a building to a corporation which could go tomorrow and call any architect of its liking and say draw me development plans for this, you could not blame the government.

The structure of government is such that government will have to go through tenders. They get in here and criticise when Ministers give out tenders for more than \$25 000 and they say it should go to tender. It takes 6 months to get to tender and another 6 months to assess the tender before anything is done. You go to a corporation which the law provides. It has the freedom of operation that it can call in x, y or z, take a figure and develop a

property. Now, they come and criticise. Where do you stand?

This is the problem with our so-called politicians today. They swing hot one day and swing cold the next day. They swing around the roundabout and that is the problem.

The Honourable Senator should remember that it was the Barbados Labour Party government during the period 1976-86 that did a complete survey for the redevelopment of Bridgetown and when one of the first things that we did was to clean out the area above there to build the Central Bank they all cursed the Barbados Labour Party Government. They all said the \$70 million that went into the Central Bank could have bought houses for poor people.

Little did they know that central banks are the only institutions in the world that make money on doing nothing. Not a cent of Government's money helped to build the Central Bank because the Governor of the Central Bank sat down at a meeting of which I was present and said, "I can finance this without causing any damage to the economy." The Central Bank sells a \$100 bill for \$100 and it costs something like 10 cents to make it. That is where it makes its profit. They do not understand that. They talk about taking money and building houses for poor people. They do not even understand the operation of Government.

But you know what they did. They trampled on the rights of citizens and landowners in this country. They put a bunch of people in Swan Street in front of the stores that taxpayers were paying for. They went down there and marked out squares in breach of the law.

Certain remarks made by HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. PRESIDENT.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: They were afraid to take legal action in the Court to establish their right. Every landowner owns to the middle line of the road.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Perhaps, Senator, you should say they were reluctant rather than they were afraid.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: They were reluctant. I accept that. As I said, every landowner owns to the centre line of the road and the government of the day had no right to infringe on a man's equitable property to say they are putting people there. Many of them complained to me that their business went "bum".

The Honourable Senator talks for the sake of talking. He is like another Senator who told me that he likes to talk before the lunch break because he gets in the newspaper. That is the only reason that they talk. He goes on and he says that BTIC before it embarks on any other project should go and finish Sherbourne but, as I said, the Honourable Member has a very short memory span because if he were following politics he would know that an assessment was made of Sherbourne and it is said that Sherbourne could never pay for itself. Sherbourne was commenced – and you see the Senator is going to open a lot of things that he does not know about or he does not want to be told about – without any plans by Government, without any money. There were not any tenders because over and above that when they ordered the steel from Trinidad and when steel fabricators in Barbados complained, do you know what they said? Nobody in Barbados could fabricate the steel within a given time. They wanted the steel in and have it done before a specific day for a particular exam.

The calypsonians talked about the “steal” that was in there. It was a joke because the workmen used to come over to my house and say the biggest joke about this place is that you put up a wall today and the architect comes with a paper and says knock it down it should not be there.

The cost went from \$16 million and when it reached half way they had to put up BRC across the front to block up the steel still standing in the air. If you come out through the Pine and you look at the back you will see it wide open. The cost was in the vicinity of \$80 million and a projection of another \$50 or \$60 million to finish it. The Honourable Member they tell me is an engineer. I would like him...

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Oh, he is a chemical! He does not know anything about steel and figures? I would like him next time to tell this Chamber what would be the return of a building of that nature and the valuation of the building by the time it is finished in relation to the expenditure.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, will you please get back to the Resolution?

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: With all due respects, Sir. I will get back.

The Honourable Member talks about what the BTIC can do for tourism. He talks about small craftsmen. There is no other Party that has the thoughts and the wishes for proper development of young people in this country than the Barbados Labour Party. I would like to take the Honourable Member back to 1974-75. At that time the

Democratic Labour Party was in power and they had a Minister of Education called the Hon. Frederick C. Smith now Sir Frederick Smith, the one I saw in the picture at the roundabout... I am not dealing with the roundabout. I know better than that. That is *sub judice*. I am not going into that.

12.55 p.m.

I am dealing with Sir Frederick Smith as Minister of Education, Sir, who turned out all the young 14-year-olds out of school and it was the Barbados Labour Party that took them back into the schools.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I must insist. That is irrelevant to this debate.

His HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: With all due respect, Sir. Honourable Members talked about craftsmen, *et cetera*. The small craftsmen only came about after the Labour Party put those children back in schools and they were taught craft, *et cetera*. That was the springboard of the craft and arts in Barbados. I am telling you. Then there was a group in what was called Rocker's Alley in Broad Street. The police had to put them out because that was the source of dope. When he talks about craftsmen and looking out for craftsmen, the Barbados Labour Party knows more than that.

What about Marshall Hall? We developed a plan for the entire development and the redevelopment of Bridgetown. All the Wharf that is now redeveloped sprang out of the plans of the Barbados Labour Party, for example, the Carlisle Bay Development Plan. The BMC Building sprang out of the Barbados Labour Party. So what can he point to as that of the Democratic Labour Party?

The point is, he wants to be critical so therefore he forgets the good work of the Barbados Labour Party. As you know, one of their previous members said it is the impressions that count. That is why he would like the Minister to come in here with some plan, even if it is a figment of the imagination, but the public is so well aware of that. I would not talk about that any further.

Mr. President, what we have to ask ourselves is whether or not the Government is taking the correct course in transferring Government land into corporations for the purposes of development. If the BTIC does not carry out development, any member is entitled to file a resolution condemning the BTIC for having property in its hand and not developing it. But at this present moment, I do not see how you can criticize Government for doing what it is entitled to do under the law, neither do I see that you can criticize BTIC for not doing anything. What you have to do is to criticize the Board. If you think the Board

is not functioning, if you think the Board should be expanded, if you think it should be given new guidelines, yes, I would say that but I do not see how, as the law stands, you can criticize them, either the Government or BTIC, in a question of the Government transferring land into the BTIC and the BTIC accepting it.

I think what we have to say to ourselves is this that Barbados is a developing country and the more development you do the more people will ask for. You have to ask yourself whether or not central Government will transfer enough funds to BTIC or BTIC is in a position to make loans of such a nature and of such a kind in order to carry out development suitable to the times of the day because next year there might be a different strategy. The point is you cannot criticize, in my view, the Government nor BTIC because they can only develop as far as the money they have and in relation to what they have.

As I understand it, there is a second look at Bridgetown for the complete redevelopment of Bridgetown. Therefore, you still have to give the BTIC time to look at what the developers are proposing in relation to what they want to do *willy-nilly*, but if Government feels that putting it in the hands of BTIC there could be some temporary use of it...

Aside.

His HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: At one time I remember back in the 70s we looked at a lot of Government buildings and we thought that rather than close them after 4:30 on evenings that they could be utilized and leased out at very nominal rents. People do not understand what I am saying. That is why I am saying the Honourable Member should think a little bit deeper.

We had a former Town Planner, Mr. Luther Bourne, who advocated that Bridgetown should be full of activities every night. We had one Commissioner of Police saying yes he agreed with that and another one saying he did not believe in that because crime would spread. The problem is we are caught between different agencies with different ideas. That is one of the problems we faced in the 1970s. What do you do? Do you lease them out or do you close them up? That is the situation.

I would support the Minister and support the Resolution because I think the Minister is well within the law and criticism of the Minister and Government in this instance is not justifiable.

Thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

The question that the sitting do now suspend until 2.00 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.
1.05 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. President.

Sir, in joining this debate I want to establish from the outset that the building and the project which we are discussing under this item is not some ad hoc scheme that had come into the mind of the Government or any figment of the imagination of the Government but rather it fits into a cohesive plan by the Government for the people of Bridgetown. If members of the Democratic Labour Party present here were to turn to page 28 of our Manifesto, that page under the broad heading of Urban Development, talks about the Charter for urban and suburban areas and it lays out a clear delineation of what it would seek to achieve in the redevelopment of Bridgetown.

For example it talks about establishing a programme for the greening of Bridgetown and for urban green areas in Jubilee Garden, Cheapside, Fairchild Street and Church Village. In addition it says that we will implement the Bridgetown Water Front Development Project and as some of my other colleagues had alluded to earlier, this project has been in the pipeline and on the books since 1980. The last Government had no vision for the redevelopment of Bridgetown but rather preferred to have it die, as they would say, a natural death.

Sir, we also, quite explicitly in our Manifesto said, again in page 28, that we would encourage the restoration of buildings of architectural interest as a means of both preserving the national heritage and providing jobs. This is the overall concept of what we are seeking to do at the Old Spirit Bond House. Let me add one more aspect that I will quote from that page in the Manifesto. It says that we will renovate the Old Customs House on the Wharf and any other suitable and available Government owned building in commercial use for use by small entrepreneurs. That is stated in our Manifesto.

We do not really need the sanctimonious mouthings of the Democratic Labour Party, because we regard, unlike the Democratic Labour Party, that our Manifesto

is a virtually sacred document. It is a sacred contract and we do not repudiate it, as the Democratic Labour Party does. Sir, that is clear and simple. We have taken into consideration the wishes and ambitions of the small entrepreneurs and we will provide opportunities for them. Their concerns most of the time about small entrepreneurs while understood, is not really appreciated by me, because when they had a golden opportunity on a number of instances around Bridgetown to look after the small entrepreneur, the small businessman, the small man as they like to say, they did not.

One remembers, Sir, when they sought to buy No. 1 Broad Street, now occupied by the Barbados National Bank, they said that they were buying the building for the small black man etc. Admittedly, it is owned by the small black in society and the whole society as well but they did not seize on any opportunity to create any special opportunity for the small businessman or any small entrepreneur. The Bridgetown Harbour, Sir, is another great example. When the Cruise Terminal was redeveloped, where was the small entrepreneur? They sold it out to all the biggest names in Barbados and the few pittances that they offered to the public as shares, by the time that was made available to the public the deal was sealed and done. There was Heywoods, Bartel and BET, there are numerous other examples.

We have a clear and proud history, Sir, of looking after the small man. We fought for the vote for the small. We gave holiday with pay to the small man. We built markets for the small man. All the markets and polyclinics that we are now seeking to redevelop was for the small man. We do not have to prove our case or any case that we are latching on to the call of the small man just to court cheap popularity. Our record speaks for itself and we intend to proceed along those lines.

Sir, I have some particular interest in this Old Spirit Bond. I believe it might be different from any of the interests expressed by some of the Members. I remember very well being able to sample the spirits of the Old Spirit Bond. When I was a boy, some of my friends who had left Combermere and worked in Customs, we would nip into the alley at lunchtime and fire one out of the tap into a tin pot. So I have an identification with the Old Spirit Bond and I am sorry that it has outlived its usefulness but I think it has a history that we should seek to preserve.

Senator Boyce seeks to lament the fact that we had no plan for the Bond. Senator Bolden quite rightly and quite accurately put him straight as to how our plans are brought about and the role of who should prepare the plan. Without seeking to upstage any agency, we know for sure that one of the reasons we are seeking to get this building vested in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation is that already there are several expressions of interests in the

Bond by business persons including small entrepreneurs. They went in and saw the potential and saw its location and expressed clear and specific interests. The Government *per se* will not be dealing with those expressions of interests, that will be the role of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: He is speaking of a plan in the lines of what happened with Sherbourne which was made up as it went along. It had no plan and they left no plan for it. We are now trying to make it work. As Senator Symmonds reminded me, Sir, it is a case of trying to make a virtue out of a necessity. We inherited it, it is Government's property, valuable Government money was ploughed into it and we intend to make it pay its way. The reason why it is being so "seemingly successful", although under other circumstances we should charge the last Government with indecent exposure when one see the back of the building exposed for all the world to see, under other circumstances, Sir, if it was a roundabout it would be indecent exposure for a roundabout.

We are not making up any plan as we go along. One of the first things we had to do where Sherbourne was concerned was to pay some of the bills. We had to pay million of dollars, as a matter of fact, there were two major construction companies in Barbados who had been owed money from the last Government and because they had no budget for it, they virtually went into bankruptcy and we had to start paying them off in order to salvage those companies. With the exposed backside of Sherbourne, Sir, a lot of the pretty interior that looks nicely painted there is a lot of cardboard that does not have any strength but it looks good and it has an image. So do not try to project Sherbourne as any masterpiece or invention. It started off as being the home of a so-called national orchestra.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, that is an argument irrelevant to the Resolution before us.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I was just seeking to respond to some of the comments of my colleagues, Sir. Sherbourne, Sir, is working and we are going to make it work. It is no figment of our imagination what we are seeking to do with Sherbourne nor this project nor the St. John Development Plan. So do not bring those kind of examples to us.

The point is, Sir, that the Old Spirit Bond is going to play a role in the overall development of Bridgetown. There are several other aspects of the development of Bridgetown that will come into place but it takes time to go through the process of acquiring land and

vesting. It is a necessary process if we are not to mismatch the whole project.

We envisage, Sir, that not only the Old Spirit Bond but some other buildings like the Empire Theatre will be put back into existence and it will become a viable entity as a performing centre and as a place of historic interest because the building itself has integrity in its architectural features. If you would notice, Sir, in the last few weeks how efforts are made to clean up in an around the Empire Theatre. The structure has been evaluated and the Theatre in itself will come back to play an important role in the culture, artistic and the economic life of Bridgetown and Barbados.

Sir, as I said, we have a very clear picture of what we need to do with Bridgetown. If one sees what is happening to Hincks Street now, it has been transformed and I would not think that this Government would seek to claim all the benefits to what is happening to Hincks Street. But that is the kind of overall picture that we have for Bridgetown where we will provide all the incentives, mechanisms and all the general environment where Bridgetown could once again live and breathe at night and be the centre of activity and serve the true function as a capital of Barbados both in day and by night.

With those words I would like to lend my support to this Resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I would like to support this Resolution but I am afraid that in an attempt to try to follow the debate I am getting rather confused about the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation. What I would like answers to maybe when the Leader of Government Business winds up the debate is whether this is an organisation that can develop a product and then sell it. I am very confused, I am not so sure if they can go ahead, initiate the activity and put the venture for public ownership and if that means selling it and selling it for example like shares, as was done at Heywoods. That is the sort of thing that is crossing my mind innocently and these are the questions that I would like answers to. If that is the position, Mr. President, what I would like to see myself is more education of the public regarding the aims and objectives and functions of this organisation and if it can put it on the market as shares. If people own a property and they put shares on the market anybody can buy and you can't really stop people from buying shares.

Mr. President, apart from that most of the debate that I have heard so far, it sounds good to me.
2.15 p.m.

I hope that this organisation could assist with the development of certain parts of Barbados but I would like some of my questions answered because not only myself but there are other people in the public who would be worrying about this Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation and what it can do and cannot do.

I am being shown the Laws, Mr. President, I did not have time and we do not have copies of the laws. I would like to urge that we can get copies of the laws. We would not always have time to come to Parliament and use the Parliament to research the laws. However I am not going to go into that too much.

Mr. President, another point. The West Wing of Parliament was mentioned and I hope that the West Wing of Parliament, when it is developed it will remain totally in Government hands and not be given out to any form of public enterprise. Because I see Parliament Buildings as the buildings of the people and not owned by any form of private investors who have the money to invest in the renovation of any West Wing of Parliament whatsoever.

I thank you.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Sir, I rise to make my contribution to this Resolution by stating that over the years of development of tourism in Barbados we have seen a very rapid development of the South Coast coupled with a similar development of the West Coast and by and large the area of Bridgetown remains largely undeveloped. I believe that the Government, through its agency the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation, recognises that there is tremendous potential for the development of Bridgetown as a tourist centre and I want to compliment the Minister for taking the initiative.

We were told in here this morning that an attempt was made back in the seventies and eighties when a comprehensive study of Bridgetown was done and largely I believe that a lot of those recommendations then would be a bit irrelevant at this point in time. One of the things that hampered the sort of initiatives that Government has for the development of Bridgetown and the upper areas of the Garrison, is the fact that a lot of the development was retarded because of the lack of a proper sewerage system, to facilitate the type of activity that would occur if from the area of the Hilton, coming along lower Garrison Hill on to Bay Street was allowed to develop into areas like restaurants and sporting activities. To a large extent, the reason why this development could not have taken place was largely as a result of the lack of the sewerage type facilities.

I am a bit amazed that a comment could have been made in here that one Honourable Member

had no confidence in a Government who after three years could not complete Sherbourne Centre and starts to wonder in what time frame would certain developments which are proposed by the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation would take place.

I am wondering if the Honourable Member is aware of the fact and recognises the retardation development on the South Coast as it relates to tourism, that has been brought about largely as a result of the fact, that the development of tourist activity could not occur because of the lack of the said sewerage system, which for 8 years under the Democratic Labour Party remained there just in plant form but was never really implemented.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please. I cannot hear the Honourable Senator.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Sir, I understand a study was undertaken to identify a number of unused buildings within the environs of Bridgetown which could be brought into the tourism product. Among these buildings are the Spirits Bond that we spoke about on Wharf Road, the Old Town Hall Building on Cumberland Street, the Empire Theatre, the Harbour Police, the Child Care Board, the Welfare Department, the area of the Bay Street fish market, the car park adjacent to the Caribbean Export Development Agency and Government has looked totally at a lot of these areas and earmarked them for development.

The BTIC needs to be restructured and there was a study undertaken by Peat Marwick for institutional strengthening of the BTIC and as a result of this study a number of proposals were made. I want to state emphatically that although Government has not fully studied the document that was produced, the recommendations are there and Government, in the fullness of time would re-examine the uses for which these properties have been proposed to indicate which direction they would take in development of these particular areas.

Sir, I do share the concerns of a number of Honourable Members in here who are asking that some provision be made to ensure that the ordinary people in Barbados are able to have a stake in the tourism product of this country and I have every confidence that this Government is a Government who is committed to such an idea. I think that this is an excellent opportunity, Sir, to enfranchise a number of credit union organisations in Barbados because I believe perhaps as much as 99% of funding in the credit unions comes from the ordinary Barbadian people. I think that the strategy of the BTIC is to develop by themselves and also to develop in conjunction with the private sector, and the private sector, in my opinion, would include those types of indigenous financial institutions like the credit unions and to not only see a development like the development at the Spirits Bond

as an opportunity to put crafts people and vendors and those types of people in there but at the upper end ordinary people can get involved in the process of economic enfranchisement by allowing the credit unions and ordinary people...

I recognise that in the last Budget the Government made substantial provision to give tax credits to people who invest up to \$10 000. And I am confident that this particular Government would not behave like the previous administration when they were investing the funds at BET and the Flour Mill and other state owned corporations by virtually giving them away to the big multi-national corporations after promising that they would make some of the shares available to the credit unions and shore up the whole process of economic enfranchisement.

I say this, Sir, because the confidence of a lot of ordinary Barbadians has been shaken over the whole issue at Almond Beach Club. It has been shaken because they were encouraged to get involved in investing in these sorts of institutions. But I find that a lot of ordinary Barbadians are afraid or a bit concerned of just investing in institutions in which they do not have any say at the level of the Board. I think that these developments within the Bridgetown area provide for such opportunities to allow the ordinary people to get in at the high end. I say this too because when I reflect on the activities that went on at the cruise terminal when by and large you only got the little 6 square areas reserved for people to do craft but by and large big corporate Barbados took the major share.

When you look at the fact that successive governments had reserved ground transportation as an area that should have been reserved for local people and now we have seen over the last couple of years a development where large private sector organisations have taken over ground transportation and every day you hear taximen complaining about the lack of opportunity to really get involved in an area of business that they traditionally were able to get involved in.

2.25 p.m.

Sir, a lot was expressed in here today about the fact that Government does not seem to have a plan for these identified buildings and plots of land in Barbados. I am happy to say that certain proposals made by the institutional strengthening study as it relates to the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation (BTIC) has been identified and it is up to Government to determine which of the proposals they are willing to accept.

For example, the old Town Hall is proposed for a national arts gallery. The old Spirits Bond, local crafts and a craft market. The Empire Theatre, performing arts centre which perhaps would be in the hands of the

National Cultural Foundation as opposed to the BTIC. The Harbour Police Station for hotel development. The beach area between the Hilton and Bay Street for development of board walks and water taxis and restaurants and things like that.

So Government has a concept of what it really wants to do in terms of bringing Bridgetown to the level of tourism development that exists on the west coast and exists on the south coast and I am quite please to give my full support to these initiatives taken by the Government. Because I also believe that such initiatives will allow the BTIC, not only to structure the way that tourism would take shape in Barbados but would give them the opportunity to have property and lands that they can use to go to a financial institution and borrow funds against these pieces of real estate for which they can use for the development of all these projects which Barbados, in general would benefit from and which can only help with the preservation of a lot of buildings with historical interest and also would help with the diversification of the tourism product.

Mr. President, with these few comments I want to support this resolution wholeheartedly. Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, I rise to dispel a lot of the myths and hairy fairy talk that Senator Boyce and the others have stated in relation to this project.

Sir, obviously let me start by commending the Government for having the insight and the common sense to look to develop a lot of these properties and to invest them in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation (BTIC). I think, Sir, it is necessary though for the Honourable Senator Boyce to be clear upon the existing role of the BTIC as it is defined in the Act.

I do not know if he read the Act, but the BTIC has a specific role under the Act to deal first of all with the purchase or acquired lease of buildings or estates of their own development as they relate to tourism development. Also, for the acquisition of personal property for the continued use and for the use within tourism development.

In 1978 they were also given the provision for looking after the ownership and management of the Heywoods Hotel, the Dover Convention Centre and the Durants Golf Course. And, obviously, then to market and to manage Sherbourne Centre and to manage and market BARTIC.

Now there are some very specific needs within the tourism sector and we have spent time in Barbados beating

our heads against the walls regarding the whole concept of the marketing of Barbados' tourism product.

Today, Sir, this Government has had the good sense to see that the fundamental issue within the development of tourism in Barbados does not center around marketing. It centers around investment in the tourism sector. The critical point within any development process for tourism has got to center upon investment.

Sir, I wish to make this document particularly a document of the Senate. This is the address that was given by the Prime Minister of Barbados at the recently concluded Investment Conference in the Bahamas in which the Rt. Honourable Owen Arthur stated:

"It is my judgement that the most secure basis for attracting high levels of investment to the Caribbean tourism industry and indeed the rest of the Caribbean economy is by commercialisation of our stability. Investment in tourism best flourishes within the context of a stable macro economic framework. A framework that accentuates sustained and sustainable growth patterns, low and a manageable fiscal deficit, a sound external position, low inflation, stable exchange relationships, private sector export oriented development strategies which have decreased deficiency and increased productivity and international competitiveness as their focus and objectives. I couple this with the determination to make the most creative use of our most abundant resource our people to tap into the resources of growing international demand."

Now, Sir, the economic climate in which we are living is much more stable today, than it has ever been in the history of this country. And that is a credit to the Barbados Labour Party and its Government, and this is by far the soundest economy that Barbados has ever had when it comes to the concept of investment within the tourism sector.

Sir, if there is but one concern that one could have with regards to the BTIC, is that the tourism investment corporation under this administration has taken on a new lease of life. The BTIC is now able, Sir, and has been mandated to involve all Barbadians in the whole process of the ownership:

1. A hotel plant.
2. Focus more in the promotion of investment in Barbados' tourism plant and the linkages that can occur between tourism and Bridgetown and the existing cultural aspects that are also a fundamental part of tourism development.

Now the BTIC has already begun to improve its current operations and we cannot say the same for the other administration. That is why it is important at this stage in our development that we create pockets of investment for Barbados to own the industry. Barbados at all levels from all classes, from all colours to be able to invest within the tourism sector, which is the only sector or maybe one of the only two sectors that is going to push us forward into the 21st century.

Sir, there was a need to expand upon the role of the BTIC to fill the gaps and under this BLP administration the BTIC has already begun to improve upon its operations. There are very very clear and if Senator Boyce or anybody is really not clear upon what the BTIC's expanding role is and what the BTIC attempts to do and if he has any concerns about vesting any property in Bridgetown in the BTIC, let me just enlighten for his own edification, the concepts that the BTIC has already taken on.

One, Sir, is the expansion of the Hilton. There is already a project on the way to expand the Hilton Hotel and its environs. There is also, Sir, the Durants Golf Course, which is already being undertaken for refurbishment and expansion. There is a lot of promotional material and the advertising of conference centres.

The BTIC has already started to make incentive tourism a real part of Barbados' tourism product which never happened under the past administration.

Dover Convention Centre is now beginning for the first time ever in its history to break even. Also, Sir, the occupancy rates at the Dover Convention Centre are up now around the region of 50 percent. This is the first time since Dover Convention Centre has ever been in vogue that it is now beginning to bear any fruit.

Dover will also now have a hotel through the Gems of Barbados project, Andrea On Sea. Because, if there is one thing that any Convention Centre needs to operate successfully within the tourism sector is a hotel plant as close as possible to the property.

Dover and Sherbourne Centres' management have improved and the debt that both of these centres had is now being rescheduled.

There is also, Sir, as is the legacy of the Democratic Labour Party, there was a whole backlog of audits dating back to five years of Sherbourne and Dover. These backlog of audits has now been significantly reduced and Sherbourne has been made operational again, Sir, on basically marginal funding.

Let me say, we are not out of the woods yet regarding Sherbourne. There are some deep concerns.

Sherbourne is highly unprofitable as a conference facility. I want Barbados, Senator Boyce and everybody else to hear, Sherbourne is highly unprofitable in its present form as a conference facility. The point is this. It is there. If it is there and if it was the folly of some former administration to build it, it is there. Nobody has ever questioned the fact that it is a supremely good facility for conferences...

2.35 p.m.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is talking about the previous administration.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you on a point of order?

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I was, and I made it. The member is referring to the folly of a former administration and I think that imputes bad intents on the part of the Democratic Labour Party administration.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order. Please proceed, Senator.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Sir, there are some deep concerns about Sherbourne Centre. Sherbourne Centre is highly unprofitable as a conference centre. That is a fact. To bring it up the Ministry has already undertaken to try in its best interests to make the centre profitable for the Barbadian taxpayer. Therefore, Sir, I do not understand the concept of trying to make people believe that the Barbados Labour Party administration is using Sherbourne because it is there. Sherbourne has to be used. It is there. We need to make it profitable and there is no need because it has no serious economic benefit for Barbados in terms of finishing the back part. That back part will not be used for any conference.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch, as I reminded other Senators, this debate is not really about Sherbourne. It seems to me that you are expanding on the point. Please, return to the Resolution before us.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Sir, I just wanted to make the point to Senator Boyce.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You make the point to the Chair.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: I make the point to you, Sir, under this administration we are trying to make Sherbourne as profitable as possible and I have all confidence in placing any spirit bond or any other facility whether it be the roads or otherwise, or whether it be the environs of Parliament in the hands of the BTIC. The Minister does not have to come here to tell us

what his plans are. The BTIC's administration have got to tell us what are the plans for developing the facility. It is a statutory corporation-under Government and it can deal with that.

Sir, the only concern that I would have regarding the vesting of any property in the BTIC would be the entire concept of how normal indigenous Barbadians get to benefit from the vesting of properties in the BTIC. Sir, it must be made clear and I would like a clear mandate in terms of legislation regarding how investment goes within any of these properties vested in the BTIC.

I do not want to see a case where any of these lands or properties end up in the hands only of the traditional business sector who are the only ones that may have easy access in terms of the prohibitive nature of the legislation to these buildings and lands. I want to see a clear position regarding how ordinary Barbadians get to share in the development of any property or any lands that are vested in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation. I think that is the pivotal issue, the base of anything that we do in the future regarding tourism development.

This industry is the industry that is going to take us forward and therefore Barbadians have got to believe that they have a fundamental stake in the ownership of tourism, not on the level of maids and bartenders and gardeners but at the level of ownership. Therefore the only thing that would in any way sway me in terms of thinking about how these properties are dealt with is that I believe that within the legislation we must make it clear that Barbadians, indigenous, fundamental, grass-root people in Barbados must have a fundamental stake in the way in which these lands are shared away and the way in which these lands are disbursed to people.

If Senator Boyce or anybody else had got up and stated that that would have been the case... But to talk about the BTIC, the BTIC is a much more productive and much more prosperous entity under the Barbados Labour Party administration than it has ever been in its history.

Regarding the whole concept of the redefined roles for the BTIC, the BTIC also plays a role in terms of supply marketing and investment management. But there are so many entities within the tourism sector that duplicate that effort that one of the real areas that one would have to look at is the whole concept of seeking to place the BTIC in the concept of investment management and moving it out of the role of all the other supply and marketing things that they do.

I believe that there are entities in Barbados, the BTA and the BHTA who already do that kind of thing. I would like to see the BTIC focussed upon investment

management, really look at the concept of getting Barbados involved in the ownership of tourism, looking ahead to the future in terms of managing that investment properly so that Barbadians get a stake in the ownership and also that we expand upon its role.

Sir, there is a critical role to play for any BTIC within the development of tourism in Barbados. I believe that the critical issue in all of this surrounds the concept of the ownership and the enfranchisement of ordinary Barbadians within the tourism sector. That is a fundamental plank. Any legislation that we bring regarding tourism investment in the future must accommodate in some way those people at the bottom and not putting them down in Swan Street, as was done before but making them a fundamental part of what is happening within the tourism sector.

With those words, Sir, I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise at the close of the debate on this Resolution to clarify two things that need not have arisen whatsoever in this debate. But just to ensure that there is no doubt, not even a shadow of any doubt, I will spend a very brief moment in clarifying these matters.

Senator Rickinson in her presentation raised the question as to whether the west wing of Parliament being renovated would in any way or at any point in time be contemplated for divestment to private interests. That is not a matter that even enters the thought. Parliament is Parliament and if one were even to contemplate divesting Parliament of its environs then one could as well remove the State. So just to ensure that no one who will either be in earshot or who might look at the records sometime in the future would think that this debate was about divestment of Parliament, that is not anywhere in the equation. Certainly not under this Barbados Labour Party Government.

Some questions were raised and I should just say to make sure that that point is properly clarified that the matter of the control of the environs of Parliament falls under specific legislation and gives the presiding officers of the House, the Speaker and the President – in fact the legislation is more clear on the Speaker of the House of Assembly in terms of the environs of Parliament and the Speaker is the one who has absolute power as far as who comes and who goes. Parliament is not contemplated for sale.

2.45 p.m.

The other point I want to raise as well is that some questions were raised about the role and functions of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation in a manner that one would wonder if it were a new corporation.

The Barbados Tourism Investment Act is a 1979 Act. The role, functions, responsibilities, authority, all the features of the Act have been as they were since then. The matter of exactly whether they are empowered to do what we are proposing is in here, and they are. The functions are there. They produce an annual report and that, really, I do not think should be an issue at this point in time.

Some suggestions have been made concerning recommendations for clarification of some functions. Such recommendations, like all other good reasons why Acts need to be amended from time to time, could certainly be considered but in terms of what the company is entitled to do at this point in time there is certainly no doubt there whatsoever.

With those two brief explanations to two issues which I thought we needed to have clarified, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
VESTING OF LAND IN THE BARBADOS TOURISM
INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF LAND AT
CUMBERLAND STREET, CHEAPSIDE,
BAY STREET AND WELLINGTON
STREET, ST. MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Senate's approval is being sought for this Resolution which seeks to vest some more properties in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation. These properties in question, as described by their boundaries in the attached Schedules, are really, if one were to use the more popular description rather than the boundaries, the former Child Care Board headquarters on Bay Street, the former Fish Market on Bay Street, the site of the old Town Hall on Cumberland Street, which is perhaps better known as being opposite St. Mary's Church, and a property adjoining that because there are really two parcels of land there, and the land at the corner of Wellington and Bay Street, that is, in the region of the Boatyard.

What is being proposed is for these properties to be vested in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation, again to facilitate the redevelopment of Bridgetown. As indicated previously, the BTIC is Government's investment company and is empowered under Cap. 332A to facilitate developments in tourism and related areas.

This matter of vesting these properties in the Tourism Investment Corporation is all part of giving effect to the implementation of Government's plans for the redevelopment of Bridgetown. Bridgetown, as you would appreciate, Sir, being our capital city, is in urgent need of

redevelopment and the issues which attend to redevelopment of cities are very much under consideration of Bridgetown.

For example, there are issues relating to the matter of traffic and parking, the decentralization and the role of a capital city. As you know, Bridgetown came under stress over the last two decades or so with the decentralisation of a number of activities. There were a number of offices, retail establishments and other businesses that have moved into other emerging areas such as Wildey, Warrens, Belleville and the like but it is still important to recognise that the centre of Bridgetown is an historic location. It maintains a focus in national life and it is really still the principal retail, commercial and administrative centre for the island.

Also, we need to ensure that the decentralisation does not proceed to a point where Bridgetown will cease to develop. We are seeking to reverse that trend. Basically a city such as Bridgetown can provide opportunities for nationals of Barbados and visitors alike to have an urban environment which is attractive, pleasant to work in and to relax in also, and which we hope then, in relation to being pleasant, attractive and comfortable to work and relax in, would then be able to attract more visitors to it and thereby provide increasing commercial opportunities particularly for the small businesses in the area.

Also that brings us to the matter of creating an environment in the City which will ensure its viability. One can only ensure its viability by creating the opportunities for all to profitably do business so that issues such as creating additional inducements for shopping by making Bridgetown more accessible, for example, for persons to be able to get in and out of the City in a short time and have short-term parking and so on to encourage after hours activities.

We are pleased with the redevelopment of the Bay Street area and the increasing night time activity. Naturally there is still work to be done on ensuring that through provision of adequate lighting and the security that it will also be safe to traverse the streets of Bridgetown in night time activity. It is regrettable that Bridgetown is by and large a city that sleeps at night. That is unusual as far as cities go. We certainly would want to have more active after hours activities in more areas of Bridgetown.

In addition, that after hours activity must be multifaceted. Arts, culture and other activities of a family oriented and wholesome manner must be encouraged to return to Bridgetown at night.

The matter of the facilities for the public is one of the issues that has faced Bridgetown and I believe it has faced other cities. In fact, I believe there was a

calypso in Trinidad some years ago which said that in the whole of Port-of-Spain there was no place for a man to spit. That was a chorus in the calypso but it all referred to the absence of public conveniences in Trinidad and Tobago; but we know that to be a problem in Bridgetown as well. We really will not be able to have a city of which we can be proud until we are able to have appropriate public conveniences and other facilities for general comfort, a bench to rest your legs when you are tired, a public place where you can catch your breath and relax under some shade or some greenery. We need to bring those types of things to Bridgetown.

The matter of the conservation of the general historic buildings in the wider Bridgetown area ranging from the Garrison historic area right through central Bridgetown, right through towards Brighton and beyond must obviously be a great point of focus. I think Bridgetown would not be alone. In fact, it might be one of the latter converts to the recognition of the need to maintain the architectural heritage of any particular location.
2.55 p.m.

This is one the important points of focus in the whole business of redeveloping Bridgetown. Some of these properties which are listed there for vesting, for example, the former Child Care Board Headquarters, the building known as The Savoy, that has architectural interest because of the period of which it was constructed and the nature of the architectural features there and so on.

The former Town Hall, that has interest mainly because of the history bound up in local Government, which history was brought to an end in 1967 when after being unable to get Mottley out of the city, the city was taken out of Mottley. But the history, however, of buildings apart from their architectural interest becomes points of focus and very often having a physical point of reference provides an opportunity for future generations to be able to learn the history in a practical and more pleasant manner than if one were to merely have to sit and read history books about buildings that you no longer see, about places that no longer exists. The work of the Bridgetown redevelopment would certainly be enhanced in this regard.

Sir, the matter before the Honourable Senate is really seeking to give the Government the go ahead through the facilitating capacity of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation by means of being able to have clear title to this land to proceed in an expeditious manner, while engaging in the redevelopment of those areas of Bridgetown. It is important, as we drive this redevelopment project and for which detailed professional proposals have already been received, that we are able to have Government, which owns some properties in the area to use

its ownership of property to drive the process. This is what we are seeking to do.

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution which seeks to vest the properties listed in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation do now pass.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. For me this must be a fairly historic occasion because if I live long enough to converse with my grandchildren on my term in the Senate of Barbados I should have to say to them that I participated in the debate where in minutes a very large portion of Barbados was transferred into the hands of God knows whom.

Today, as I rise to make my contribution on this part of the debate....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator I am not sure that I can let you say that. I think the Resolution is clear as to whom the property is being transferred.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Yes, Mr. President, I know in whose hand they are being vested but I do not know whose hands they will eventually end and that is the point that I want to make because the BTIC has the power to sell, lease, transfer, do all kinds of things.

Today, I participate in this debate against the background of the empowerment of fellow Barbadians of similar backgrounds to mine and who have a serious interest in participation in the ownership of wealth in this country as we look at the properties that are being turned over to the BTIC, Child Care Board, Fish Market, Town Hall, areas pretty well positioned and located along Bay Street, a very active area in Bridgetown.

I do not think that I can be faulted by anyone for having concerns about who will be the eventual owners of such properties or whatever they will become in future. I have to agree with certain remarks made earlier about the economic empowerment of our people and the seriousness of any Government of Barbados in its policy and programmes geared towards economic empowerment. I am looking for a nexus between certain legislation introduced in Parliament and developments as the Government embarks on such.

We have recently introduced Mutual Funds legislation in this country. This is a beautiful opportunity for a Government of Barbados, in its attempt to retain the physical beauty of property owned by the state and to hold on to those buildings which are of great importance to our heritage but at the same time to get broad-based Barbadians to participate in the ownership of wealth in this country, to encourage the launching of a mutual fund towards the development of Bridgetown. The Mutual Fund

legislation which was recently passed in Barbados and has been on the drawing board for some time has only recently become law and only yesterday in Barbados we would have noticed a Mutual Fund launched. Mutual Funds have been used worldwide for the creation of new areas of development, for the enhancement of present areas of development and for the expansion of the economic base of certain industries and peculiar areas of interest in the country.

I believe that a Mutual Fund for an emerging indigenous business development in Bridgetown should have been launched to encourage Barbadians of all walks of life to buy into Bridgetown. There should share ownership in these areas of Bridgetown for future development and a plan showing what will be located at a particular position.

We pass legislation because we deal with international businesses and these things happen overseas but we have not yet worked out how to apply them locally. This is something we need to sit and look at carefully. Mutual Funds are used for emerging businesses and to develop areas that have potential but for which neither the state nor a single investor has the capacity to do at a particular time but collectively with the resources available, they can be done.

This is a beautiful opportunity for a Mutual Fund for the development of the Wharf and the general Bridgetown area.

Since we have embarked in having these properties vested in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation, I am hoping that managers of Pension Funds will take the opportunity to, in some way, purchase and become a part of these investments because that way we can be sure that the funds of a number of ordinary people in Barbados would be invested in these areas.

Credit Unions was mentioned earlier and I would like to see the Credit Unions involved in the ownership of these properties, again to make sure that there is broad based ownership. I do not want to see at this time in Barbados, when we are considering preserving these properties that they end up in the hands of those individuals, that small percentage of individuals, who already own the large percentage of wealth in this country.

The time has come, as we move into the 21st century, for us to embark on a serious programme of re-distribution of the wealth of this country. We can only do so when a Government that is in conduct of its mandate embarks on programmes and initiatives which would seek to make its broader citizenry conscious of the importance of getting into certain areas. It means taking some risk but let us not

fool ourselves. There are a number of ordinary Barbadians who own money. They have it sitting on the commercial banks in Bridgetown, earning 4% and 5% interest.
3.05 p.m.

We have been a saving population over the years not a population for investment. So we know all about saving. And I think the responsibility of Government, if it is really serious about wealth accumulation and distribution, one of the responsibilities of Government is to make sure that the populace is educated on the importance of moving from that point of saving to that stage where you start to invest, where you take some risks. You have some savings but you take some risks. You cannot acquire wealth unless you take some risks.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I am reluctant to stop you but you are giving a wonderful dissertation on mutual funds and other instruments. Please address the Resolution that is before us.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I think that in order for this Bridgetown project and this Wharf development project not to go down in history as decisions made by individuals who should know better at a time when we had a beautiful opportunity to help empower fellow Barbadians, in order for this project to be something of meaning to generations in the future it is my responsibility to encourage the Government of Barbados to make sure that the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation ...

I have looked at the law and I realise it is a commercial enterprise and it must conduct its business according to business principles. So I do not know why, although I recognise that it reports to the Minister, I do not know how much influence the Government has in the way in which the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation manages these properties. I do not know if economic empowerment is a policy of Government how the BTIC in its business environment would translate a government policy of economic empowerment into its policy of bottom line business enterprise profit. So I am hoping that somewhere in there we can see through the Minister of Government whom I recall is an elected Member of Parliament and who therefore has a direct mandate from a constituency in Barbados. I am hoping that the Minister of Government can get through to the managers at the BTIC that although BTIC is a commercial enterprise that this is a very large chunk of an important part of Barbados, this is my concern, that we are discussing and that BTIC would make sure that a large number of Barbadians get an opportunity to participate in the ownership of this large chunk of Barbados. To whom would this city belong is my question and I therefore hope that I can see some very responsible decisions taken by the BTIC in this regard. I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I am afraid that all of my concerns have not been resolved or addressed. Again it sounds good that we are going to develop the old Child Care Board, the Fish Market, the Town Hall and opposite the Boat Yard. It is not clear to me where is this money going to come from for this development. Where will one get the funds? If one gets the funds from 2, 3 or 4 persons it means they will virtually own the properties and this is a concern that I have. Mr. President, no mention has been made of lease in this Senate or anything about it. That is why I am standing up and I am raising questions.

Mr. President, I am also concerned that I heard from the Leader of Government Business about short-term parking. I only hope that Government will maintain that in their hands and collect the millions and employ other people regarding this short term parking. I sincerely hope that it will not be given over to one or two persons. I hope that it will be a government enterprise and will provide employment for persons.

It was mentioned, Mr. President, that the BTIC would have clear title to the land and there have been some professional proposals.

Mr. President, I do not know if this is the time or place to enlarge on those proposals but it would have been nice if we could hear a bit more about the proposals because I feel very uncomfortable about the whole issue. It is the second time I am rising on my feet to raise questions about this investment. I say it sounds good, I will support it, but I wish that more information was available.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I want to add just a little more to this debate on Bridgetown because actually what we are debating is not just the vesting of a couple of square feet of land in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation, we are debating the vesting of large chunks of the heritage of this country into the hands of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation.

I am sure if some of the recommendations for change which I made earlier are accepted and included well then the Corporation would do well in terms of seeing about the further development of these lands that are being vested.

I spoke already about the question of confidence in a Government in carrying out certain mandates and I am not saying these things lightly because the development of the bonds in Bridgetown into what they are now and especially the re-development of this square in front of Parliament which now looms high in terms of the tourism attractiveness of Bridgetown was heavily criticised by this administration also. You probably did not hear the Honourable Senator just now in an aside. I heard the

Honourable Senator. I had the good fortune about two months ago to see Senator Forde entertaining. I believe it would have been an education official from overseas and she proudly strutted those tiles, Sir, and had photographs taken.

Certain remarks made by Senator J. D. E. BOYCE were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. PRESIDENT.
3.15 p.m.

If Senator Forde had her way, Sir, and the Barbados Labour Party had its way, instead of being able to present that area in its beauty, we would have had a situation of traffic moving up and down between our tourists and the tourist who was accompanying her would have been in direct danger for his life, Sir, because of the way it was.

The point is when we undertook that project as part of the redevelopment of Bridgetown, we were very heavily criticised by this present administration, Sir. Because we had the foresight to understand that if you did not have the appropriate welcome into the City, no matter what you would have done down the road, no matter what you would have done at Cheapside or what you would have done opposite the St. Mary's Church, that building would have had no value because the approach had to be made right.

So we have the vision. We know what we are talking about when we say we want to see plans accompanying these kinds of resolutions. We want to hear Ministers earn their wage by coming in here and presenting some kind of programme along with the resolution. I have to come down on the side of Senator Rickinson too and say we are not hearing enough in these presentations, but just throwing resolution after resolution before this Chamber and expecting unreserved support, Sir, those things cannot always be guaranteed.

We need to hear about what portion of these heritage buildings will be retained for use by Government. What portion will be available for education. What portion will be available for museums, etc. We cannot just hear "we are going to vest these lands in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation and that is the end of the story."

So I think that the Government benchers have got to go back to the drawing board in some respects and make sure that they come to the Chamber with full explanations, Sir, or fuller explanations, so as to guide debates.

Sir, Speightstown is another flourishing town in Barbados. I heard, in his introduction too, Sir, the Senator talked about Bridgetown being the City, Sir. Over the last couple of weeks I have heard promises for another City, Sir. So maybe Bridgetown might not be as

attractive as he envisages because other Ministers who are more directly responsible for that kind of development have stated that they want to see other cities. So we need to get the programmes together, Sir. And, that is why the confusion might occur when the independent Senators and the Senators on this side have to make their contributions.

In Speightstown, we have had a large fanfare and I am talking, Sir, about the development of heritage buildings as these buildings are...

Mr. PRESIDENT: In Speightstown?

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Speightstown includes heritage buildings, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I remain to be persuaded that you are being relevant. But, proceed.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, investing and pursuing the development of these buildings under this resolution, Sir, I am hoping that we do not go the route of the "paint the town" in Speightstown. We had a large fanfare in this country when we had a "paint the town" in Speightstown. When you drive through Speightstown now all the paint is peeling. The buildings have returned to their original derelictness, so the facelift, as it purely was, Sir, a mere facade. So we have to do it over down there, Sir. When we do it here in Bridgetown under the Tourism Investment Corporation I want to see it done properly. I want to see it done thoroughly. I want to see it with a plan and that is why we continue to make that plea, Sir.

The Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation is an excellent organisation. One knows the role. We do not have to keep referring to the law to fill speeches about what the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation is empowered to do. We want to hear what it has done.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I heard reference about Durants, Sir. The Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation has a lot to do with Durants. We are talking about the redevelopment of the Durants Golf Course. But that, maybe not through any fault of theirs alone, was a failure. So, we need to examine the track record, as I have said already, reinforce the resources within the organisation before we attempt to go away and wildly vest large properties under their guidance without actually giving them the power or the resources to really carry these projects forward, Sir.

The words again of caution, the different views...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. I believe to describe the action of the Honourable Senate in seeking to vest properties in the

Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation as wild is unparliamentary and I would ask to have the suggestion of any "of vesting property wildly in the BTIC" to be struck from the record, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not convinced that "wild" by itself is offensive. I think the Senator would have to say a little bit more than that, and I am listening.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: It would be a wide investment in the properties and a wider programme which the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation would have to undertake.

Sir, the point is, and I would be at pains to make it, the changing in the batting order is not lost either on this side, Sir, and I know that Senator Laurie will be ready to deal with it whenever the order comes, because Lara has to bat regardless, even if you put him to number nine, he has to bat this evening, Sir. So Lara will have to bat whether he bats at number one, two, three or eight. So he has to bat today.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member while he is going both wide and wild. But, Sir, ... 3.25 p.m.

I believe the Honourable Member must be imputing improper motives concerning what he calls the changing of the batting order in terms of the agenda. I would think that he would want to either rephrase that or in some way be clear that he is not imputing improper motives.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the point I want to leave with this Honourable Chamber in respect to the vesting of the lands in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation is one of, yes, we want to see these developments take place. I am heartened by the attempt to include some reference to parking, some reference to roads, some reference to transport to complement the soil development.

Bridgetown includes a large population of residences and we have to understand exactly how they are going to be incorporated in the scheme of things in this development which we plan. I am sure that those who have ears to hear and minds and brains to understand would not be lost by that comment. We will have to face in the future, and with the potential developments that we are dealing with today, the resettlement, or the better settlement of existing residences in the Bridgetown area. I leave those comments, Sir, for your consideration. Thank you, Sir. I am grateful.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Resolution was called and passed.

**ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF
LAND AT FARMERS, ST. THOMAS**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I am pleased to rise to move this Resolution which was shifted in the batting order as someone might want to put it, simply to ensure that matters which had some relationship could be debated together rather than being broken by a totally unrelated matter. That is common sense and I control the Order Paper.

Sir, the Honourable Senate is being asked to approve the acquisition of land at Farmers, St. Thomas for housing purposes and this is done as usual under the provisions of Cap 228, the Land Acquisition Act.

The area in question, Sir, is some 2.717 hectares inclusive of some measure of road reserve and is located in St. Thomas adjacent to the new Hillaby/Turners Hall Primary School and other lands which are owned by Government.

Sir, the acquisition of this land for housing purposes is part of an ongoing exercise which Government has undertaken over time and will continue to undertake over time. The facts of the matter is that as far as land acquisition goes the acquisition of land by Government for use in housing constitutes for some sections of our population the only way that they will be able to obtain land for housing in Barbados.

If we go back to history as far back as 1680 - Barbados was only settled in 1627 - it was reported that the deforestation process had been completed and that all of the land of Barbados was already privately owned. Barbados does not have a history of crown lands not even as far back as that time.

The map of Barbados produced in 1680 shows some 700 plantations and 2000 of what they call small holdings and between the 700 larger fellows on the one side and the 2000 on the other all of the land of Barbados was in private hands. All that has happened over time is that the actual ownership has changed, not even the patterns have necessarily changed. So even today if we look at the entire landholding of Barbados the majority of the land of Barbados is held by the minority of the people of Barbados, whether they be the large individual families or whether they be the corporations. The facts of the matter is that the pattern is that the land ownership is not as diffused as many persons would think.

If we were to look at the recommendations which arose out of the riots, for example, in the 1930s, we look at the Moyne Commission and all the things that followed,

they indicated what were some of the principal problems - the problem of either inadequate housing, lack of land tenure and so on. More to the point, they indicated as well that Government would need to acquire land immediately in order to provide housing for its people.

Bear in mind, Sir, that this whole business of land acquisition which some people would want to suggest to you is like breaking the 11th commandment, that this is something sacred, that the pattern of land ownership is something sacred, and that Government is doing the wrongest thing if it acquires a piece of land. They are some people who would suggest that, and I want to deal with this up front because at the end of the day, the Government of Barbados has a responsibility to act on behalf of its citizens to ensure that their basic needs are provided.

Sir, this business of land ownership, the reality is that if we look at the persons who own land and if we look at the demand for land, land is demanded by persons for various purposes: hotel resorts, for factories, for farming - like raising dogs, for housing purposes and so on. There are competing interests.

Given that land in Barbados is basically privately owned, if an individual owns some land and he has a choice about what he would want to do with it he has an option of selling it for golf courses - that is a high yield, he has an option if it is a large area of subdividing it into 5-acre lots so people can buy it and put one house on it. That has high yield as well. He has the option of putting some roads and electricity in and selling it as an upscale development and the more restrictions and covenants you put the more upscale the value. So you put covenants where you do not keep horses or dogs or fowl cocks. That obviously has appeal. You sell for \$8 or \$10 a square foot as opposed to \$2 or \$3.

But where does that leave the poor man who is only able to afford \$3 or \$4 a square foot plots but who in addition also needs to be into the kind of development which more mirrors a traditional community where he cannot afford to be on land where there are covenants concerning the rearing of animals and the keeping of fowl cocks and so on. Because part and parcel of being able to supplement his income depends on being able to keep the 2 pigs in the back, the little garden bed outside, the fowl cock and so on.

His capacity to survive will be severely restricted if the only source he has of finding a house spot is people who develop those impressive developments where in order to attain the highest commercial residential value you impose covenants that people of a certain social status would want.

There are people who would not buy land in this country unless it has all of those covenants attached because they do not want barking dogs next to them. They do not want any animals to stink them up. They do not want children in some districts and it goes on and on.

The more restrictive the covenants you have the higher the price. There are people who would prefer to have a 5 or 10 acre lot so they can put one house and nobody is to be too close to them.

The Government has over time had to intervene in the market to acquire land to provide sites and services so that you are able to provide roads, water, electricity. And people are able to rent or buy outright or rent to buy later on but they are able to build their communities in the traditional Barbadian sense and they are able to acquire tenure and security.

There are other situations, apart from the demand in the market not being met by the supply given, that persons who own land and who are interested in developing it would obviously want to develop the land for the highest price.
3.35 p.m.

No rational business fellow who owns a piece of land is going to put a few sites and services into it to sell it to people who can hardly afford to buy it when he could structure it in a different way and get more money out of it. It is as simple as that.

In addition to that, Sir, there are also situations in which there are people who have to be accommodated for other reasons. There are a number of persons who over time have squatted in Zone 1 water areas and who you could say broke the law and you could go in a round-about fashion and charge them or whatever. The fact of the matter is that at the end of the day you have some people you need to accommodate.

There are persons who live in areas where land slippage has been a problem and they need to be transferred. There are persons who have been in situations where they have been private holders and some issues have developed and so on. Although the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act went a very long way to solving part of the major housing problems in Barbados, and, in fact, it struck at the very heart, it struck at the very foundation, it struck at the root cause of the housing problem in Barbados, that of our historical origins where, in the first place, the majority of people in Barbados were just as much property as the land they were on.

Secondly, after 1834 when we were no longer property but we were officially free, you still could not in

many cases own, or when there was no longer any law to stop you from owning in those conditions, so the Located Labourers' Act, Sir, as I mentioned in a previous debate, up to the mid 1940s, I believe, still had one tied to the land.

The chattel house, Sir, is the architectural solution to a legal and social problem where a fellow, yes, he needed to have the privacy of having his own home but he also needed to have a little hedge that in case he and the "massa" got away one day and he had to move, he would be able to dismantle and set it back up in a day otherwise he would have to sleep in the canes for the night. The chattel house was not just a curious architectural invention but it really spoke to the historical situation. We are talking of this century. We are not talking of 500 years ago.

The Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act resolved a longstanding issue whereby persons who had given themselves to the land were able to obtain some tenure for the spots they occupied. There are still many other persons who have interest in acquiring land who cannot do it. So this particular proposal, for example, seeks to provide some housing primarily for persons within the general area who have had problems in small pockets with the question of slippage and so on.

The spot is ideally suited for the purpose of housing, Sir. It is adjacent to the primary school. In fact, it is adjacent to the new Hillaby/Turners' Hall Primary School. It is adjacent to existing communities. In terms of the same catchment area that services the Hillaby/Turners' Hall Primary School is the same wider geographic community. In the context of St. Thomas and St. Andrew adjacent does not mean next door like Trafalgar Square. You are talking about people who use the same common services, the same church, the same school and so on.

The new school is only 100 yards away from the old school so that is not a new direction Government is trying to move people in. The old Hillaby/Turners' Hall Primary School is on the corner and just 100 yards in the gap is where the new school happens to be.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I hate to do this, Sir, but this is absolutely not a fact.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Is this a point of order you are rising on?

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: The Senator is misleading the Senate in saying it is 100 yards away. It has to be at least a half mile or more away.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the numbers may have been a little off but the new school is in the same general area as

the old school. I just visited it. I visited it myself yesterday. I know the area of which I speak.

The fact is, Sir, that this land in question is adjacent to the main public highway. It is approximately 7 acres of land, not a large area of land. It is next to the new primary school and other lands owned by Government. It is appropriately suited for the purpose for which it is proposed.

I therefore, Sir, would invite the Honourable Senate to give its support to this Resolution to acquire approximately 7 acres of land at Farmers in St. Thomas for the purpose of housing development.

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

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I just heard the introduction to this Resolution. I have visited this site on several occasions. I know it extremely well and I cannot believe the description I heard is the place that I know. Perhaps I got the landmarks wrong or something.

The notice that appeared says, for instance, that it appears to the Minister who is responsible for Lands that the parcel of land at Farmers is likely to be needed, in his opinion, for public purpose, hence housing. It is a very delightfully vague proposal, his opinion and so on. Knowing the place well, I think it is about the worst example of Government acquiring agricultural land for housing that I have seen.

A few weeks ago I supported the acquisition of land at Constant on the basis that it adjoins an existing village, not adjacent. We stretched the word "adjacent" to mean like Speightstown is adjacent to Bridgetown, but I am talking about adjoining. I quote, and I am sure it is in Hansard. I wrote it down then that both the Leader of Government Business and Senator Bolden supported the sale of land because it did not adjoin a village. I like the word "adjoin" and not "adjacent." Certainly this site adjoins only agricultural land and a school, a minor mini school. This school is about the size of this room. It is a little tiny school.

I was trying to persuade the Ministry not to do this. I spoke to the Permanent Secretary. I spoke to the Parliamentary Secretary. I offered to take the Parliamentary Secretary to the site and show him exactly where there are alternatives. Just across and up by the original school there is plenty of land adjacent and adjoining to the existing Hillaby village, just half a mile away, and it could easily have been put there rather than this particular area.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, I am hearing you. You are not on your feet.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Why are we choosing to move people from White Hill there? Because that is in the same political constituency? What is the rationale for Government housing?

I heard in the Other Place that there is a figure of 20 000 house applications with the National Housing Corporation.
3.45 p.m.

They admitted to me that some of these applications are 20 years old. They are never updated. They never fall off the edge of the list. They stay there until somebody comes and says take my name off the list, I got a house. And how many people are going to do that? We really do not think that there are 20 000 houses really that they are applications for, that is unlikely to be.

We know that the Town Planner has stated that there are 18 000 house spots in existing developments that have not been built on. It means that there is potential in existing developments to answer perhaps to the total needs of these applicants. We talk about the poor people and the small guy and so forth but that is political stuff. No poor man can afford to buy land or buy a house. I asked the N.H.C. about housing development and they say okay, we have six lots at Airlie Heights and 198 applicants. We have 40 lots at Husbands Heights and we have 490 applicants. This says that there is a huge demand. There is no demand from poor people, this is a joke. Those houses in Husbands Heights and those places cost around \$200 000. Who poor people will be buying those kinds of houses. What I am trying to say is - do not come in here and tell me that it is poor people who are going to build houses in Husbands Heights and Airlie Heights.

The other question is when N.H.C. sells a lot to a person, how do we know what happens to that lot years later? How do we know that developers are not out there with their names down to buy lots in these places, get the land and then sell it, making a profit. Presumably, there should be a covenant. When Government sells land to a person at a presumably subsidised rate, then there must be no way that that person could dispose of that land in the very near future.

What is really important for the poor people in terms of housing is that they have access to land for developing their food production. I agreed and I was so pleased to hear the Honourable Senator stating this. I believe that in our planning for housing for poor people we must make it so that they can have a minimal space to produce at least 50% of the food they consume. We talk about land ownership in Barbados but we have to admit that Government is the single largest land owner in this island. Government has the land but what is it doing with its land in

the Scotland District. There are large areas of Government land in the Scotland District that is abandoned from agriculture. What is needed is that the poor people should be given this land to operate, either in co-operative or in small farming lots.

Let us get back to housing. The Barbados Labour Party manifesto says that it will encourage by way of incentives, development of indigenous building materials. Has it done that? For 300 years they had houses at White Hill, they did not move because they were chattel houses, made of wood and they had no running water. Now people are encouraged by the wrong thinking that you must live in a concrete house. So they build a concrete house in White Hill and they put running water in it with water toilets, and what happened, it is inappropriate technology. It is totally inappropriate technology.

The Scotland area is the area where we can definitely develop. The Scotland area is a special development area.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Laurie, one moment please. I am having great difficulty in hearing Senator Laurie. I am quite prepared to enforce the rules of this Honourable Senate if I have to.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Thank you Mr. President. I do not want to be offensive but I feel strongly on this matter and it is a question of technology. I think that we have the technology here. We have the experts here who can address the problem of building in the areas in the Scotland area. If we have to go to composting toilets – composting toilets are now a highly developed scientific method. It is not something like a old pit toilet. It is a highly developed scientific method that can be used for treating sewage. People jump and say that we cannot go back to that but there is modern technology that can do it. We have people in Barbados that are quite capable of telling us how to develop, in the Scotland District without damaging the place.

To look specifically at the Farmers site. Should Government be able to go and make a statement and come to Parliament and say that they are acquiring this land for housing when it has not passed Town & Country Planning permission? What is going to happen should the Town Planner say that it is not going to happen, for some reasons you cannot build houses on this land. I think that before the Minister acquires this land he should have got Town & Country Planning's permission first.

The social contract says that they will not do any kind of development without an Environmental Impact Assessment. Has anybody done an Environmental Impact Assessment at Farmers? I do not think so because behind that site is one of the most pristine gully areas for eco-

tourism in this country. The fact of the matter is that it also has in a dog fighting ring and dog fighting is important to some people in Barbados and one has to be very careful since acquiring this land might upset these people.

Asides.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: They are not involved in dog fighting.

Now, is water and utilities available at this site? You acquired land in this very Senate here at Apes Hill. They went down there and cut road and started to put in houses and then it came to a deadly halt. Suddenly, somebody I heard found that there was no water. So everything is at hold at Apes Hill until they can solve the water problem. These things should be done first. Do not come and mess up the thing afterwards.

According to the Gazette and the newspaper, Government is acquiring another 139.6 acres of land: 10.5 acres at Lancaster, 29.5 acres at Lower Burney, 23 acres at Blackmans, 7.9 acres at Lancaster again, 35 acres at Waterhall and another 6.0 acres at Waterhall, 10 acres at Apes Hill totalling a whopping 140 acres of land for housing.

One of the reasons for Farmers is that they are going to put the people there who go to that school. Now, this is a primary school. How long are these children going to be in this primary school. Are the people going to live in this house while the child goes to the primary school? This is a ridiculous thing, to bring the housing to fit the school. I have never heard this, a secondary school I can understand, but not a primary school.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. I trust that the Honourable Member is not suggesting that that was said in here. He said that he heard but just to clarify, that was not a point that was raised in this debate at all.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order, please proceed.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: This site, for those Members of the Senate who do not know where it is, I have marked it on a map, Mr. President, showing roughly where it is. It is in the middle of the agricultural area of Barbados. It is bounded on all sides by agricultural land. Barbados Agricultural Management Company just spent hundreds of thousands of dollars rehabilitating Plum Tree. Plum Tree is adjoining this land, butt and bound on this land. Therefore, it shows clearly that this is good agricultural land.

This Government has impressed me with its approach to a number of matters. One of the things is

that they have seen that land use in Barbados is a very serious problem because of the shortage of land and therefore we have to plan its use very, very carefully. They have acquired consultants. They are paying these consultants \$3.2 million.

3.55 p.m.

These have got to be some of the best consultants in the world and they have included some very able Barbadians on the team of consultants. So one suspects that we are going to get an excellent report, and they are using some of the highest technology. They are using this geographic information service and computer technology which will show clearly where to put everything in Barbados in the optimum site. Government is to be congratulated on doing this. Why then are we rushing out there now before this Report is completed and it is due to be completed in a few months to rush and acquire 139 more acres of land plus this land at Farmers. What is the rush? Suppose this report says, as I suspect it would, that this land is certainly not suitable for housing. What are we going to do? Well you know Government would say it is a pity that we went and did it. So all I am asking is, let us look at it. I am begging today that the Senate says, let us hold on, do not let us make a decision today on this. Let us hold on and wait for this report because there is no need to do it today and I feel that we would be so much stronger if we had the results of professional people who have not got any political or other reasons for looking at developmental areas.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, it seems that every time we have land acquisition in this Chamber Senator Laurie and I will have to clash because I think that Senator Laurie has a very incorrect concept about certain people in this country, what they are entitled to and now where they should live.

Senator Laurie's speech today certainly makes me understand that he does not understand the social implications of what he has been saying. He starts off by saying that there are 18 000 house lots in developments and therefore Government need not go and create any more housing development. One of the big problems in this society is this, and it is rising fast, that certain people in this country seem to think that they have the authority and the right to dictate to Government what must be done to their satisfaction. And it has got to come to a stop otherwise we are going to see another 1937 riots in this country. I have said it and I would like it to be published because the people out there in the streets are boiling and speeches like what Senator Laurie has put down in here can light that little fuse and it would be worse than 1937. Very much worse.

Eighteen thousand house lots that are sitting down are the disadvantaged people of this country who went abroad

to England, to Canada, to the United States, sent back and tried to get a little piece of their hometown until they can get back here to put a house on it. No Government will be correct to say it will acquire that now because those people have not yet satisfied their ambition to come back here and build a house. Forget it. That is the first thing.

The second point is this foolishness of saying that if Government acquires land and sells it to somebody they should put a covenant so they cannot sell it. There is no law to provide for that. If you sell something the purchaser can do what he feels like with it from the next morning. I am going to say something now.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I would not worry to say what I was going to say now. You see, when Government had the chance when all the big plantations owed National Bank, and the owners had taken out all the money and gone into the tourism industry, and the Government of the day had the opportunity to take them in for the debt, they would be owned by Government and the Barbados National Bank today. But no, they created a company called the Barbados Agricultural Management Company to manage them and then hand them back and if Government had foreclosed on all those places you would not be in this problem now. The people that Senator Laurie is talking about that should have a house spot and a piece of land to work would have more than house spots and land to work. That is where we should be today but you are one of the consultants from BAMC so you cannot have it both ways. You sit on one of the boards.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are not referring to the Chair?

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: No you do not sit on that Board.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I would like to make it very clear, I do not work for BAMC. I am on no board associated with BAMC and I have never been.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: The Ministry of Agriculture said they put you on and they now want to get you off. Now we talk about the land in the Scotland District. Do you know who live in the Scotland District? Look and see who live in the Scotland District. I say this openly. Senator Laurie just said that people are encouraged to believe that they must live in concrete houses with water toilets. Now Senator Laurie never lived in the Scotland District yet, he or nobody belonging to him. That is why I have a big grouse with the National Trust. They beg me time and time to join. The National Trust will walk around and stick a plaque on a little

wooden house and then you can do nothing with it but nobody in the National Trust ever lived in a wooden house yet. They have never had to live in one of those board houses yet. They have never had to go through the back door on a dark night to a pit in the yard and do what nature calls on them to do. But Senator Laurie wants the people in White Hill to stay down in White Hill that when the night is dark and the rain falling they would slide down and break a foot when they go to the out-houses. They must not be encouraged to live in concrete houses and all the people that talk about the Government should not acquire land never had the privilege of living in a board house. I lived in one in Massiah Street. I had to go to the pipe to bring water. I know what is the benefit of having water in your backyard and I know the benefit of having a water toilet and a shower bath now. This foolishness of saying that people must not be encouraged to think that—because they live in concrete houses! That is why I say that if this foolishness does not stop one day you will have another 1937. Because, we are all equal in this society today.

4.05 p.m.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I know you lived in a board house. Not a chattel house. That is what I am telling you. The majority of people in the United States live in board houses, but they are not chattel houses.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Not in White Hill that they prop up with a grape stick. When the rain falls, you may get up the next morning and find your house in somebody else's backyard.

This brings to light what is happening in the whole Scotland District. You must not move the dumps down in St. Andrew. I blame the Prime Minister in this country and the Minister of Health. Because, if they had good political tactics you know what they should do? They should come up and say "every parish must provide its own dump heap" and let the people in the parish say "where are you going to put it?" I would like to then hear what Senator Laurie, Mr. Goddard and all them would say. But we must understand that those days of 1930 and 1940 are finished, but they would go back again.

Senator Laurie knows agriculture and knows Barbados just as well as I do. He probably knows it better. Go in St. Joseph. Where is Blackmans? Blackmans is in the middle of cane fields.

Let me tell you something. You talk about Waterhall. Senator Laurie should be able to tell this Chamber, the

tenantries of Waterhall ran over three times in three hundred years. Because when the rainfall is good, you move them and put them there. When the rainfall is bad, you push them there. And when certain people decide that they want to live on hills and terraces, you move them somewhere else. It is all good and right to move them around to suit the landowners, but when it is for the people now to acquire piece of the land, it is quite different.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I remember the late Errol Barrow when the Barbados Labour Party introduced the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act, Barrow rode on a horse up in St. George, Drax Hall, and said he and Colonel Duke Drax are going to put the Government in court for carrying away their lands. Barrow was Jew from Israel because Colonel Drax owned all of Drax Hall. And you know, it was wrong for those people who gave their sweat, blood and tears to acquire a little piece of the land now to plow.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: They must always have chattel houses. Because if you did not go to work one day, the next day your house will be gone.

Even the laws in this country were framed that when the children leave they would come and pick down the house and put it at the side of the road. So that is why you must not live in a concrete house.

This Government or any government that sees the people in Barbados as equals must make sure that those days never come back to Barbados.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: We have a problem in this country. From back in the 1950s we had recommendations of what to do with the Scotland District but the cost of remedying the Scotland District is more than Barbados can ever afford. So you are going to have to move people and put them elsewhere and if Farmers happen to be in a situation where there are four or five big houses up on the hill, and do not want to see the little houses in the bottom, they will have to live with it.

Do you remember the case in Wildey where Carters is now when you had the big doctor living up the hill and the little mechanic down on the street and what happened to him.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: But those days are finished.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: What about Julie'N's property? You see, it is all good and well for certain people but not for others. Do you understand? So, all I am saying is that the Senator is wrong, wrong, wrong this time. The Senator has just exposed his full intention. We had the same problem before with the Senator on the 2A Highway. They have agreed that the land west of the highway can be released for housing.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Good agriculture land that when the rain pass down through the Bulkeley Valley and go down there, it gets soaked but they had agreed to let it go. Who owns the land on the west? Start from the corner by Simpson Motors right through and ask who owns the land on the west of the new 2A Highway. The answer will give you the reason. As I said, you all are playing with a time bomb. I think you all had better change your attitude. That is a time bomb.

You know we hear about landless farmers in Barbados. As I said, people are not going to sit down like they sat down in the last few years and this statement about "wait back a little while". You know, we all have been waiting for a long time. But I do not believe the man Hope is in White Hill, and knows the rainy season is coming and his house is liable to be washed down the hill, can wait for what? He wants to move now.

There is one little warning I want to give though, it has serious implications. The question of squatters. You have to ask why do people squat on other people's land? Because they have no place to go. If Government does not provide land you will always have squatting and as I said and the Senator knows. You see, nobody wants to look at the history of Barbados. From the very beginning the kings and rulers in Britain was giving up Barbados to their friends and their friends were not looking like me or you. So that is why Barbados never had crown lands. So the people who came here as labourers, etc. were always tenants. And a tenant has no right against his landlord, irrespective. That was the same concept that ran through the Democratic Labour Party in the 1970s because that was the story the Democratic Labour Party put out.

You do not go and buy the land now because you will have to pay taxes. But when you pay taxes, you are a man. You start out by paying taxes in order to vote. You will have papers you can go to the bank...

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Exactly. But now the Dems have it that you must wait. For how long must we wait? How long is too long?

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: It is good, but it is not good in White Hill and it is not good with the hurricane season coming in. I would support this resolution. You know the Senator knows the way around because when we introduced the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, the Town Planner came out and said the same thing. We could not sub-divide them unless we put in water, light, etc. We had to pass the Act to get around Town Planning.

Because you know, there are some people who go into the Town Planning office and ask "whom do I have to pay to get this passed"? And the next morning it is passed. But the little man that wants to put up a house and you can go and check now and ask how many applications are lying in Town Planning for more than four years that they cannot get an answer and to whom do they belong? Go and ask about the same Julie'N site, if you want to know how Julie'N's site was passed. So when you say to go and get Town Planning's permission before, the little fellow will be out there waiting for ever to get through. Therefore, I am saying that the Senator knows his way around and knows how to try to convince people that the Government is wrong.

4.15 p.m.

But if the Government needs to, all it has to do is to bring a Bill and pass it to put the houses in Farmers. It is time that we understand what this society is about. Thank you.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, thank you for giving me the opportunity to make some comments regarding this particular Resolution. As is the theme of the Ministry of Education, I think that every Barbadian matters, whether it be in the line of education, whether it be in the line of employment, or in the line of whatever the services. Every Barbadian is important.

Mr. President, I have tremendous difficulty with some of the comments I heard this afternoon in the light that it touches me very deeply in my heart when I know of the plight of the people living in White Hill. Not only in White Hill but White Hill has special family connections to me. That is where I have come from. I am not making a case for the people of White Hill because that is where I come from but, I am making a case because they are people too, with as many needs as any other person in this society despite whatever position or class or status they come from.

Therefore, Mr. President, I want us to take a look because when I mention these they will tie in with the same housing discussion. I am only touching St. Andrew, Sir, Springvale. It has been there for hundreds of years. Springvale is no more. Again we are spending millions of dollars on Springvale where there is only one plantation house. There are not many people's houses around it that are causing it to flood because they built water toilets and concrete houses.

Mr. President, St. Saviour's Church that had been there for hundreds of years had to be resited and rebuilt and even the graveyard has slipped away where you can see tombstones no more. The St. Saviour's Primary School had to be resited way down in Cane Garden because the St. Saviour's School was on the edge of the road that was called Baxters. As a child it led from White Hill through Baxters all the way down to take you through Cane Garden through to Belleplaine and wherever you wanted to go.

It was a bus route for the last 10 or 12 years. Baxter's is no more. Land slippage has caused Baxters Road to be closed just as Walkers was.

Mr. President, Cane Garden in St. Andrew, Fruitful Hill in St. Andrew, St. Simons in St. Andrew, Chalky Mount in St. Andrew. I was there last week and there is tremendous land slippage and there are not many wall houses. In the general Scotland area there is a problem but I am going to get back to the more substantive point that I want to make.

Mr. President, for many years the people of White Hill have been suffering. Their cries and their pleas were unheard and unrecognised by the past administration. As was mentioned before people in White Hill would go to sleep tonight and tomorrow morning the pig pen in their yard would be two houses down in some instances.

Most of the houses are on props out of wood and as a result of that there is a lot of danger. There are a lot of threats to human life and property. I am using these remarks because almost 100 of the houses in White Hill are to be relocated to the Farmers site that is being mentioned here today. The Farmers' site cannot accommodate all of them. As a matter of fact, the site can only accommodate about 60 of these houses.

Mr. President, we talk in Barbados about poverty alleviation and some of the comments made by the Honourable Senator who spoke second last gave me hurt feelings because the people of White Hill are poor working class people who would have acquired a spot because of acquisitions through the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act or as a result of relatives who might have had a little spot here and there and would have left it down through the

generations for them. Therefore, they do not have the capacity to pay to purchase a new spot. They do not have the capacity to rent spots and they would be able to rent spots if people would rent them spots but renting house spots is the most difficult thing for poor people in Barbados today.

Mr. President, they are not so well off that they can repair these properties that are on the precipice ready to fall apart. My uncle had almost a full page for himself earlier this year to speak of his plight. As a result of worrying over the house that he has worked so hard in Springvale plantation to acquire the man had a terrible stroke because nobody listened to the people in White Hill and to their plight.

Mr. President, I am happy that this Barbados Labour Party with the track record it has had any time that it has been the regime, in this Government, has looked after the needs of poor people as well as all Barbadians. Therefore the Barbados Labour Party again will be the saviour of those people in White Hill as it has been the saviour for the people in Weston and the other districts where they are dislocated as a result of flood or land slippage or whatever the situation.

I am happy to be associated with the Barbados Labour Party because I know that we live to suit the motto that the Party has that says A Better Life for Our People. The only way our people can get a better life is if somebody listens to their pleas and their plight and attends to their needs in the legitimate manner in which I expect it to be done.

It is not that you are taking the land at Farmers and saying these spots are for sale at \$7 a square foot or \$10 a square foot. As far as I understand, what is happening here is that the land is being acquired to resite individuals from White Hill and perhaps one or two other districts whose lives and that of their children and their entire welfare has been dislocated.

Mr. President, as far as I am aware there are 100 households which were made mention of already, and Senator Laurie did make mention of the Barbados Labour Party's manifesto. What he did not do was to make mention of page 27 where it talks about the administration resuming an active sites and services programme through which house spots will be made available to those persons who wish to build houses and those persons who need to be relocated as a result of dislocation with these various disasters.

Mr. President, the Rural Development Plan will help the people of Barbados and I do not believe that there should be two Barbadoses as was the case in the

past where there were people on the one hand who lived and were accommodated with the various amenities and everything else and people in the rural districts suffered.

As a result people felt that you could get off a bus and walk through a cart road without street lights. Yet people could put lights for their chickens.

Human beings are out there exposed to all kinds of danger because the tenancies are between two sets of canes along each side of the road where people's lives are threatened. For example, in Hopewell and Forty Acres where, thank God for rural development, a new road has been put in to bring the amenities and to bring together the little communities. That is the role of this Barbados Labour Party, to build communities where people can get together and do various activities to help them to become caring, sharing, loving Barbadians who will lend a hand as they did when I was a child growing up.

Therefore the people of Forty Acres today are happy because of that opportunity. They do not have to wear 3 pairs of shoes anymore. Water and street lights will come to them because their foreparents have suffered from the 1800s and the 1900s because they were pushed away and pushed aside in a gully where there was grass. Today, they have an opportunity to have access to all the services that are being offered in Barbados. The Urban Rural Development Plan will soon be on stream because the people living in the rural districts are very poor and we must look after their needs as well.

Mr. President, the Weston folk were resited at Bakers. Likewise the ones in White Hill have been accommodated at Apes Hill, some at Lancaster, and it is our plan now to have some of them relocated at the Farmers site.
4.25 p.m.

Mr. President, the children of the residents of White Hill are already attending that Hillaby/Turners' Hall Primary School. The Hillaby/Turners' Hall Primary School is as a result of that old school on the hill from Turners Hall that has fallen apart over years of no maintenance and Hillaby Primary School that was also on a precipice, on a hill where it was falling into the gully. Those schools were amalgamated to form the Hillaby/Turners' Hall Primary School that is a Grade I school. It has a capacity of 420 children. At this point in time it has more than 300 children so it is not a small school.

It accommodates those children from Hillaby, Turners' Hall, Farmers, Farm Path, Dunscombe and other adjoining Districts like Porey Spring. Therefore, it is not such as hushed away by itself but it has a lot of very active communities, in particular, the Farmers' Tenantry that is

just across the hill. A gully is separating the school from Farmers' Tenantry in St. Thomas.

Mr. President, the school is in that community. I think there are one or two plantation houses. Then there is a pavilion and a playing field so it is not that when these people come there they will be just left without any community life but the pavilion and playing field are there that they can have recreational activities as well. At this present moment there is nowhere in White Hill that those people can have recreational facilities to help them to vent some of the anger that is within them.

Mr. President, this opportunity for the people of the White Hill community will help them greatly because they are peasant farmers. They grow their little crops. They rear their own rabbits, sheep, cows and other animals. Therefore, the opportunity for them to have access to these house spots in Farmers will help them to continue to feed themselves as a result of the produce they will grow.

Aside.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: It can be called whatever the Honourable Senator wants to call it but they will be given the opportunity because I know they are poor people who will not grow lawns. They will grow food, Mr. President. It will help them to find employment. It will help them when they develop their produce to share with the others because they are really what we call community minded people.

Mr. President, this particular effort will save the people of White Hill the agony of worrying about what will happen next, where we will go, do we have a future, does somebody care? It will give them an opportunity as well not to be involved in that dependency syndrome that has been developing in Barbados where many people run to the welfare services and to the other social services for help. These are people from the rural districts who do not want any help from Government except the house spot. They do not want beds. They do not want free textbooks. They are people who are very proud that want to be comfortable like anybody else in Barbados whether they are in Plum Tree, the Heights in Wildey or wheresoever they are in Barbados. They just want to be comfortable and to enjoy life like anybody else in Barbados.

This opportunity for them to have their houses resited, to have waterborne toilets, to grow their own garden beds, to have proper amenities, street lights and whatever is called for to help them to be comfortable, I am sure the Rural Development Commission as well as the Ministry of Public Works and all other agencies will go in and grant them those services. Because when you make those people comfortable it is going to save those young

children from wanting to be ready to act up as was mentioned by Senator Bolden that they are sitting on a time bomb.

The young people want to know how is it that certain people can get so and so and my father and mother who have been labouring for donkey years in somebody's plantation cannot have the natural necessary things for me to be able to live a pleasant life. And that is where the biggest problem in this Barbados is coming from, Mr. President.

I welcome the Government's initiative to accommodate the needs of these working class people in White Hill and in any other area where people are being posed with problems. I welcome the new members, whether it is this year, or next year, or in the year 2000 from White Hill because I know they are good citizens who will continue to make an honest dollar bill and make an excellent contribution to the development of Barbados. They did it in agriculture. They have done it in industry and they will continue to do it only if given an opportunity to be removed from that area called White Hill.

As far as I am aware, Mr. President, that place should be called a "no build zone," something like that where nobody else would be able to build because of the land slippage. Not only because of the concrete and the water toilets and so but it has a lot to do with the weather, the rain that is falling and the kind of drainage that some of our agriculturalists have put in place.

Before as a young person as all of us were growing up there were cane holes, drains and a number of other things that helped us to be able to throw off water. Nowadays everybody is ploughing the land onto the road and nobody can make any suggestions to them because they are engineers and experts in their own rights. So how dare the ordinary folk to tell them something.

I feel we in Barbados need to get back there to the folk in their 70s, 80s and 90s who worked in agriculture from the pond grass gang right up and get suggestions from them on how we are going to deal with these problems that we are facing in Barbados because I worked very hard in the area of Springvale as a child growing up and it was common for people's children – the more children they had the more they were able to acquire.

I have worked in Springvale and I have never seen Springvale Road pulled apart until the plantation said no more cane holes, no more drains. Let us put the harvester and let us do all these mechanical things on the land. Therefore, Mr. President, I really want to give my wholehearted support to this Resolution and to encourage the Government to accommodate the needs of Barbadians.

Because all are not going to be poor when situations such as land slippage, flooding or whatever disaster it is that may cause them not to experience the natural life would come about. We have absolutely no control over natural disasters but we can put systems in place to make people who are affected as a result of these disasters feel comfortable and not function as second-class citizens.

I wish to lend my full support to this Resolution, Mr. President, and I want again to congratulate the Government for the outstanding performance of so speedily coming to the needs of these people to give them some aid as we approach the year 2000.

I thank you.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Sir, I would not wish to miss this opportunity to make my contribution to a debate as exciting as this one. From the outset I want to state that I believe that housing is a social issue and not a political issue. People with money in Barbados do not have any problems acquiring house spots or acquiring the best of places to live.

We have in this country what I would call a national disaster, an emergency. It is an emergency in which, with the imminent heavy rains and the hurricane season, people in the Scotland District, particularly in the area of White Hill which I know very well will be faced with these problems.

I have walked that path several Sundays on National Trust walks and I wonder how any person in the rainy season could go to bed in a house in White Hill and sleep with any measure of comfort not knowing whether by 3:00 o'clock in the morning their bedrooms would be in the gullies, whether they would lose their lives or whether there will be injuries and suffering to their families.

I think we have this mistaken notion, in my opinion, that we must just look after the interest of certain people in this society. That is all right if we can take 1 000 acres of land in St. James and put in a golf course because it is economic development but any time the issue of land use in Barbados addresses local, small people who have made significant contributions over a number of years to development in this country, certain sectors of this society feel it is not good enough for them. I have a basic problem with that, Sir.

I have a problem with that too, Sir, because in 1997 science has taken the whole issue of agriculture to new realms. There is biotechnology. There are new forms of irrigation. The Israelis are growing vegetables in deserts. Down in South America you have what used to be called arid land now being very fertile. The point I am making, Sir, is that agriculture worldwide now it is

recognised that yields have increased largely as a result of scientific development. Biotechnology has now been producing varieties that are frost resistant, drought resistant and pest resistant.

4.35 p.m.

I am making this point because the argument always seems to be one that we are compromising agriculture by making available a few acres of land, in Barbados, to provide housing for people who need housing, people who cannot go in the bank or pull their pockets and go into Rowans and buy a four acre lot to plant lawn grass or raise dogs but people who must depend on Government as a matter of support in an effort to be able to enjoy the simple things in life that each Barbadian is entitled to enjoy. I had the misfortune, as a person involved in politics, to run around this country politically, and I have come into contact with some situations in urban and rural Barbados where you have 16 and 17 people, two and three generations living in the same household. This is why I say that I do not believe that this housing issue is a political issue. I believe that it is a social issue because, tell me as a person, when your grandmother and great grandmother and mother and you live in the same house and you are a young man 22 or 23 years old or a young woman and you start to work and you cannot have the opportunity to get into your house, largely as a result of the fact that they are not house spots available and there is not enough subsidised housing available to allow you to get out of that sort of social situation where you have no privacy and your self-esteem is rock bottom. Just imagine what it is like, 18 people in a house down in Deacons Farms, three of them working and you come home and you have that little secret area where you push the \$200 because you are from hand to mouth. There is no banking and your cousin recognises the little secret place where the money is kept and he takes it not because generally speaking that Barbadians are dishonest persons but because he has a dire need; his daughter or probably the baby is crying for milk.

These are the issues that are really serious, social issues and I think that no Government must be faulted for trying to address these really, really serious issues. The issue of housing impacts not just on the children and the young men and women but it also impacts on the elderly who have made significant contributions to bring this country to the prosperous state that it is at. All these people ask is that in their old age that they can live with dignity, on stable land, where at night, particularly in the hurricane season when they go to sleep, they can sleep with the comfort that if Barbados is challenged by heavy rain fall or by high winds that there is a fair and reasonable chance that they will not be injured and that they can survive. I think that this is what the whole issue of provision of housing in these sorts of areas is all about. I have no problem, as I said, with Government taking a piece of land and using it for these purposes.

I went around the country last Saturday and as I came around Shrewsbury in St. Philip and you look south, there are areas and areas of agricultural land, lying fallow. What are organisations like the Barbados Agricultural Society doing to encourage Barbadians to get involved in agriculture so that our agricultural output could be increased and the whole issue of preservation of land for agricultural purposes become a thing of the past.

Sir, I might have had a problem if the Government was acquiring land as some private sector organisations did, like in Rowans and Frere Pilgrim, in high rainfall areas, extremely fertile soils, good terrain for mechanisation, to put four acre lots so that a few people could speculate. I am talking about speculation of land because this is a different issue altogether. This Government is not in the business of land speculation. This Government is in the business of providing housing sites and housing services for people who deserve them. One must understand this. I have a difficulty, as I said before, when there is nothing wrong with having a four acre lot with a single house on it but every time you seek to attempt to address some real serious, social issues that impact in a really negative way on the lives of the average Barbadian, people get up seeking to criticise these sorts of issues.

Sir, I want to ask the question. Is really the land in Farmers that would go largely to the people coming from White Hill be really lost to agriculture? We have a proud tradition in Barbados of peasant farming. Many rural people in Barbados have educated their children, they have built their homes, they have been able to put aside some money in the bank largely as a result of the fact that they had adequate provisions of land in their back yards where they can grow thyme, beans, rear a couple of chicken, a couple of black belly sheep and sell and make some money. In reality, a person does not move away from a tradition too easily.

I am sure that those people that will be relocated from White Hill, will continue in Farmers to get involve in peasant agriculture that have been part of their life activity for generations. To this extent, I do not believe that the land is really lost to agriculture. It might not make a significant contribution in terms of dollars to the economy of Barbados, but it can feed, provide money for education and it can put a couple of dollars in those people's pockets. Therefore, I have absolutely no problem with that.

Sir, in looking at the whole issue of figures surrounding the amount of vacant house lots, we recognise that Barbados is a desirable place to live. However you pick up a newspaper in Britain and you are looking for a retirement home, everybody will see that Barbados is the place to retire. It is a situation where everybody wants to live here, the climate is good, the health

service is good, the people are friendly and we must have a balance between this sort of activity which can bring economic wealth to the country and the sort of activity that would allow a person who have a stake in this country to be able to have decent affordable accommodation on a stable piece of land where they do not have to worry about things like land slippage, flooding and these sort of concerns.

It is for this reason, Sir, that even the Barbadians living overseas who went to North America and Europe back in the early fifties and sixties have a desire to come back here and live. The other social consequence of vacant lots is that a poor little girl working at Chefette and the husband or boyfriend is a junior Government officer cannot put out a stack of money and buy a piece of land cash. They will pay down a little \$ 2 000 or \$3 000 on a piece of land, get a loan from the bank for seven years and pay a \$200 or \$300 per month until they can acquire that land. That is the reality of the situation. It is not that people have land put down there. It is that you must start somewhere. You start by acquiring the land, you do not have the big cash to put out and buy it cash, so you have to live everyday at a time, pay your \$200 and \$300 until such time as you can have that land as your own. Then you can probably borrow some money against that land to build your house the way Barbadians continue to build, piece by piece.

If there are 20 000 lots of land belonging to Barbadians who happen to live overseas and who have made a contribution to this country and who have a desire to come back here and live, I have no problem with that. If foreigners can come here and live, each Barbadian who has been overseas and has saved money and wants to come back here and live has a right to hold onto that piece of land until such time as they are ready to develop it into a house.

Sir, it is on this basis that I would want to support a Resolution like this because to me it strikes at the very heart of a problem which is facing this country. That problem is that there is a backlog of sites and services applications that are not being serviced and we cannot forever go on to believe that there is enough rab land in Barbados that can be utilised for housing for ever more. I think that the situation must be such that we must improve our agricultural techniques so that our output could be increased. That we must make full use of all the agricultural land that is lying fallow in this country so that our agricultural input can be increased, so that when Government needs to redress certain differences and to make the fundamental provisions of housing for the ordinary people of this country that it can be done within a framework of decency and within a framework that does not compromise agriculture production.

I am thankful that we have a set of reasonably well educated people in Barbados that are exposed to a lot of new agricultural techniques whether it be irrigation, biotechnology, whatever form of agriculture that we can achieve that goal and increase production without necessarily having to increase the acreage of land under cultivation. The mere fact that you have engineered species that are pest resistant means that there is 15% or 20% loss in sugar cane agriculture that could be eliminated and this 15% would reduce the need to have an extra 15% of land acreage to achieve the same level of production in agriculture.

It is with these few comments, Sir, that I want to support this Resolution wholeheartedly and I am sure that all right thinking Senators will give it their wholehearted support.

4.45 p.m.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 5:05 p.m. today.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I rise in this debate not like the Senator who just spoke to add any excitement. Indeed he took any excitement there was out of it any way and I think we must take some of the excitement out and indeed some of the emotion out and consider very, very seriously the Resolution before us. The point being that of course the Democratic Labour Party supports the relocation of the people in White Hill. I know the area very well. Of course the Democratic Labour Party supports any move to make their existence a more comfortable and permanent one rather than having to live under the fear of where their house will be tomorrow because of the natural slippage of the land.

The point however must be made that when we relocate the people of White Hill the crux of the matter is, where do we relocate them to? We have made the point in the other place and I believe in here in a previous debate that the Government of Barbados must have a land use policy which is consistent with the economic and social development of this country. It must be a policy which can be predicted. It must be a policy which of course seeks to satisfy the needs of all strata of the society. It must not be an exclusive policy. It must not be set for the rich at the exclusion of the poor and indeed it must be so

tailored, as a matter of fact I would go as far to say, as to provide opportunity for the poor members of our community. Indeed that is one of the roles of the Government and by acquiring this land for low income housing and relocation of the people in White Hill Government is satisfied this is part of its stated objective.

However, I had occasion only recently to talk about the fact that the Government also has just embarked upon an environmental management and land use programme and I believe another Senator who spoke earlier, I want to be very careful venturing into his speech because although there are areas of the speech which I support tremendously I must say that some areas would have introduced difficulty to myself too as a Barbadian who has lived all his life in an environment of the working class and who continues to do so. Indeed by his stated political activity he seeks to represent the needs of the majority of Barbadians and by that of course we naturally mean the majority of Barbadians are unfortunately still the poor Barbadians.

So, Sir, the issue of housing poor people in Barbados is not lost on this Assembly, Sir, and all I want to add is that in seeking to relocate we must not utilize useful agricultural land in an unstructured approach. I much prefer to follow the stated objective of this study for which the Government is paying, and I believe we have already made it a record of this Chamber, something like US\$1.6 million, a very costly study and which should be available within a year to 18 months.

Once all this information is available and can be fed into the data base of the decision making well then we would be in a much better position because the policy which has been set in 1960 in terms of land use cannot be now the policy to work. Indeed the policy that would have been thought of at the introduction of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act might not be the policy that will work today and there are a number of considerations, not least among which is the environmental consideration and again we have touched on this subject from time to time. The environmental consideration and the old eco balance of the Barbados environment that has to be looked at with more energy than has been done so far.

Sir, the land acquisition contemplated must also take along with it the infrastructural requirements of the area and even if we were to look at Farmers as the Resolution does, we have heard a description by both sides, both the Government side and the Independent Senator who spoke, that the land proposed is located right next to a school. I trust then that the plans for development will include adequate transport. Obviously the kids will not continue going to Turners Hall School all their lives. They are going to leave there and they will want to go to Combermere or Foundation or Queen's College, not the Dame Elsie

Queen's College, the Queen's College School. They might want to go to Harrison College so there must be in a bus route. It must have adequate side walks because kids will be going to school and inevitably they will have to walk to school and there should be direction signs appropriately named. They should be able to walk to school in safety. 5.15 p.m.

Sir, the main road which the land is located, and I hope Senator Farley is listening because he certainly did not know where Farmers was when he was talking today. I was sure of that. He tried to imply that I did not know where Constant was a little while ago, but his performance today on Farmers, Sir, was pathetic.

Certain remarks made by Senator Boyce were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, as I said the road runs adjacent to a large farming community owned by one of the large landowners of Barbados. So you are going to have tractors moving around there. It is also very close to a depot for the Ministry of Transport and Works. Again, we will have trucks moving in and out of the area down to St. Andrew where there is always a lot of construction work going on and of course with the location of the dump in Greenland now, one does not know how the road will be used in the future.

What we have to guard against as we contemplate the development, is illegal dumping by those persons, who might want to avoid the tipping fee at Greenland who might use the area.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: It is not the poor people dumping. It is the not so poor people who are sending the stuff to the dump who might be encouraged to divert through these newly cut roads and take their load over into the gully behind.

Sir, all this must be contemplated in the planned development of this Farmers area. If the Government is convinced that Farmers is the only site where the people of White Hill can comfortably exist and there is no where else where they could locate these persons, they must utilise some of the most fertile agricultural land. We had no presentation today that would draw me to any other conclusion. Nobody said it was arid land. Nobody said it would need to stretch one's imagination in terms of what agriculture is. Everybody has agreed that this particular spot is located in one of the most agriculturally productive areas of Barbados. And that is the crux of the issue which we have to concern ourselves with. Not with

any emotive issue about somebody saying the people of White Hill do not deserve a better life. Of course, they do and we recognise that fully. And I will hope that all Senators recognise that the people of White Hill deserve a better opportunity for life.

So I am not going to go down that road with the Senators on the Government side who want to swing from a contribution to try to make good political mileage. That is nonsense, Sir. That is a poor approach. I said before, it is time we hear from the economic planners of this country in terms of this land use. They can sit down and disrupt this sitting, Sir, constantly, much to your annoyance, Sir, and whenever given the opportunity, they do not get up and say a word. I believe the Prime Minister should be notified about this, Sir. He have no contribution in this Senate on economic matters. None whatsoever. He has a bunch of asides, which none of us hear, of course, and nonsensical asides at that, Sir.

It is time we get an economic contribution in this Senate to the whole question of land use. I said so before, and I am saying it again. The Minister of Economic Affairs in this Senate must contribute on these kinds of matters.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: This is about planning, Sir. This is about where Barbados will be five years from now. At that time Barbados will be back in the hands of the Democratic Labour Party anyhow, so we will be in control. In fact, they have two more years or so to continue to present resolutions of this type, while not being properly informed by a policy which encompasses all those considerations which I want to bring to light.

So, Sir, the area in Farmers needs to be equipped with the infrastructural development to protect those young kids and their parents as they travel to and from school in an environment which is presently, as I said, largely used by large vehicles in farming and construction. One would want to see side walks developed and lighting. One would want to ensure that there is adequate transport service, because many developments in Barbados have gone ahead and have erupted, I would say, into large communities with no semblance for planning in terms of transport.

I live in Enterprise, Sir, and people and workers in Enterprise and Atlantic Shores have got to endure a 15 to 20 minutes walk in the hot sun to get to work and to get home on evenings, Sir. It is absolutely unfair. There are predominantly poor people too. The same people that they were championing only 10 minutes ago. These are poor helpers in homes and they need, Sir, to be provided with an adequate public transport system which will allow them to get into a bus at least in Oistins and drive into Atlantic

Shores or to Enterprise. This goes for the residents as well and there must be a consideration in the development of Farmers.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR BOYCE were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: But, Sir, I would also ask who do I complain to when I am constantly disturbed by the Honourable Senator?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You complain to the Chair.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Thank you, Sir. The point is, Sir, that the whole question of planning and use is bound up in the economic plan of Barbados and it must be considered by those working in that area before final execution.
5.25 p.m.

I have no regrets about indicating my deep sense of hurt, almost disbelief, that debate after debate our land use can go by in this Chamber and we hear emotive contributions from Ministers of Trade, Ministers of International Trade, Ministers of radio and communication, we hear from tourism experts, and we are not hearing anything on the economics of this policy. I think it needs to be looked at and I will hope to see a change.

Sir, the development of Farmers must be accompanied, if it has to be Farmers, we say that the land use policy which is presently available for scrutiny by the public of Barbados seems to indicate that Farmers is a good agricultural area and there must be other areas in the vicinity of the same White Hill or near enough to the school which we are expecting to serve from Farmers and this area could be utilised for any development.

The needs in the existing Farmers Tenantry, for instance, you still have people walking on rock roads coming out of Farmers Tenantry. I was there. I visited with them and I saw their plight. They have to walk about 400 yards on rock roads destroying their expensive shoes to get buses to go to work. They walk to the bottom of the area from Farmers Tenantry.

The development of Farmers could see lands in that area being allocated and indeed the relocation could be centred around the already existing tenantry. I think that, take away the emotion, indeed, take away the misconstrued and probably unfortunate direction which the debate might have taken earlier, let us get down to the real facts, the real issue of how we take Barbados forward in terms of allocation of lands and how we, in seeking to provide opportunity for ownership and for development of all Barbadians, ensure that we can still at the

end of the day feed ourselves, clothe ourselves and exist as human beings and Barbadians with tremendous pride and honour.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I shall ignore the ranting of the previous speaker because in any case I wanted to get into this debate because it is very important.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think you should choose another word. "Ranting" is rather unparliamentary.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I would substitute "rambling". Sir, I know the area in White Hill very well. I have family there and I was there a few months ago and I saw the destruction that was heaped on the people by nature and there is no question that the people have to be resited. Anybody who knows the area or visited the area in the last year or so would know that the people have to be resited as a matter of extreme urgency.

The rainy season is upon us and my fear is that one morning you will wake up and hear a lady or a gentleman was sleeping in their beds, the land slipped and life is lost. That is a real possibility. I am not exaggerating. I know the area and, as I said before, I visited it earlier this year. I took a day off from work and went up there to see the damage that was done by the last land slippage so I know what I am talking about. I am talking from experience because I know the area very well. There is no doubt that in order to avoid a national tragedy the people have to be resited.

Those of us who know the area well, not those of us who saw it in a picture on some map, know that there is little flat land in that part of Barbados. Therefore, in order to keep the community together it is important because we see the results of breaking up communities in Barbados. It is necessary to keep communities together. That is a very important social responsibility to keep these communities together for lots of reasons and those who do not know the reasons do not understand the sociology of Barbados.

Therefore, it is important that the people who have lived all their lives in these communities be resited in such a manner that their friendships are preserved and the community spirit is maintained. Therefore, it is important that we find an area large enough to site a great percentage of these people.

Sir, if you will recall when we had to move the people in the Lakes Folly/Chapman Lane area to make way for the Bridgetown Sewerage Plant we made sure that we

put them in one community and the result of that move is an object lesson in how we should plan our communities.

Based on those facts, Sir, what do we do? I want to say that agricultural land is not sacred, neither should it be sacred, because there are other activities that have to go on in this country besides agriculture. I can afford to say so because this Government has a record second to none on retaining the integrity of agricultural land in Barbados. Most of the land that was taken out of agriculture and went into 4-acre lots for the middle and upper classes was done under the Democratic Labour Party. That is an historical fact. Most of the land that was taken out and put in middle and upper class houses was done under the Democratic Labour Party. Now we are taking 7 acres out of 30 000 acres of agricultural land and there is one hue and cry. I want to repeat, Sir. Seven acres out of 30 000 acres of arable land and they are going to get up in here now and pretend that this is a visitation on the people of Barbados by an insensitive government.

We on this side make no apology of encroaching on agricultural land in this way if it is for the benefit of the people of this country. I want to be quoted on that.

The people in White Hill deserve just as good housing or land as any of us in here deserve. They have paid their dues and they deserve the understanding of the highest Chamber in the land. They deserve that all 21 of us be understanding of their needs and their hopes and their aspirations instead of pillorying the Government because it decided to take 7 acres of land out of 30 000 acres of arable land for housing. Sir, we must put this into perspective.

We are not taking 700 acres and putting it into a golf course. We are taking 7 acres for houses for the working classes, the people that the Democratic Labour Party pretend that they care so much about. So our conscience is extremely clear and if the situation arose tomorrow we would do the same thing.
5.35 p.m.

The people of Barbados deserve the right to enjoy the benefits of Barbados regardless of class, creed or whatever distinction.

Sir, why do not the agriculturalists in Barbados with all their fancy technology put the land in the Scotland District which is unsuitable for housing into good agriculture purposes? I believe we can get stability in that part of the area if there is more agriculture there. Taking up 7 acres of land to resite houses could very well mean that where the houses are taken from that with proper land reforming and planting of proper crops that area of land could very well be brought back into production to the extent that stability in that area can be achieved once again.

Sir, Senator Forde spoke about the fact that when she was a girl, a year or two ago, I may add, there were cane holes in the Springvale area and as a result of the method of agriculture land slippage was curtailed and there was no degradation as we are having today. I want to suggest, Sir, that we use our collective wisdom to bring the lands in the Scotland area in the slopes back into production to compensate for any land that has to be legitimately taken out to go into housing. That is the way to go. If it does not go into canes there are other crops that can be used to stabilise the land.

The point must be made, Sir, that the people of White Hill deserve better treatment than we in this Senate are giving them this afternoon. I am a little bit ashamed when they are pilloried for wanting concrete houses. It has suddenly become a crime in Barbados to want concrete houses and waterborne toilet systems. Sir, if that is a crime, I am a criminal because I want a concrete house and I want a waterborne system. I want everybody I know, all my friends, all my family to have a concrete house and a waterborne system so if it is a crime I stand as the biggest criminal in the land.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think you should repeat that so often, Senator.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, it shows how strongly I feel about the aspirations of our people. Coming up, Sir, I had no choice but we have gone up now since the 50s when I was a boy. Our people now are legitimately demanding a higher standard of living and I felt extremely hurt as a product of the working classes to be castigated for wanting to move from chattel houses to concrete houses. It showed a little bit of insensitivity. I am sure the Senator on reflection would wish that he did not make that statement.

Sir, the whole question of land use is one that our society has to come to grips with as a matter of national urgency. The demand on our limited land space is growing as our tourism grows and other activities grow so it is conceivable, as we all know, that in order to keep the development going we have from time to time to change land usage and encroach on what others might consider to be sacred land.

Sir, we have to make sure that it is done in an integrated way and not in a *willy-nilly* fashion, so I am at one with the last speaker. We do not want a *willy-nilly* approach to the whole question of land use. While we are waiting 12 to 18 months for this study, the people in White Hill do not have 12 to 18 months. It is as simple as that. While we are waiting for 12 to 18 months for the study, then for another 2 or 3 years for the study to be implemented, then all we would have to do is to make sure that St. Thomas Church or the other churches have enough

graveyard spots for the people who would have died as a result of the slippage. They do not have time to wait. While we are waiting for the study on land use and so on, we have to move urgently to address an urgent problem. The whole question of waiting is a non issue because we just cannot wait.

Sir, I do not understand what the talk is all about. It is a clear-cut issue. We are taking up 7 acres of land out of 30 000 acres of arable land. According to the Schedule, we are taking 2.7 hectares and I am told that this is approximately 7.3 acres out of 30 000 acres of arable land. It is insignificant. I do not need to say anymore, Sir, but I just ask this Senate to be sensitive to the need and aspiration of the people of this country. People are listening to us. People are listening to what we say and they would like to know that we have 21 people who understand and will respond to their needs.

Sir, with those few words, I want to urge this Senate to support this Resolution knowing that it is to the benefit of the people of Barbados and the people of White Hill in particular.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, there are a few observations I would like to make regarding the debate that has taken place so far. I would like to say out front that I am one of those persons who agree that any Government should own land so that the various people can buy it from them cheaply at a price they can afford so that they can build homes.

I supported fairly recently in this Senate about the need for us to have a written land use policy, about the need for us to conserve the small amount of land that is left for Barbadians to buy, the need, if necessary, just to lease land to non Barbadians because the non Barbadians have a lot of money that the Barbadians do not have. They are driving up the market and they are making it very difficult for the ordinary Barbadians to purchase land. There is a group of the lower income people who would find it impossible to buy land and own their homes unless the Government purchases the land and sells it to them at a rate they can afford.

I will also like to note, as one of the Senators contributed, about a relative who worried and ended up with a stroke. It goes beyond land use. That means the person has to go to the hospital and it is going to overload the wards so land use has very serious implications. They might not only have strokes but mental illness as well.

Mr. President, I am very serious about this land use policy. I am also aware, and I note that contributors to the debate mentioned that there are consultants here

who are looking at a land use policy but it will not be available until about 18 months. Well, obviously, we cannot wait to resite people from White Hill where the land is slipping and the rains are coming in the Scotland District.

At the same point, what worries me so much is that this whole Scotland area is subject to slippage and yet we have a dump in the same Scotland area. We are saying on the one hand that the people who live there must be resited before the rains come and they must not wake up and see their homes down the road, *et cetera* but in another breath we are putting a dump down in the same area that is subject to slippage.

5.45 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I believe that the members who spoke previously indicated that the residents were being re-sited from White Hill and she is suggesting that a landfill is being placed in the same area and I believe that is misleading the House, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I said Scotland District which is subject to land slippage and Mr. President I also said at another time that my grandparents owned land in the Scotland District and they had to move from there. It is adjacent to Greenland. Because one morning they woke up and found the house down the road and they still own the land adjacent to Greenland for which my family pays taxes. The whole area is subject to slippage.

I am not going down that route, Mr. President, let me get back to the Resolution that is on the table at the moment.

Mr. President, I am very concerned about persons who have to squat simply because they do not have land and I support the Government in acquiring land but at the same time, Mr. President, we also need agricultural land for the planting and the production of tomatoes, sweet pepper, *etcetera*. I think we need to strike a balance between the two. I think that we need some person who can assist us when Resolutions are being brought to this Chamber or even before they are brought to this Chamber to let us know what is good agricultural land and what is not good agricultural land. It seems as though every time there is a debate about the acquisition of land, on the one side we are hearing it is not agricultural land and on the other side we are hearing that it is agricultural land.

I myself, Mr. President, have asked for a piece of the map to be submitted with the Resolution. It is done in other countries who have less resources than us and we have the

technology and we have the maps at Town and Country Planning. It can be photographed and the arrows can be placed and we will all know what we are debating and what we are not debating so that we can make more intelligent contributions.

Mr. President, obviously the area that is being acquired has not yet been prepared simply because it has not yet been acquired and is not land where people are living. But I would like to support the contributions that call for the development of street lights *etcetera*, so that the persons who are living in this area can live in a comfortable way. In this connection, we have been talking quite a lot about the Rural Development Commission. I sincerely hope that they will be consulted into how to develop the area so that they can give the necessary assistance that the Rural Development Commission has been set up to give.

I would hope that in the near future that we can have some form of a paper. I do not think that we should have to wait for 18 months for a rough draft or the first draft or form of a plan for a land use policy in Barbados. I think, perhaps, we could try and get behind the consultants and ask them to speed up the plan so that we would not have this type of argument over the acquisition of land because as someone mentioned, if it is due in 18 months, it is going to take another 18 months to examine and that means that it is not going to be ready for another three years or so.

Finally, Mr. President, we have been debating Resolutions for acquisition and it costs money. I am getting more and more concerned as to where the money will come from.

Mr. President, the only way Government could get money to pay for these acquisitions is through using taxes collected and as I know the only tax at the moment is the VAT.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Land tax is there, the main tax is VAT.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I am not going into that. If we have to use the proceeds from VAT and land tax I do not know how much will be left for other services and other acquisitions that are going to come down the road. I think we need to carefully do a cost analysis of what all of these acquisitions are going to cost to see how much we can afford. I realise that it is urgent, the persons must be moved and that we must find a place to put them but they are other bits of land that is being acquired that are not yet so urgent. So I suggest that we do

a small cost analysis and let us know the cost of these various acquisitions so that the persons from whom the land has been acquired will be promptly paid.

Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you Mr. President, I would like to make a very brief intervention, Sir, on this matter before us.

Earlier I said that this will be a historic debate. I really feel as though I am in Parliament today to be used as a voice of the people and today I believe I have heard the voice of the people. Voices of the people almost coming together as a single voice. I think we need to recognise that a Government, elected by the people has certain responsibilities to the people.

I think in Barbados there is something that we tend to overlook. We are a very small island, with very large aspiration and hopes and dreams but a small state with very limited natural resources.

The challenge any Government of Barbados would face from time to time is one of managing the very limited resources it has to the benefit of its people. But at the same time, I believe the greatest challenge that any Government of Barbados would face and must face today is the challenge of improving the lot and the livelihood of that very large percentage of the population of this country who are still very much impoverished and living under conditions of which we cannot be proud as a people.

Therefore, as we debate in this Senate the use of land and whether such land should remain in agriculture or whether it should be used for housing, tourism or any other form of investment, the question we must still ask ourselves is, having done this particular activity, do we still have a numerically large number of our population sitting at the lower rungs of our society.

I therefore believe that there is need for a balance.
5.55 p.m.

A government cannot please all of its people all of the time and from time to time it must deal with the criticisms and the attacks of the varied and various interest groups in that society. Today we are dealing with housing and lands and whether we should take land out of agriculture in order to accommodate housing for some of our people.

Now, the members of this Senate know where I stand on matters of this nature. I have never ceased to indicate in this House, on the streets, wherever I go in Barbados and even further afield, I am on the side of the working class

and disadvantaged of this society and any measure brought before this Parliament which seeks to empower the people whose interests I have set out to represent, I stand firmly on the side of.

Today I live in a house in which I have lived for the past 22½ years. It is a development which the Democratic Labour Party took out of agriculture and introduced at that time what was called low income housing, in those days a \$20 000 stone house. For me that was a quantum leap when I moved from my little chattel house with shedroof, kitchen and of course the toilet was in the yard and a pipe in the backyard. We had recently acquired electricity so 6 months after my marriage we acquired this nice little stone structure at Wildey where I still live today. The 1st June is 23 years I was married but 22½ years I have been living in that house. So I recognise what such a decision can do for the lives of people. That house which we acquired for \$20 000 then, I recently mortgaged for a small sum in the eyes of some people, the sum of \$130 000, towards education for my daughter.

Now, I think we need to recognise that when such decisions are made from time to time that they really bring empowerment to the lives of our people, that they put our people in a position that they can further enhance, not only their lives, but the lives of their offspring. That \$130 000 I could have used to purchase another house of a larger size had I put my priorities in that direction. I chose education. So, Mr. President, it is alright for us to say that the numbers are small but I believe whenever we empower the smallest number of people in the society we have gone forward and it is very important that we do so.

Fellow Senators must recognise that I always speak with conviction from my conscience and that you can always go back and trace and find out I am consistent. I am not an opportunist. Therefore I do not seek to rise on issues because they are topical but I speak from the depths of my heart on those things which I represent.

I recognise the importance of agriculture and its contribution to national development, the importance of feeding our people. I also recognise that we must put our people in a position where they can enhance their purchasing power that they can do other things and also contribute to national development. So it is a cycle.

I am from an agricultural base. I am one of the people who lament the fact that I do not think the agriculturist in our society have done enough to help us rehabilitate a lot of the land we have lying around that could probably be more productive towards food. And I would like to see, as mentioned earlier by another Senator, since we are going to be moving the residents of White Hill to this other area, I hope we could draw on the knowledge of those individuals in agriculture

and try to use that land to see how best we can get food or whatever crops we can plant on it, in order to keep our people going.

The challenge though as we debate such matters in this Senate, I think we must recognise, let us not fool ourselves, this 1997. We still have a large number of Barbadians whom we are educating. They are coming out with very lofty ideals, they want to get ahead. What are we going to do for them? We have acquired tastes, values and the responsibility of Members of Parliament must from time to time be to shape the thinking and the expectations of our people. Can we as Barbadians continue to believe that as individuals we can walk around and acquire certain square footage of land *ad infinitum*? Where would we house future generations when they come out of school and they want to own their own homes? Is the time right for us to start to educate our people that we need to embark on another form of housing which would, while allowing them to live in comfort, still leave the way for others to own houses in the future, or are we going to allow us to retain that selfish attitude of having my little lot here and once I am here I do not care about anybody else? These are things we have to address sooner or later in this Parliament.

Mr. President, let me say that I have enjoyed today in this Senate. I really feel like I have been in the House of Parliament, a Parliament that recognises that its responsibility is to look out there on the needs of the masses of people in the country and address them.

It is interesting that as we debated the other issue earlier on Bay Street I was saying we need to make sure that we are empowering our people and at the time that I said that I touched the corns of a few people because sometimes in this Parliament I feel I am sitting in the Board Room of large corporations in Barbados. I felt pleased today when some individuals were able to shed themselves of their corporate cloaks and hats and recognise that the Parliament of Barbados is for the numerical majority and not for the economic minority. Therefore, Mr. President, without saying much more let me say that I hope the Government would be sensible enough to recognise the importance of agriculture and indeed all Governments of Barbados should, because the food import bill would be a burden to the country, it would drain our foreign reserves; so only a foolish government would not recognise the importance of agriculture.

Let me also hope that the Government recognises the importance of improving the quality of housing of the people of this country.
6.05 p.m.

Let me also throw a challenge to this Government as we talk about land use and housing that it is alright for us

to develop Barbados for tourism, but there is something we need to look at and I think Senator Rickinson touched on it a bit earlier. That some of these very large and expensive properties which we are locating in Barbados would interfere with the cost of land in this country, and could push our land out of the purchasing power of a large percentage of our people and we must try hard to retain Barbados for Barbadians.

My other concern also, Mr. President, is that we need to put in place hurriedly and very soon, legislation which would allow foreign investors to come in and participate in our economic life from time to time but would not allow them to come here and purchase large chunks of this little rock to rob our offspring and our future generations of this little Barbados which is ours.

I would like to see legislation introduced which would allow leasing over certain periods of years but not the kind of open ownership that we are seeing in this country today. We cannot afford it. Barbados is too small for this and we must take action now. I would not like us to allow the year 2000 to come and find all of these non-Barbadians who are attracted to our favourable climate, our economic stability and our advancement in modern technology to come here and rob us of this Barbados which we all cherish so much. So, the land use policy legislation or whatever is necessary I would like to see in place as soon as possible.

With those few remarks, Sir, I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise at the conclusion of this debate feeling extremely pleased at the contributions of Honourable Members particularly the last member who spoke in that quiet statesmanlike fashion. In fact all of the presentations today have been very much befitting of the high level which one would associate with this Honourable Chamber. Particularly the last presentation, Sir, not only in terms of the solid and deep content, Sir, which had its philosophical moorings and a clear understanding of the nature of our society, but the quiet manner of presentation, Sir, reminded me as one person once said, that you must not mistake noise for weight, militance for virtue, or passion for sense, or gripes for principles and she showed that in a quiet statesmanlike manner one is able to ensure that there is weight, virtue, sense and principle in the presentation on a matter of this nature, Sir.

By contrast however, Sir, we had nearly a presentation which left me somewhat in a bit of the tailspin, Sir. I believe that presentation which was suitably dealt with by a series of Honourable Members that is a presentation by Senator Laurie and I believe that Senator Bolden and a series of other eminent Senators dealt with that matter particularly well.

I would just want to underscore the point now, Sir, that in 1997 we cannot reasonably expect, Sir, to question people's legitimate aspirations for what all of us have become to expect that we should have in 1997.

So that, Sir, to suggest as was done that people such as the ones in White Hill have been influenced by wrong thinking people who have convinced them that it is necessary to have a stone house and water toilet and so on and they need to move to have these things really goes more than too far. As a matter of fact, Sir, there were a number of locations for housing which were suitable for the conditions that existed many years ago.

My grandparents for example, Sir, lived in an area in Fairview Tenantry in St. George, which, in those days was a prime location. On the ridge of a hill with the usual amenities, some trees to cut down, some place to grow something and so on. However, all the persons who lived on that hill only had a foot path to their houses. In the days of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s when nobody had a car other than the plantation owner, the doctor, the lawyer and maybe the priest, there was no big deal if they wanted to come and see you, they would walk. They probably did not want to come and see you anyhow. But the fact of the matter, Sir, is that even before 1997, even as far back, Sir, as the 1960s when I was growing up, it became impossible to get any of the basic amenities if you were outside of vehicular access. Because it meant that the Light and Power could not effectively run service to you. The Water Works would not want to run piping so far off the main. The ambulance workers, if you were ill, would not lift you up those treacherous paths and so on.

In fact, I remember even one of the last persons to remain on that hill, my grandparents moved out after the 1955 hurricane, but two houses remained up there when I was a boy growing up. But I remember once in the 1970s my father through his hard work in the construction industry was able to buy a little car and as was customary in those areas, persons who had a car in the district were on call for those persons who did not. So if anyone was pregnant and going to have a baby, or took ill, you came to ask the person who had a car to bring you. And that poor pregnant lady had to walk down that hill. I believe that it is after that incident that she finally moved from up there.

But a foot path up some steep roads and so on, so that nobody in 1997 in Barbados, no matter how picturesque the view might be, no matter how clean the air might be really should not be told that they have been convinced by wrong thinking people to want to be in a situation where there is vehicular access either for in times of sickness, in case you need the fire service to put out a fire, or simply to get to and from home.

Or, that in a country which is prone to hurricane activity and which house fires are still part of the hazard, not because you might not keep your internal surroundings safe, but because of the close proximity and your house is likely to be caught by a fire in another location that persons should be suggesting that there is anything wrong with aspiring to stone. There is nothing wrong with having wood if you want to have wood either. But I do not think that we should use these august Chambers to suggest that people are misguided in their aspirations as far as the basic amenities are concerned.

The last point I want to make, Mr. President, I really would not want to attempt to speak so long as to have members forget the last presentation before mine, but Sir, this matter of the location of the land within a wider agricultural area, if you look at a map of the area where I live you will see it located as agriculture.
6.15 p.m.

When I look through another I see agriculture but I only have two doors. When I go around the house I also see agriculture but the spot on which I am is on the crop of a rock. I manage to have a few fruit trees growing around but that does not necessarily mean that because I live in an agricultural area that every square foot of that land is agricultural land, and it does not mean that because an area is shown on a map as being the heart of agricultural land that nobody can live there. As a matter of fact, to have agricultural land where nobody lives is really out of touch with the reality of Barbados.

I wanted to suggest, Mr. President, that the Honourable Members should give their support for this Resolution and that Honourable Members would want further to give the assurance and support to persons such as those in the White Hill area who are not as yet able to benefit from the comfort and the security which the majority of us have as far as the concerns about the stability of our homes, as far as the concerns about having access to the amenities in this country and that they will know that the apparatus of the State, including the highest bodies in the land, the apparatus of Parliament, would be used to assist them in improving their conditions rather than being used as a brake to stop them from being able to soar to the greatest heights that anybody living anywhere else in this country is able to rise.

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

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 T. E. BARKER, SENATOR THE HON. Miss. O. P. SYMMONDS, SENATOR D. T. GILL, SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE, SENATOR N. P. WELCH, SENATOR N. A. LYNCH, SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN, SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN, SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON and SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE – 15.

Noes: SENATOR C.K. LAURIE – 1.

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO LEASE LAND AT WEYMOUTH

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Honourable Senate is being sought for the lease of land at Weymouth, St. Michael to the Police Sports Club. This land is land which is the playing facility used by the Police Sports Club and is located on the corner of Roebuck Street and Halls Road opposite the Globe Cinema and it consists of a large playing field as well as a clubhouse and other facilities which have been used for some time now since 1978 or thereabouts by the Police Sports Club.

Formal approval of the Senate is being sought for this lease. Parliamentary approval had been given earlier in 1978 for this lease, however, the lease agreement was never concluded because the trustees in the Sports Club were not in place. According to the relevant legislation, the lease would have to stand in the name of the trustees.

We are now satisfied that in accordance with both the Government's own procedures as well as the rules of the Police Sports Club that the trustees are now in place and we are therefore seeking to put in place this lease which would place the property in question under the control of the Police Sports Club in the name of the trustees for a sum of \$200 per annum up to the year 2072.

This is part of the Government's ongoing support of the work of sporting social and cultural organisations. It is to be recognised that one of the greatest means affecting social and cultural activities is to allow people to do what they are most comfortable with and in groups with which they are most comfortable. So that the Government recognises that through its departments it cannot take care of all sporting and cultural activities and that one thing we can do is to give support to private voluntary groups which are able to have the degree of support and penetration and success in the community which perhaps a government department would not.

In the case of the Police this is a club that provides activities not only for the members of the Royal Barbados

Police Force but also through the sporting interaction of the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force, through the Police Sports Club with members of the wider community, in cricket, in hockey and the other pursuits, they are able to foster a closer relationship with the community.

One suggestion that I would perhaps like to make and a challenge that I would want to throw out to the Police Sports Club is that they would want at this Weymouth location to have the level of community impact which one would have associated with the Police Boys and Girls Sports Club at Bay Street. That was very well known and was very much a part of the community for persons who grew up in the Bay Land area in the 1950s, 60s, even the 70s.

Just in case Honourable Members are wondering if I am like Poonka and come from all over the place I am not from the Bay Land but my wife happens to be from that area and she could attest if she had the privilege of being a member of this Honourable Chamber to the contribution which the Police Boys and Girls Club made in terms of being a home for basketball, for netball or general evening/week-end and other activities. I do not think that in terms of the Weymouth location that there is as yet that community involvement in terms of the impact of the Club on persons who live in Halls Road, Hindsbury Road, Tweedside Road and other areas of the City.

I understand that there are proposals for the provision of hard courts for the basketball, netball and volley ball which will provide additional avenues by which they are able to do that. I hope that they will not lose that focus.

We are pleased to note as well that the grounds at Weymouth as maintained by the Police continue to be made available to a number of schools in the area for athletic activities.

6.25 p.m.

There are a number of clubs who use the area. Also because of the well-maintained status, it provides another venue which international sporting clubs are able to use on their many sporting tourism visits to Barbados.

The Government is therefore pleased to sponsor this Resolution seeking to formalise these lease arrangements for this parcel of land and the building thereon which is currently occupied by the Police Sports Club. We certainly note the setback they have had with respect to the fire which they had at the club house some time ago. We hope they will soon be able to get fully on their feet by having the repairs on the building completed and thereby be able to make full use of what is a very useful facility.

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution for the lease of land to the Police Sports Club for the sum of \$200 per annum up to the year 2072 do now pass.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution and its intent to formalise the arrangements for the use of the land at Weymouth. When the Honourable Senator who introduced the Resolution described the area he was not as vivid as he was earlier in describing lands located at Farmers, and as I said previously, other places in Barbados, and Fairview even. He only alluded very quickly to the state of the facility which the police, and I say at the stage the poor police, that is using the Barbadian language now, have to endure at their Sports Club.

I think it is a crying shame that we do not have accompanying this Resolution some kind of an arrangement to assist the police to bring the facility into a condition which they can be proud of and a condition which it was in not so long ago. It is dilapidated. It is unpainted. The fencing is breached in many areas. I think Government needs to look when they are making these arrangements to ensure there are proper facilities and should provide the infrastructure and resources sometimes which would allow for proper representation. After all, Sir, this is the highest protected force of this land. The Police Force is a very important function of this community and we need to keep them in facilities which befit the dignity for which they are supposed to stand.

Only recently we had the Annual Tattoo which the police have which was done at District "A" Police Station. Again, if the facility at Weymouth was adequately and appropriately developed one could see the Tattoo taking place there and indeed being an event which could be supported by the wider community, and indeed achieve some of the objectives which were alluded to by the Honourable Senator when he talked about integrating the community into the work of the Police Sports Club.

Sir, while I am fully in support of the lease arrangement, I am asking too that Government look to assist the Police Force in whatever way to bring that building into a condition which is befitting of the dignity of the Police Force of which we are so proud.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, first of all I wish to commend most highly the Government for all it has done for sports in the past and all it is doing presently, and all that it plans to do in the future and to show its interest in sports and interest in the activities of the Police Sports Club by this lease.

It is, Mr. President, a very important facility. It is very centrally located and the Police Sports Club has made a good contribution to sport as the Leader has intimated. They play football, hockey, darts, dominoes and other sporting activities which include shooting, chess and athletics.

Of course, there is cricket. They play in the Premier Division which is part of the intermediate, in the Second Division and in the First Division. In this they won the championship in 1964 and 1969. Again in 1976 they shared it with the BCL. They had a hat trick of victories in 1983, 1984 and 1985. They won again in 1987.

What is more, they have produced a cricketer of the calibre of Leslie Reifer who is presently Secretary of the Sports Club. I do not have to remind this Honourable Chamber that, of course, the great Sir Gary was a member of the Police Sports Club and played there.

The building and the field are widely used, as the Leader has said. The Women Softball Team, Louis Lynch Secondary, the Combined School and Metropolitan School practise there. These are community groups. They are very generous with their building.

I recall when I was Principal of the St. Michael School seeking permission to have our sports there because our field was not adequate and they readily gave permission. They have held concerts and dances in the building. The Police Wives' Association used to meet there. I have attended many of the functions of the Police Wives' Association. They do a great deal of community work including giving scholarships. They used to meet there until the fire which took place last February.

I recall addressing the Barbados Association of Journalists there at one time. That is just to show how widely it is used. They are presently rebuilding and they aim at building an even better building. Of course, wherever possible there can be Government support it is desirable and ideal but self-help can also give people a sense of achievement, a sense of pride and something at which to aim.

I gather they are quite comfortable with this approach. I have visited there quite often, as I stated, and I did not detect this terrible dilapidation and rundown aspect of which the last Senator spoke. I therefore feel quite satisfied with this Resolution which I have great pleasure in supporting.

Thank you, Mr. President.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, it seems as if Senator Boyce will never

learn. It looks like he is one of those hardheaded students you have to lick all the time until . . .

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot say that. I would ask that you withdraw that. That is offensive.
6.35 p.m.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I will withdraw. I am saying he will not learn politically.

Mr. President, the Police Sports Club is a far different entity from the Royal Barbados Police Force and when the Senator says that this Resolution should be accompanied by another factor of repairing the building etc., he does not understand the difference between the Police Sports Club and the Royal Barbados Police Force. The Barbados Government, this present political party, when they came into power found the comfort of the police to be in such a state that they embarked on a building programme, not only of the police stations but the courts etc., in order to enhance the status of the police. He does not understand what is happening and he speaks just because he wants to speak.

It is regrettable that Senator Thompson who used to lead off for the Opposition used to speak sensibly but having been deposed we are now being given some statements that really do not enhance this Chamber.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President, Senator Thompson is still the leader of the Democratic Labour Party's business in the Senate. There has been no deposition, Sir.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I therefore hope that if Senator Thompson is still the leader that Senator Boyce will follow the example of Senator Thompson when she spoke in the last Resolution because he would learn a lot.

Mr. President, he speaks about dilapidation, the building is dilapidated. I am saying now that the Honourable Member does not know what he is talking about. Four weeks ago the Minibus Association held a meeting in that building and I was asked to go there to advise them on certain factors of what was happening and I sat in that building in what is a hall. That is the old headmaster's house for Combermere School. I went to school there. Major Noot lived there until you had the little shaking of the building when it began to subside and they moved some of the people to the Garrison and then they built a new school. The Honourable Member does not know the building he is talking about. If he says it is dilapidated he is not telling the truth because I sat in it 4 weeks ago and this foolishness of coming into Parliament

and making these unworthy statements only to get in the press, it is time somebody tells him he is talking utter foolishness.

I go further. The Honourable Member does not understand another factor. There are a lot of policemen in the Police Force today who joined the Force only to play sports and are getting paid like policemen. About a year ago I had a client who was reported by a policeman. That policeman went on the Stand and I only had to cross-examine him. The Magistrate stopped the case and told the Prosecutor, "Send him back to training school. He does not know what he is doing". Coming down the steps he said, "Man I only in here to play games but they tell me I have not made a report so I made one. They cannot tell me anything now". This is very serious. The position put forward by the Honourable Senator is a philosophy and practice of the Democratic Labour Party because I will tell him something he would not like to be recorded in Hansard. There is a gentleman called Rouse who belonged to the NDP and Rouse wanted some money for a sporting group in St. Joseph. He went to his leader, Dr. Richie Haynes ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator ...

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I am talking about sports, Sir, sporting activities. Richie Haynes told him he cannot get \$10 000, it is expensive to run a political party the most he can give him is \$3 000. He went to the DEMS, the DEMS sent him to Trinidad, he came back with \$10 000 in sporting equipment, gave it to the people in St. Joseph and then jump in the DEMS camp.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden that has nothing to do with the Resolution.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: That is why he wants a component attached to this here to help the policemen in sports.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President, I regret having to interrupt the Honourable Senator's speech. The Democratic Labour Party made no such arrangement with the gentleman whom I believe he is referring to.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not know what point that is.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: A point of correction, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There is no such thing under our rules. There is a point of elucidation but I am not sure. I think you would have to elucidate something coming out of your speech. I think you are out of order.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: All this is the sports that they are playing. The only thing they can see is sports to think that that is good Government but that is not good government. What is good government is what the Barbados Labour Party has done since they came into power in 1994, repaired the police stations, increase the number of vehicles available to the police because before 1994 there was a position when you called a police station and they told you, I cannot come because we do not have any vehicles. Remember the Auditor General's Report which talked about the policemen when they are outside and buying things outside the present order. They did not even supply the policemen with the necessity for policing Barbados but he wants money to go and play sports.

The Honourable Member must understand that there are a number of sporting groups in Barbados that now believe that everybody must maintain them in their sporting activities. They do practically nothing to raise funds for themselves to enjoy their own games. The Honourable Member has not even looked at the Resolution. It goes to 2072, that is 75 years at \$200 a year. It is literally giving away Government land. The Police can afford to raise money in any way they feel like now and repair the building and then the sportsmen can enjoy the building. Are you saying now that this society must become like the old Russian society that if you can play cricket the state adopts you and you do nothing else but play cricket? So then, what would we have in the society? It is about time we send the signal to all these sporting groups that they must help themselves and do not look to Government or politicians etc. to supply them with all their needs.

I had a situation when I was in St. Joseph. They had a netball team. I said I would help. Do you know what they tried with me? The President came, he wanted uniforms. The secretary came, he wanted gear. So somebody different came all the time and I finally asked him, what are you all putting up? He said nothing, we playing. So the Honourable Senator must understand that I do not think it is befitting of him to make these sorts of statements in here to make it appear as if the Government is a little stingy body and sending them out there on their own.
6.45 p.m.

They have the property and the strange thing about this is that when that property is transferred to the Police Sports Club they can refuse anybody using it. They can charge a fee. They can do anything with it. Therefore, they have a means of raising funds. And, the Government, I say, has a commitment to the Royal Barbados Police Force to make the Force as happy and comfortable as possible. Let the Sports Club be a separate entity as it is, having given them a lease of 75 years on a building, I think the government has done more than enough in these circumstances, and I certainly could not go along with what the Honourable Member said.

I repeat again, he must not come and say the place is dilapidated because I was there four weeks ago, I sat in it. I was in that building for one and one half hours and it is not a dilapidated place as the Honourable Member would like the Senate or the general public to believe. It is still a usable place and the police still occupy and use it because up to yesterday evening I was going home, this week they are having parades on the pasture and everybody was in the pavilion end of it with everything still in it, so that is not what you will call a dilapidated place.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, I rise to make my contribution to this resolution. Sir, I have known this area for most of my life, taking it as a short cut to school and before that taking it as a short cut to Sunday school.

It is not as contentious as the White Hill debate but I would like to say, Sir, that I am particularly impressed with the work which the Police Sports Club has been doing. It has sort of taken from the works in some ways that the YMCA and the YWCA have done over the years. For example, Sir, it facilitates annual general meetings, as one other Senator said, Sir, lots of sporting activity, be it hockey, football, cricket.

Sir, Harrison College used to be referred to as "Weymouth". I do not know if they still use the term. Sir, that Weymouth area is an area where I saw some of the finest footballers playing in what they referred to then as a soft shoe football league. Sir, I saw some of the better cricketers, people like, Danny Smith and those fellows when I was very young showing their ability and therefore, Sir, anything which would contribute and enhance the position of the Sports Club, I Sir, am in total agreement with.

Unlike the last Senator from the other side, Sir, who tried to put up just an argument for argument sake, I am dealing with it at the core of the matter.

Sir, I am concerned that lots of the sportsmen who played there came from the immediate surroundings. The Halls Road area, the Carrington Village area, Delaware Land, Martindales Road, and today they do not have a home to call their own, purely, Sir, because of lack of representation. There was no serious representation. If Sir, you go further across to the QEH facility...

Aside.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: It is not a pasture. A pasture is a place where you put animals out to graze, to pasture. It is a playing facility. And, through the foresight of the Honourable Member for the City, has been able to

bring in the folks from the upper town area, the Oxley team and Alpha team from Martindales Road and they, along with the students from the St. Michael's School have been able to play at the QEH facility.

The same cannot be said about Weymouth. Sir, I remember when there were houses at Weymouth and after the houses were removed, Sir, the police were in charge of what was called Weymouth A, then there was a Weymouth B, occupied by Her Majesty's Prison Officers, and then there was a little area referred to as Weymouth C which came under the control of the people from the immediate surroundings.

Now, Sir, I am pleased to hear the Honourable Minister state about having hard court facilities. Years ago, Sir, when the hard court facility was unheard of, let alone being popular, the basketball teams from the surrounding area played on a dirt course. And, I must add, Sir, the standard of basketball was way superior to what it is now.

What I would like to see, nonetheless, is that what used to be called Weymouth C, and with the hockey players having gone to the spanking new facilities which this Barbados Labour Party in no small measure has been able to facilitate at the Sir Garfield Sobers Complex, that that facility be given totally to the people of the Halls Road, Martindales Road and the wider Carrington Village community along with a complete playing facility, pavilion and all. Sir, once it is controlled and looked after by the National Sports Council, I am sure it would redound much to the sporting benefit.

Not only that, Sir, but directly across from that facility there is the Halls Road area. We have heard a lot in here today, Sir, about lands, *et cetera*. The people from Halls Road have been crying out in recent times. They want to know who owns their land, Sir. Just as how the people in St. Thomas are looking forward to a spanking facility for housing, right now the people of the Halls Road area are looking forward for a facility in housing.

But once again, Sir, because of a lack of representation, they have had no one to champion their cause. I sat with them, Sir, on May Day and heard their pleas and their cries. Here it was, Sir, if you check the generations, when you add it up they had about 10 old ladies and between them that is about 1000 years that their ancestors occupied those lands. So Sir, it would all go in one package.

The people of Roberts Road and Hinds Road and the Marl Hole whose position is a promontory one where they look onto the Weymouth complex, it would gladden them, Sir, before they go on in the evening of their days to have

a playing facility which would go hand in glove with the lands which they are hoping to purchase.

Sir, I have been made to understand that whoever the owners are, they are willing to sell it at a nominal fee. This ties back into what we spoke about here for the entire afternoon. Sir, this will all go well for the Urban Development Programme which the Barbados Labour Party has had in the forefront of their manifesto and in their plans for improving the urban areas in St. Michael.

So Sir, I would be more than pleased to see not only the police having what is their due and what they have worked for and what they are continuing to promote, but in addition, to see that small facility at the southern end of the police, is improved and upgraded and given to those people of the Halls Road area who today, do not even own the spot of land on which they reside. And, Sir, in my opinion the whole package would all go well and fit in well quite coherently with the Barbados Labour Party's Urban Renewal Programme.

With those few words, Sir, I lend my wholehearted support to this resolution. I thank you.

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

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

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING
IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF LAND
AT WANSTEAD TERRACE, SAINT JAMES AND
SAINT MICHAEL, AT FLINT HALL,
SAINT MICHAEL AND AT
PARADISE HEIGHTS,
SAINT JAMES

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this resolution seeks the Senate's approval for the vesting of a number of government owned properties in the National Housing Corporation. These are really a number of houses which are located primarily in Wanstead, in the traditional area of Cave Hill, one in Flint Hall and one in Paradise Heights, but the majority of them are in Wanstead. These are on average 3-bedroom, 2-bedroom houses which have been owned by the Crown and in the control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in some cases the Ministry of Housing and others. They have been used over the years primarily to accommodate a number of persons as temporary accommodation for persons who were returning from diplomatic postings overseas and others to provide housing for persons who were on short term attachments to the Government for one purpose or otherwise, whether in terms of exchange programmes with international

organisations, short-term consultancies and so on and one or two others or some positions which had traditionally had housing attached to the position.

6.55 p.m.

As you will know, the matter of Government providing housing for a number of positions has been phased out. In the case of the head teachers, for example, in the case of certain district medical officers and several other offices.

Therefore, the need for the Crown to maintain those houses is no longer there.

In addition, the National Housing Corporation as an arm of Government which deals with housing is in a better position to provide the level of maintenance and other support which is required for the maintenance of these houses or to make use of these houses as would be most appropriate to the circumstances. It is therefore proposed subject to the Senate's approval to have these properties transferred from the ownership of the Crown to the National Housing Corporation.

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

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, I just want to say a few words on this matter. I note that one of the properties is situate in Flint Hall St. Michael and I would want to take this opportunity to bring to this Chamber's attention a couple of salient points about Flint Hall.

Flint Hall is an area which I think many people do not even know exists because it is a little cul-de-sac below Licorish Village and above Gills Road. It is quite densely populated in some parts in quite an *ad hoc* manner and I would want to take this opportunity to invite the Minister responsible for Housing and for Lands to come with me on a visit to take a look in that area to make transportation arrangements to make a better lifestyle in that area, particularly as the area is quite far removed from the main highway and transportation through there is not so frequent.

One evening I was passing there and I saw a girl standing on the corner of Flint Hall as it butts with the Post Office and she looked afraid. I said, "Do you need a ride going home?" She said no that somebody was going to meet her and carry her through. Because the village is quite removed from the front road, persons either have to wait for assistance to get to their homes from the security aspect if they do not have a vehicle, and many people in the back part of the area have no vehicle. It is an area that has varying types of housing. Some are extremely large properties and others are barely chattel houses because it

might be a chattel with no front or no sides or just barely holding together like tooth picks.

Since we are on the question of National Housing Corporation I would want to bring this area to attention as it has reached in this form to take a closer look at that. While we are at it, the area is also sadly in need of lighting to aid in the security of the area.

Since these properties are being vested in the National Housing Corporation, both those in Wanstead and this one in Flint Hall and in Paradise Heights, I hope that at an appropriate time when the time comes for the disposal of these properties that they will be adequately advertised so that all persons will have an equal opportunity to submit an offer to purchase.

I make note of this specially because I have heard of 4 of the properties over the last 4 weeks. A person came to me desperately in need of housing for himself and his children and wife, having the third notice to quit from the place where he was renting, and he brought the information to me and when he went to the National Housing Corporation he was informed that one of those properties was already earmarked for an individual. I was a bit concerned.

I say that to make public that I hope the National Housing Corporation will go about publicly advertising the properties we are now vesting in their Corporation today in such a way as all Barbadians who would wish to have an opportunity to purchase could know about it on an equal basis.

In addition to that, my experience as it relates from those who have had opportunities to go to the National Housing Corporation to seek housing has been unsatisfactory. While I acknowledge that there is a lack of housing and we all know the reason for that – 8 years prior to the taking over of this administration of government. That is history now and we are very quickly seeking to address that problem but individuals will go on a regular basis fill in the forms and they are given a number and are told when it is approved they will be informed. That approval usually comes with an indication which says that when a house becomes available they can check back.

Mr. President, there are persons who have been suffering for 14 and 15 years and I want to suggest that perhaps the administration at the National Housing Corporation needs to do some form of public relations so that applicants know the status of their application and do not have continuously to feel that they are begging for alms when they go there or more importantly have to call on persons that they think might be able to put

their case more forcibly by sending a letter or making a phone call to the administration, because half of the time you cannot get through.

I appreciate that administrative persons are usually extremely busy but at the same time there is no help to individuals if they call myself or other Senators on either side of the table and ask them. You may be a person in public life and they might respect your phone call but after 2 or 3 calls you still can give them no positive response. I believe that the individuals feel that you are only making up a "Nancy story" that you never called at all.

So I would want to see the NHC do some kind of public relations to let the people know the true position. Do not give them the feeling that this house is going to be available in the next 6 months for in many instances it is a year or 2 years. I had to deal with a scenario during the last elections where a resident of Bridge Road said to me whoever could provide the house first of the 3 candidates would get her vote. Needless to say, none of the 3 of us who were contesting the seat would have been able to provide houses if they were not any.

Mr. President, I would want to issue that plea to the National Housing Corporation so that individuals will not feel as though they are begging alms, living in hope that tomorrow they might get a call for a house and, furthermore, that they do not have to run down there every week as some do. When you find that you have no where to live you are in desperate straits. You are taking a lodging at somebody and you are imposing on their space. People can only be generous for so long.

I think it is only fair that the organisation, the National Housing Corporation, which has the responsibility for the Government units *en masse* to take the people's emotions into consideration. All it calls for is a little consideration so that they know where they stand.

7.05 p.m.

Those of us who would like to be able to bring them into our homes even sometimes it gets so desperate, and we know that would be a problem because if you only have a two-bedroom house it can only really hold at the maximum comfortably four people and even then four adults at a push. We know that many are living, as one of the Senators pointed out in another debate here today, sometimes 12 and 14 adults in the same room.

Mr. President, with those few words I would want to commend this Resolution to the Chamber and thank you for your time.

SENATOR Mrs P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I support this Resolution but I have a number of concerns I

would like to voice about this Resolution. It says "vesting in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, the approval is being sought."

As I said, I will give my approval but the track record of the National Housing Corporation is not all that good regarding the collecting of rents, the renting out of homes and the maintenance of homes. I do not know in reality what happens but there have been numerous complaints and they themselves complain that people owe quite a lot of rent. Obviously, one would see that the best thing to do is to dispose of these homes instead of adding these to the burden the National Housing Corporation already has.

In disposing these homes I would like to see some form of criteria developed how and to whom they will sell these homes. We have been debating the whole day about the need for providing lands for low income people and for people who can afford them. I would like to think that no one who owns a home in Barbados should be allowed to buy a second home or any of these homes belonging to the Government so that they can rent them out.

I would like to see people who do not have any homes whatsoever who are in need, and can pay for them and get a mortgage be allotted these homes. I think, Mr. President, the time has come for us to give almost 100 per cent mortgages to some people who really cannot find the down payment. Even though they work for enough money to pay the monthly instalments for the mortgage, they might find it difficult or almost impossible to pay the down payment plus the monthly mortgages.

Mr. President, I am saying this from experience because I myself had a mortgage and in those days the banks would lend you the down payment but in these days it is very difficult for the bank to lend you the down payment as well as for the Government to give you the mortgage.

I am very serious about this. I hope you will be transparent. Times have changed. People are no longer tolerant of one person owning two and three homes and renting them out and other people not getting the opportunity to buy them.

I am urging the National Housing Corporation to make sure that if they sell any of these homes, do not sell them to persons who already own homes. Sell them to persons who are in need and advertise them fully so that people would be able to compete for the purchase of the homes and would not feel they are being discriminated against.

With this I support this Resolution.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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.
7.10 p.m.

CONTENTS

PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY 1

1. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 3) Order, 1997.
2. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 4) Order, 1997.
3. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 5) Order, 1997.
4. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 6) Order, 1997.
5. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 7) Order, 1997.
6. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation for the year 1995.
7. Annual Report of the National Housing Corporation for the year 1994-95.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SIR JOHN STANLEY BRUCE DEAR 1

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 1; Senator J. D. E. Boyce, 3; Senator the Hon. Miss O. P. Symmonds, 3; Senator J. A. Workman, 4; Senator the Hon. G. S. H. Murray, 4; Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard, 5; Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L. Springer, 6; Mr. President, 6.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL**Mr. PRESIDENT 6**

Letter of May 16, 1997 from His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir Clifford Husbands advising that he would be away from the island from May 17 to July 7, 1997 on a visit to the United Kingdom and Greece.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE BARBADOS**TOURISM INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF LAND AND BUILDING SITUATE AT WHARF ROAD, ST. MICHAEL 7**

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 7, 21; Senator Mrs. A. P. Thompson, 9; Senator J. A. Workman, 9; Senator J. D. E. Boyce, 10; His Honour Senator C. L. Bolden, 13; Senator the Hon. G. S. H. Murray, 15; Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson, 17; Senator N. P. Welch, 17; Senator N. A. Lynch, 19.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE BARBADOS TOURISM INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF SEVERAL PARCELS OF LAND IN ST. MICHAEL 22

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 22; Senator Mrs. A. P. Thompson, 23; Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson, 25; Senator J. D. E. Boyce, 25.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF A PARCEL OF LAND AT FARMERS ST. THOMAS FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT . 27

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 27, 45; Senator C. K. Laurie, 29; His Honour Senator C. L. Bolden, 31; Senator Miss C. Y. Forde, 33; Senator N. P. Welch, 36; Senator J. D. E. Boyce, 38; Senator T. E. Barker, 41; Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson, 42; Senator Mrs. A. P. Thompson, 44.

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE POLICE SPORTS CLUB OF LAND AT WEYMOUTH, ST. MICHAEL 47

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 47; Senator J. D. E. Boyce, 48; Senator the Hon. Miss O. P. Symmonds, 48; His Honour Senator C. L. Bolden, 48; Senator D. T. Gill, 50.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF PARCELS OF LAND WITH BUILDINGS IN THE PARISHES OF ST. JAMES AND ST. MICHAEL 51

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 51; Senator Miss J. C. Odle, 52; Senator Mrs P. E. Rickinson, 53.

SUSPENSIONS 15, 38**ADJOURNMENT 54**

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BARKER, Senator T. E.
BOLDEN, His Honour Senator C. L.
BOYCE, Senator J. D. E.
FARLEY, Senator the Hon. R. R.
FORDE, Senator Miss C. Y.
GILL, Senator D. T.
GODDARD, Senator the Honourable P. C.
LAURIE, Senator C. K.
LYNCH, Senator N. A.
MURRAY, Senator the Honourable G. S. H.
ODLE, Senator Miss J. C.
RICKINSON, Senator Mrs. P. E.
SPRINGER, Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L.
SYMMONDS, Senator the Hon. Miss O. P.
THOMPSON, Senator Mrs. A. P.
WELCH, Senator N. P.
WORKMAN, Senator J. A.