
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, May 14, 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 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 J. A. WORKMAN

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN

Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN

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

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Mrs. V. J. DAVIS

Senator J. D. E. BOYCE

Prayers were led by Fr. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in Session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. Guarantees granted under the Exempt Insurance Act, Cap. 303 to the following:

- (1) Arch Insurance Ltd.
- (2) Atlantic Offshore Insurance Ltd.
- (3) Camarin Ltd.
- (4) Caninco Insurance Ltd.
- (5) Compco Insurance Company Inc.
- (6) Dover Insurance Inc.
- (7) Engineers Liability Insurance Company
- (8) Evergreen Indemnity Limited
- (9) F. F. H. Insurance Corp.
- (10) General Casualty Insurance Company Ltd.
- (11) Hastings Underwriters Ltd.
- (12) Langevin Holdings (Barbados) Limited
- (13) Langevin Insurance (Barbados) Limited
- (14) Lincoln National Reinsurance (Barbados) Limited

- (15) Northeast Re Insurance Ltd.
 - (16) Novalta Insurance Ltd.
 - (17) Penn Oceanic Insurance Company Limited
 - (18) Phoenix Insurance Holdings (Barbados) Ltd.
 - (19) Professional Associates Indemnity Company Ltd.
 - (20) Selecta Insurance Inc.
 - (21) Tristar Reinsurance Company Ltd.
2. The Annual Report of the Public Utilities Board for the year 1996.
 3. The Report of the Steering Committee on Penal Reform.
 4. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 1997.
 5. The Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 1996.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

1. Resolution to approve the vesting in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation of land and buildings at the Wharf Road, St. Michael, to be developed by the Corporation for investment purposes.
2. Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Farmers, St. Thomas for housing development.
3. Resolution to approve the vesting under section 5 of Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225 in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation of land at Cumberland Street, Cheapside, Bay Street and Wellington Street in St. Michael.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr. PRESIDENT: Public Business is the order of the day.

ORDER NO. 2 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 IN THE BARBADOS NATIONAL TRUST OF THE PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED AT
SYNAGOGUE LANE,
BRIDGETOWN,
ST. MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to seek the Senate's approval in support of this Resolution for the vesting in the Barbados National Trust of a parcel of land at Synagogue Lane in Bridgetown.

The parcel in question, Sir, contains 969.4 square metres of land and is the site which is more familiarly known as the location of the Jewish Synagogue. It is proposed that this land be vested in accordance with section 5 of the Crown Lands Vesting and Disposal Act and that the vesting be done for known consideration subject to the conditions as set out in the amendment.

Now, Sir, this particular location is one of the several heritage locations which has been redeveloped over the years in Barbados and it is one of the locations which coincides with an interesting, unique, and I would even dare say, significant part of our history.

The Synagogue itself was constructed in 1664 and the importance there, is that this coincided with a time when, as the result of a crisis in the sugar industry in Brazil, a number of Dutch farmers moved to Barbados bringing with them the markets that they had with the Europeans. Some of the technologies used in Brazil, were apparently more advanced than what was used in Barbados and the Barbados Sugar Industry was able to make some advances as a result of those particular immigrants who were also Jews.

As is customary they built their Synagogue and apparently for quite a number of years they were a very active Jewish community in Barbados and then as history recalls, almost as suddenly as they arrived, they departed.

However, having left this particular monument which, I believe somewhere in the region of 1976, a decision was taken that a restoration should be undertaken. Much of that restoration would have been undertaken by the Jewish community in Barbados.

The interest of the Barbados National Trust, is in seeing that the built heritage of Barbados is preserved and their involvement in preservation and having the wider public and the visiting community in terms of tourists

visit and learn of this particular location, is in keeping with their mandate to promote the knowledge and interest in the built heritage of Barbados, both by nationals of Barbados and visitors alike.

The Government certainly supports the National Trust in these particular endeavours and Members will recall that similar action has been taken in terms of vesting property at Gun Hill and other locations, some of the other signalling towers, for example, and other areas of historical significance in the National Trust.

I would however want to make the general point, Mr. President, that once the society in general supports this thrust in the development of the preservation of the built heritage of Barbados, it seems as though there are some elements in the society however, that would want to have us separate one part of our history from other parts. And whilst the work of organisations and individuals who preserve the built heritage of Barbados is lauded and supported, the work sometimes of persons who seek to preserve the social, economic and political history of Barbados and to ensure that it is known not only by the current generation but also by future generations is sometimes not equally lauded.

I would certainly want to think that it would be impossible for the structural architectural heritage of Barbados to be so far separated and removed from other aspects of our heritage that one could discuss one and not the other and I would want to support the efforts which are being made.

For example, currently the history curriculum in schools is expanding to ensure that aspects of the history of the majority black population of Barbados are presented in a different light from what many of us experienced at school. Certainly when I was at school, the first history books we read were *The People Who Came*, Books I and II. Book I in first form and Book II in second form. The arrival of the people was treated as if they only turned up out of the blue on a boat, except, of course the other history books that you used in 3rd and 4th Form. There was a whole book on the Tudors and the Stuarts, for example, which would give their full lineage.

Unfortunately history in the context of the Caribbean treats the people who came, especially those who came from the African Continent as if there was no life prior to that. The point I am making, Sir, is that if we are focussing on the general history of Barbados and we support the work in terms of the preservation of the architectural history of Barbados, let us also in the wider society not seek to so dissect that history, we would want to enjoy the lavished splendour of 17th and 18th century churches and

plantation houses. But if someone raises in the context of a lecture or discussion, a discussion on the social and economic conditions in the 1600s or 1700s that that is considered to be not in the best interest of the society, or not advancing the cause of society.

So, Sir, in that context I would want to support the work of the Barbados National Trust as it seeks to fulfil its mandate in terms of the architectural history of Barbados and also support other wider efforts by other persons in various spheres who also ensure that we set all aspects of our history in appropriate contexts.

This resolution today, Sir, is seeking to ensure that the appropriate legal process is followed whereby the property at the Jewish Synagogue located on Synagogue and Magazine Lanes could be properly vested in the Barbados National Trust who, according to the terms of the agreement will continue to preserve and maintain the structure and will not sell or otherwise dispose other than to the Government of Barbados. They will be responsible for all of the outgoings, the land tax, insurance and so on and the consideration for the transfer of the property is zero.

11.25 a.m.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I rise to speak on this Resolution and at the outset to lend my support to the intent of the Resolution as put by the Honourable Minister.

The vesting of land and indeed, giving of lands and properties to the National Trust is something which we must defend stoutly in Barbados. As has been said, if we want to preserve our heritage which is rich and meaningful and will serve as a monument for the people that come after us, we must be very aware and set up a full programme. This, indeed, has been manifest by the majority of the work of the National Trust in Barbados.

We support this Resolution very stoutly. However, whenever it comes to lands and properties in the City of Bridgetown, it brings to mind the much wider question of the management of our scarce spaces and areas in Bridgetown. What I want to urge at this time is that the National Trust be mindful that when they have properties vested or acquire properties by whatever method they are duty bound, to ensure that these properties are brought to usefulness in as speedy a time as possible so as not to become derelict monuments.

There are a number of properties in Barbados which have been stamped, so to speak, by the National Trust,

as buildings that cannot be removed for one reason or the other and cannot be tampered with. Again, they must seek to get their programme in order so as to complete the restoration of these properties so as not to allow them to remain as eye sores. In the case of this particular property the Synagogue itself has been renovated, I believe, by the Jewish Community themselves and the only consideration as far as the broader public of Barbados is concerned is the much needed space for parking. There is some land next to this Synagogue which is used privately now for parking and I want to urge that this area be allowed to remain available for public parking or controlled private parking because it continues to be a point of urgency in respect to the management and movement of traffic in Bridgetown.

Sir, I need only to reflect on one area which the Honourable Member referred to and that is the divisiveness as he called it of certain political or historical commentators. I think that we must be mindful that because a different view might be taken it does not necessarily mean that we want to create any distinct difference. What we are trying to say is that there are occurrences which if looked at in one way will be interpreted in one way and the same occurrence being viewed by another group of people will be seen to have had a different effect.

The history of Barbados is wrought with interpretations which are often questioned by modern day historians as to the accuracy and this goes back to the time of our so called discovery.

I want to agree at the same time with the Minister's comment that we must take our history even further back than where it traditionally starts, that is, the 1625 landing of the English soldiers or traders. Indeed, we must look back into the past with the existence of the Arawaks and the Caribs who are said to have roamed these lands and were able to create such an existence which when one reflects on it and has the opportunity to read or see it, as preserved at places like the Barbados Museum, one recognises how rich and how valuable a history this is and it is a pity that we do not have a lot more of it.

Indeed, as we reach out today and Barbados seeks contact with other Latin American countries we recognise our neighbour no longer only applies to St. Vincent and Trinidad and the English speaking areas, one will find that in the Latin American countries there is even that more closer relationships to the historical roots of the original inhabitants of the Caribbean lands. We must bear this in mind and seek to exhaust our investigation into the true heritage and try to allow this to be reflected also in the kind of preservation work, and we must urge the National Trust to engage itself too in this kind of research, instead of what appears, at least to me, to be a research limited to

the "traditional" history of Barbados. I am using traditional in its broadest terms.

We on this side have no difficulty with the Resolution and I want to commend its passing and indeed to urge the Barbados National Trust to carry on its good work and seek to improve many areas, a few of which I have mentioned in my delivery.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I am going to speak very briefly. I have before in this Chamber congratulated the Trust of which I am a member on the very fine work that it is doing and although it may seem like self praise I do not think that it should be in bad taste or improper since I am really congratulating the Council rather than the membership proper. There is no doubt too about it that Government and the Jewish community deserve commendation for recognising the importance of preserving our heritage.

I gather that the Jewish community itself is maintaining the Synagogue but that their main objective in vesting in the National Trust is to guarantee its existence in perpetuity. I also understand that there are plans for a second phase to create a biblical garden, repair all damaged grave stones, to incorporate a city block as well as a park for cars. I think it is significant that it is being called a park for cars and not a car park so that there will be landscaping.

There are also plans to repair the existing building at the corner of Synagogue and Magazine Lane to serve as a museum where history and artifacts will be displayed. I think we need more museums of this kind in sport as well as to preserve our history.

Therefore, I have no hesitation in giving my support to this Resolution and I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Mr. President, as a member of the small Jewish community that exists here in Barbados it is only fitting that I rise to say a few words in connection with the vesting in the Barbados National Trust of approximately 969 square metres of land at Synagogue Lane.

I think we should go back a little bit in our history to understand where we have come from and the connection that we had with the Synagogue in Barbados because way down in 1628 we had the earliest settlement of Jews in Barbados and it was in 1654 the Synagogue was constructed. I think the President of the Senate said 1664...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Not the President.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: The Leader of Government Business. In 1654 it was constructed. The earliest tombstone in that cemetery dates back to 1658. It is the oldest synagogue and cemetery in the Western Hemisphere. I will quote, based on the original building. Why I say original building is that the hurricane in 1831 destroyed the synagogue and almost flattened it. It was rebuilt in 1833. Because of the fierce competition in tourism, the Jews of Curacao were trying to say they had the oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere and the fierce competition is there because Jews all over North America and all over the world when they come to these parts always want to trace their ancestry and history. Whether they are religious or not they always make it a point to find out because they are known as the wandering people and they travel all over the globe.
11.35 a.m.

It is important to note that we in Barbados say we have the oldest synagogue or the oldest site where the synagogue was originally, and the oldest cemetery. It makes a tremendous tourist impact. As I said, it was rebuilt in 1833. Most of these Jews were Spanish and Portuguese Jews who were allowed to migrate from Spain and Portugal to an area in Brazil which was occupied by the Dutch. The Dutch have been extremely good to the Jews even up to the present time.

When the Dutch introduced sugar cane, there was no doubt, as the Leader of Government Business said, that the Jews made a big impact in showing them the new methods and techniques in those days. Not only did they introduce it in Barbados but throughout the Caribbean. Therefore, they worked hard in the day, and I would say, 12 hours a day looking after the sugar. They did not obviously sleep 12 hours in the night. Therefore, a lot of Barbadians have some Jewish connection, ancestry and blood relations even up to today, even a number of names.

The former Prime Minister of Barbados, Mr. Errol Barrow, firmly believed that his name came from the word "Baruch" which in Hebrew means "Blessed." That is interesting to note. Also people like DaCosta & Musson, Muson which later became Musson they were Jews, and the old man Bryden. In Trinidad we have the Pereira's, and a number of Portuguese and Spanish Jews throughout the Caribbean whose ancestors were Jews.

What happened between 1833 and the early 19th century was that a lot of Jews migrated to the United States. There was one synagogue in Rhode Island called Truro Synagogue which was founded by Barbadian Jews and was built in Rhode Island where a lot of Jews went. It is unfortunate that in 1929 the building was sold to private enterprise, but the burial ground apparently was leased for 100 years.

I may add that in 1932 when the European Jews came over here there were a Moses Altman and my grandfather, Mr. Srul Bernstein, whose body now lies in the same cemetery I am talking about. They were the first to come from Europe together to Barbados and they came a little after that synagogue was sold. The modern day Jews had to look for a new place to worship and it was in the late 60s that my father, Leon Bernstein, and a group of Jews got together and purchased a property in Rockley New Road where they worshipped.

However, in 1983 the Government of the day was going to build a Hall of Justice. This Hall of Justice which was spoken about not too long ago in this Senate was going to occupy lands in which lie the cemetery. I think in Judaism and in most religions it is a little disrespectful where we respect the dead and we did not feel it was right to build properties on a cemetery.

The local Jews in 1984 made a petition to the Prime Minister, Mr. Tom Adams who, with his wisdom, saw the opportunity to restore the oldest building in the Western Hemisphere, the old building that the Jews can worship in known as a synagogue in the Western Hemisphere. He saw the opportunity for thousands of tourists to visit Barbados.

Indeed, people come into my store in Swan Street constantly and ask me how to get to Synagogue Lane, where is the cemetery, and where is the synagogue. When I am passing to and from there, from the car park where T. Herbert used to be to where I work, I constantly see taxis and tourist buses. They make it their business when they come to Barbados they would see Harrison's Cave, they see the Museum but they must see the Jewish Synagogue. It is very important.

I think in 1985 the Cabinet decided to preserve the historic building. The Government handed over the building to the Jewish community for restoration. The Jewish community suggested that on completion of the building restoration it should be vested into the Barbados National Trust. This restoration was taken on mainly by a gentleman called Mr. Paul Altman who happens to be the President of the National Trust today. He has done a tremendous job in restoring the synagogue.

The whole idea of vesting it back into the National Trust goes full circle because the Barbados National Trust will only act right now as stakeholders for the present time guaranteeing that it will never be sold and that is what is important to the heritage of the Jews and to the people of Barbados.

The Barbados National Trust has written the Jewish community stating that the building presently which is the Synagogue has been entrusted for use at the discretion

of the Jewish community. So as long as the Jewish community remains active in Barbados, they will have the right to worship and bury their dead in the surroundings we are vesting.

It is important, Sir, that I said we have gone full circle. What we are doing here is that we are preserving it so that we will never have the same problem which happened in 1929 when the building was sold to private enterprise. We are fortunate that we got it back.

What is also interesting is that where Yearwood and Boyce is now located, and a lot of people might not know this, behind the building of Yearwood and Boyce and the old Telephone Exchange which now houses part of the Police headquarters, and between that area and the stores in Swan Street, there are a number of tombstones that lie there. If you go there even now behind 2 or 3 stores the grass is still there, the tombstones are still there but we know for sure that a number of buildings have been erected where tombstones were. That is what we would not ever like to see happen again.

In closing, I just want to give a story of a tourist I took from Montreal by the name of Ronny Elkin. Ronny Elkin was a Jew who came to Barbados and like the rest of Jews wanted to visit this cemetery. He looked at the Synagogue. He walked all over the cemetery and all of a sudden he was standing on a tombstone and I thought he got a heart attack. He collapsed on the ground as if he was about to die. When I realised what had happened, his name was Ronny Elkin and the tombstone bore the name Elkin, his exact same name. It is just a story by the way.
11.45 a.m.

This cemetery and Synagogue offers a tremendous opportunity to keep good heritage and to give people an opportunity when they come to Barbados, not only to see Harrison's Cave, the sea, sun and sand but they can also go to museums and cemeteries and as noted by Senator Symmonds plans are ahead to further develop these cemeteries.

I am proud to say that my grandparents were there and I am very happy to know that in generations to come, it will never go back into private hand and that it will be well vested in the Barbados National Trust.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Davis.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I am very pleased to be part of this resolution to approve the vesting in the Barbados National Trust for 969.4 square

metres of land at Synagogue Lane, Bridgetown, St. Michael. Of course, I would like to congratulate the Barbados National Trust on the work that it is doing.

We in the Caribbean, and of course, we like to think about it now as one of the strengths of Caribbean civilisation, is the fact that its diversity and its rich history, are very happy that we are talking in terms of the inputs of peoples of the world, whether they be Portuguese, Jews, Africans, Indians or whoever they be, that we are recognising the rich contributions of all these peoples. We like our history, of course, to reflect these contributions.

I think that this is a very good opportunity for us to remind ourselves that far by far too many of our rich historical moments are not given the kind of seriousness that they deserve. I am thinking particularly of the fact that in Barbados today we see dates that are being ignored. I am distressed for example that Labour Day, May 1, which celebrates the struggle, because our history is part of the great struggle, of our people to arrive at where we are today and I am distressed that Labour Day has become a Carnival Day. Incidentally, the word Carnival should be used that way. Carnival signifies the end of eating of meat and I do not think that we should call these things carnival we should call them 'street festivals'. The point is that serious history is being ignored and being trivialised and this disturbs me.

What is more distressing for me is the fact that August 1, Emancipation Day, a very serious day in the history of this country; a day which links up to all that we have been talking about – sugar cane, slavery, the Brazilians Jews – I see that this day is now ignored and is now another day of street festival, of jumping up, of Kadooment and unless we begin to take all the inputs into our history seriously, unless we begin to take very seriously all the facets of our civilisation, our young people are going to be simply entertainers and good timers and people who are not going to be the people we are going to feel happy about to continue this civilisation of ours. This Caribbean civilisation is a rich civilisation in terms of struggle, in terms of hard work, in terms of the diversities of people who have made their contribution.

While I would very much praise the work of the Barbados National Trust, I would like to make a special plea to the Government of this day that we again insist that Emancipation Day be observed with the seriousness that this day deserves. I want to see Labour Day and July 27th, all these days taken seriously. We point our children to the seriousness and the sacrifices of our ancestors. I was very pleased to hear Senator Bernstein talk about the seriousness in which the Jewish faith recognise their ancestors and do not like buildings to be placed on the buildings of their ancestors. We have slave huts around here that

nobody pays any serious attention to. Nobody pays any serious attention to the graves of slaves in this country and I want people to begin to take seriously every single input of every one of our ancestors be they Africans, Jews, Portuguese, who ever they be and to begin to teach our children that where we are today and where we are now is not because of feting and jumping up and 'rough wuk' and all those things that are going on in our society.

Mr. President, I take great pleasure in supporting this Resolution.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Murray.

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

It is very heart-warming that we are all at one in this issue and not so much the issue but the wider national issue as a whole question of our heritage. There was a time, Sir, when such a debate as vesting something in the National Trust would have generated a great deal of resentment and accusation at the Government of whatever day it might have been, as seeking to institutionalise and perpetuate the heritage of white people, for want of a better term. I am glad to see that we can talk about it as Barbadians and that we are not seeking to cast that unnecessary blame or narrow-minded attitude that used to prevail in those times. I am glad that the whole question of cultural awareness in Barbados has been broadened and deepened and now has more significance whereby people now understand that culture does not revolve around just the visual art or the performing art or even around 'rough wuk' but that culture is everything that a society does, has, feel, think, how it behaves, how it dress and the food it has; all of that constitutes culture. When we talk about cultural heritage, we have to see culture involving the slave huts etc., and all its widest possible aspects.

I therefore give my support to this resolution. I give it not only recognising the fact that with the attempt to preserve and enshrine this synagogue, we are dealing with not just one cultural or historical nugget but that there are a lot of other cultural nuggets around Barbados which in due course of time we will deal with and give them their due regard. Nuggets which are not only physical but also have historical, social and cultural significance.

For example, I am dealing with this because as chairman of a committee which is seeking to put together a programme for Barbados' celebrations in the year 2000, we are looking at some of these aspects. One of the things that please my heart is that in drawing together some of the

very diverse groups to deal with this matter, it was drawn to my attention that Barbados has the second oldest organised police force in the world. That is tremendous compliment to Barbados as a small country that back in those days we had the second best to the Metropolitan Police Force. We already know that the Synagogue is the oldest in the Western Hemisphere, that our Parliament is the third oldest in the Commonwealth, we know that Mount Gay rum is the oldest rum in the world and things like that. There are a lot of nuggets and gems which we will give due regard to as part of the rich heritage of Barbados over the last 200 years and beyond.

Therefore, we are building the awareness that is already there. We are seeking to give it meaning, substance and significance and not just to accord it lip service.

I am very pleased to remind Senator Davis that she is pushing a virtually open door when she deals with a question of the riots and Emancipation Day because as some of my colleagues will recall the Government has already established a Committee which is seeking to put in place a programme to begin with for the celebration of the 1937 riots for want of a better term at this stage.
11.55 a.m.

It is significant that this Government is seeking to do this because I recall that in 1977 when the Barbados Labour Party administration came into being we sought to begin the process by designating July 26 of that year as a day of national significance. So, Sir, we are building and accumulating on the past and now I think we are beginning to take more bolder and more positive steps in dealing with it. This Committee as I said, Sir, will deal with the whole question of how do we celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the 1937 riots and also deal with the question of the celebration of Emancipation Day. The committee is supposed to report its recommendations by the end of May in time for July 26th celebrations to be instituted. Therefore, Sir, we are well on the way.

One area of concern to me as I examine the social and cultural, and historical and architectural heritage is that we are still losing too much of the records, too much of the physical representations of our heritage and I am not only thinking in terms of buildings. But if one looks at the whole question of books and records and photographs it is astounding the amount of these cultural artifacts that are being discarded and dumped, for example, even in today's more enlightened era.

Even some Government Departments are throwing out willy nilly some records which in a few years time when other people seek to record...

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: The Barbados Archives does a fantastic job but people need to understand that it is not only the responsibility of a department but it is the responsibility of the whole society. Even the late King Dyall had his eye on history, had the awareness of the fact that he would need to leave something for posterity when he agreed to have his clothes and his bicycle, his pipe, his cane and his cork hat to lay in the Barbados Museum because that also would represent an aspect of Barbadian life which future generations would come to respect. Because whether one liked King Dyall as a personage or not the point is that he was a part of history, a part of social history, as is Nelson, as is any Barbadian.

History is something that happens and there is no such thing as bad history or good history it is just plain history. I think that once we recognise that, we will have a greater appreciation of where we have come from and the messages that we will leave for future generations. Therefore, Sir, I would wish to issue an appeal to private institutions, to individuals, to Government Departments, that wherever they have in their possession any records, documents, publications, photographs, things which they might consider to be of significance now but which to other people and the trained eye and to the expert knowledge will have meaning now and in the future, to do their part.

We at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, I am happy to say have sought to redress some of that imbalance if I might say so and we are in the process of putting in place a system and a department to record, to codify and to preserve those aspects of events in Barbados that have transpired over the last 30 years. Apparently some things have been lost. Some things have been dumped. Even 78 RPM records have been discarded as junk like some people did when they threw out valuable pieces of antique furniture, terrific mahogany pieces when wrought iron or upholstered things became the vogue of the day. Therefore we have to actively cultivate an awareness I should say, and a philosophy and a system and a method that we need to play our part in leaving as full a record as possible of our very rich cultural heritage. So it is with those words that I give this Resolution my fullest support.

SENATOR THE VEN. ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I rise to add my support to the Resolution. This is a unique situation, Mr. President. I cannot think of any place anywhere else in the world where a number of persons of predominantly another religion and in this case, particularly Christian religion, would sit down to discuss, debate and support an institution which is to the well-being of another religion, in this case the Jewish religion.

I think it is a unique thing and right through the developments over the years from the first establishment of

the Synagogue here down to the present and what is proposed now for the future, one has to recognise the input of persons who were not looking after their own interest but who were supporting others who felt that they needed to preserve this monument to their history.

It is a good thing and I am not at all complaining about that. It is a good thing that the Jews wanted to get involved and to put their money into the project from time to time. It is a good thing that they received the support of Christians. I think however that one of our problems is that we fail to educate people in these very important historical events and from time to time we lose the opportunities offered to publicise what is going on. For example, Sir, I wonder how many Barbadians have entered the Synagogue. I wonder how many Honourable Members have gone into the synagogue and I must confess, Sir, that I have not had the privilege or the honour of entering this synagogue as a Synagogue. I went into it when it used to serve as offices in town. I think that we are all due for a visit again, those who have been would be forced to go back again and make sure that we are in a position to educate those who do not know or who might not have heard about the things pertaining to this synagogue and the history of the Jews in our society.

Sir, Senator Davis, referred to our rich history and the multifaceted areas of religion and the failure on our part to recognise other areas of either secular history or religious history. I agree with her that it is a failing. I wonder though how much of it is due to ignorance on our part rather than a failure on our part. For example, how many of us are aware that the Cenotaph is a structure that came out of an African Temple to start with as a part of African religious history and that it exists in the same form all over Europe and in the western world, and many people who go and visit and who sit there and who lay flowers and wreaths from time to time are not aware of the origin.
12.05 p.m.

Its origin is in Africa, in a part of Egypt dedicated to one of the African Gods of the time. So education is very important in this matter of the preservation of our history. I say that what we are doing is significant and symbolic in several ways. The construction of the Temple in the 17th century spoke of Barbados as a safe haven for the Jews and that is a message we must not lose sight of, the fact that they knew that they could come to Barbados and settle in and so build the oldest Synagogue in the hemisphere as Senator Bernstein has said.

Also in terms of the symbolism of this event, even the disuse and the sale of the Synagogue can be seen as symbolic because it tells something of the integration of the Jewish community into Barbadian society and we now know that several of the Jews married into

Barbadian families of the day. Many of them changed their names. There were those who left for business reasons but never because they were persecuted. And we are told, Sir, that some of the Jews of the day even entered into politics and served this country as well.

There is another reason for this event to be symbolic and significant for us today, Sir, and it has to do with the restoration of the Synagogue. I have already referred to the fact that not only did the Trust get involved, not only did the Government get involved but they had the support of the predominantly Christian community and that speaks of the tolerance of Barbadian society where persons from outside and in this particular case where the Jews were concerned as they set up houses and became citizens of this country.

Where else in the world would you find this? It also tells, Sir, of the pluralism of Barbadian society. We have our Christian cathedrals and even those of African origin among us where there was a time when our forbearers could not enter. I wonder how many are aware that Amens Alley just behind this building, Sir, was the place where our ancestors stood up and shouted their "Amens," because they could not enter into the cathedral or church and that was as far as they could go. We have lived to see our people moved in and virtually taken over these cathedrals, saying something of the quiet revolution. In some cases it was not so quiet but, compared with the outside world, a relative quiet revolution that brought the same descendants who shouted "Amen" into their rightful place.

We still have those cathedrals and churches as architectural monuments among us. We have also the Muslim community and the Muslim Mosque. We have the Hindu Temple and we have the Synagogue, and I have already referred to the origin of the Cenotaph.

All of this speaks of us as a pluralistic society even though we tend to think of ourselves as monolithic. What are the benefits to be derived from what we are doing here today and what the Trust is putting in place?

Firstly, Sir, there is the obvious benefit to tourism. Tourists will come and I hope in large numbers to get involved in heritage tourism, to visit the Synagogue as well as some of the other places and to go back and send others.

Secondly, there is another benefit that we have not yet tapped where students are concerned. I think it is high time that our students of religion or theology or the sociology of religion are encouraged to visit these places of religious worship. I recall, Sir, the first time I saw a Synagogue, I was a student in Laurentian University in Canada and as part of credits for a course in sociology, I had to travel

about 250 miles into Toronto to visit the Jewish Synagogue there and to receive credits for that tour.

Now, it was an experience for me and I would like to know that we encourage our students to visit these institutions that are right here on our door step and, of course, the Jewish Synagogue could teach them much in its presently restored situation, being restored to exactly what it was like at the time of its construction and to an authentic synagogue in the Western world again.

I hope, Sir, that there would be appropriate booths set up where people will have answers to questions about religion and about the Jews and the Synagogue and that would disseminate information to those who are seeking information on these matters as well. Of course, there is the usual religious function which I am told will continue. The synagogue is going to continue serving as a place of worship and not just as a museum, and again this speaks of the religious tolerance that there is in this country and I hope will continue for a long time to come.

Sir, it will be a reminder to us and to the rest of the world, particularly the Middle Eastern world that Jew and Gentile can dwell together, and I support this Resolution, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Trotman.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I fear that if I do not rise to speak to this matter before us that some of my friends may believe that since I was in another life from a Jew that it coloured my own views and prevented me from giving what is due on this occasion.

I promise you, as Senator Symmonds did, that I shall not be long but I would wish to support the Resolution before the Senate and to compliment Senator Bernstein for what I thought was a very beautiful historical perspective into which this entire morning's exercise has been placed, and to commend Senator Davis on her usual impassioned speech, in fact that is what has inspired me to comment at this time.

I wish to say, Mr. President, that it is occasions such as this one which should make us very conscious of the need which there is for us to preserve our heritage. I am very pleased that we have been able to recognise another facet of that heritage. I am pleased to see the work which is being done by Senator Symmonds and her colleagues in the Trust. But I also believe that there are other dimensions of our need in this regard that have to be touched on.

Senator Davis quite properly spoke to the matter of "May Day" and the approach that has taken to it. Since I have an interest I would not wish to speak too much to that issue, except to say that part of the problem we have

in some of the things that we do is that the dynamics of change will, from time to time, force new approaches which are brought to bear on some of the issues. But I do support her consideration and I reflect with sadness that for many years now, not just from "Congaline," but more than 15 years now, deliberate efforts were made to target May Day as a day where anti-union interests would try to divert the interest of workers from the importance and the relevance of that particular observance. I speak from a position of authority.
12.15 p.m.

If a person wants to say that he is not one of them he should say so but he must not interpret what I say not as to refer to him. It is a fact that there have been those interests and we are not particularly happy about it. We would like to believe that persons in this country would be able to recognise the significant contribution which has been made by labour to this community.

In this regard I wish to refer to the effort which is being made by the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations to have another dimension of this particular celebration.

We have looked around Barbados and we realise that our heritage is very rich but it speaks to several good interests but does not speak in the language we would like, to the interest of the working man and the working woman over the years. We are therefore determined that as soon as is humanly possible we would like to erect a monument to the Barbadian worker. It is a monument which is intended to show the worker from the very earliest days through the various revolutions of time and the very different ways of work and types of work down to present day service industry.

We are in this effort trying to use the young members of our community and we are using persons from the Community College to assist us in the vision and in the preparation and I wish to say that we have been very pleased up to now at the response of the Employers Association with what we have prepared and what we have indicated.

I am particularly pleased at the very sanguine response and the enthusiastic support which in principle has been given by the Prime Minister and those Ministers of his Cabinet who have seen the model and to be able to report that the Government has in fact committed itself to making land available for the project. Any delays at this stage then would be from our getting the project moving from one stage to another. But the Government of the country has indicated that it is *ad idem* with the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations in feeling that we cannot do proper justice to the heritage of this country,

unless that heritage includes a monument, which can be seen as being a monument created to the memory of those who have given their blood, their sweat and their tears over the years, for the development of the country and for the wealth and the success which we now enjoy in various and varied proportions.

I would think that that is a fitting approach which must be had and which must be given by all and sundry to what we in Barbados are proud of. We have not been a land blessed with very many mineral resources. We have not been blessed with the kinds of topography which other countries have been able to use much more successfully as their means of getting wealth for themselves. But we have been able to take not mere courage but to take strength and to reap success from the heritage that we have had in our people and the strength and the integrity of our people and our commitment as a people to that which is right, which is proper and which is uplifting and to the advantage of our society as a whole.

Although from time to time there will be aberrations and there will be some elements of perversity, by and large I would wish to say that that approach is one that has been taken by all sects and sorts and one which has redounded to the credit of Barbadian society and the Barbados personality.

Within that framework, therefore, the things we do and the way we do them have got to be recognised for the symbolic importance. The effort which the Government is making as reflected by Senator Murray in looking for a proper mechanism by which to pay tribute to our other forms of heritage is a useful one and one in which the congress is happy to be taking part.

We are not waiting, however, because we ourselves, like other persons, have recognised the importance which must attach to July 26 and the importance which must attach to August 1. It is fairly regretful that they come so close together because I know that the concerns of our country usually have to do with how many days people attribute to giving respect to the past. I do not think that we are saying that every time that we respect or we observe a day that it necessarily follows that that day must be given over to public celebration and that there will not be work. There are other ways by which we can observe some of the days of importance.

I do agree with Senator Davis that August 1 is one of those days that we should be treating much differently from the way we currently do. Again, we in the trade union movement, and in the Barbados Workers' Union in particular, are trying this year to have a particular symbolic importance attached to August 1 not from a church service although that would not be a bad thing, and I am sure

that our honorary chaplain would be quick to chastise me if I did not make that point, but from a practical perspective of this occasion. Practical in a business sense.

It is a day that we have set aside as a day when the first real effort will be taken by workers to take over and manage an enterprise in which they were formerly employees. I refer to the day on which the Transport Board workshop, if everything goes well, will be taken over and run by the workers of the Transport Board as owners and managers in their own business.

Again, we are getting significant support from the Government in this kind of venture because it fits into what our overall vision is for the empowerment of people of this country.

It is the kind of language we were hearing just about a week ago in the political empowerment that came in the 1940s and the 1950s through the efforts of Sir Grantley Adams. And the political empowerment that came along and the educational empowerment I should say which came along subsequently. And for the political empowerment that came through the efforts of Errol Barrow and the efforts at economic empowerment that came through the previous Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford and now being made into further reality by the current Prime Minister Owen Arthur.

I am proud that we are part of this occasion at this time when we are in a position to begin to see coming to a reality an effort through which the masses of this country will not merely be the hewers of wood and the carriers of water but will have some capacity and some opportunity to stand and to sit within the corridors of decision making in this country making decisions which are to the advancement of the people as a whole.

This can be done not merely by the Transport Board exercise but the efforts which are being made by persons to get involved in investments and buying shares, although we would not want to have the fears which they previously experienced 2 or 3 months ago somewhere in the north of the country to be their future experiences. But the kinds of opportunities be it in the Greater Bridgetown area or in the development that there might be for the south coast of Barbados or wherever else there may be, the opportunity for Barbadians fully to take part in what really is our heritage, this is an opportunity that we should be proud of.

Our heritage is our lands. Our heritage is the sunshine. Our heritage is our history and I believe that it is a heritage which all of our parents, whatever their religious or ethnic backgrounds, that they all shared in building and therefore one that we should all be seeking to develop more fully, not for ourselves at this stage because, with a

few exceptions, those being the ladies who are still sweet 16, we have ourselves passed on and we must therefore be thinking of our families and how they can share in what we are seeking on occasions like this to contribute to our society.

12.25 p.m.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, first I would like on behalf of the National Trust, which I have the honour to sit on the Council, to thank the Senators for the very nice things they have said about the Trust and to assure the people of Barbados that the Trust is working very hard on the preservation of the heritage.

We would also like to pay tribute and thanks to the Jewish community for the work they did on the Synagogue. Only last Monday, just a couple days ago, we at Council were talking about the formal handing over of the right to worship at the Synagogue by the Trust to the Jewish community.

I would also like to point out to the Leader of the Senate that the Trust has already 6 chattel houses on the site at Tyrol Cot. So that we are trying to preserve not only the great houses but the smaller houses. I am sure the day will come when we will find a suitable slave hut which, of course, is not necessarily rebuilt by slaves at all, that we could put a plaque on them.

We also are calling on the Government for more support because we are very horrified that a building on which a plaque was sited at Hastings was totally demolished overnight. As far as we are aware, nothing has happened about it.

In referring to what Senator Murray was saying about artifacts, I would draw to his attention that we are very concerned that since the 1970s the UNESCO Treaty on the trading in artifacts has never been signed by the Government of Barbados. Now, this is not your fault. This has been around for over 20 years. I am glad to hear you have every intention of correcting it because we are very concerned that artifacts are being sold out of Barbados and that we will end up with more artifacts in other countries belonging to Barbados than what we have here.

If you go to the Museum of the American Indians in Washington, you will find artifacts from the Caribbean that we do not have in the Museum here. They have a much bigger range. They came here and bought them in the 1920s. They bought complete collections belonging to private people. They all went away and are situated there.

I went to the British Museum once and I asked to see something called the Cornell Collection. I thought it was somewhere displayed because I heard it had been sold

to the British Museum. It was down 17 floors below with no lights. The guy had to use a lantern and there were 146 crates that had been unpacked, labelled and put away. They were of no interest to the British Museum. They were just sitting there. They do not display them. They do not do anything with them. They should be returned here. When I spoke to the Curator there, he told me we have a museum in Barbados but the other islands from which these artifacts predominantly come do not have museums. We are lucky here.

I would like to say again that I really appreciate the words said about the Trust.

Thank you.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I think we need to place on record what I consider something of great importance which has taken place in the Chamber today. As we look at the Resolution, one would imagine we were met here merely to give assent to a legal formality but out of the great wealth of information which has come before the Senate today, I think we can truly say that we in this country have reached a state of maturity where we can discuss openly and freely without any rancour, the struggles of our past and where we can come to that point to use those struggles which are a part of our heritage for the upliftment of those who come after us.

When we look at these great buildings and monuments which we seek to preserve, we need to see them not as monuments for memory, but moreso as monuments for a message, and to see the message which those monuments give to us.

Senator Bernstein did give us a very good message of the monument of the Synagogue. I think, Sir, I speak for myself and I am sure for many others here who have learnt much from that rich history, that rich heritage, and that, to a large extent, propelled me to speak on this measure today.

It reminds me, Sir, of when the Apostle Paul met young Timothy. He saw Timothy as a young man of great faith, but he also recognised that it was not in Timothy himself but the faith that was in Timothy was as a result of the rich heritage which he received from his grandmother and his mother. So when we look at these historical monuments we need to apply that same principle and to understand the rich heritage which is ours and which these buildings tell.

It means, therefore, we have come to this stage where the preservation of these historical monuments must be seen as a preservation of the message and thereafter a

dissemination of that message. Otherwise, the great heritage will indeed be lost.

We need to be able to say to all and sundry that these are the struggles for which we fought in Barbados and particularly for the working class, for the oppressed that they can understand someone had to fight the good fight, someone had to stand up and make sacrifices and that these sacrifices must not be taken lightly.

I share the views of all others expressed here today to the way in which these great days of emancipation and struggle must be projected and used rather than abused.

I believe, Sir, that as our children, as the young people of this nation get to truly understand where they have come from, they can truly understand where they now have to go so that these monuments would be a great spin-off in many ways. If, Mr. President, our young people can truly understand these heritages, then I can see spin-offs not only in tourism but in other aspects of business because the motivating force will be there and it is this motivating force out of our heritage that we need to use to educate our young people and to give them a propelling force into the future.

I am happy to be in the Chamber today to learn from the rich heritage of the Jewish Synagogue and to say how it has expanded my own vision. I have been motivated and some thoughts have been going through my mind which I am sure at a later stage I would wish to use both in this forum and in other places as we seek to continue to uplift the quality of life and the meaning of life in Barbados and beyond our shores.

I support the Resolution, Mr. President.

SENATOR MRS. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to lend my support to this Resolution before this Chamber and also to endorse the contributions made by the other Senators.

The Barbados National Trust is one of the few organisations that has visibly demonstrated a lot of work within a very short space of time and for that they are to be congratulated.

Mr. President, much has been said about education. In my contribution through education I would like to suggest that these historical buildings, et cetera, be placed in the 11+ examination. If you put them into social studies or whatever it may be as part of the 11+ examination, you can be assured that our children will learn them because they all want to pass the 11+ examination. If you further make a condition that they must pay a visit to these places

at least we would be making a start so that our young people would be educated about our heritage.
12.35 p.m.

I am very serious about that part of our young people's education because it was missing in my education and many others have said that it was missing from their education. I know about the European wars *etc.* but nothing was ever mentioned about Barbados. Others have said that too. I only learnt about slavery and about abolition of slavery when I went to the University of the West Indies and started studying in my 30s.

Mr. President, I would like to say that if one wants to know about the history of a country, one of the places to visit is a grave site and one can read the tombstones. When I wanted to learn about diseases in my research, I used to go to the various graveyards to see who died from yellow fever and other diseases because it is written on all the gravestones. So one can get a picture of the health situation of Barbados on the very older gravestones, not the modern ones.

Another very, very historical building that I would like to make a plea for spending some money on, is the Psychiatric Hospital. It is over 100 years old and it is a very historical building which needs to be written up like all the other historical buildings. With this, I support the resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, I rise obviously to make my own contribution to this resolution, mainly because the Barbados National Trust happens to be a member of the Barbados Hotel & Tourism Association and therefore I have a fear of losing a member, if I do not make a contribution to this debate.

Everyone has spent a long time talking about the value and the rich history of the Synagogue and what it adds to our people. I would also like to say, however, that the Synagogue and the buildings and all the other institutions which the Barbados National Trust has paid such close attention to, obviously have a very serious, serious tourism value and a very critical role to play in where we go in tourism in the future.

Obviously, Sir, the concept is that Barbados has the same things that all the other islands around them have. I speak particularly of sun, sea, surf and fun, in whichever way the fun comes. Barbados has also got a very rich heritage which obviously we need to sell and to market to the people in North America.

Recently, with the visit of the President of the United States there was the whole idea of trying to get him to spend as much time as the first President spent in Barbados. There is a building by the Garrison which the National Trust has identified, which I believe is the building in which George Washington slept. It is the only place outside of North America supposedly that he visited and slept in. All these things have a very serious appeal for the North American visitor.

Those of us who are familiar with the way in which tourism works and the way in which it is built up would know that there are only four areas in which tourism development takes place. There are human resource development, research and information, marketing and product and institutional development. The Synagogue, unlike other buildings, falls under the concept of product and institutional development. I believe in Barbados, we spend a lot of time focussing mostly on the other areas of our tourism mix and pay very little attention to how the product itself develops and to the whole concept of strengthening the institutions and strengthening the product.

It is imperative, Sir, that we spend some time looking at all those things around us which make us very, very special to visitors, especially the North American visitor. I believe that the National Trust has also spent a lot of time on the buildings and comparing these buildings to buildings in North Carolina, which I understand is the first place that a lot of Barbadian settlers went to and a lot of these buildings in North Carolina are built along the same architectural lines as the ones that we have here.

What is most important, however, is for us to get across the message that Barbados does have something special and that Barbados is appealing to the North American visitor. I find that we have been lacking for the longest time in really creating proper niche markets for Barbados within the tourism sector. This is one of the niche markets which we can hang our hat on and hold on to.

All of this fanfare about whether or not President Clinton came here or George Washington came here will have no significance for Barbados nor will not get another person to book a flight to come to Barbados unless we can tie it in to something positive. I find that in recent times in Barbados, we have been very lax. Our name is out there but the way in which we market Barbados and in which we market the product leaves a lot to be desired.

Sir, I want to commend the Barbados National Trust for the sterling work that they have done over the years in identifying and preserving our heritage, not for the tourist but first and foremost for Barbadians. It is also incumbent upon us that we get a lot more people involved. I see the same faces showing up every time we talk about

the National Trust and I would like to see more Barbadians at a low level, involved in the concept and the work of the National Trust. It may be a lack of education or a lack of awareness but only people at certain levels of the community really take an interest in preserving around them, what is important for Barbados. This has to do with the whole system of formal and informal education and the understanding of what is important in terms of developing this country.

I would like to see a concerted plan made on behalf of those who are trusted with educating our Barbadian and that people of all levels will get involved in preserving these buildings and not only just in preserving the buildings for what they are, but for what they tell us about ourselves, where we came from, where we are going and reflecting Barbadian people. I would like to see a lot more Barbadians at the bottom rung of the ladder getting involved and be made aware of what is happening within Barbados.

Sir, with those words, I obviously support this Resolution.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SUSPENSION

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Senate accordingly.
12.45 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
LEASE OF LAND TO ESSO STANDARD OIL
S. A. LIMITED FOR THE STORAGE
OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO
BE USED FOR AVIATION
PURPOSES

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to ask the support of the Honourable Senate for this Resolution which relates to the lease of land to Esso Standard Oil for the operation of its tank farm, the storage of aviation fuel, at the airport.

This is basically, Mr. President, the continuation of an arrangement that has been going on for some time. As you

know, as is required under the relevant legislation when a lease on Government owned property expires and the parties are able to negotiate and come to terms with respect to a new lease that that new lease still has to come for the blessing of Parliament. So in this particular case the 70 447 square feet of land at the airport is the same property that would have been occupied by Esso under the terms of the previous lease. The key points to note in this particular arrangement are that the price agreed on is a price of \$35 274 per year with the lessee bearing the land taxes and other outgoings associated with the use of the property.

Also you will note that unlike other leases there is in this one no option for renewal and this really relates to the fact that it is not likely that in the future that the storage of aviation fuel, that is the location of the tank farm, will be the same as it has been over the last several years.

As you would be aware, Mr. President, the airport is currently undergoing some expansion. The first phase of that expansion involves some maintenance activity and expansion in one or two areas and perhaps the second and third phases would involve a larger expansion project as I would discuss subsequently. But as a result of the need to expand the physical facilities at the airport the location of the storage of aviation fuel would have to change. So that therefore rather than building into the lease an option to renew the terms of the specific area of land as defined when that need to move comes to fruition then a new lease would be drawn up for the new location elsewhere on the airport compound but in terms, Sir, of what some of these physical changes at the airport would entail. First of all, Sir, already under way and much of it for the most part completed, there were some major maintenance issues that had to be addressed at the airport but the airport in Barbados had become known as the place where it leaks, Sir, and where one could not count on the cover of the roof in times of rain.

There was a major water-proofing exercise conducted at the airport during the course of the last several months and that is substantially complete if not totally complete where the entire water-proofing of the roof was done.

Also, Sir, the electronics and other installations at the airport were also in need of some renewal. For example there was the need for a UPS supply at the radar installation as well as some upgrading work on the radar and much of that has been done already.

There is also planned, a replacement for the ATC electronic system again another component in terms of Barbados' ability to continue to track aircraft within its airspace and the like.

Also on-going, Sir, and I think this one is pretty much complete, the replacement of the security fencing at

the airport. This fencing as you would imagine, Sir, requires continuous renewal if the security is to remain constant and a major area of the fence, indeed some 5 000 linear feet of fencing was replaced, mainly to the south eastern perimeter of the airport. And as would be required by international civil aviation conventions in terms of airports, Sir, the barb wire and razor wire and other attachments would also have to be used. You would appreciate, Sir, that that kind of fencing work is both required to keep some things in and some things out.

It is important. For example, many years ago before there was an airport fence sheep could stray on to the runway and so on and in fact, Sir, when I was a Scout back at Foundation School in the nineteen seventies part of our nighttime activities used to involve visits to the Chase vault where we would typically leave one or two fellows locked in the vault whilst we took a trip to the airport and we would go and sit on the runway and so on because there was no fencing at the time. You could just walk on. Things are much more secure and of course there used to be the car racing and motorcycle racing on the runway and so on. But the security obviously is again within the context of modern requirements for airports, a requirement that Barbados needs to ensure is always in top shape to ensure that neither animals or people stray on to the runway and other facilities at the airport. But also airports being prime areas for the movement of goods, whether they be commercial goods destined for individuals or businesses or narcotics trans-shipment also occurs at airports. Therefore one wants that the movement of luggage and goods only go through appropriate customs check points rather than any breaches which there might be. So those are some of the maintenance type activities that have been conducted.

In terms of actual expansion, Sir, the work is already in progress on the parking apron. You will know, Sir, that Barbados now is having much more aircraft rotations occurring here than before. In other words, Sir, there are more flights landing and taking off and as a result you end up with many more flights on the ground at the same time and therefore the need for additional parking apron to facilitate that.

In addition to the regular commercial flights of which there is an increased number, both from American Airlines side and the British Airways and so on and BWIA but also there is an increased number of charters in addition to which there is an increased number of private jets which are coming to Barbados. There are many people who do business with Barbados who because of either their prominence and profile or because of their high security profile cannot use commercial aircraft.

For example there was a client who came to Barbados to talk just about some business in one of the

Fortune 100 companies in the United States and he had to fly in on the company's corporate jet, the simple reason being that the top 5 executives in his company, a major financial institution, are prime kidnap targets around the world so therefore travel on commercial aircraft and so on is really out of the question.

We had our two golfers here, for example, and we know of Tiger Woods who was not here, contrary to rumour as I understand it, but who obviously can no longer fly commercial aircraft because of the harassment factor and so on, although I would not mind if he takes a flight and I sit next to him. I would harass him all flight long. The reality, Sir, is that there are more rotations occurring at the Grantley Adams International Airport and therefore the need for a larger parking apron.

I should say that the runway is good. It can take the largest and fastest commercial aircraft. It can take the 747, it can take the Concorde, it could take Air Force 1 but the parking apron as you would have seen for example at the airport with Air Force 1 double parked or perhaps triple parked, there was a little shortage of parking apron space for other persons to manoeuvre. So the process of expanding the parking apron is very much on stream to deal with this expansion.

In addition, Sir, you will also want to note that the diplomatic lounge, Sir, has been completely refurbished. It is now called the Grace Adams Suite which used to be known as the VIP lounge and that suite, again this is one of the common features of any modern airport where one has to be able to provide facilities of quality for heads of governments and for other high officials of various countries and the facilities at what used to be the VIP lounge had become so much in a shambles that I think the Barbados VIP lounge was the most tacky lounge any where in the Caribbean.

2.10 p.m.

Now, Sir, the Grace Adams Suite which is the diplomatic lounge at the Grantley Adams International Airport is one of international quality and I believe there was an official opening sometime recently.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I was wondering whether you were in fact storing aviation fuel?

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, as a result of all of these expansions at the airport, there is going to be the need for a new lease to be negotiated for a new location within the airport compound, because

the existing 70 447 square feet on which the tank farm is located will be displaced by these expansions.

I will start with the internal expansions and move towards the actual outer dimensions. It was a linear progression. Now, Sir, the improved facilities at the airport are really in keeping with the fact that there are expected to do two things, Sir.

We are expected to meet the increased number of passengers who use the airport and in fact when this current facility was designed it was designed to take us through to the year 2005 based on the growth in passenger traffic as projected then.

However, we are already at the number of passengers that would have been projected to go through 2005. So, we obviously need to plan ahead, put the expansion in place that with the exponential growth in passenger traffic through the airport we will be able to provide the quality service for the number of passengers within the times which one would associate with movement through a modern airport.

So that Sir, the Grace Adams Suite as part of that expansion of facilities which will have an impact on the location of the tank farm and on the current and subsequent leases, Sir, allows for, as expected of those types of facilities, an inner room where heads of government and heads of state can have appropriate security privacy as well as communication back to their governments, an outer room for other diplomatic level persons to be able to rest, have meetings, press conferences and the like in public. It was put to the test and won the approval of all persons who used it ranging from the President of the United States and the leaders of the other countries to their staff persons. And the Honorary Consul for Haiti, reminds me I should say the President of Haiti as well.

So, Sir, the major parts of the expansion however, which will have an impact on this tank farm, will come in the next phase.

The next phase, Sir, will be the reconfiguration through construction, the arrangements for arriving passengers and departing passengers. As it stands right now, both areas are too small. So that the airport will expand westward. That is moving toward the old airport, and you will know, Sir, the tank farm is in that location.

Therefore, Sir, the reason why this particular lease has no option to renew is because within that expansion the location of cargo facilities, the size and location of departure and arrival areas, the location of your technical and engineering services and support areas will all be

affected. For example, Sir, there are some 13 different proposals for various types of commercial, technical and aviation related businesses which persons want to conduct within the airport environment, things like providing additional servicing and engineering support for aircraft and other ventures which we would not go into details of. But again, Sir, the fact that this kind of activity is being proposed for Grantley Adams International Airport would have an impact on the entire use of the larger airport reserve area.

So, Sir, this lease therefore would be for a period of ten years, and has no option to renew. The new location would be subject to the details I will discuss later, but the lease that we are discussing today is in respect of the existing portion of land which has been in use by Esso for some considerable length of time but under the terms of the relevant legislation one is required to bring each new lease to Parliament once the details are agreed on between the parties.

With the brief introduction and explanation, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, as the Honourable Minister took us through his tour of the Grantley Adams Airport and his dreams as to how it should look when the renovations and expansions are completed, as he drifted far and wide, Sir, in discussing the lease of land to Esso Standard Oil at the airport, he neglected in detailing the key points of the Resolution to indicate that this Resolution is one which demonstrates the tardiness too, of this administration in seeing about the business of the country.

I refer specifically, Sir, to the fact that this is in itself about four years old and it is only at the coercion and the insistence and the almost pestering of the company indeed, that we are probably considering it here today. I am happy that it is being considered and I hope that the tardiness associated with this particular item would not necessarily replicate itself in all the endeavours.

Sir, the storage of fuel at the Grantley Adams Airport and indeed the storage of fuel anywhere is a matter of serious concern to any country. In a small island state like Barbados it is of even more serious consideration.

I live in an area which includes the village of Oistins, Sir, and the lovely public beach, largely used by Barbadians and more and more becoming attractive to visitors. The large public beach at what is now known as "Miami Beach," probably a misnomer, but a very pleasant beach on the Enterprise Coast.

Sir, storage of fuel for aviation purposes is a subject of deep concern to the residents of this area and indeed to the users of the beach. There are two large tanks, a tank farm, located in Oistins, owned by Shell, another energy provider in this country. They, because of what I observe as sometimes lapsed security, do present a threat to residents. I have witnessed small bush fires in the environs of the tanks and if not for the quick action of local residents and indeed the Barbados Fire Service who, Sir – with a quick digression must be commended for the sterling work they are doing in this country, at this time a very, very dry season, when there are so many bush fires and indeed, unfortunately, so many house fires – note that the storage of fuel in Oistins in these two tankers introduces the immediate threat to residents of the area. I think this company needs to be persuaded to look at alternatives with respect to where they store their fuel for the aircraft. They have been pumping their fuel from Oistins through a pipeline which passes through Pegwell Boggs and up over Coverley onto the airport.

2.20 p.m.

This, again, Sir, serves as a threat to some residents in the area of the pipeline as there are known to be leaks. Poor maintenance, pump leakage and pipe leakage continue to be a definite threat to the residents along the route of this pipeline. As if that were not all, and I referred to the Enterprise Beach when I started, the almost twice per month off loading of fuel by the tankers at Oistins are a threat to the viability of that beach in terms of the possibility and there is always the possibility of some accident occurring and there being a spillage of fuel. I have observed the tankers come into the area on numerous occasions and I have observed the off loading of fuel and I have never seen any precautions being taken which to my mind would represent an attempt to do the off loading of this fuel in a way that it would not pose a threat in the event of an accident to the beach which we so treasure.

A little oil spill in that area could cause havoc to the tourism of Barbados right along the south coast and I think the company responsible and I believe it is Shell and I do beg to apologise if I am incorrect...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am sorry. We are really dealing here with Esso, with Grantley Adams Airport and with aviation. I think you are straying a little from the terms of the Resolution.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I must be guided by you. The off loading of the aviation fuel at Oistins, rather than storage like Esso has done at the Airport, is what I am referring to.

I respectfully submit that there should be an attempt made to lay down a kind of safety retaining ring around

these tankers at the time of off loading if they find they are not able to negotiate like Esso a lease arrangement at the actual Grantley Adams facility. This would remove all the threats which I have referred to before – the threat to the residences because the airport location is remote. It is deliberately designed for that kind of activity; the threat of leakages in the case of poor maintenance because it would negate the need for a pipeline running through villages. The tankers would come right up to the tank farm, collect their fuel and move on to the tarmac with it.

Sir, I am urging for a similar arrangement to be looked at and for Government to urge that a similar arrangement be instituted in all cases because of these inherent dangers in the existing arrangement.

I listened with interest at the plans for the airport and I wanted to say one thing. Government needs to accompany its programmes of expansion and development with properly articulated programmes of public relations so that the people for whom they seek to provide the services and the improvements will at the end of the day be truly able to appreciate them.

I speak of a simple decision to frost the glasses, for instance, at the arrival lounge at the airport. In many countries they do not have the opportunity to be as close to either arriving or departing passengers and we have been in Barbados often very lax in this regard in terms of security. I imagine it was done for security but I would like to see these programmes being accompanied by published newspaper advertisements which indicate exactly what the programme is about and the intention.

I must say I succeeded so far in getting the South Coast Sewerage Project to go that route and it has become...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, please! I really think that you are not dealing with the Resolution before us.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I merely digressed to speak to the developments which...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not going to allow a digression outside of the scope of this debate.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I merely sought to respond to some of the comments of the Leader of the Senate but I take your ruling. In the plans for the airport expansion 2 and in the plans for the location of the tank farms and future tank farms for storage of fuel either by Esso or anybody else we must consider the residents in the area. Too often we are hearing of on again, off again programmes in respect to the flight path of aircraft

for instance for the location of equipment related to the running of the airport.

The residents of Fairy Valley, Parish Land and Coverley live in a hiatus of not knowing when or who next will approach them on the question of relocation or restrictions which will be imposed because of developmental plans.

I think that this should be brought into focus too in all the discussions and all the projections for the airport development and as in this case for the storage of fuel at the airport.

I look forward to the fullest expansion of the Grantley Adams Airport. It means that we are a growing nation and it is an indication of the success of the programmes which have been put in place that we can boast today that our arrivals and departures are already more than were predicted at the time to have occurred in 2005. Indeed, Sir, it is an indication of past good government that has allowed this kind of occurrence.

In respect to aviation fuel, again it brings one to consider the whole question of energy because we have many options in terms of the kinds and grades of fuels that might be applied to particular instances. Indeed, it leads us to what is our programme in terms of the overall and final quality of service that we render at the airport in regard to the provision of fuel. Fuel for aircraft is very serious business. We all know that before the Airforce 1 took its fuel on Saturday or whenever, the sample had to be sent to Puerto Rico to be checked for exact specifications before it was entered into the aircraft. This is the kind of facility which we must look towards being able to provide so that Barbados can, not only boast of being able to host Heads of Government in a suite where they can make private telephone calls but it can provide the services that go along with all these private jets that we look to entertain over the next years as we move forward into the next millennium.

We certainly want to be part of a government which has these kinds of ideas placed firmly within their programme for the country's development.

Sir, the storage of the aviation fuel at the airport and the whole question of energy and what fuels and grades of fuels are used at the airport and indeed throughout the country will be a subject of much more debate. I am indeed looking forward to the day that the energy unit of Barbados gets serious, for instance, about the real question of our energy resources and how they are being used and when we can look forward to a paper. I think a White Paper on energy has been promised now as long as this

Government has been the Government of the country and up to this day we have heard absolutely nothing about it.

I know a little bit about it but I wait to hear more in this Chamber and then I would probably be in a better way to respond to the whole question of the energy programme for the country. Indeed aircraft would then have an option as to what services they take on board and all the providers of fuel energy would then be able to compete on a more level playing field in respect of the provision of fuel at the airport.

2.30 p.m.

Mr. President, I therefore want to state that the Resolution, despite its tardiness, allows us to look forward to continued provision of adequate services for aircraft at the airport and indeed it has allowed the input of certain ideas in respect to the development of the airport infrastructure. I trust Government would take the suggestions for what they are worth and put them to the best use in respect to the public relations aspect of the programme which I think is vitally lacking and which is absolutely important.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this debate, Sir.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I want to rise to support this Resolution which seeks to continue a situation where ESSO Standard Oil is entering into an arrangement with Government for the lease of land on which their tanks for the storage of gasoline, aviation fuel, lubricants and other petroleum products to be used for aviation purposes are situated. Sir, it brings into focus, as the last speaker said, the whole question of the provision of energy facilities, not only at the airport, but also on the island as a whole.

I want to touch on one or two important points. At present, Sir, Shell and Texaco, as I said before, jointly own the facility at Oistins and from there the ships are off-loaded in the Oistins area, the fuel fills the tanks and then is pumped to the airport.

On the other hand, ESSO imports their fuel directly at their facility at Holborn and it is trucked from there to these tanks at the airport. So the fuel is imported and stored at Holborn, Spring Garden, then it goes by road wagon from Holborn up to these tanks at the airport while, on the other hand, Shell and Texaco have a direct pipeline from Oistins, and as the last speaker mentioned, across Pegwell, Coverley and those places up to the airport.

Sir, the reason for this is that a few years ago ESSO had almost gone out of the aviation business so that when that facility was built, there were basically two

companies in Barbados in the aviation fuel business, Shell and Texaco. ESSO came back in recent years and that is the reason why they are not involved in that particular facility at Oistins but rather it is trucked by road from Holborn, as I said before, to the airport.

The question of off-loading of petroleum products as a whole is a very sensitive issue. It is something the Government is presently coming to grips with because I do not know if you will allow me the latitude, but the other petroleum products, that is the feed stock is imported not far from here in Carlisle Bay and only last November there was a minor oil spill in Carlisle Bay. It was recorded in the newspaper. In October or November last year there was a minor spill so we take the Honourable Member's comment about spillage in Oistins because there is a risk associated with the off-loading of petroleum products in the sea, whether it is the south coast, west coast or in town.

Sir, we have two situations here, and they are important. One, there is a risk associated with having a lot of big road wagons transporting the fuel if it is off-loaded in the Harbour area and on the other hand we have the possibilities that the Honourable Member mentioned inherent in the present arrangement where there is a line running from Oistins to the airport.

Sir, I can assure Honourable Members that Government is cognizant of the difficulties and problems there and we are going to make sure that the environmental aspects of the present arrangement is carefully monitored. I know the companies themselves have been very careful in ensuring that the pipelines are free of leaks and are tested for deterioration.

I know, Sir, about a year or two ago they had some problems in the Pegwell area. It is a problem for us because if all the aviation fuel comes in at the Harbour, which is safer, then you still have the problems of large trucks traversing our roads. Again there is also the potential for mishaps, spillage and so on, so however you look at it, there is some risk in the operation of getting fuel from the ships to the airport. We have to make sure that we minimize the possibility of any mishap occurring.

Sir, it should be noted that unlike other petroleum products, aviation fuel is not made in Barbados. All the aviation fuel is imported. The refinery here does not make aviation fuel. Whether it is aviation gas or aviation fuel it is not made in Barbados. It is imported as a finished product. That is why I was a little bit surprised when the last speaker mentioned the fact that the fuel used for Airforce 1 had to be sent to Puerto Rico for testing.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I have a problem with it because the fuel we use at the airport is not locally made but rather it is produced in a refinery outside Barbados and one would have thought that the testing of the product would be done at the refinery in which it was made. It is not made in Barbados. It is made overseas.

Now, Sir, I also find it strange because all the other airlines which have the same type of equipment use the fuel that is brought in here without any difficulty so I was a bit surprised that the Honourable Member would mention this point. I do not know the source of this information but I know that may be a politician who is given to exaggeration.
2.40 p.m.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President. I stated that the fuel loaded for Air Force 1 was sent to Puerto Rico to be tested. Sir, it is a fact, it is not an imagination of mine. It is a point of security when the President of the United States travels. It is done all over the world wherever he goes. It is tested before it is loaded.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have made your point, Sir. I think, Senator Barker, to pursue this particular discussion is largely irrelevant, whether or not it was tested in Barbados or elsewhere. Please proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I understand your ruling but the Honourable Member was making the point and was trying to connect it to the fact that we need better facilities here for testing aviation fuel. He made it in relation to that point, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think he made that point.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I wrote my notes and he said that we need an energy testing...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have ruled, Senator Barker. Please proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the Government is concerned with the quality of all fuels in Barbados whether it be aviation fuel or whatever. I can assure the Honourable Member that we are making sure that all fuels whether they be used in Air Force 1, LIAT or in my car, Sir, are of the best quality. The Energy Division has a responsibility for that.

Sir, the last speaker mentioned that we need more energy testing done, especially with aviation products to make sure that they are good quality. The Honourable Member was of the view that we need to make sure that the aviation fuel used at the airport is of the highest

quality and I can assure him, Sir, that the Government, through its agency, BNSI and other agencies, always make sure that testing is done so that the public gets the highest quality product.

Sir, the Honourable Member also mentioned the fact that the Energy Unit otherwise called the Energy and Natural Resources Division, should be more involved in devising a policy for energy in Barbados. He also mentioned the fact that a White Paper was promised long ago and it has not come to fruition. I am not sure whether he was talking in terms of energy policy for airports or for Esso. I am not sure in what connection he was speaking, but he did mention the fact that the Energy Division had promised a White Paper on energy policy.

Sir, everyone knows the mess that has been left by the Government in which he was a member.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, I want it recorded, Sir, that I have never been a Member of any Government in this country.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is so recorded.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am sure that the Honourable Member was a Chairman of a Board which makes him a member of the Government because he was involved as a Board Chairman.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you are making very heavy weather of this, please proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the point that I want to make is that the last Government has messed up the energy sector. Because if you look at it carefully, we should be doing much better with regards to the old energy business and cut down on some of the importation that the Honourable Member is so concerned about, if proper decisions were taken with regards to providing aviation fuel and other fuels for Shell and Esso and the others to use.

What has happened in the past is that there was an obvious hiatus, eight years of it, when nothing was done. Environmental safeguards were not properly enforced and some of the same difficulties that the Honourable Member spoke about with regards to the pipe line and the tanks, nothing was done to correct what he is complaining about. We had a whole eight years when nothing was done. There was no activity. So a lot of the difficulties that he mentioned just now was as a result of his party's indifference to the energy sector.

All the problems that the people in Peggwell have, can be traced to those years where the last Government stood

idly by and allowed almost a *laissez-faire* in the energy sector. I can see why he is complaining now because we now have an energy sector which is on the move. We are now hearing for the first time of a comprehensive energy policy in Barbados. He has confessed that he saw the energy paper, he told me that he saw it.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you are out of order.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: That was off the record, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If you are on your feet, nothing is off the record.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the Honourable Member knows the Government's energy policy. His points are irrelevant. He knows what plans we have for the provision of fuel to the airport and to the seaport and yet he complains that there is no policy when he knows there is a policy. I would like him to deny that he knows what the policy is with regards to the importation and storage of fuel, not only aviation fuel but lubricants and other petroleum products in Barbados. He does know what the policy is.

Sir, we have never hidden anything with regards to the provision of these products in Barbados. It was widely reported and recorded what our plans are with regards to the provision of aviation fuel, lubricants and other things in Barbados. It is known what our plans are with regards to the storage of these products, with regards to the transport of these products. He knows that we have placed special emphasis on the environmental safeguards with regards to these products which can cause problems to the water supply and to the general health and to the economy of this island.

Sir, to come in here and give the impression that there is no policy must be condemned because he knows there is a policy. He knows what the policy is. We have to dismiss him on that score. I would want him to get up and object, but he would not even object.

Sir, this resolution is part and parcel of Government's overall strategy with regards to the provision of fuels for the aircraft. Do not forget that we are basically a tourist island and we have to ensure that aircrafts, whether scheduled or charters are properly serviced with regards to aviation fuel and these other properties.

Sir, one last point. It is well known that in Barbados because of the efficiencies in this sector, that a lot

of aircraft bypass other destinations and make sure that they are stocked up with fuel when they come to Barbados because our rates at the Grantley Adams Airport are amongst the lowest in this part of the world. I am speaking, Sir, of our aviation fuel and gas. They are amongst the lowest in the region so a lot of aircraft bypass other destinations and come to use our facilities. So it is very important that we maintain our facilities at the airport with regard to the refuelling of aircraft. It is indispensable if we are to make sure that our tourist industry remains viable and continues to play the part that it is playing in the economic life of Barbados.

2.50 p.m.

So this Resolution is very important in that regard. We must make sure that the fuel that is used, as I said before, is transported and stored in the most acceptable manner to avoid the sort of problems that we had under the "DEMS" with regard to Pegwell and other areas. Sir, with those few words I want to support this Resolution.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President I want to support this Resolution to approve the lease to Esso Standard Oil at the airport. My understanding is that the most important and critical aspect of all in this concept of leasing land to Esso for the storage of oil has a lot to do with both the safety and the security of people in and around the environs of the Grantley Adams Airport.

Sir, when this lease was first negotiated in 1966 I would believe that there was very little housing around that area of the airport. It is interesting that a lot of built up concrete structures would not have been there in and around where they are now and I think, Sir, critical to this discussion it has to do with the whole concept of security in and around that area.

Now, the Leader of the Senate spoke at length about the concept of the fencing around the airport so that people could not drift on to it and black belly sheep could not drift on and then the sandblasting of the windows at the airport to ensure security and all the expansion and the upgrading of the facilities and the way it was being done at the airport.

Given the fact, Sir, that in recent times Barbados has been experiencing more air traffic than they have in recent years the advent obviously and the coming of people like Air Jamaica and the whole expansion of the aviation industry, more liberal aviation practices and all these restrictive bilaterals that we had before is going to in the future cause Barbados to have a lot more air traffic than they have had in the past.

It would be interesting to know how we intend to deal with the whole concept of safety and security in and

around the airport. The road that runs next to the airport, coming down there I saw the snipers and all of these people from United States Government looking to see who was over there, but if one came down the road, coming from St. Philip, just short of where the Shell station is, the area is so open that you could actually jump over the fence by the airport and get near to Air Force 1.

The point I am making, Sir, is that I think in the future we have got to create some form of developmental policy that moves people away from the airport. There have just been two recent incidents in the United States with fuel and chemicals where once there is an explosion people for miles and miles around cannot even occupy their homes and people have got to be moved.

It is interesting to note that in Barbados right where that fuel is stored, next to that fuel is –

- (1) an industrial park which employs a number of people. Many more than when the "DEMS" were in power.
- (2) there is a whole residential area in and around that area.

I think, Sir, we need to be looking at the possibility of moving and in some cases to create some form of developmental plan that moves people away from that, or looking for some isolated area in which either you would want to store this fuel and then pump it to the airport.

I know there is a practice where trucks that transport fuel are not allowed to travel along certain areas of Barbados in case there is an accident in terms of seepage getting into the water and whatever else. I think, Sir, it is necessary for us to adopt a policy that seeks to remove people away from the airport area. We cannot move the airport and carry it to St. Lucy as some people would advocate or create another airport in St. Lucy, so obviously what we are going to have to do is find some means and mechanism, and I am very serious about this, Sir, of moving people away from that area in case there ever is any form of accident because people are just too close to the airport.

The other thing, Sir, is the constant expansion of the airport. That area of the South Coast road that runs very close, where we build hotels and whatever, we are going to have to create some policy of moving the road more inland. I think the same thing is going to have to happen regarding the airport. It is better now than it ever was before in terms of money in the Treasury so we have more than enough money to do the things that are possible, but in any developmental plan for Barbados we need to look very seriously at moving people away from the airport.

The other thing I understand is that when one stores aviation fuel or any kind of fuel in tanks in the earth there is always the possibility over many, many years for the whole concept of ground contamination and eroding of tanks and water seeping in especially in terms of ground water contamination and also in terms of beaches and the like.

I think, Sir, we have got to be very careful in terms of where the tanks are stored at the airport in order to protect the environment and I, Sir would like a clearly outlined policy on the whole concept of the storage of this aviation fuel, in terms of the security and safety of people in and around the airport. There is also the whole concept of over the years how these tanks are going to be maintained, what is the possibility of any of this oil seeping into our ground water, and the whole concept of where we go in terms of people being allowed into the environs of the airport. This has nothing to do with any administration, whether it be BLP or DLP, this is a concept that is clear. Right now at the Grantley Adams Airport it is very, very clear, especially at the old airport terminal that one can easily gain access to the airport from some areas. I know there is security in place but we find, Sir, that within the whole concept of the protection of the airport...

I know, Sir, that when I lived overseas that getting near an airport or even getting near the fence was almost impossible because of the whole concept of the remote area in which it was placed. There were many barriers in getting close to the runway or getting close to where the airport is. I think, Sir, we have got to be very careful now with having a lot of residential areas in and around our airport and how we protect the airport and access to the airport from people.

I have said that when we are driving on the roads we are very close to the runway and I think, Sir, it is necessary for the Government of the day to devise a plan where we can move people a little bit more inland, away from the area of the airport. With those words, I give my support to the Resolution.

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

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

ORDER NO. 4 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND
AT CONSTANT, ST. GEORGE FOR
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, support of the Senate is being sought for this Resolution which seeks its approval for the acquisition of

land at Constant in St. George for the purpose of housing development.

The land in question, Sir, of approximately five acres is the property of Constant Plantation Ltd. and it is opposite the St. George Secondary School and adjacent to an existing village which is there. In fact this particular land is part and parcel of two villages which are there. One has to drive through the first set of houses which are immediately opposite the entrance to St. George Secondary School in order to gain access to the land which is further inland. But then it is bounded on the other road by what is known as Walker's Road and from which at the other end there is also another village.

So that this acquisition of land for housing development is very much in keeping with the Government's idea that where possible we will use land that borders existing villages where the existing support structures within the villages, in terms of electricity, water, telephone services, the social infrastructure where there is already an established set of social relationships there and the existing public transport and other services, shops and whatever else one may need in the village is already there. All one will be doing is expanding the facilities already available.

I am also reminded as well, Sir, that in the case of this particular expansion the new residents of the area to be acquired will also be able to benefit from having both a primary and a secondary school in the immediate proximity because the entrance to this property is directly opposite St. George Secondary School and no more than 75 to 100 yards across the road is the St. George Primary School.

Therefore Sir, this land that is being acquired from Constant Plantation is to expand the existing village in St. George and Sir, the approval of the Senate is being sought for this acquisition of land which will be eventually vested in the National Housing Corporation for the provision of sites and services where Barbadians will be able to construct their own homes on lands that they are able to rent, lease or purchase.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, it would be remiss of me to allow a resolution with anything to do with land use on the one hand and housing on the other hand to pass without lending comment, Sir.

It is my view that housing and land use will continue to be one of the most serious socioeconomic

considerations which this country will face over the next couple of years. We are in a situation today where it is admitted by the National Assistance Board and the relevant ministries that there are absolutely no units available for persons who might fall in need.

A people who are asked to serve in the capacity of government must pay careful attention to providing the basic necessities for the people whom they serve. The situation is absolutely untenable that we, after three years of the Barbados Labour Party's Government, the only boast that can be made from the Ministry of Housing is that they are no units available for people-in-need in this country, Sir.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: An absolute catastrophe to my mind, Sir, in terms of house planning. Planning, Sir, is the key to the whole issue. And indeed, when you examine the question of planning for housing development you have to underpin your strategy by certain philosophical positions.

One of the absolutely urgent provisions in a small island like Barbados is that we retain enough viable land for agricultural production. One is not necessarily speaking of total self-sufficiency, but certainly the opportunity to grow crops provides economic opportunity for the people who engage in the activity and also and very important, it lends balance to the whole eco-system.

It is also vitally important, when we consider land use to be sure that we are retaining the land in a proper eco-environmental balance. All these questions will come to play and will haunt, if not us, certainly our generations to come.

The history of this administration in land use, Sir, does not lend any comfort to persons like myself. One of the first acts of land acquisition which this Government engaged in after 1994 was one which was described by themselves as "environmental madness."

I speak, Sir, of the decision to use the National Park area of Greenland, Sir, for the purpose of a solid waste dump. That is an example of land use application which has not gone down well with the environmentalists and which leads one to ponder what confidence can be reposed in an administration who engages in this kind of action.

So the thought that we are now considering the acquisition of prime agricultural land, Sir, at Constant...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I have grown up in the North of Barbados in a far land called St. Peter, Sir, where we often heard stories which said that besides the lush valleys of St. Peter, enclosing places like Bakers, White Hall and those areas, the only place which was more verdant would be the valley of St. George, Sir.

St. George was referred to as the "Valley" and it was the "bread basket" of Barbados. It was the source of our nutrition, Sir. Constant in St. George forms part of the "Valley" and it brings to question who makes the decisions in this country in terms of land use?

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President, the Honourable Member is misleading the House, and given his explanation of where he was born and the fact that he does not even know that area, I believe it is out of ignorance.

If one were to follow his arguments about the prime nature of agriculture land in the "Valley" there would be no houses located there, because all the soil will be six feet deep. The particular area in question, as defined in the resolution, is not prime agricultural land, Mr. President. 3.10 p.m.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I note that you have not ruled so I take it you, like me, believe that the intervention is one of a limited view of agriculture and what is agricultural produce. The fact that grass grows is an act of agriculture. The fact that cows can feed on grass, ruminant in their stomachs and produce milk and beef is an act of agriculture. So the limited view and knowledge of agriculture as displayed by the Senate Leader further enhances the point I was about to make that one cannot repose confidence in the decision makers of this country at this time in terms of their application of the principles and priorities of land use. I was about to ask the question who is making the decisions in regard to what lands are used for what purpose in Barbados.

We know that the International Monetary Fund and the lending agencies have set certain principles on which they operate and one of them includes the fact that land should be put to its greatest economic use. Sir, because the IADB sets that as a plank on which to go forward it does not mean that the decision makers must be limited in their interpretation of economic use.

Indeed, the example which I just had to cite in trying to elucidate the thinking of the Honourable Leader of the Senate could even be used to demonstrate to the international money lenders that we are capable

of developing economic use and its interpretation to an extent which would not require the acquisition of good agricultural land for housing.

We must look at new, what I call, integrative ways of dealing with housing in Barbados. I have for a long time objected to the view that we should have a development of housing for one economic bracket and another type of development for another economic bracket. I think that we must move towards a situation of true integration of our society and as such instead of Government looking to acquire lands in remote areas because if we accept the argument that these lands that are being acquired for housing are arable lands, far-flung and out of reach of any basic services then it cannot be described as fair. It would be better...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by totally misrepresenting what I said. The main plank on which I hung my argument was that this land that is being acquired is part and parcel not of one but of two villages. You have to drive past one to get in and because the road goes around... He does not know the area. He only knows Atlantic Shores and the other areas like that in Barbados; but this is a basic village in St. George.

You have to drive past one village to get in and it is bounded by another village that starts from the other road. It has all of the support services including the social infrastructure and that was the main plank. To suggest that I was indicating that the land was remote and far flung is definitely misleading the Honourable Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think Senator Boyce is merely carried away by the rhetoric. I do not think that you expect the Chair to rule on whether it is rab land or prime agricultural land. That entirely is a matter for the Senators to settle among themselves. Obviously Senator Boyce has not accepted your point and I think in the course of the debate the facts will become clear.

Please proceed, Senator.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, let us accept that we are talking about rab land and that the rab land is being provided for the lower economic bracket members of our society. Precisely the point I was coming to.

I am saying that an enlightened government must look towards incorporating in its development policy clauses which make it very clear that the developers and I talk about fellows like – I do not want to call any companies – but areas behind CBC where there is Fort George and those kinds of places. Why must we create a Fort George? Or

Atlantic Shores if you want. Why must we create a Fort George on the one hand and restrict the type of housing to being one of say, the higher economic bracket – \$250 000 and up? When in truth and in fact just 40 feet across the street we are into what we called the Pine Housing Area, the socio-economic shift from Fort George to the Pine Housing Area and our thinking then becomes different.

We should allocate areas within all our developments or a number of our developments which can be reserved for the development of low income housing whether it be the terraced type as applied in the Farm and in Sayers Court or Maynards which I hope we have opened now because the last time I checked none of them were opened, nobody would have got the keys to the houses yet and it is a shame on a place where I come from and is represented by the Prime Minister of the country. I trust that it is open.

Sir, we should include a clause which makes it compulsory on the developers to render by way of acquisition. They would be paid for it. Areas within these developments. We want to integrate Barbados. We want white people, black people, Indians, Jews, rich... We talked about it this morning, Sir. We want to have all of us, rich and poor, integrated in a society of confidence, a society which breeds love for our neighbour and caring and which indeed brings out the best in all of us.

We must start at the very beginning. We must put all these things within our socio-economic package and we must put it within our land use policy so that we do not have to come to this Chamber or the other one from time to time to make special legislation and to create special areas for our less fortunate members of society to live in, especially at the end of the day when one recognises that the society has to integrate anyhow. These same people are going to work. A number of them will find work in these Fort George type houses and they will be working with them. They will be mixing with our children and our brothers and our mothers and our fathers. So why can we not integrate them at the beginning and get away from this policy of having to look at acquiring prime agricultural areas to set aside for that kind of housing stock?

There are really 2 areas with which I have difficulty: the type of land that is being taken away, day after day, for this type of housing development and the fact that we are not looking and carrying through a full policy of integration and the opportunities for this integration are being missed. 3.20 p.m.

Sir, land use is also to do with the infrastructure around us. Again, when we use precious dollars to develop our areas for the type of housing I referred to earlier, the Fort George type of housing, I am saying that the money required will be spent once. Therefore, the unit cost will

be less than if we then have to go and put in new infrastructure in a separate area starting from scratch or from near scratch so that we can have water pipes already in place and we just have to tap off into the area allocated for housing which would be supported by Government. Of course, that depends on if the tapping off makes any sense and if there is any water because one thing this administration has succeeded in doing this year, Sir, is making sure that hardly anybody in Barbados has water today bar you get it from the water truck.

It is a shame, Sir, to think that a few years ago we were promised and assured that droughts and water shortages of this nature were due only to negligence on the part of the then administration but today we are seeing manifest a situation of water shortage in this country as has never been before. It is due to bad planning, bad management on the part of the Barbados Water Authority. We would hope that in developing the land areas we would put these pipe works in place, as they would put telephone and electricity so the unit cost, as I said, would tend to be a lot less.

We need too, Sir, to consider when making these acquisitions, the whole question of where is the agriculture in this land going. Where are we heading? What the Honourable Senate Leader craftily, and I will demonstrate to him now, left out of his description of the area was that it was next door to Bulkeley, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would suggest you withdraw the word "craftily."

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I withdraw the word, Sir. He elegantly left out the description of Constant that it was next door to Bulkeley, a stone's throw from Bulkeley, the demonstrated, underpinning of their solution to sugar in this country. Today, we are seeing full circle as they turn on their tails and come in here to acquire lands near Bulkeley to use for housing. Is this a demonstration that Bulkeley inevitably is going? How are we ever going to be able...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Sir. I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member even if he is going down the wrong road but the Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is saying that this land is a stone's throw away from Bulkeley. He obviously does not know the area, Sir.

Constant Plantation stretches from the Christ Church ridge up on the south over the other ridge that ends the St. George Valley. It goes eastward to Bulkeley and westward to Haggatt Hall. The area in question, if he had said a stone's throw from St. George Parish Church and Charles

Rowe Bridge, he would be more accurate than saying a stone's throw away from Bulkeley. I do not know of anyone, Sir, who could throw a stone that distance so he cannot, without misleading this Chamber, say that the land is a stone's throw away from Bulkeley. There is no agriculture in that immediate area where the land is being acquired, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, I am inclined to defer to the Honourable Senator's ruling on St. George on this point.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I would only beg then to retain one point and that is that Constant as described as the Leader made his point was adjacent to Bulkeley. Let us say then that it was adjacent to Bulkeley. Whether a stone's throw, a big rock throw, or what, the point is it is near Bulkeley.

Bulkeley factory has been identified by the Barbados Labour Party Government, Sir, and at great assistance, and a lot of political gain, or attempted political gain at least, to be part of their rescue plan for the sugar industry, a plan which we had put very firmly in place even in light of the stout resistance to the traditional businessmen in this country.

We had put a plan firmly in place which has seen a level of management at the Barbados Sugar Industry which has never been before, and which is aimed towards providing adequate sugar for this country and for sale in the open market once we can retain the special arrangements which we have into the year 2000 and beyond.

Sir, any plan for housing development must bear in mind its impact on the whole picture of agriculture, especially in the case of Barbados, the specific question of the acquisitions of lands and good sugar lands.

Sir, remember, if Government sets an example then it cannot expect to push the private sector in another direction. When Government goes around acquiring these areas of useful land, they can find themselves in a quagmire once faced with decisions to be made by private sector applications for use of lands for all types of activity other than agriculture, and we are suffering already.

One can look at the level of importation of food into this country. We are suffering economically as a result and we need to go back to the drawing board, I believe. I look forward to the support from the contribution from Senator Laurie who I know is going to speak very soon to this whole question of how the Barbados Labour Party Government should be treating agricultural development in Barbados.

We must not zero our thinking into the provision only of offshore sector business places, the opening of toy shops, furniture shops and other kinds of malls as has been the practice recently of the Honourable Leader of the Senate. Every week he is opening a new mall. He has never opened an industry, he has never opened a farm, Sir. Never has he, indeed, opened a housing area but he is opening mall this, mall that every day, consumption activity. It sends the wrong signal.

Sir, we need therefore to integrate into our thinking about the offshore sector, and I welcome them because they bring very much needed foreign exchange and tourism. Even tourism begs for local input in terms of its food. Again my friend and almost sometimes I call him colleague, Sir, Senator Lynch over here will, when he speaks, refer to the question of breadfruits, yams, local foods like eddoes and cassava. The tourists want this kind of food.

I remember one of the most beautiful pizzas I have tasted was prepared, not on a flour base, but on a breadfruit base. This pizza was absolutely delicious, Sir, mouth watering.

Sir, we need to integrate into our programme for housing development a social conscience which bears in mind the responsibility, and I cannot preach this loud enough or hard enough. A Government must include a social conscience which bears in mind that the feeding of our people must be paramount. The provision of opportunity for expression of all activities must be paramount as they set the social and economy policy for this country. It is a tragedy when we continue to have to acquire useful lands like the ones which we are considering today, and even if we accept rab in the case of Constant, Sir, with your permission, Sir, I want to know what he is going to call Bakers because I know Bakers.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That matter is not before us at this time.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I know Sir. I beg to be pardoned, Sir.
3.30 p.m.

The debate on the question of land use in Barbados will continue and as I said at the beginning, part of the Democratic Labour Party's strategy for re-election in 1999 will include a full and exhaustive look at the housing policy in Barbados. It will include an integration of all levels of our society in the appropriate areas and it will include a wholesome and healthy development of the overall Barbadian society in its whole application of land use and its application of lands in Barbados, to alleviate the

difficulties with provision of housing for a number of the less fortunate members of our society.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I feel very glad to see that the Honourable Senator who just spoke moved away from Constant into more general areas because on the Constant one I found it very difficult to support him. It is a fact that this particular piece of land is rab land. It is not in the St. George Valley, it is on top of a hill, it is, as the Leader of the Senate said, a piece of land that any agriculturalist would be quite happy to give up if one has to give up any land at all. This is the kind of land that we have been saying to the Government all along, take this land and leave the others like the Farmers one, which I would have strong objections to.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President. In referring to the land, I defined it a rab land but I sought to include it in terms of the eco-balance. I am not limiting my definition of agriculture to just growing of food crops, Sir. The growth of any living organism lends to the balance of the whole thing.

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

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I would like to point out that it is possible to raise chickens on the roof of this building so you could say that this building is agricultural land, if you use that kind of definition.

However, what we are talking about is the scarce soil resources that we have in Barbados where the depths of soil is such that you can do virtually any kind of agriculture. This particular land at Constant is very, very shallow soil. It barely supports some growth of sour grass which will grow virtually anywhere. It certainly does not grow any breadfruit trees for making pizza and it is unlikely to ever have breadfruit trees there.

I share some of the sentiments of Senator Boyce in terms of the general approach to choosing land for agriculture and I will mention that, it is surprising to me, that the Government is going ahead at the rapid rate of acquiring land as it has done since it has been in office. I think it has acquired something like 200 acres of land and according to the proposals that I see in the Gazettes there is another list of some 10 or 12 acquisitions totalling 139 acres of land.

Now, yesterday, we were invited by the consultants to a public consultation and I did not see a single Member of Parliament at that consultation last night, not one. I am surprised that we did not have more people there. I

saw people from other political persuasions that are not in Parliament, they came and gave their opinion.

I was very pleased to see several representatives of the Rastafarian community who are into organic farming, who came and made a strong plea for that type of development in agriculture. They made a strong plea to get some help because the Ministry of Agriculture had nobody interested in organic farming. There is nobody there working as an Extension Officer in this area at all although, this is a very, very key thing.

We are paying people hundreds of thousands of dollars to be here as consultants and what are they going to do? They will transform the Town Planning Act, which is something we have been calling for a long time, that is the major sector; they are going to look at the National Park and they are going to come up with a land use policy and a physical development plan.

This is a major, major thing that is happening in Barbados, yet we are going ahead as if it is not happening. It is going to finish in nine months so we can hold off a little bit before we do some of these developments in such a rush, until we get this plan and we can say right, this thing fits in or it does not fit in to the plan. This plan has been accepted and laid in Parliament and it should become the blue print for how we are going to do these developments. It worries me that we are rushing off.

I understand that we acquired land at Apes Hill. I spoke against that land, it was not agricultural land but I spoke against that acquisition and I now understand that we have got a position there. They rushed in, they acquired the land and built the road and now they have no water so they have gone nowhere. The whole thing is on hold.

The manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party says quite clearly that we will do an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) when we do some of these things. It does not have to be a major thing with outside consultants because we have many people in Barbados totally competent to do excellent Environmental Impact Assessments. I have had some do work for me and I can tell you that I am totally happy with their competence. Government has in its own environmental department people capable of doing an EIA.

I think that when we are going to acquire reasonably sized pieces of land, like 25 acres and all that kind of stuff, if there is any sensitivity then we should be very careful. We should do an EIA so that people will know what is going to be the environmental impact of putting this thing on.

I am very concerned because we have just acquired 17 acres at Constant. The private sector has acquired 15 acres at Constant as well so we have 32 acres of land there that was in agriculture, it is poised above Market Hill and it goes into housing all of a sudden and we are going to have serious problems with drainage. The run off from that area could cause serious problems down in the Market Hill area with flooding and so on unless we look at it from an EIA point of view and plan for how we are going to handle this increased run off.

Other than that, in this particular thing it gives me great pleasure to support the Government in this acquisition.

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

I want to thank Senator Laurie for this time stealing some of my thunder. He has inflicted such serious and severe body blows on Senator Boyce that it would be uncharitable of me to impose anymore. I want to welcome Senator Boyce over to Macedonia. I am glad that there is concern for the environment and concerns for agricultural land not going into housing.

I do not mean to be tiresome but one well recalls a long history and tradition of the prime agriculture spots in Barbados, under the D.L.P. Government, that have gone into housing, like lands at Neils, he would be familiar with Neils, Sir, land at Neils and Rowans and others places all over Barbados – for example Cottage and Frere Pilgrim. I am glad they have come around to this deal.

Primarily, Sir, his presentation was filled with platitudes and buzz words. We heard about socio-economic and eco-environmental, all repetitious words. He talked about prime agricultural land, unwholesome and eco-balance and what not. There are nice sounding buzz words but there was no meat to it. There was not even breadfruit to them.

I would like to bring us back to the point that housing is necessary, particularly we are under pressure for housing, Sir.

If you take Senator Laurie's point of view that one should be sensitive about the environment and sensitive not to take a lot of good agricultural land and divide it up -- however, we are not doing this as this case indicates and as Senator Laurie confirms. We are using the land to provide housing for people which is very necessary.

Truthfully, after eight years when there were no houses built for people and the pressure on the Government for the provision of housing and house spots and sites

and services is tremendous, we are seeking to alleviate that demand and that pressure.

While we are dealing with the intermediate problem, Sir, I would just like to assure the Senate that we are mindful of the long term needs of the country as regards to housing.
3.40 p.m.

We intend to take a very comprehensive look at the whole question of housing and we intend to seek the public's involvement in providing a new kind of input into the whole question of housing.

As a matter of fact, we have talked about a comprehensive housing policy which would involve the whole country and I would like to announce that a Green Paper on Housing is going to be officially launched by the Minister of Housing by the end of this month. For persons who think a Green Paper necessarily has to be in the colour of green, a Green Paper really is a proposal which is not firm Government policy but is out for public discussion. This Green Paper has already been printed by the Government Printery, it is in the hands of the Ministry of Housing for public distribution and for launching by the end of the month and I can assure the Senate, Sir, that the public will be pleased when they are asked to make an involvement.

This Green Paper, like I said, Sir, will deal with not just the question of houses as a short term measure, but look at the whole comprehensive aspect of housing.

I am glad to see that Senator Boyce realises that people need housing. It is a pity he could not have told his party that retroactively 8 years ago and the pressure would have been less great.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, please.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: But, Sir, if I may get back to the Green Paper that is coming. The Green Paper, as I said, is going to take a total look at the whole question of housing in Barbados. I had a look at a copy of it and the contents would include a chapter which deals with the historical perspective and goes right back to the days of slavery and the colonial system and how housing developed. Looking at things like tiled housing, development of the rental sector, poor housing conditions, housing reform, etc.

Another chapter will deal with the character and growth of housing in Barbados, demand for housing the size and growth, the age and construction of our housing stock, housing quality, toilet facilities, pipe water etc.

Another chapter will look at public sector involvement in housing over the last 25 years 1970 to 1995. Another chapter will deal with housing issues and challenges, land market issues, land use instituting land tenure, house tenants, squatting, housing structure, a whole gamut, Sir, of housing. House insurance, housing for disadvantaged groups, for the physically challenged, shelter for battered women, a comprehensive look at housing will be entailed by the document.

We will not only be looking at the nuts and bolts of housing. Senator Boyce says that housing must have a social conscience and a philosophical underpinning. This document also deals with that issue. This document also deals with the question of the goals and the principles and the commitments of the Government where housing is concerned. It will spell out a number of major goals around which our housing policy will evolve. For example, one major goal is adequate shelter for all. Another would be home ownership for the widest majority of Barbadians.

It will contain a number of principles that will provide the engine of growth and the momentum for the philosophical underpinnings and the social conscience. It will deal with the question of equity and how we go about ensuring that all Barbadians have the opportunity to acquire basic housing, the infrastructure and other associated services with housing and special provision as well for the vulnerable groups in housing. It will also look at the sustainability of housing, the livability, the cooperation, civic engagement of Government responsibility, self-help and enablement.

Therefore, Sir, it also makes a number of commitments, one like providing adequate shelter for all and home ownership for all and also providing an enabling environment that that will provide for financing for people to be able to acquire this housing. Therefore we are not just looking at the acquisition of bits and pieces of land to deal with immediate and short-term measures. We also had a look down the road maybe into the next generation as to how we will tend to shape the housing policy of Barbados in a way that it has not been shaped for many, many years. I believe, Sir, that when that Green Paper is put into the public domain it will also come in its refined form to this Senate and we will see a very enlightened and very wholesome approach to housing in a manner that will give the public a chance to make their input. The environmentalists and the socio economist that we heard about will have ample opportunity to make their input into the Green Paper in discussion, before Government settles on a policy which will be informed by the excellent ideas that come from the public from time to time.

I am sure we will be sensitive and cognizant of those inputs and we will take them into consideration in settling our long term housing policy. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, a lot has been said already but it would certainly be remiss of me not to stand in here today to make a few small points on the whole question of housing and the acquisition of land thereto.

Mr. President, daily I receive phone calls from people who have either been served notice to quit where they have put their rental houses, etc. Up to this morning the same thing. So it is no new news Barbadians definitely need places to live. We talk about the agricultural land and I would absolutely agree that we must not touch that. The land in question in Constant, St. George, is rab land, 5 acres. I live just across from that area and happen to pass there quite frequently, particularly as I have an on-going relationship with the St. George Secondary School where this lot is located, right across the road from there to be exact. That is an area where more than adequate housing could be provided for those who have the need.

In our Manifesto, Mr. President, we make note, and that is the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto, that this is one of the incentives because the Barbados Labour Party, as a Government, has no intention of remaining landlords for ever. There are many individuals who for a long time have started their homes in government housing, in housing areas, etc. and are now yearning to have a plot of land to call their own. This area is aptly suited for that small project though it may be 5 acres in size. I do not know how many houses can fit on that because my Maths is not that good to work out the numbers we can get out of it, but how ever many it is, it will certainly go somewhere to alleviate many of those problems that persons experience now in finding places, to not only put their homes but to build starter homes and for some people maybe even to expand homes so that their families can be more comfortable.

Mr. President, in bygone days, not so very long ago, certain Ministers took the initiative, if I could put it that way, to just give people permission to put up houses, I would have to call it willy nilly, without any real concern for land use policy for sure, or the water table. I speak specifically about the Belle area and I have spoken about it in this Chamber before but it gives me a lot of distress because those very individuals still to this day cannot have access to running water for their sanitary conveniences and can have no title to some land because indeed there are people still squatting in the Belle area.

Mr. President, it cannot be a comfortable thing to know that you are lodging on a piece of land where you ought not to, but you have been given permission somehow, somewhere, but it was not legally done. Those people, Mr. President, yearn for somewhere to live.
3.50 p.m.

The area in Constant is not so far removed. Senator Boyce indicated that Constant was somewhere far and without reach. If you had any concept and understanding of St. George, you would realise that Constant is abutting and abounding, as Senator Farley said, on two villages. The Constant village and it goes back to the area called "Valley" in St. George.

Further down the road you have the St. George Primary School. I already indicated that you have the St. George Secondary School just across the road from this new development. As we go further down to the Glebe and all the way down to Charles Rowe Bridge that is the hub of the entire St. George. Those of us who live in St. George eagerly look forward to having that area developed even further.

Yes, we have the houses and not only below the Polyclinic they are a lot more houses build down there but moving westerly, towards the gas station there are houses all along there. Further up approaching the old post office and I will be familiar with that area because my grandfather was the old postmaster in those days, all in that area you will see all levels of houses, Mr. President, some large, some small and some medium. I do not think that in this day and age we can look at an individual and determine their wealth by the size of a house. Because I think most people have gotten very wise and not spend so much on the large structures, but make simple structures as I have done and many other Senators, and reserve your resources for your finishes, so that you can be comfortable. But the whole world does not have to know your worth.

On a visit to Nigeria many years ago, the structures of houses were such that you would never know who had and who did not have. I was invited to the home of a prominent person and the exterior of the house was quite simple, but on the inside they had made a real nest for themselves.

Mr. President, the advantage of that is if you make lavish exteriors you are going to make yourself a target for those who feel that you have something that they would like to have.

Aside.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Senator Bernstein, I do not need to tell him about my interiors, but one of these days I may give him the privilege of a visit and I may even cook a meal for the Senator.

Mr. President, a former Senator indicated that this administration since taking office had done nothing to alleviate the housing situation in this country. I urge him

to check again, Mr. President, because Maynards does have tenants, check and see that Mrs. Jordan has her keys and is a resident in the Maynards area.

Cane Garden, which had been left a long time without any work being done, has.

Asides.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I know people who are living there and one of our Senators soon will be living in that region also. So Cane Garden, after long years of dormancy has, at last, been able to house persons who have been waiting for a very long time.

Bournes Village, again, St. George, also has houses in completion. If you drive up that way, the Senator who needs the indication will see that there are properties available now to many Barbadians who have been waiting for a long time. Through those dormant eight years when few units in St. Philip, Mr. President, could hardly hope...

Asides.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: ...Yet years of drought. Someone tells me we are seeing today with respect of the lack of rain, certainly not lack of housing, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I just wanted to enlighten the Senator of a few pointers and to more than heartily give my support to this item before us today.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Symmonds.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I am delighted by Senator Murray's revelations and there are not at all surprising because the Barbados Labour Party from its inception has regarded housing as a priority. It is verily accepted that homelessness and poor housing are blocks on any society. And indeed between 1986 and 1994 there certainly was a scar on the face of this society when not a single house was built.

Senator Odle has elaborated on what already now in two and a half years we have done and it is also a fact that between 1966 and 1976 that more agricultural land was subdivided than in the past 20 years put together. In 1955 the Barbados Labour Party had passed the Security of Tenures Act. The reasons were to prevent arbitrary ejection of tenants and to ensure that people could not just be put out of their homes.

Even if man had once been covered with hair as some anthropologists claim, he is no longer and therefore he is not equipped to live outdoors. The history of living in caves goes back to prehistoric times and therefore we can lick shelter, Mr. President, with progress and improvement. We know from history, both written and pictorial that as man has progressed so has his form of shelter and what was accepted 100 years ago, or 50 years ago, or even 25 years ago would not be acceptable today. We also know that it is not only the right of shelter but the kind of shelter that epitomizes the national character of our people and what Barbadians like has affected our architecture. A Barbadian's dearest wish is to have a home with a plot of land, a back yard, a verandah and a little garden.

It is obvious that we would have to find some compromise between agriculture and housing. The Barbados Labour Party Government with its usual wisdom and with its balance is doing just that. It recognises that shelter is a basic right and at the same time that we must cultivate agriculture so that in a crisis we could feed ourselves. It is a serious dilemma and one which, as Senator Murray has pointed out, attempts are being sought through the "Green Paper" about which he has just spoken.

It has been emphasized that the land at Constant is marginal land and it is the Government's policy to acquire marginal land near existing communities. This lot will accommodate approximately 40 homes and Mr. President, there is an acute shortage of low income housing spots as well as rental units and therefore, anything that is done to alleviate this problem is praise worthy.
4.00 p.m.

The amendment to the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act had aggravated the problem since no provision was made for house spots and therefore this is a start in the right direction and in keeping with the policy of providing shelter and homes for all Barbadians. We do not have much land to play around with. About 90 000 acres of land overall and, therefore, one has to approach this problem with care.

I support this Resolution wholeheartedly, Mr. President. I am much obliged to you.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, it is important that I speak to this whole issue surrounding land and the whole concept of land use. I have heard today and in many other places people talk about this concept of land use and whether or not the Government of the day has a clear direction in terms of the use of land. I believe that never in the history of this country has any administration had a more clear defined policy on the use of land and the whole concept of how we utilise the lands in Barbados to reap the best economic benefits than this administration.

This land at Constant in St. George is just another example and it is in keeping with a defined and laid out policy by the Ministry and that is the development of marginal land which adjoins existing communities. This land, as I understand it, and I do not live in St. George, is nestled between 2 communities and therefore and it is not a stone's throw away from Bulkeley's either. It is clearly land that should be used for the whole concept of land development and housing use.

Sir, the concept that I understand is that the best economic use of the land is what we are looking to get at. That brings many things into play. Obviously, the whole question comes around how to best use this land. Do we use it for agriculture or for tourism? Where is the best economic use for the land?

Those like Senator Boyce who are agriculturally challenged would never be able to understand the whole concept of why this particular land as Senator Laurie clearly laid out is not any agricultural land. It cannot be used for agriculture.

The other point that must be made is that when we talk about the future of Barbados and we talk about where Barbados is going in this global environment then the whole concept of land use, including water use – irrigation, whether or not this land is to be used for agriculture or what else must be the topic. I believe that agriculture now in Barbados is at a very critical stage and this is the point where we must point in the right direction.

In terms of the direction of the Ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture as opposed to the Ministry of Housing in the use of land has already outlined very clearly that we need to move away from the whole concept of what we did in the past in terms of all the preferential arrangements and create a whole new system in terms of agricultural extension services that are offered by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture has outlined, and I am saying this for Senator Boyce's edification, that their extension services will move away from all the concepts before, of preferential arrangements and transportation of crops, but looking at the creation of niche markets, the creation of new crops, including livestock, towards a concept that these crops must be able to gain the best prices possible on the open market and that Barbadian farmers and producers are able to compete sensibly with the competition in the region.

Sir, there is a lot that must be done in terms of changes in the whole production patterns. That in itself is going to take political will and a lot more will in terms of

risks and the whole challenge of the financial sector and those who participate in the financial sector, once again, being involved in the whole process of agriculture.

The Heads of Government have already made a commitment in their new vision for agriculture to which we are a signatory and agreed to the new vision for agricultural direction. I believe that this Government is very clear on where it is going in terms of agriculture.

In dealing with land, and this housing policy, I think it is unfair to say that this Government does not have a concept about the creation of housing and the creation of housing units. I do not know how anybody can compare the whole concept of Fort George Heights because it may be a stone's throw away as Senator Boyce says from the Pine Housing Area. The Pine Housing Area was built long ago as opposed to Fort George. I believe that in the whole concept of the social classes we are now narrowing the gap. It is obvious that in any society there are people who are going to be earning more than others. Therefore the whole concept must be a transition from being at that low socio-economic bracket to moving up the ladder and there must be different grades in the concept of housing.

I believe that this Government more than other administrations that went before it has a clearly defined policy about where people are going to go to live and what kind of units they are going to live in.

The Democratic Labour Party Administration did not build a whole house during the time they were in office. And the point is that this administration has already determined where houses are going to be built and has already built houses which people are occupying. The only way in which one can measure true wealth in a country is by the ownership of land. This Government has a clear defined policy about who owns land in Barbados. There are a lot of people who were deprived in the past of owning land and there is a particular need now for us to be clear about where we are going in terms of who owns these lands.

I understand that in the area of Constant that there is a need in St. George, particularly for housing, and there were some people in the Zone 1 water reserve areas who had to be relocated and therefore there is a necessity to look for housing, especially within the parish. We have already identified particular areas which are rab land to be used for these.

There are also people who have been served notices to quit in the areas and there are also fire victims. In my own dealings, on a day-to-day basis, I find it difficult that at this stage of our development that we have not identified within the National Housing Corporation a need to

create temporary housing for fire victims and those people who have been dislodged.

In recent times, I have noted and I have had in the constituency in which I contested the election and which I paid particular attention to, obviously looking forward to my entry into the Other Place... I dealt with a lot of fire victims there in the past 2 weeks, poor families who lost houses and it was clear that there was not enough housing or temporary housing to house these fire victims.

In this whole concept in the creation of temporary housing for fire victims and the need for the creation of a fund initially to look after people who lose most of their property in fires, most parliamentarians have to dip into their own pockets to look after people after a fire, to look after people who are psychologically out after a fire and help them to move on.

I believe that it is incumbent upon the Ministry of Housing and the Welfare Department as well to start looking into the creation of a fund for people, especially at weekends, when there is nothing open and nobody can get to a department where someone is able to deal with somebody on a 24-hour basis who can provide some measure of access to a fund to help these people if it is a Saturday night or a Sunday. It is necessary that we have this kind of availability.
4.10 p.m.

The other point is in terms of the construction of temporary housing. I do not think you necessarily need to construct a full-fledged house but actually create some form of housing that may not be totally the best. It does not have to be a 5-Star property. You could identify some form of housing development that can be used for people who are dislodged or who lose their housing. People who for some reason or the other have domestic problems create some form of temporary housing for them until they can actually get back into the system.

Sir, with these few words, obviously, I would wish to support the Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise at the close of this debate which has taken some interesting turns, twists, loops and so on largely due to the initial meanderings and subsequent complete losing of the way by Senator Boyce. He tried to move from Atlantic Shores, an exclusively middle-class development where not even within a stone's throw is there any of the integrated form of development that he tried to find. I promise him I would take his suggestion to the NHC and that perhaps in that vacant area near to the lighthouse at

South Point where he lives we could put a few terraced units for rentals to low income earners to satisfy his thirst and quest for integrated development.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, on a point of order. I look forward to the implementation of this plan. I hope it is not just hot air.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, once he tried to work his way from Christ Church over to Constant to find out exactly where this land was, I believe he took the road up through Christ Church and he came across Frere Pilgrim. I believe Frere Pilgrim starts on the Christ Church ridge and descends towards the St. George Valley. That was once a plantation in prime production and now the main crop of that plantation is exquisite middle-class housing.

I believe he took a way to travel and he found himself making the left turn onto Highway 5 rather than going straight down Bulkeley Road and he found himself butting out in Neils. Neils, again, Sir, a plantation just on the border of St. Michael and St. George where there is, in fact, available water for agriculture. There is water there, Sir, but there are even more exquisite houses on 5 acre and 6 acre lots and so on, one house per lot. The closest they come to agriculture are a few horses.

Then, Sir, in trying to get to the location he travelled up Salters and rather than making the right incline at Charles Rowe Bridge, he kept straight up and he went to Rowans and found himself again going through those two imposing pillars, one on the left was called one thing and that on the right was called something else. I would not give you the names of those two pillars that stand at the entrance to that temple at Rowans. Sir, he found himself in there, acres and acres of land. I think the house numbers are up to the 400s, high numbers. There is a north, east and west, it is so large.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, he is now telling me that he even got further lost and rather than coming back down the hill he went further up in the hill and found himself in Cottage. He found himself in Cottage where, initially, there was an area of rab land where he says Louis Tull lives. That was rab land that was developed earlier up. Then from the honourable gentleman's house he looked over on the lower level and what used to be canes was suddenly, and with the force that one could find at the tip of bulldozers, found the area transformed from canes into houses. I was there, Sir. I saw myself. They cut the canes like around this time and the canes were

springing back up and by the September, November, December the tractors were ploughing through and these were the things his party did.

Then, Sir, after that wandering and meandering he went further down the road and came down through Gun Hill and stumbled – in fact, he went past and went to Bulkeley Factory and he heard it was not there. He was further away than a stone's throw and he eventually found himself by St. George's Secondary School where in that area the Barbados Labour Party in a previous administration had identified would have been a prime general area for development. Mr. Barrow pooh-poohed the idea as being referenced to A Tale of Two Cities, Bridgetown and the Glebe.

Then there was the Glebe Development Plan, Sir, which identified that area, because of the road network, because of the population set up and so on, it would have been a prime area for a civic centre. We had put in the polyclinic. We had put in the St. George Secondary School. There were proposals for the construction of a police station and a fire station there. There was the gas station with the supermarket and so on.

The Glebe Development Plan, Sir, came to a stop in 1986 when there was a change in administration. I was at least pleased that after that long travel he had found his way to this location which, when one deems what is really the centre where there is the St. George Parish Church and the playing field, one takes the route towards St. George Secondary School, then it goes past St. George Primary through the district called the Valley, not Valley View up on the ridge in the middle-class areas, and you make your left turn past the existing village into the area so the Honourable Senator finally found himself in that area.

I do not think he had wandered this far, but all this platitudinous comment about the need for careful land use and the need to keep agriculture land in agriculture and by agricultural land he indicated he meant anything that could grow grass, including the two flower pots on my patio, Sir. His colleague from St. George would have spoken of her two farmers and her wide consultation.

But Westmoreland, Sir: According to his definition of agricultural land, anything that could grow grass, Westmoreland was more in agriculture than this piece of land we are talking about here. Westmoreland is now growing grass. It is still growing grass. I suppose it is still in agriculture, according to his definition. The only agricultural produce one can reap from Westmoreland is, at least there are two varieties of golf balls, the yellow practice one and the white one for playing. That is what happens as far as agriculture goes.

Sir, we really have to look at the matter of housing development in Barbados in its proper context. It really has a long history. The fact of the matter is that the housing situation, like the rest of Barbados' development, really has its birth in the colonial past. If you look back at Barbados' modern history taking 1625 as a jump-off point, we have been in a colonial plantocratic period of our history than we have been in a free, fully democratic economically integrated and so on society. What we do in the context of this freedom obviously has to be set against what things we need to address.

In the historical context, the planters obviously would have lived in lavished accommodations and the slaves in barracks. You had a majority population who obviously would not have had access to housing accommodation in terms of ownership and a few persons who owned the majority of the land. Even then, Sir, there was legislation which was designed to thwart the efforts of the majority population from ownership. The Located Labourers Act, Sir, which was only repealed in the 1940s for example, prevented ownership of land and that was only after legislation which they had in the 1880s was repealed, which did not even permit you to own the house.

4.20 p.m.

The chattel house was really a response to the fact that you were tied to the land and if you refused to work for plantation 'x' then you could not situate your house on plantation 'x' so they came up with a housing structure which would allow you to move the house if you had to move. The chattel house is no accident. It is part of the adaptation process. The evolutionary development and the response of Barbadians to a particular problem.

Sir, the situation that occurred up to recently, within modern history, is that you have a large population, who in many cases may own houses, but not land or who may not own houses at all but the underlying factor is, that the ownership of land was a difficult thing, both for historical reasons as well as for economic reasons.

Even as recently, Sir, if you take the next period of modern history in terms of the riots. After the riots, you had the Moorings Report which was generally on conditions, you also had the Housing Board Report of 1943 and the Stock Day Report of 1946 which all identified the difficulties.

Here are some of the recommendations that were made, Sir. They said back then that the State should get into land acquisition for passage onto the working class, because they recognise that there was a difficulty, that given the situation at that time, there was no chance of the working class man getting a piece of the action as it was then, because vested interests obviously would try

to prevent him from doing that. They suggested that rental units be constructed. They also suggested that loan schemes be established. It is really on that platform, as developed then, that successive Governments have sought to do their part to correct the historical situation.

However, Sir, after the good efforts and the success that was generated in the 1950s, where they would have built the Pine and the other earlier estates which this administration did in the 1950s, we pioneered the development of these systems in the Bay Land and in the Pine and also in Sayers Court. Then in the 1960s and 1970s, his party, Sir, of an earlier vintage, his party would have done Cave Hill and Eden Lodge and some others. They did some work and then in 1976, this administration would have done Rosemont, Fernihurst and a number of joint ventures with the private sector like West Terrace, the list can go on and on in addition to the sites and services in other areas.

But somehow, Sir, for some strange reason, this was like a boat that was on a well-chartered path, the path was chartered out between 1939, 1943 and 1946 reports. The captains of the ship successively and progressively continued along that predetermined course, there was smooth sailing along through the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s and somehow in 1986, they dropped anchor. The ship stopped, Sir. I do not know if it ran aground, Sir, but it stopped, it might have butted a reef or iceberg. I think it was an iceberg and it went onto sandy ground. Somehow, the ship stopped and between 1986 and 1994, not a single house was built. They tell me Sir, that to be truly accurate I should say that one terrace unit was built at Church Village in St. Philip and that was at a rental level of \$90 per week. I do not know who that was for. It was a condo for high income people, I suppose.

Sir, the fact of the matter is that the record of the National Housing Corporation would show that annually, there are at least something in the region of 3 500 applications or so for services, for rental of units, for leasing units, for purchase of land and so on. There is a demand. That demand for housing is met partly by private sector initiatives and partly by Government initiatives, but given the fact that the Government initiatives between 1986 and 1994 met only one housing unit at Church Village, you could understand the kind of backlog.

On the other hand, Sir, what I must say is that although the Democratic Labour Party would not have conducted any state activity in housing, which obviously means that the working class and the lower income people did not benefit, I must say that they did subdivide Cottage to allow for the high income, high profitability sales and all the surveying and all the things that go along with it.

Fort George Heights was also developed under them and I believe that that is agricultural land too. Westmoreland would have been developed for the million dollar houses and so on and to be the playground of the rich and famous and as a private club. I managed to get in once or twice by invitation but I cannot drive up to the gate and get in, but that is agricultural land too. They did do that kind of housing, Sir, private sector housing but nothing was done as far as the working class man is concerned, who want to be part of the integrated development and wants to occupy the housing units.

Sir, the Honourable Member, I think, was really standing on something a little higher than a soap box, I believe that he had a stack of soap boxes and the particular brand of case he was on was not of reinforced plastic, it was just a box and the boxes tilted, Sir, and the Honourable Member in the course of his presentation fell from the lofty height of those boxes.

The Honourable Member, therefore, did not establish a creditable argument in terms of the performance of his party and therefore his calls for the kind of things that this Government should do, was really without creditability. Here was the actor, who had his chance to play his role and he did not play his role at all but all of a sudden he is the consultant, he is the writer of the script, he is the director and the producer. All of these things which tell you exactly how the script should be played. I do not think we can take that presentation too seriously, Sir.

Sir, this Government is not only committed to the holistic and integrated development of all people in Barbados, particularly making sure that the working class people in Barbados are able to reach their social, political and economic heights but we are putting that commitment into action.

The ambitious housing programme that we have started includes provision of rental units. We have already opened units at Maynards, rental units are slated for Flat Rock in St. George and they will start, I believe, if not in this financial year, in the next one, Sir. Pondside will be starting in another few weeks. Pondside was on the cards before 1986 and again, that was dropped but Pondside is back on the cards, Sir. The people in the City must have good housing, and they will, Sir.
4.30 p.m.

In addition, Sir, the sites and services programme has developed at Haggatt Hall where people who were encouraged by a Minister of the last administration to put their houses at the Belle in a Zone 1 area...

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Yes, but you have to be higher than that. But, Sir, the fact of the matter is that those persons squatting in the zone 1 water area put everybody at risk so that rather than the sites and services being able to accommodate new persons they really have to shift these people.

The last remaining landlocked portion of the land which is no longer in agriculture that was subdivided at Cottage, Sir, by the Democratic Labour Party, was acquired as part of that development, Sir, and that, Sir, will be used to relocate persons in Sweet Bottom and adjacent areas who were in Zone 1 areas, Golden Ridge and Sweet Bottom, we have to move them from the Zone 1 areas to protect the water supply of this country and they will be relocated in Cottage.

We opened, just late last year, a joint venture project with the private sector for housing at Bourne's Village. We provided roads and so on. They have provided some lovely two and three bedroom wooden houses, and affordable houses, I believe of Green Heart that can be converted to wall and so on.

The project at Cane Garden, Sir, that was dormant for years had really returned to agriculture because it grew tall grass amongst the houses so that was an integration of agriculture and housing, Sir. We have now, Sir, been able, again in joint ventures in the private sector, to complete that project and bring that project to fruition so that we are satisfied that our ambitious plans for housing will contribute, Sir, towards the correction of this long known historical situation which has been a constraining factor in allowing the vast majority of Barbadians to achieve their full potential. I would want to urge Honourable Members to support this Resolution in that regard.

Sir, the Honourable Member in a moment of levity, I believe, suggested that we needed to pay a little more attention to encouraging productive enterprise in Barbados. He has associated us with opening of some malls and other shopping areas and so on but, Sir, I would indicate to the Honourable Senate that as Minister of Industry I would be only too happy to be present at the opening and unveiling of both the plaque on the wall and the cork on the bottle of any beverage factory which would be opened in Barbados for the production of beverages and I would certainly be happy to discuss the promotion and the facilitation of that particular direct investment into Barbados when the time comes, Sir.

Mr. President ending on that moment of levity, Sir, I would beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO.5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND
AT BAKERS, ST. PETER FOR
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks the Honourable Senate's approval for the acquisition of land at Bakers in St. Peter for the purpose of housing development. The land in question, Sir, two parcels of land on either side of Highway 2A is being acquired to facilitate the relocation of persons who were affected by the flooding at Weston as well as for general housing development in that area.

As you well know, Sir, the land acquisition process is a multi-stage process and the formal acquisition by Parliament is required so that compensation can be paid to the former owners and that the Crown could have clear title to the land.

In the case of the persons who were affected by the flooding at Weston that relocation process has already been embarked on and the further work to expand on that community would be part of the longer term process. I believe, Sir, that this particular issue is one that arises from time to time and calls on us to focus on the issue of location of housing and other facilities in relation to the natural movement of water on the island. It is clear that in the case of some of the houses in Weston, some of them were located in a known water course. It is true that the volume and flow of water in the particular water course might have been increased because of situations occurring up hill which the report on the matter would have indicated. But the fact of the matter is that if you are in a water course you are in a water course and whether you get a mild flow or a heavy flow would obviously vary from time to time. But really, from my own observation, there are too many persons, many of them squatting really, who through lack of knowledge or perhaps tempting fate are tempted to locate houses in flood prone areas and water courses and so on and then when the Town Planner, for example, gets wind of the situation and takes action to suggest that they move then there is a major issue and so on of people having to move and what not. Then if they are not moved the burden usually falls on the state and even before it gets to the state, falls to the individual Members of Parliament who are called on to provide relief to persons who are affected by flooding and the like, really as a result of action taken specifically by them in terms of where they have chosen to locate.

The matter goes a bit beyond that and it is clearly a responsibility on the Government which we have taken on manfully and that is to ensure proper drainage of Barbados generally. The Drainage Unit has been established and given the uphill task that they have had where wells

in Barbados have not been cleaned for many years, Sir, where no attention was paid to the clearing of gutters, to the canalization of areas which needed that kind of facility, generally not only looking after those areas in direct control of the Government, Sir, but also ensuring that there was a liaison with private owners of land to ensure that they do not drain water off their property onto the public highways and onto other people's property. Also to ensure that on their property there is adequate provision made for drainage.

4.40 p.m.

The spectre of good trees growing up in wells all around Barbados needs to be eliminated from our landscapes, Sir.

I know that in the St. George and rural Christ Church areas, Sir, many large plum trees, evergreen trees, ackee trees and palm trees are growing out of wells.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: The Ministry of Public Works, Sir, through its drainage unit has not only been undertaking certain duties itself in terms of drainage on public highways, but also liaising with private land owners to ensure that proper drainage is done.

You will recall a legislation would have been passed through this Honourable Senate which would empower the Ministry to enforce certain requirements on private land owners as far as the protection of the public interest is concerned in terms of the need for drainage.

Once we are pleased as a Government to be able to facilitate the relocation of the residents of Weston into another community and the provision of house spots for rental and for sale, I make the larger point that we need to use the periods of dryness, such as we have now for example, to take care of...

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: The Government will certainly take care of its responsibility for drainage and so on but also to urge the wider society, the average man who is looking for some place beside his house to think carefully and consult with older persons who know the drainage patterns of the area before they operate. Please bear in mind, Mr. President, that this matter is not restricted to the small chattel house owner who might squat on a plot of land, but any one of us who goes out to buy housing from a developer, be it Atlantic Shores or somewhere else is really prone to the same situation.

I know of a particular area in St. Michael, Clearview, when I used to travel those areas when they were still in agriculture, if there was rain falling, and you were to turn from where Queens College is now "Husbands Plantation," but Sir, one could see the water travelling on a particular water course breaking over the road. I was the most alarmed man to find that there was a house in the water course and when there was excessive rain, the basement of that house was flooded.

This situation which has given rise to the need to acquire this land at Bakers in St. Peter for housing development, to relocate victims of the flood at Weston, is one which could repeat itself anywhere in Barbados at any time if we do not take particular, deliberate action. All of us in the public sector, the private sector and private property owners should become familiar with the longer term drainage and water flow patterns of the island. Find out from some of the older persons what over the last 25 years was the worst case scenario and we will be able to avoid this kind of situation.

But, the Government, Sir, is pleased that it is able to provide the level of assistance that is required in the time of need in the community at Weston which has now, with the assistance of the Government settled down quite nicely. The rebuilding process is on, Sir, and we are happy to do that.

So, I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution for the acquisition of land at Bakers, St. Peter, for the resiting of victims of flooding at Weston, do now pass.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I rise to make a few comments on the Resolution before us for the compulsory acquisition of land at Bakers, St. Peter for housing development and in short, the Honourable Minister definitely displayed that he had no knowledge of Bakers and he probably thought "Bakers" was somewhere you buy bread, Sir. But he certainly spoke of almost every area in St. George and Christ Church, but spoke nothing of St. Peter.

For that reason I am particularly honoured to be asked by the Leader of the Democratic Labour Party in this Chamber, Sir, and I like the opportunities like this one to speak on areas which are very close to my youth and my navel string, as has been hinted to me, being as I was born in the beautiful parish of St. Peter.

Indeed watching the developments of St. Peter over the last couple of years one cannot but ponder, again, and we need to bear in mind that this debate will also call into consideration the whole land use policy of the

government and if there is repetition, I will endeavour not to repeat, but if there is repetition, Sir, it is purely for purposes of specificity in this case, Sir.

Sir, the developments in St. Peter are of particular interest now to Barbadians especially with the recent economic related activities at Heywoods and indeed the potential economic activity at the Port St. Charles Marina. We are again faced with the issue of a developmental plan and a land use policy which puts special pressures on the accustomed use of the lands of this country and of the beaches of this country by the people who live here.

I am not saying that there must not see development but we are saying that this development must not exclude the integration of all Barbadians at the end of the day. I watch very carefully the erection at Port St. Charles and I hope and pray that the promises about access to the beaches will be maintained.

Sir, the resolution refers to a land not far away from the same Heywoods, from Speightstown right up through the Whim and one would come to the lands that we are dealing with, Bakers, on Highway 2A, Sir. There are a couple of points which need to be borne in mind with respect to this proposed development and indeed some of it has already started.

In the introduction the Senate Leader indicated that there were plans for even more houses to be located there. Indeed the type of construction which he referred to at Weston with the blocking of canals has already been pointed out in the case of the construction being carried out at Port St. Charles, and I trust that the Government and the appropriate authorities are paying as much attention at this time to that development before we are faced with a tragedy similar to the one which actually cost lives at Weston, Sir.
4.50 p.m.

My heart goes out to the people at Weston at this time and indeed the pain which they must have suffered. In locating these people at Bakers we must bear in mind and I hope that the plans are also in the pipeline for the inclusion of street lighting at Bakers. That highway was completed or almost totally completed under the Democratic Labour Party Administration and there are no lights on Highway 2A. I think that if we are going to have new housing developments within the area the programme must include an element of street lighting along the highway. Other areas of Highway 2A where there are large housing developments like Redmans Village etc. cry out for this also.

I hope that the Honourable Minister has somewhere in his unstated plan an inclusion of this factor in his considerations.

Sir, a short while ago we heard contributions from other Senators which have helped me in the confusion which I said rested in the Government at this time in respect of land use.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. I believe that only one Senator has spoken so far in this debate. So that should be a point of elucidation.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I said earlier today, Sir, that there was confusion in the land use policy and I have heard it stated that there is now a document which has been produced and which is to be the guideline for housing development in Barbados.

I want to refer to a document which I have in my possession. It is an advertisement by the Ministry of Health and the Environment and it is entitled Land Use Planning and has as its objective to strengthen the ability of the country to implement national policy priorities for natural resource management and to update national land use policy and planning to improve its responsiveness to future physical and economic development.

I hope that we will hear something from the junior Minister of Economic Affairs in this debate because land use is an integral part of economics and social management in this country and he, by compulsion, must speak to this subject.

We have a situation where on the one hand we are hearing that a document has been published on land use and on the other hand we are given notice of an investigation, and the projected cost is \$1.6 million, to look into the whole question of land use in Barbados.

I have no confidence in what I am hearing from that side. It must be haphazard. It must be uninformed because the most recent information available indicates that the work only started yesterday and the consultants – I will name them so that nobody can accuse me of fabrication – a Canadian consortium of consultants led by Wills and Shea are providing the required consultancy services while operating through the Environmental Unit, Ministry of Health and the Environment. The current project schedule is 18 months. Just before the next general elections it will be ready for our use, commencement February 1997. The cost is \$1.6 million.

I am confused on this side as to what assurances we are being given by the Government in terms of land use, especially in light of the revelation which I now made public. It is not a secret document. It was posted to many agencies in Barbados for them to attend the first meeting.

The consultation was yesterday and I believe that the absent Senator Gill attended part of the consultation and Senator Laurie referred to it.

The process has now started. That is the information I have. I am not in a position to repose any confidence in the earlier mouthings about land use document or a housing document when in truth and in fact things have now begun.

Sir, the land at Bakers is again borderline land in terms of agriculture and its suitability and productivity. I am sure that occasions will occur where we are going to have members on that side having to put their feet in their mouths and, indeed, maybe not too far away as they continue with the acquisitions they will find more and more the policy which they are hoping to enunciate or which they believe they are enunciating is in truth and in fact a figment of their imagination.

The land at Bakers is agricultural land. It grew sugar cane up until when I stopped living in St. Peter. When I pass there now because I visit there at least 1 or 2 weeks and, sometimes, more often and I see the state of that land in terms of the way it has been allowed to run to ruin – and if this government were a government that had any agricultural intent or content they would have done something to have brought these lands and if they felt they were out of agriculture too long – they would have done something to have brought some of these lands back into agriculture.

When the Honourable Leader of the Senate gets up in here and makes his song and dance about where the Democratic Labour Party might have divided land or where it might have allowed the private sector to divide land he is actually talking nonsense. There is nothing to it. He has had 3 years of government when he could have gone in there and changed things. They have to stop sitting on their laurels and getting in here all the time and other places and trying to pretend that the Democratic Labour Party is still in government. The people of Barbados spoke in 1994 and we heard them. It is your turn to run the country.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Whose turn, Senator?

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: The Barbados Labour Party's turn to run the country. I am saying that you have to turn around the areas and if you find that there has been an agricultural policy which has allowed these lands to become grass or if you find that houses have been placed in the wrong areas, move them. Bring the lands back to agriculture, move the houses. You are the managers of the day. The excuses being offered in here, week after week, by the Leader of the Senate and others, we do not hear anything from Senator Barker, the economic guru of the

Senate who refuses to comment on matters as difficult and as tough as land use. We do not hear from him, but we get this meandering from essentially a Minister of Trade who does not have the fortune of economic analysis which is bound up in the cranium of the Honourable Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Affairs.

I therefore will pardon the Honourable Leader of the Senate's contribution and wait for the real thing when I am sure we will get reference to this kind of initiative which will bring to bear all those things which I talked about or which I want to see integrated in any land use policy.
5.00 p.m.

I talked about a policy which hangs close to the environment and environmental considerations. It is strange that I might have been looking into a crystal ball, Sir, because nobody told me that this document would have been passed to me. I could not in my wildest dreams have known that I would have seen this and that the Ministry of the Environment is the one which is leading the charge and challenge to the narrow sighted policy enunciated by Senator Murray and integrating other essential considerations in any future policy for the Government of Barbados. I would therefore close my mind and my ears to anything that is said by Government members on housing or land use until some time round January/February 1999. There will not be in a position, in light of this evidence, to say anything in here of credibility with respect to land use in this country. The study has just begun and we paid US \$1.6 million for it. This is good money.

I am very happy to report this to the Chamber because the Government, and obviously Senator Farley had no intention of doing so, Sir. He said he knew about it but he had no intention of letting us know what was going on. He was going to leave us in darkness. He was going to make all kinds of references to beer crates, soap boxes and all other kinds of irrelevancies and not deal with the issue at hand and that is the most urgent revelation in respect to land use policy in Barbados. I therefore will be very careful in whom and what I listen to from that side over the next couple of years until this document, or the work of this consulting firm becomes available.

Sir, we must avoid tragedies like Weston. Too many times we give verbal support to these policies and yet for one reason or another we continue to watch idly by as the regulations which we have put in place are being shattered from time to time. We must probably look at introducing legislation that can give more bite and more clout to the relevant Ministry or the Town Planning Department to ensure that building in Barbados is done in the correct way in order to avoid us harming ourselves. Because sometimes in our innocence and eagerness to complete one project or another we sometimes do not appreciate the untelling

harm which we might even be doing to ourselves. So we need sometimes to be watchdogs on our own operations. I am looking forward that maybe out of this consultation will come such recommendation because they will be working very closely with the Ministry of Planning, according to the report, which will give more bite to the relevant Ministry in terms of execution.

We do not want to create a state where, and I keep referring to it because it is something which I believe in very strongly, we are pushing people around. So we need to advertise. We need public relations. We keep boasting about it. We use our public relations very well. Those on that side know very well about public relations and how it is used to influence opinion or to try to influence opinion.

They must use public relations also to let people know what is happening, to give them opportunity to participate and indeed even this was only limitedly advertised. The same way we can get on the radio and the Ministry of Education is famous for this, and advertise fete after fete when they are doing Edwin, Krosfyah, Congaline, or as somebody said "rough wuk", and that kind of thing, the Ministry of Culture is good at advertising that but they are not going to take on advertising a programme like this where every Barbadian should be at. You must pay as much attention to letting us know about these kinds of things as you daily let us know about the fete at Festival Village, and Festival Village is another matter. We will hear more about Festival Village as we go along.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on a point of order. This seminar was advertised in the newspapers so the Honourable Member is misleading the House. The whole of Barbados knew about this so he should not be in here now trying to give the impression that it was a hidden document. He is misleading the Honourable Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: In any event, Senator Boyce, could you bring us back to Bakers, St. Peter?

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Certainly, Sir. The bite that must come with legislation to allow people to understand what is allowable in terms of building construction and land use, if you want to use a very broad term, needs to be accompanied by an adequate public relations campaign. That is mainly my point. If Senator Barker feels like getting up and objecting until the cows come home, let him object. The point is, advertise it. Let people know it is going on. Let them participate. Advertise it with the same vigour you advertised the enquiry into the St. Joseph Hospital, or you advertised the consultation into the Constitution. That is all I am saying so I do not understand what the difficulty could be, Sir.

Any time you try to make life a little more comfortable or bearable for the ordinary man in Barbados, we get objection from that group over there. It is out of ignorance because...

SENATOR Miss. J. C. ODLE: On a point of order, Mr. President. I have no recollection of snubbing anybody. I cannot speak for the rest, so I would like to have those words withdrawn, please.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think that is the Senator's opinion. It may be an incorrect opinion but that is his opinion.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: True, Sir. The Senator who just spoke does not snub people. As a matter of fact, I walked in here a little while ago only to hear her inviting somebody...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your comment is both unnecessary and irrelevant. Please proceed.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I withdraw it, Sir. Therefore the acquisition of the land at Bakers is going to be taken in very much the same light as many land acquisitions that will come before this Chamber in the future and indeed the one which we just exhaustively discussed.

As we go along I hope the Government will be able to demonstrate a level of new approach which would bring to bear some of the things which we on this side have attempted to introduce. We are not for one moment divorcing ourselves from the responsibility of providing housing. We are not for one moment divorcing ourselves from the responsibility of providing areas for relocation of persons, as in this case. We are merely trying to assist, as is our mandate, in arriving at the best solution for Barbados. We will continue to hammer from this side to make sure that all these considerations are brought to bear and indeed when it is our turn again in 1999, we would have learnt from our contributions.

5.10 p.m.

Sir, I am happy to see the development in the Bakers area and with the proviso that we make the adequate arrangements, especially street lighting, at least for an area before and after the proposed housing development, because vehicles travel on that highway very quickly and I would like this suggestion to be taken very seriously and if possible be integrated in the housing plan for Bakers in St. Peter.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Murray.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I am not at all surprised at the loud and vociferous tone and approach of the last speaker who was obviously smarting from the verbal blows inflicted on him largely by the Leader of the Senate. Sir, one could sense that underneath all the new found sanctimonious approach to certain principles when dealing with the public and the small man and the average Barbadian that it was only an attempt to get back at Senator Farley.

I compliment him on his new attempt to grasp the small man at Bakers in St. Peter to his heart with hoops and steel as some famous writer said. Sir, I know Bakers quite well, I have a fair amount of knowledge of St. Peter too and it seems to me, that like me, he has grown to know St. Peter as an adult. One did not hear any stories about his running across the streets of Bakers or running down to Speightstown or playing in the gully at the Whim, he was just speaking as a visitor. I understand how he judged that.

In addition, Sir, I also thank him for his welcomed approach to the development in St. Peter. He comes out of a party, where as far as St. Peter was concerned, was based on the philosophy of his founder leader who said that Boscobelle is off the map and Black Bess is behind God's back. That was their attitude towards St. Peter and developing St. Peter. I am glad that we have at least reached a stage where we can bring enlightened development to St. Peter, to bring St. Peter into the mainstream of the development of Barbados whether it be at Heywoods, Bakers, at the Marina or whatever.

Sir, I know there has been talk about taking land out of agriculture again and about the large amount of acquisition of lands that have taken place from time to time. While it might seem that we have acquired a lot of land, we have a productive use to which those lands will be put. In addition, acquisition of land is but only a small part of planning and developing and bringing products on stream, as I am sure that the goodly Senator knows. One knows that when you acquire the land formally and legally, that time is taken up in surveying and conveying and acquiring and payment and the physical engineering test has to be done before the actual project takes place. Acquisition of land is only but part of the process.

Senator Boyce also made a great deal of song and dance about a document that has happened to fall into his hands. It did not fall off a truck, nor did he pick it up at the meeting. I was very careful to note that he talked about who was there. He said that Senator Laurie was there and Senator Gill was there. He never once said that I was there. I am saying that if he was concerned about the very same issue, he would have been able to give chapter and verse today on that issue.

He also talked about the needs for a public relations programme on this issue. Sir, as Senator Barker indicated, this matter was widely canvassed and published in the newspapers, in addition, it was on radio and it was also on television.

When one considered that Senator Boyce has said on the Floor of the Senate that he does not get a chance to watch T.V. because he is too busy upstairs on his computer, one would understand how he is not able to appreciate the promotion that was given to the very same issue on the public owned television to get the public involved. Obviously, it is not what one would consider a sexy or controversial issue and it would only attract a certain limited number of persons.

I do not think that the issue has finished. I have already enquired about this issue and there will be other programmes which will be pushed to get the public more involved as we go along. And one would know that in spite of the great amount of promotion that was given to the Constitution Commission there are only a few sessions where a great deal of persons turned up because of the location, the time of month and the subject that was involved. Sir, all these are factors that have to be taken into consideration.

In addition, I would like to respond to what the Senator said about the need for lighting on Highway 2A. The Chief Technical Officer in the Ministry of Public Works has already indicated that there are plans to light the Highway and there will do an estimate to show how much it will cost to put in the lights. Some parts of it was built without any plans for lighting. Traffic lights will be put at the junction at Redmans Village by the Gas Station to regulate the flow of human and vehicular traffic in that area. We are well aware of the plans for that area and there is a coherent and consistent plan, not any ad hoc plan like the one that was done in the case of Sherbourne where we added on as we went along and never knew where it was coming from.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: That's our approach to it. We will finish it when we get money.

Going back to the question of accommodation at Bakers. Bakers was acquired to accommodate victims of the Weston flood but we are also planning to have permanent standby accommodation for persons who are victims of fires and victims of floods or even victims of domestic violence.

The Government has earmarked and has spent hundred of thousand of dollars in preparing two

buildings in St. Thomas. One is the old St. Thomas Primary School, next to St. Thomas Parish Church. If you pass you will see it, I think it is pink and white, a nicely re-done building. As you go further north on the Highway, there is a building called Lancaster House which has also been refurbished to accommodate victims of floods, house fires and domestic violence etc. We are now in the process of acquiring the staff to run these institutions and to oversee and manage them. The back up of social services will be largely provided by the existing social structure within the Welfare Department and the Probation Department.

All those agencies will be brought in but we are in the process of acquiring and hiring staff who will be on board to run them and manage them so that we will know that you do not have to return only to the National Housing Corporation in time of personal, national or parochial crisis. There will be a number of accommodation spaces where individuals as well as families can be accommodated, not just a mother here and a sister or daughter there, scotching at friends and neighbours and dislocating the family, but that the family can be kept together in these accommodations.

Sir, I make mention of these institutions, if only to indicate that this is but one example of the way we approach the whole question of planning and catering to the public. We do not subscribe to the point of view, as indicated by the accusation of Senator Boyce, that we are doing it in a ramshackle and haphazard manner.

I thank you Sir,

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Laurie.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, just a brief intervention.

We have always, I think as agriculturist, recognised that the land to the west of Highway 2A is eventually going to have to be yielded. We have done this on the basis that the land to the east of Highway 2A should be sacred. If Government were to follow those general specifications, again, I do not think we would have too much of a problem.

5.20 p.m.

On the terms of the resettlement of the flood victims from St. James I would like again to point out that we seem to have come on a problem by accident in that Bridgetown no longer floods. Why does Bridgetown no longer flood? It is because the Green Hill quarry takes up the major flood areas from all of St. Thomas, St. George and even part of St. John, it all goes down into the main

gully system and ends up in Green Hill quarry which has the capacity to take about 6 million gallons of water before it overflows. It is not a dam because it is cut underground and therefore there is no dam to collapse. At the time when there was the flood at Weston, Green Hill did not overflow and within 3 days it was dry.

Now this is something we could duplicate on those gullies on the West Coast, particularly the ones near Whim gully and all those that run down into Holetown and Speightstown which cause flooding down there. We could quarry out the bottom of those quarries. These are far better than suck wells because you do not have to go down into anything. You can drive down in there and scrape them clean of soil during the dry season, remove the soil put it back in the fields, prevent any water going down into the coastal environment and causing all the problems. The cost of doing it should be recovered by the marl removed during the quarrying so this is a win win situation. We have learnt the lesson from Green Hill, I think we should duplicate it. With that I support this Resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, just a few words to support this Resolution. I am very glad that the Government is taking the initiative to find accommodation for persons who are flood victims or victims of fire etc.

I think that we also need to do something about the prevention of fires as well as providing accommodation for them in that area. I am not so sure which direction we need to go in but I know that something needs to be done, be it education or examination of the homes or whatever.

Mr. President, I am glad that there is a drainage unit and it is in operation. Obviously it has a lot of work to do but maybe it needs to be enlarged temporarily until it can complete the whole island and then perhaps it can be just reduced to maintenance level because in the areas where I live in Batts Rock if we ever get a lot of rain we are going to get problems of flooding as well.

One of the things I really stood up to talk about is my concern about land in Barbados. I am getting very concerned that we might run out of land for housing, Mr. President, and I think perhaps we need to look at what some of the other countries have done and are doing regarding the purchase of land. In some countries non nationals are not allowed to go and purchase large quantities of land. In some countries they are allowed to lease land so that eventually it could revert to the nationals. I think we need to examine this, debate about it, look at it carefully in the programme that was mentioned by Senator Boyce on land use policy so that the persons in Barbados will not feel as concerned about not being able to purchase land. I know that Government do what it is doing, it

can acquire land and then it can sell it to residents but Government still has to find the money to pay for all of the land that they are acquiring. That is another concern of mine. I am not so sure where all the funds are going to come from, if we are going to recoup the funds by selling some of the land that is acquired to persons at a minimal rate or what is going to happen, but I think we need to debate this a bit more regarding the land use policy when the consultants are doing research to make recommendations to the Government. With that I support the Resolution.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
5.30 p.m.

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