
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

THE SENATE

April 15, 1998

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, April 15, 1998 at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Fred GOLLOP (President)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senator D. T. GILL

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator N. A. LYNCH

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator J. A. WORKMAN

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN

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

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Dr. V. J. DAVIS

Senator J. D. E. BOYCE

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. The International Business Companies PRT (Barbados) Limited (Rate of Tax) Order, 1997.
2. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 5) Order, 1998.
3. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 6) Order, 1998.
4. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 1998.
5. The Annual Report for the Child Care Board for the periods April, 1991 to March, 1992; April, 1992 to March, 1993 and April, 1993 to March, 1994.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of this Sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

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

- (1) A Bill to provide for the conferment of the honour of National Hero; and
- (2) A Bill to amend the Public Holidays Act, 1998.

The question was put and agreed to.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR
THE CONFERMENT OF THE HONOUR
OF NATIONAL HERO AND
RELATED MATTERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the second reading of this Bill to provide for the conferment of the honour of National Hero and for related matters. This Bill, Sir, which is to be styled the Order of National Heroes Act, 1998 seeks to create the Order of National Hero. It would also seek to provide the necessary administrative arrangements required to give effect to this particular desire, and it would in fact respond to the cries of the people of this nation for there to be adequate recognition given to those persons to whom we owe a tremendous debt in respect of the contribution which they have made to making Barbados one of the greatest nations on the face of this earth.

I should perhaps go directly to the Schedule of this Bill in terms of speaking to the criteria for eligibility of such persons for conferment of the highest honour in the land. The Bill and its Schedule sets out the criteria for eligibility and indicates that the criteria would include that the person has given outstanding service to Barbados and that their contribution has in fact altered the course of the history of Barbados.

Criteria includes that the person has given service to Barbados which has been exemplified by visionary and pioneering leadership, extraordinary achievements and the attainment of the highest excellence which has redounded to the honour of Barbados or that the hero has also through his heroic exploits and sacrifice contributed to the improvement of the economic and social conditions of Barbados and Barbadians generally. Those, Sir, are the criteria on which this matter rests.

The details of the Bill speak to the administrative mechanism, the conferment of the Order, the role of the

Governor-General, the publication, designation and his insignia and the like.

I want to set this debate on national heroes in the context of the importance of this act to the development of a mature society. I am reminded, Sir, as I proceed in this matter of the words which were used by one of those persons identified as a national hero in a public meeting in Independence Square in 1986. I refer to the words of Errol Barrow when he asked the question what mirror image do we have of ourselves.

I have to ask that question, Sir, in relation to this matter of national heroes. What mirror image can a society have of itself when it does not see in its people, particularly people in its past, but present and past, persons whose contribution is worthy of such merit or whose contribution has been so meritorious that it is worthy of the conferment of this title of national hero. In fact, Sir, it is my contention that a move by the society to identify national heroes brings us that much closer to being a mature society. It says that we have a confidence in ourselves. It says that we also have an understanding of our history. It says that we are also big enough to be able to give praise where praise is due and not be hamstrung by class biases, by political persuasion, by personal differences and personal preferences and the like.

So the society as a whole displays that higher level of maturity by taking an act such as this and it indicates that the society has a healthy mirror image of itself. We like what we see in the mirror. If we look back at the long and interesting history of Barbados when we look into the mirror, we see what is behind, we see that history can be divided into a few discreet sections in relation to the nature of things that have to be undertaken in order to bring us to the point where we are today. There had to be a move from slavery to freedom and there were a number of persons in this list of heroes who would have assisted in moving us from that point.

There had to be the move from basic freedom to democracy and even when that basic framework of democracy was established, it was required that we move from democracy to independence and, of course, even after independence we are still on that road and I am proud to say that today's action has made a giant step in that direction by moving from their independence to true nationhood.

Sir, the heroes on this list to be honoured by all people of this nation, whether resident in Barbados or in any of the four corners of the earth have made a contribution in one of these areas and it is interesting to note that as Barbados goes on well into the future there will be new areas, new challenges to face in which new areas for heroism will emerge.

All of this, as I said, Sir, is set in the context of history and in Barbados history has provoked many and diverse responses from different individuals at different points in time. There was a time, I remember well, Sir, that it was not considered by the broad masses of the community that Barbados and, indeed, countries in the Caribbean, had any history to even consider. What was masquerading as history represented European history and even when efforts were made to introduce Caribbean history somehow the history of Caribbean people started after the middle passage.
11.25 a.m.

It is important, Sir, that we have a true appreciation of history. But even after we have gotten over some of those things, there were some in the community who believed that if we looked at the micro history of Barbados and the nature of social and economic relations in Barbados that we were opening up wounds that already had the first scab. I do not know if that is the correct medical term. You know that a wound that only has that first scab over it still has some healing to be done under the surface and unless the appropriate treatment is made and, in fact, the medical folks tell me, and Senator Rickinson would be glad to know that my sister is a nurse so I have some connections with her area....

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I have been advised, Mr. President, that in some of these wounds exposure is the only way to ensure that the wound is healed from inside out, as opposed to having a superficial healing on the outside but yet there is some festering on the inside.

I am happy to note that we have reached the point where we can openly discuss the history of Barbados, where we can celebrate events which were previously characterised as being the domain of villains and persons who want to break up society, where we are able to reach that level of maturity where we recognise that our past is our past and we have to be proud of it.

It is good to see that one of the goals of history is now being realised in Barbados and one of those goals of history is to give us an insight or some may even say a kind of a forewarning of the future probabilities. Of course, we must carefully use the mirror of history to learn a bit from that.

This move, Sir, to designate National Heroes is an important link with our past. In fact, I would strongly argue that one of the problems which affects the generation of today, particularly the younger members of that generation, our youth, is that they do not have an appreciation of either their past or a view of the future. One of the things which

this debate will do and which this designation of National Heroes will do is to cause a number of persons who hitherto had not thought of the past at all, to reflect and to have an understanding of the point to which we have come.

It is important that everyone out there recognises, particularly our young people who are lucky to have been born into a period of bounty, where freedom is just a question of whether you can get into the Stadium to see Buju or not, whether you will pay or not, whether you can walk on this street or that street, whether you can go into this club or that club and the like. They must understand that one success in life cannot merely be measured by the points we have reached but the difficulty which had to be overcome in getting there. If they take that perspective, then they would understand as they reflect on our history the difficulties which our heroes Bussa, Clement Payne, and so on had to go through to get us where we are at today.

I would want to strongly suggest, Mr. President, that if we are able to take some time and ensure that our young people understand a bit more about the struggles – and these struggles are not even all distant struggles. These struggles are of the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960s and they are still very much with us. There are persons even in this Chamber sitting who are at the forefront of various aspects of those struggles, and they need to understand and appreciate that.

I would submit, Sir, that one of the reasons why it appears that life is such a cheap commodity these days is that our young people have a perspective on life that is as instant as everything else around them. They do not have an appreciation of their past. They do not have a sense of their future, so it is not a difficult thought to eliminate a life if you believe a life is only worth one day. Life to some of these folks is a daily occurrence, almost an accident. However, if one were to consider that each one of us has a long history behind us, we have our ancestors – in fact, it is sad to note that it is an unfortunate truth that some of our young people do not even know some of their grandparents let alone the great-grands and so on. It is a fact, so that they do not have an understanding of what is happening.

In fact, the experts will tell us that sometimes children can have a resentment of their parents because they see their parents as not being successful, not understanding the struggles which their parents had to overcome to get to whatever point they are at a given point in time. So too it is with society. We have a greater appreciation of where Barbados is today when we have an understanding of the struggles which our forefathers had to overcome to bring us here. We also have a greater sense of our destiny and a greater sense of our responsibility in the furtherance of the cause. We therefore have a new perspective on our future if we understand a bit about our past, Mr. President.

Our heroes, therefore, Sir, in celebration of a National Heroes Day, will take us in that direction. But these men and the woman who have been proposed as National Heroes were all men and women of their times. But not only that, Sir. What helps to separate a hero from the others is that the hero becomes not only some person of their time and of their circumstances, and it is important for us to appreciate that, but they also become people of our times, and people for all times. It is that everlasting aspect of their contribution that separates them from other persons who would have made laudable contributions.

It is perhaps on this point that I would want to make a small comment on something that you hear every now and again. On the one hand there will be persons who will be concerned if you do not applaud and laud the great contributions, whether it be at the level of heroes or some other level, but there are always persons who will say, well, and which is quite true, that Barbados was not built by our heroes alone that there were other persons who made a contribution.

I would want to make the point at the start of this debate that the fact that we are identifying heroes is not in any way an attempt to take away from the contribution of the ordinary man and woman out there. I would want to have it read into the record of this Chamber that I truly appreciate the contribution of each and every citizen of Barbados from its occupation by the Arawaks to our present generations.

In fact, I believe on a previous occasion I had made the comment in here which was a quotation in the form of a question. Who is the forgotten man? The rhetorical response to that, Sir, was that he is the clean, honest, upright citizen who pays his taxes and is not heard of outside his little circle. But it is the aggregation of the contribution of those forgotten persons, those clean, honest, upright and virtuous citizens of Barbados that has allowed Barbados to reach the point where it is at.

Our celebration of National Heroes is not in any way a reflection in a negative way on the contributions of the general citizenry of Barbados but it is, in fact, a celebration of that contribution because another characteristic of heroes generally is that heroes tend to be an embodiment of and a reflection of the views, values, norms, hopes and aspirations of the society.

11.35 a.m.

Sometimes their views may be ahead of their current generation but we are thinking of the society in its non-ending continuum in time, present and past.

Heroes are also persons who would have made radical changes in the society and who would have contributed to the environment for change. Of course, very importantly, is

that heroes are persons who would have helped the society to change its view of itself. That is as important today as it always will. One of the challenges of persons not only in Barbados but other parts of the world, particularly those that have been subjected to colonisation is the fact that we have a crisis of confidence.

Very often we are like the cowards referred to by Shakespeare who die a thousand deaths. Because we do not go forward where we might have won, because we are afraid, and it is really being able to highlight these heroic contributions which I hope will help all of our people today and those who come in the future to recognise that even in spite of the gravest of odds that it is possible to go forward and to fight and to win that fight. But confidence is important whether it be in our business affairs, whether it be in our political affairs or whether it be in our personal lives, it is important that we are able to engender that sense of confidence in our people.

Mr. President, this celebration of national heroes and the fact that this administration has not only gone the route of identification of national heroes and the establishment of the mechanism by which the honour can be conferred but it must be seen within the context of this Barbados Labour Party's commitment to ensuring that events of national significance are well and properly recognised. Because we recognise that the development of this aspect of our culture in ensuring that persons are aware of the contributions that others have made, ensuring that the society is able to identify those events and those circumstances and those persons of whom they should be proud, is very important.

The celebration of National Heroes Day on April 28, 1998, for the first time and on April 28 in each subsequent year, must also be seen within the context of the other celebrations which we have put in place. It speaks specifically of the celebration of July 26 as a day of national significance in commemoration of the 1937 riots which all would agree was the single most important activity in the century and which represented the turning point in the destiny of Barbados.

It must also be seen, Sir, in the context of the celebration of Emancipation Day on the 1st August. We could not conceive of a situation in which, with a majority black population, whose ancestors would have been affected by slavery and subsequently the emancipation of not having a day to mark that very significant point in our history. We are proud of our decision to move in that direction and again, this is done in the context not of just getting another day off, not for tokenism, but to ensure that there is an organised framework within which there is a national effort to ensure that subsequent generations are very much aware of the past and very much aware of emancipation and the riots and our

national heroes as being important aspects of our history and our culture of our past, present and our future.

This matter of heroes day has had some history. The position of the Barbados Labour Party has always been that we would have a National Heroes Day. We therefore set about on assuming office to set mechanisms in place to do that. There have been earlier proposals concerning the recommendations in the other place back in the late 80s and early 90s for a broad based national committee to examine the issue of celebration of heroes generally and the like.

We established a Social Justice Commission and amongst the several things which we put before that group of very, very eminent citizens was the consideration of how best to honour national heroes. A series of recommendations were made and ultimately the decision was made that we would move in this direction of the celebration of a National Heroes Day and that 1998 would represent the year that it would be celebrated.

We also were able to consult quite widely with a number of persons.

There was the Social Justice Commission, there was also a national committee set up to examine the celebration of National Heroes Day and that same committee was the one which would have looked at the celebration of the riots and Emancipation Day.

We also would have benefited from the submission of around 1990 by the History Department of the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill concerning the recommendations concerning national heroes. After much consideration and deliberation the decision was taken that the first list of national heroes would be, as was announced in the other place yesterday, Bussa, Clement Payne, Sir Grantley Adams, Sarah Gill, Samuel Jackman Prescod, Charles Duncan O'Neal, Errol Barrow, Sir Hugh Springer, Sir Frank Walcott and Sir Garfield Sobers. All of whom we consider to be most worthy of this highest honour.

Mr. President, the contribution of these persons to our society has been in all senses of the word, heroic. They not only meet the criteria as established in the National Heroes Bill but they also surpassed the criteria set out there.

If I can quickly sketch out some of their contributions, Sir. If you take Bussa for example who was the leader of the 1816 slave rebellion which was the first rebellion in over 124 years the last one being in 1692 or thereabouts.

Bussa had previously been recognised by the statue at the Haggatts Hall roundabout but it is important to recognise

that the push for freedom was greatly advanced by Bussa's willingness to give up his life and take up arms against the planter class because after 124 years, I am sure that the planter class would have become extremely comfortable.
11.45 a.m.

After 124 years I am sure the planter class would have become comfortable. There is no need to make any concessions because there is no threat. Very often situations will not change unless some form of pressure is inserted from one side or the other and it was Bussa's rebellion which would have sent wake-up calls to the planter class of Barbados and which I am sure would have caused them to be a little less inattentive to some calls that would have gone out from other heroes like Samuel Jackman Prescod and some others, Nanny Grigg and some other names I hear coming up. But there have been calls previously for abolition of slavery and for proper rights to be given to human dignity. But Bussa's single action in terms of his militancy cannot be disputed as being a heroic act.

Similarly, Clement Payne will go down in Barbadian history as being, even in spite of his short point of contact with the Barbadian community as serving as a catalyst or what the experts would call, in the language of fires, an accelerant and Clement Payne therefore would have been the gasoline on the wooden frame that would have helped the flame to burn faster and brighter. To put it in less fiery language, he would have been a change agent and again, every now and again a society needs someone who will embody the desires and who is bold enough to go forward and speak where perhaps others may be silent, and take his chances. Very often in order to break the camel's back you need to have that final straw and there would have been an accumulation of frustrations, anger and so on and the act of Payne's deportation would have served as that final straw which would have ignited a volatile situation which had been operating under the surface for some time. Of course we know that from that 1937 experience there were some 14 persons who died, 47 were wounded and several hundred were arrested.

Of course, Sir, amongst your heroes again you would have persons of the stature of Sir Grantley Herbert Adams whose contributions again both meet and surpass the criteria as set out in the Order of National Heroes Bill. He would have made a contribution which would have forever changed the course of history for Barbados and indeed for the Caribbean. He would have exemplified visionary and pioneering leadership, extraordinary achievement and the attainment of the highest excellence which has redounded to the honour of Barbados.

Of course, Sir, his eligibility is beyond question. Sir Grantley Herbert Adams was, as you know, the first Premier of Barbados as well as the first Prime Minister of the West Indies Federation. As if that were not enough, his

contributions were also as a major labour leader, not only in Barbados, but also in the Caribbean region and, Sir, at the international level, the ILO and in the ICFTU.

But, Sir Grantley's contribution would have spanned all aspects of human endeavour. He was a pioneer. He was a man who understood the importance of establishing institutions because he knew that goodwill and good intentions alone would not be enough to move Barbados forward. So that whether it be in sports where he was a founder member of the Barbados Cricket League, or whether it was in politics where he was a founder member of the Barbados Labour Party, whether it be in trade unionism where again, Sir, a founding member of the Barbados Workers Union, whether, Sir, it was at the regional political level, Sir, as the first Prime Minister of the Federation, he recognised that societies and individuals move forward fastest and in a sustainable manner if they are able to harness their efforts within organisational and institutional structures. So it is not surprising therefore that under this stewardship in Barbados that we were able to establish the Ministerial system of Government which we take for granted today. We just consider it as a given but we need to let our young people know from whence it came.

As if all of that were not enough, he first of all had agitated for a number of improvements in the conditions of working people in Barbados. He also made sure that when he had the opportunity by being in the seat of power, that he actually made the changes required so that the changes to the Workmen's Compensation Act, Sir, the Provision of Holidays with Pay, changes in the Education Act, of course universal Adult Suffrage which more than anything else brought Barbados to being a full fledged democracy because the very fundamental principle on which democracy rests is that all men are created equal and that all have voice and vote. Therefore the concept of democracy in which some men were more equal than others because of their holdings of property was really quite contrary to the whole principle and spirit of democracy and Sir Grantley Adams was able, through his actions in 1951 to have full universal adult suffrage for Barbadians and so the right to vote which is taken for granted to day. In fact, people might more exercise it as a right not to, this really was as a result of the struggles which Sir Grantley and his colleagues would have been engaged in. But his contribution in the Labour Movement, which is very near and dear to his heart was an integral part of what qualifies him for the status of national hero.

His work, Sir, in the Barbados Workers' Union is legendary. He along with his colleagues of that time, Sir, fought valiantly and against odds, Sir, and it was the work of the union leadership in Barbados, Sir, which most exposed them to physical danger as they sought, Sir, to travel the length and breadth of Barbados, not only to speak on behalf of the workers in Barbados but also to organise them into

fighting units. It again goes back to my point that Sir Grantley recognised that an institutional and organisational framework was necessary if one were to harness the individual talents and abilities to any useful purpose. So his work as a union organiser stands out in my thinking, Sir.

It is not surprising, Sir, that in recognition of his work in trade unionism in Barbados that in 1947 he was elected President of the Caribbean Labour Congress. Also, Sir, he went on to serve with distinction in the International Labour Organisation. In fact, Sir, one of the distinguishing features of trade unionism in Barbados is that it has, through successive generations of union leadership, from Sir Grantley Adams to Sir Frank Walcott to Senator Leroy Trotman... is that it has through successive generations of Union leadership Barbados has contributed to the store of wealth in terms of trade unions, knowledge, philosophy and practise throughout the world. It is not surprising that Barbados is known with great respect and for leadership in matters relating to the fight for worker's rights throughout the world. I want to laud Sir Grantley Adams and his comrades for the fight for working-class persons such as myself.

Aside.

11.55 a.m.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, quickly going on to these sketches, the details I am sure other Members would want to speak to, amongst the heroes, Mr. President, is also Sarah Ann Gill. Sarah Ann Gill risked her life and possessions in the fight for the church, Sir. In fact, her colleagues in recognising her contribution were careful to have inscribed on her headstone that she was the heroine of Methodism in Barbados and the defender of Methodism when its existence was threatened. That was during the period 1823 to 1825 where she was persecuted and also prosecuted. We talked about Heroes risking all. Sarah Ann Gill risked her all. There were threats to burn down her house and to kill her. Luckily they only got as far as burning an effigy of her. She was under physical threats and for what? The church was destroyed by fire, by some Members of the white community who did not believe that religion and education should be brought to the masses and that it was a dangerous thing. This was not a slave rebellion. These were her colleagues in the community revolting against her, because of her forward thinking approach. She moved the meetings to her house and apparently this was against the law of the land at the time where it was illegal to have religious meetings of more than five persons unless it was by a registered church with a registered preacher.

Therefore, she was breaking the law. The matter was dealt within Parliament by the police and of course, persons took matters into their own hands and were attempting to burn her place down. She was fortunate in that she was a

young widow, 28 years old, she could have gone onto more pleasurable pursuits but she devoted her life and what means she had from her husband's estate to advancing the religious cause of Methodism in Barbados. This stands out not only as a reflection on Sarah Ann Gill's contribution, but a contribution of the Methodist church to the development of Barbados, a contribution which I do not think is either widely enough known or perhaps the Methodists are modest and they have not blown their trumpets.

I hope that my Methodist colleague Senator will enlighten us a bit more on the history of the contribution of Methodism. But also though, is the reflection of the contribution of the church in Barbados generally and we can sight examples across all Christian denominations in Barbados of their contribution, of their fight against slavery, of their fight to educate, to clothe to feed and so on. But hers is a contribution which embodies all of that.

Another Hero worthy of the recognition as we are doing here in this order of National Heroes Bill, Sir, is Samuel Jackman Prescod. He would have been one of the persons who would have been well ahead of his time in terms of the views which he expressed. He was one of the early people who expressed the view and who made calls for Universal Adult Suffrage. He was very much against the class structure of Barbados as it was at the time, Sir. He was a free coloured man. He was able to use that freedom and his means to start a newspaper and use that newspaper to put forward a number of liberal views and he was one who recognised the power of public opinion. He worked in a steady campaign to ensure that the opinion was able to turn against those actions which were vulgar to the principles of democracy and respect for human dignity.

He was able as well to use his position in the House of Assembly to affect a number of changes. He therefore will go down as one of the great heroes of Barbados and a great contributor to our national development, again a hero not to be disputed, Sir.

Charles Duncan O'Neal of a later vintage, but also quite similar in background and approach of Samuel Jackman Prescod, Sir. He however represented a turning point in terms of the entry of university educated professions into the fight for social justice in the early part of the 20th century. He was able through his efforts to create a network of grass-roots organisations, the Democratic League. He can be credited with the formation of the first fledging grass-roots political organisation and he was able to use his independence in his profession to do a number of things that others could not do.

It is also worthy to note that in spite of the independence of his profession, he would naturally have had to undergo many sacrifices in that much of the lucrative work

which he could have gotten from the really wealthy persons in Barbados will obviously not have gone his way. In fact, some may argue that that kind of situation continued very, much long after Charles Duncan O'Neal and Grantley Adams and others who would have had hefty, brief and other opportunities for lucrative work pulled from them because of their views of social issues.

We will certainly hope that as Barbados moves into the 21st Century that that does not remain part of our approach to doing business particularly amongst the professions and our business persons.

Errol Barrow, Sir, was a direct descendent in more than one way of Charles Duncan O'Neal, is yet another Hero. Because of the recency of his contribution much more is known about his contribution than some of the earlier Heroes. It is hoped, Sir, that out of the whole discussion of national heroes, out of the publications which will flow from the Ministry of Education and Culture through the National Cultural Foundation and other literature which will be provided that all of our citizens will know as much about the other Heroes as they do currently about Errol Barrow, again because of the recency of his contribution.

He basically was the first Prime Minister of an independent Barbados having been Prime Minister at the time of independence in 1966.
12.05 p.m.

During his time he was able to make some changes in terms of the administration of Government, the social and legislative framework within which we operate. His contribution can be credited at setting Barbados on an appropriate path of development in a post-independence period. Sometimes our success causes us to be complacent and causes us not to focus on the things that have made us successful, but if you look at the history of a number of post-independent nations particularly at that very trying time immediately after independence, we note that their current situation to a large extent has been based on what decisions, on what steps and on what choices they made in those early years. So that the fact that Errol Barrow was Prime Minister of Barbados for some 10 years after independence is important and the fact that we were able to hold the country together, we were able to consolidate and we were able to grow during that period can really be attributed to the leadership and the guidance which Errol Barrow would have provided to a newly independent Barbados at that time.

As you would appreciate, as has been seen in other independent countries, you had the challenge of the conservative elements in the community on the one hand, and the radical element on the other, both of which were seeking to ensure that Barbados would move in different directions. In those countries that have remained ultra

conservative in terms of their refusal to change their social legislation and provide for economic growth and economic opportunities for new person they stagnated.

In those cases where persons have gone the full radical route they have stifled individual creativity and individual ambition and they have thwarted the ambitions even of the persons whom they were hoping to help.

Sir Hugh Springer, Mr. President, is one of those persons who has been able to make a heroic contribution in a number of areas. He is again perhaps like Sir Grantley to be credited with having the organisational skills and focus to create institutions which would be able to give effect to the desires of the individuals whom they attempted to serve.

Sir Hugh Springer was an educator, politician, and a leader in the development and the growth of the University of the West Indies. Of course, his most distinguished contribution is in the field of the trade union movement where he was for some time the secretary of that illustrious body and it is significant to note, that the Barbados Workers' Union keeps emerging almost as a common thread for the 20th century heroes in their involvement with and their commitment to that organisation, because that organisation provided the institutional framework for harnessing the talents and energies of the working-class persons of Barbados. Its causes were noble and its efforts laudable and once you start off on that particular path you cannot fail and so the Barbados Workers' Union has not failed over the years.

Sir Hugh again was one of those persons who was educated and respected and therefore quite able to make the level of contribution which was required. He was General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, the first General Secretary. He was also the Registrar of the University of the West Indies. He was a political figure as well, Mr. President. He won a seat in one of the parishes which is dear to me, Sir. He represented St. George at some point in time and the part of his work for which he is most known to persons of recent years is the sterling contribution which he would have made in the latter period of his life as a Governor General of Barbados. He basically was one of the firm craftsmen of our fate.

Sir Frank Walcott is one of the two living heroes. I have left the two living heroes for the last. It is beyond question and beyond dispute that Sir Frank Walcott is a person who has made a heroic contribution to the development of Barbados through his efforts at the uplifting of the majority of persons in Barbados.

It is said, Sir, I believe by Miss Gloria Anderson from the Black Human Rights Movement in the United States that you cannot keep down any person or any segment in the

society unless you have someone down there helping to keep them down. Sir Frank Walcott recognised that in order for Barbados to be uplifted you had to uplift all of its citizens. If any persons were left struggling at the bottom then it meant that some aspect of society was left down there with them.

He, therefore, worked tirelessly in the Barbados Workers' Union and the Caribbean Labour Organisation and the International Labour Organisation and several other international fora related to trade unionism to advance his causes and purposes worldwide. He also served with distinction as a Member of Parliament. Again recognising that within the context of our evolving social, economic, political landscape that the Parliament of Barbados had and has an important contribution to make, and that if one wanted to truly influence the process then one needed to be able to articulate one's position and he strongly articulated the position of the Barbadian worker within the House of Assembly of Barbados and beyond.

I would want to warmly congratulate him and be thankful that he is able to hear my congratulations and I would certainly want to hold him up as an example especially in the context of which I had stated earlier – that one must not only be assessed given where one has reached, but the difficulties which one has overcome in getting there, and Sir Frank Walcott is a man who himself came from humble origins; was not one who was able to lean on a godfather and a friend but was able through his hard work not only to move up the ladder, but was also able through the conduct of his affairs, to ensure that he is respected and that his work will stand forever as a guiding light to all Barbadians.

Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir, again a national hero of whom we can all be proud and again we are happy that he is still with us to be able to hear our thanks and appreciation of him. Although his legendary contribution to cricket which has forever changed the game can perhaps best be appreciated when one understands what cricket means to the Barbadian and West Indian community and as the noted writer C. L. R. James put it, cricket goes beyond the boundary. Those of us who understand the critical importance of this game to our national psyche as best exemplified when we have to play against an English team where winning and losing is really a matter of life or death because it means so much more than a game. Sir Garfield Sobers understood that what he was doing was not making sport or just playing another game. He understood that when he went to bat, bowl or field that he was representing an entire nation, the Caribbean nation and that his struggle was their struggle.

12.15 p.m.

The fact that he was able to rewrite all the history books in cricket, the fact that his genius was able to allow

him at the tender age of 21 to score his 365 not out, the fact that he is the best person who has ever touched a cricket ball or a cricket bat, the most talented all rounder within the context of what cricket means to us and the pride which he was able to engender, qualifies him more than ever as a National Hero.

Also, Sir, one of the criteria for a National Hero is the fact that a hero is able to change the way the society views itself and the way that the Caribbean society has viewed itself more positively over time has largely been as a result of our success in the field of cricket. When the West Indians are champions, we are able to walk with our heads up high. When we are not champions, it is a bit more difficult. Perhaps this is more clearly seen with our nationals living abroad.

Barbadians living abroad, Sir, are perhaps best able to articulate this situation but West Indians living in the United Kingdom know the difference in treatment between when the West Indies were the underdogs in cricket and when in the days of Sir Garfield Sobers and with contributions of Sir Frank Worrell through to Vivian Richards and so on what it meant to walk with your heads held high because how we did in cricket was used as a barometer of our intellectual ability. It was used as a barometer of our capacity to strategise. It was used as a barometer of our capacity to stick out an issue, fight and be committed. It was generally used as a reflection not only on West Indian people but, in fact, on black people generally because given the origins of cricket and who it was played by, the English gentry and so on, they were of a view that only persons with certain noble instincts would be able to master the game.

Sir Gary was able to show that his instincts were as noble and that someone from the Bay Land could be as talented and, in fact, more talented and carried himself in as dignified and even more dignified manner than, perhaps, someone from Kensington, High Street or Kent, or wherever. He is quite a fitting person to be a National Hero and again we are pleased that he is one of our living heroes.

Sir, those are the 10 persons that are proposed as National Heroes. I am satisfied that this Bill, the Order of National Heroes Bill, will go a long way toward engendering a sense of pride in our people abroad. I am satisfied that this Act of honouring our National Heroes will establish quite firmly that link that needs to be made between our past, our present and our future.

I am satisfied, Sir, that if our society is able to develop that appreciation for that linkage that we would recognise that we ourselves today and our contributions are only part and parcel of what has constituted and will constitute Barbados. I am satisfied, Sir, that our young people, particularly, at the end of this exercise would not only have

a greater appreciation for whom these individuals are and for the contributions they have made, but for the circumstances in which those contributions were made.

This act of celebration of National Heroes will make history in Barbados come alive and it will also cause all of us to focus on our future. It will cause all of us to ask the question, what mirror image do we have of ourselves. It should cause us to consider how would we like to be viewed in 2098 when persons of that generation reflect on our contribution. Would we want them to be proud of what we have done? Would we want them to be able to say that we were heroic in our actions, that we contributed to a change of the way society viewed itself, that we made great personal sacrifice so that the future generations could benefit and that our contributions were of that superior order that would classify us as National Heroes whether sung or unsung. Those are the questions which we must ask ourselves as we celebrate National Heroes.

As part of the celebration for National Heroes, Mr. President, there will be a number of activities organised. There will be on April 27 a National Heroes Lecture to be given by Professor Hilary Beckles because again we want to ensure that this is not just a celebration in the simpler sense of the word, but the opportunity is taken for self-examination. We therefore look forward to hearing of the contribution from Professor Beckles who has done a considerable amount of work in this matter of ensuring that Barbados has a properly recorded history with lots of details and looking at different elements of history, including our cricket history. He has also been very keen on this matter of National Heroes and recognition of issues of national significance.

It is perhaps a reflection on the change in times that the fact that Professor Hilary Beckles is giving a lecture on National Heroes does not provoke a national discussion, even a national outrage because we well remember in the early days of Professor Beckles' return to Barbados that any discussion of Emancipation Day, the Riots, Black History, National Heroes, Bussa and so on, evoked great fear in the society that we were awakening issues that should not be touched. It is really a positive reflection that the level of awareness in the society has increased to the point where we can discuss these issues dispassionately and everyone will look forward to learning some more from his lecture.

Then on the 28th, our National Heroes Day itself, we will move to the area of the Bay Street Esplanade and Government Headquarters which is itself a historic location and was part of the work which has brought Barbados to where it is, the first location for Ministerial Government. It is the philosophical home and seat of power of the democratized Barbados where the majority of the black

population took over the reins of Government, established the ministerial system and was able to make those changes.

On that occasion, Sir, a life-sized statue of Sir Grantley Adams will be unveiled. That is significant given that April 28 is also the 100th anniversary of his birth. It is an evening at which I would expect all Honourable Senators to be present.

12.25 p.m.

Along with the statue of Sir Grantley there will be large portraits of the other heroes. There will be a cultural package and a cultural programme. Again a very innovative and quite interesting and welcomed step is that a CD has been produced in which prominent and talented Barbadian artists....

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, a compact disc for those persons who are not aware of what a CD happens to be.

A compact disc has been prepared and the artists of Barbados have immortalised in song the contributions of these national heroes. Again, we must appeal to particularly the youth in the media with which they are most comfortable. We need to use a variety of approaches.

I definitely will be one of the first persons to purchase a copy of the CD as a gift to my children to ensure that as they enjoy the music, they are also able to learn a bit about the contribution of these heroes.

Mr. President, on conclusion of my contribution to this debate I would want to commend to the Honourable Senate this Bill, the Order of National Heroes Bill and I would want to salute the sterling contribution of these great men and that great woman. I would want to urge all persons in Barbados to fully participate in this celebration of our heritage and to recognise that the celebration of these ten heroes is in fact a celebration on behalf of us all.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I consider it a tremendous honour to be asked to make the contribution on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party on the occasion of this very important debate in this Honourable Chamber, Sir.

Sir, we are dealing with an aspect of our history which will live long after us. Indeed, we are attempting by singling out these ten heroes and heroine to almost conclude what has been a tremendous debate in this country for many many years. In fact, we might want to reflect on the reality that by lending the honour of national hero to these ten persons, we

would not necessarily have satisfied all the various views embodied in the Barbadian community.

Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Senate alluded to this fact and he indeed pointed out that in naming these ten heroes we were in no way attempting to diminish the sterling contribution of the persons who would have participated in the events which these heroes stand tall for.

We can start with the case of the 1937 riots and the fact that today we are attributing the honour of national hero on Clement Payne as one of the leaders in the epic struggle. A number of Barbadians, indeed 14 Barbadians gave their lives on that day during these very early struggles.

Sir, I want to join with the view that we are not going to be able to truly represent every divergent view by naming these ten persons. Indeed, even today one is hearing whisperings and debate as to whether all of our heroes are necessarily counted in the ten who we have named.

Sir, there is another view that the heroes should not include persons who are still alive. I want to record that in my opinion, the fact that I was able this morning to read the comments of two of our heroes in respect of their feelings of being honoured in such a way by Parliament and by this country confirms my personal opinion that we must not be afraid to break new ground. If we think that it is important and that a contribution is so significant whether that person be alive or whether they have gone to the great resting place we should be men and women enough in this country to stand up and say that we feel this way about this person and their contribution. I want to associate personally with the honour of national hero which has been bestowed on the two living heroes of this Barbados.

Sir, the Democratic Labour Party does not envisage any divisiveness in this exercise. We only want to record that what we are doing today is a culmination of efforts which have been started by many Governments and many administrations of the past. I do not think that the Honourable Member who just spoke was responsible for trying to introduce any divide but we want to record that in 1991 we introduced what could be considered the first step towards an individual honour beyond that of a knighthood, when the Parliament of this country bestowed on Errol Walton Barrow, the man who has become familiarly known to this country as the Father of Independence and we agreed to adopt January 21, 1991, as Errol Walton Barrow Day.

Sir, I think it is a tribute to the feeling that we have as Barbadians about our heroes in assigning National Heroes Day. The Government of Barbados today has been very clear in indicating that it has no intention of interfering with that designation of January 21st as Errol Walton Barrow Day.

Sir, I want to say that this goes beyond partisan politics in Barbados and I think that this is the only way that matured Governments in Barbados can seek to ensure that we set the examples which our people can be duly proud of.

Sir, there are, however, some areas of questions in respect to the Bill before us.
12.35 p.m.

When we break ground or when we think we are breaking new ground sometimes we need to reflect on what has been done in the past. And indeed I took the opportunity to have a look at the work done in another Caribbean country, the country of Jamaica, in respect to their national honours and their creation of national heroes and I think all West Indians will be very familiar with the national heroes of Jamaica. I think the current history of Jamaica has been very loudly proclaimed and we associate indeed the three periods of struggle again referred to by the Honourable Member who just sat. We associate them with a number of significant events to do with this evolution in the country of Jamaica.

Indeed the struggle against slavery in Barbados would have been led by Bussa one of our heroes. We know that although Caribbean history might not record the work of Bussa in the details which we now hope we can have recorded I remember, as a young boy reading Caribbean history, we certainly read a little bit about the name of Paul Bogle and William Gordon in the case of the Jamaican experience. It just demonstrates to us how much we have to do as a small nation in bringing before our people the significance of our contributions.

Sir, it is important too that our young people get a grip on what these heroes' contribution was and that is again why I would not want to introduce any divisiveness in a matter of this nature because our young people must recognise that when we speak of Grantley Adams or Errol Barrow or we speak of Duncan O'Neal, or we speak of Sarah Ann Gill... You see, Sir, in my case I have to admit that our heroine Sarah Ann Gill is of recent knowledge to me and I have done a little work to try to find out who was Sarah Ann Gill and what was her contribution and I am sure, like other Honourable Members when, at least one of us whom I know to be very close to the organisation which she represents, I will listen with very keen ears to hear more about that contribution and I am sure that her contribution would have been in the midst of a very serious struggle because religion as history shows us was at the root of many, many disputes in the past. Indeed only last weekend we were witnesses to the first treaty of peace in Northern Ireland which is divided basically down religious lines. So, Sir, we need to present a picture of our heroes which our young people can look up to and I am afraid that although in my case, out of the 10 heroes there was one with whom I had to immediately do research

I wonder how many of these heroes our young people are fully aware of.

I have heard it said in a recent survey, for instance, youngsters between the ages of 18 and 25 the heroes which come to mind are not the heroes we talk of today but they talk of persons like Castro, of Che Geuvera, but we have not told them enough about the Barbadian heroes. It does not negate the fact indeed that Castro and Che Guevara are indeed world heroes and their struggle makes a lot of difference today as to how the world views many third world countries. This trouble is not over and we are indeed entering a new dimension of the struggle when we start to come to grips with the reality of things like the so-called New World Order and the freedom of markets and the whole question of workers and employers working together for a common objective. It is a new position to take and I am sure again that the labour leaders amongst us will want to probably speak to this challenge which will, I think, characterise a lot of the pending developments in the third world countries and, Sir, out of that we would want to be able, one day in the future to look back and say, these are the heroes who would represent the successful evolution of Barbados to this next stage of social and economic reality.

Sir, the area which I want to deal with in respect to the Bill is the one which seeks to look at how the heroes are actually nominated. I think the Bill is not sufficiently clear in stating who selects the heroes because certainly, from my reading of the particular clause 6(2), it says, Sir, the power conferred on the Governor-General by subsection (1) shall be exercised by him on the advice of the Prime Minister.

During his presentation, Sir, the Senate Leader mentioned the creation of a social justice commission but this commission is not referred to in this Bill so I have no way of knowing that this has or will actually occur and I think that the national call at this time is for a larger consultative process to accompany the selection of our national heroes.

This morning, Sir, one reads of an eminent historian who speaks to the same question as to how much consultation actually took place in what he sees as the grouping who could probably contribute most to the selection process of this nature. We do not have to agree with that view but there is credence and there is reason to reflect on the way we should select our heroes because we do not want to create a situation where there is any divisiveness whatsoever and the more consultation we can guarantee on matters of this nature, certainly the better it is for the exercise which we are trying to achieve.

12.45 p.m.

Sir, we must be also big enough to recognise where we have to create national heroes or where we have to create

memories to our national heroes. These go beyond partisan politics. The debate which accompanied the development of Trafalgar Square and we can look out onto Trafalgar Square today and see what it looks like. I recall the kind of criticism which came from that Side when the Democratic Labour Party in its mission to preserve the history of this country, in a way that is worthy of a visit when we worked to improve the ambience of Trafalgar Square. Not Nelson, Sir, we worked to improve the ambience of Trafalgar Square and made it into somewhere where locals and visitors alike can relax and enjoy the different aspects of the City of Bridgetown.

We have lived today, to hear the Honourable Member who just sat, talk about the events planned for April 28 and he talked about the fact that we are going to erect a life size statue of Sir Grantley Adams, Sir. He has not told us how much it cost. But I am sure I heard even recently references to the fact that the Democratic Labour Party only turned around Nelson. We are not going to unduly criticise the Barbados Labour Party if they feel that it is important in celebrating National Heroes Day and the 100th year of Sir Grantley Adams' contribution to Barbados that they establish a life-size statue in the place of the bust which was there until now. And that is the way they want to celebrate his life and his contribution and the cost to the nation, though significant, we will have to recognise that from time to time these kinds of decisions are going to be taken and we must be bigger than to try to score cheap political mileage out of these things.

There are many who will feel that the money spent at Bay Street over the next couple of weeks and I saw persons working, putting down larger paving stones on the seaside of Bay Street, and there must be tremendous cost attached to these kinds of renovations, Sir... But we hope that at the end of it, we will build an area suitable for all Barbadians to participate.

Sir, heroes are remembered in different ways and certainly in the case of one hero with whom I am particularly familiar and that is Errol Walton Barrow, it is said that he never wanted statues or monuments built to his honour. He has resisted it to the extent that at the Democratic Labour Party headquarters there is still tremendous divide in respect to the naming of the auditorium which he personally supervised the erection of. There is still a tremendous divide of naming that auditorium after him and indeed of placing in that auditorium any kind of memorabilia that would point to the contribution of this great Barbadian.

When the arch was built that too was a significant commemoration to Barbadian history and Barbadian heritage. Again we hear Members on that Side, Sir, wanting to ridicule these kinds of memories simply because they might have occurred during the administration of the

Democratic Labour Party. I would urge them to move beyond that at this time as I am sure, they are urging us to do today. To move beyond that and to move to a position where we seriously look at chronicling our history in a such way of which we can be extremely proud.

Sir, the Bill before us therefore, seeks to put a seal on the initial commemoration of National Heroes Day. We must reflect on the fact, too, that there will not be many occasions again, certainly in the near future, where the opportunity will be taken to put more national heroes on record because national heroes, according to the criteria which we set, are not created every day. The criteria are clearly set out in the Schedule to the Bill. It talks about having given outstanding service to Barbados and its contribution has altered the course of history and that is important.

We in Barbados have been able to watch the emergence of a hero like Mandela in South Africa. We know too well of his incarceration and his release from prison and the sacrifice which he gave for this country. We can compare his life and his contribution and imagine the pain that he experiences when he reflects on so many of his contemporaries who died along that passage to freedom in South Africa.

We have, in Barbados a similar history to commemorate. It might not be as large in its extent but certainly it is there. Our hero must have given service to Barbados which has been exemplified by visionary and pioneer leadership, extraordinary achievement and the attainment of the highest excellence which has redounded to the Honour of Barbados.

Errol Walton Barrow, Sir, undisputedly would have been, if there is such a criterion, a hero among heroes in Barbadian history.
12.55 p.m.

Respect the fact that he was able to take this country from a colonial state and he was able to introduce legislation and introduce a Government which saw the creation of an independent Barbados and there were people at the time who had other views and we are not mocking that now. The time will be when we will deal with that. People had other views either in the way we should go about it or when we should go about the question of independence.

Sir, what signified or marked the contribution of Errol Barrow is that he was able to stand up against that mighty force, to put the position of Barbados' independence and to win the majority support of Barbadians in that struggle, a struggle which we continue today. The memory of Errol Barrow and again, the point was made that he did not do it alone. When the early photographs of Errol Barrow's Cabinet are viewed it is not Errol Barrow alone. He had with him some 6 Ministers and they would have helped to fashion

policies which we basically follow today in respect of the overall development of Barbados. Policies that included the way we would relate with the rest of the world, policies that included how organisations like the United Nations and super powers like the United States would view Barbados and it is important and we must give thanks indeed to God that we had men and women of that calibre in those days to fight for the Barbadian cause.

In terms of social legislation, Errol Barrow was responsible for what has become familiarly known as free Secondary Education, more recently referred to as tuition free. The point is that that single opportunity given to Barbadians as long ago as 1963 still stands out today as the most significant thing because it meant that Barbadians like the majority of us in this Honourable Chamber today, Sir, were able to take advantage of the opportunity for a sound education.

Sir, my mother is one of my heroes and only on Sunday morning we spoke about that aspect of Barbadian life. To this day, I am sure that all parents of that era reflect on that opportunity to send their young children to school without having to look for the exorbitant fees related to attending colleges like Harrison College and Combermere and Foundation and Queen's College and the like. They look back on that opportunity as the single most important opportunity they ever had created for them.

We must be careful to guard these kinds of opportunities today and make sure that they are not eroded, especially in light of the kind of changes that we see being thrown at us in respect of the new world order, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank demands and the IADB. We must challenge them and I say we must find substitutes to resist the changes which are recommended if they impact or are intended to impact on these significant social realities of Barbados.

Although the advent of free school meals was tremendously a part, I maintain to this day that the event of free secondary education goes beyond that. Beyond that, the Democratic Labour Party administration and Errol Walton Barrow fought and created institutions like the National Insurance Scheme, the Central Bank of Barbados, the Barbados National Bank and not by himself. We cannot name all the heroes today but it is sufficient to name Errol Barrow and to conjure up by an examination of history the persons who surrounded those events and those even on the other side. The Opposition plays an important role and I think I need to get this point through to the members on that side. When we in Opposition recommend that certain changes be considered it is not because one is seeking to oppose necessarily. One is seeking sometimes to guide a better way.

So if we say that instead of the Prime Minister acting alone as this Bill indicates in recommending to the Governor-General who should be national heroes we feel that there should be an advisory committee set up and it is not new ground. It is here in the Jamaican counterpart legislation. There is nothing new in it. It is there for everybody to see where they established an advisory committee which then makes the recommendation. It is in the Bill and that is the difference. We are not operating on any kind of promise. It is stated in the Bill.

Sir, the Barrow administration and the single contribution of Errol Barrow himself will be remembered on April 28th again when I am sure the appropriate signature is put to his honour.

Sir, the other criteria for eligibility has through his heroic exploits and sacrifice contributed to the improvement of the economic and social conditions of Barbados and Barbadians generally.

Sir, this brings us to the two living heroes of Barbados. I want to spend a little time in my own humble way in paying tribute to the contributions of the man, Sir Frank Leslie Walcott, and of course, like the Honourable Leader of the Senate who talked about his knowledge of Sir Hugh Springer as a representative of St. George, Sir Frank Walcott was a representative as an independent for the parish of St. Peter for a number of years.

I recall as a young man his approach to political campaigning, a man of such energy, a man of such excitement and appeal, strange enough. Maybe a lot of Members of this Honourable Chamber who are not from St. Peter would not know about it, Sir Frank Walcott used to appeal to the children of St. Peter. He used to make a point of being around our schools. Around 3.00 o'clock when we left school his cry would be from his platform and he would sing over his microphone: "When you go home who you will ask your Mummy to vote for?" We would all chorus: "Frank Walcott." Sir, that is the kind of man that Sir Frank Walcott is.

1.05 p.m.

But as is the contribution of heroes, I recall his defeat, I think it was 1976, in St. Peter.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, history will record those facts. I am talking about when Sir Frank Walcott lost the seat for the first time, when he ran for the Democratic Labour Party and lost in St. Peter against Burton Hinds. I think it was 1971 then.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am reminded it was 1966. I recall the pain of defeat which this hero whom we now commemorate went through. That is the measure of the contribution which we can aim toward if we want even to be considered for an honour far less to be honoured in such a very high way.

Sir, his contribution in respect to the trade union, his work there does not need to be chronicled by me. It has been by the Leader of Government Business and I am sure that once he has an opportunity, Senator Trotman will also remind us of the tremendous contribution of Sir Frank Walcott.

I certainly know that in politics sometimes one has to make very difficult decisions. I know for Sir Frank Walcott the decision to remain in politics or to work with the Barbados Workers' Union only, was a painful one. One can reflect on whether or not Sir Frank would ever have served as a Minister, or how would he have served as a Minister, or would his contribution have been greater as a Minister than the tremendous contribution he was able to make as a champion of the workers' cause in Barbados.

One of the great things about heroes, too, Sir, is that when they move on, they leave behind an organisation of strength. We know that in the case of the Barbados Workers' Union, Sir Frank Walcott has left a tremendous organisation in place and it is up to us to ensure by our contribution to the work of this organisation that the glory of our workers continues.

We have spoken many times in here about the challenges we face in today's so-called new world order and the exposure that a world of free trade... and the kind of havoc that is likely to be put upon our economy and the way we do business today. We need, of course, to look forward to our leaders taking us through that critical path of transition and ensuring that the rights of our workers, so steadfastly fought for by all these heroes, are maintained.

Sir, in terms of heroic exploits one can also, on this occasion, look back at the contributions of another hero, Sir Garfield Sobers. Certainly, his mastery of the game cricket is heroic. We know of times when it was almost as if balls would follow Sir Gary wherever he went on a cricket field, whether batting, bowling or fielding in order that he would create yet another great event for us to reflect on and for commentators of the day to talk about. Sir, it is extremely fitting that we can today be associated with honouring so great a contribution of Sir Garfield Sobers.

Sir, I want to speak a little bit to the question of some areas which I am sure would have been considered but which

might not, on this occasion, have been honoured. I think there is an absence, for instance, of an honour for a contribution in industry and commerce. It might be a recognition of the early stages of our industrial development and indeed our commercial activity or it might be that the contributions of the 10 that were chosen went so far beyond the contributions of our early industrialists and our early members of our commercial community that none of them, certainly of prominent memory, could be included at this time.

Again, I can only speak to my history, what I am aware of. I know that in terms of industrial development which accompanied, for instance, the Independence of Barbados, we had a situation where locals and visitors alike played significant roles in bringing Barbados into a viable economy.

I personally think that if one were to make awards to persons who might have contributed to the industrial development but not necessarily would have been nationals – I would want to associate, for instance, with a man like John Clarke who was responsible for the development of Banks Breweries at Wildey. He characterized a kind of industrial development which went out and searched out the community of Barbados and brought young men and women into that organisation, young men and women who before that probably only had one industrial option and that would have been in the sugar industry, who were now being taught the almost mystic science in the manufacture of beer and related brewery products.

John Clarke did not stop there, Sir. He went out into the community and brought also young men into the organisation and encouraged them to play sport and develop their cricket. I think he did all this to help bring Barbadians to recognise how much a new industry like the manufacture of beer could do for them and how much they could do for the building of that industry.

To this day, Sir, his work to the industrial development of Barbados is still remembered and reflected on. Many of his writings, and I am sure his organisation manuals which he developed for that particular organisation, have become copy books for a number of similar industrial efforts in Barbados.

Sir, I want to end where I started and, that is, that we cannot in truth and in fact honour all our heroes today.
1.15 p.m.

We must in passing this legislation allow the accompanying comment that many Barbadians who would have lived and worked in the times of these heroes would have made significant contributions too and in some cases an interview of some persons, they might have made even greater contributions than some of the heroes mentioned

today. That does not diminish the honour being bestowed and neither does it indicate any bad feeling by those who might want to claim hero status for one or other persons. I think it is a good debate to have and it can only bring about even more awareness in Barbados about our history and the kind of contributions we have had in the past, and it must indeed serve as encouragement for us Barbadians, who have an opportunity to bring about change now. It must serve as an encouragement and must serve as a target for which we can aim.

Therefore, the Democratic Labour Party only would want to recommend that the change in the clause, in respect to the selection, the conferment of the honour, Clause 6(2), it states, as I said before, the advise is that of the Prime Minister to the Governor-General that it should include some advisory committee more representative of the many views and the many aspects of Barbadian life.

Sir, besides that, I commend this Resolution.

SUSPENSION

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

The question that the sitting do now suspend until 2.30 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to be associated with this important bit of legislation for this country and one might even say that it is long overdue. I am sure, Sir, that no one around this table will want to be disassociated from this legislation today and no one can find any quarrel with the list of ten candidates that have been proposed.

I note that, however, they are heavily into the last 100 years of the history of this country and although we speak of our Parliament with pride being over 300 years old, yet it seems strange that those who recommended the list did not go beyond that period of time to look at those other heroes in the history of this country. The point that I am making is that the history of Barbados did not begin 100 years ago, so without having any particular proposals, I am sure that provision must be made for those persons who are more in touch with the earlier history of this country to come up with some recommendations.

I note when the Leader of the Senate was speaking he invited Senator Workman to continue the debate on the work of the national hero Sarah Gill in the Methodist Church. He did not invite me to speak of the Anglican Church and I wondered about that. It may well be because the Honourable Senator himself knows a lot about the contribution of the Anglican Church in this country. I think, however, the real heroes within the Anglican Church will not be the leadership necessarily but those who defied some of the leaders and the leadership and joined up and insisted moving from Amens Alley outside of the Cathedral into some other place, even if it was in the back of the Church for the time being. Those persons and their descendants have now taken over that same church. The contribution of the Anglican Church from hierarchy right down however, cannot be minimised.

Nonetheless, Sir, I note that of those persons who have been honoured or proposed for the honour that no less than six of them have been staunch members of the Anglican Church. To say nothing of the father of the late Sir Grantley Adams who was himself a catechist and headmaster and a hero in his own right. The father of the late Errol Barrow as we know was an Anglican clergyman, later becoming a bishop in another denomination.

Sir, I am therefore saying that I support what is happening here but I have some questions and reservations mostly about the procedure and the methodology and then at the end I will look directly at the Bill and suggest a couple of things that I think should have been provided for.

Sir, I think that a debate of this nature should have gained much more publicity leading up to this time. The average person in the community ought to have had an opportunity to debate and even to propose names but it is only in recent months that I have been hearing talk about this intensified. But going back a full year or more, there was very little real debate although in the political arena the politicians were talking about having a system of nomination of heroes for quite some time. The real debate did not come down to the level of the people in good enough time. I think that it is very necessary that the people should be involved in this.

While saying that Sir, I think that the methodology is flawed in the sense that there seemed to be a shroud of mystery surrounding who the candidates were that were going to be proposed. I do not know why a matter like this would have to be a matter for secrecy. This makes one wonder, therefore about the process of selection which Senator Boyce referred to. The body that was responsible for making the original nominations to the Prime Minister who in the long run made his nominations to the Governor-General, surely should be a reputable body of persons, respected persons in the community, all or several of whom

themselves could be candidates for such a national hero honour to whom we would turn to help us name those persons.

I am not suggesting that the list would be much different from this list but the old adage applies that justice should appear to be done and not only be done. In this case there will always be questions as to how did they arrive at these ten names.

The other thing that I wish to say is that I hope that we recognise the need to take politics completely out of what we are doing here. We have to take politics out of it.
2.40 p.m.

This will be achieved with all of us being involved and being aware that we need to do this, but with the leadership of Government in organising the system and in organising the National Heroes Day on the 28th. For example, Sir, I think that you would agree with me that very little was done at the national level to make Errol Barrow day a reality. But whatever the method of appointing, when once we have identified persons as national heroes or when once we have identified a day as a day for a national hero, regardless of what he was at the time, nonetheless we all must regard it as something concerning all of us that this is our hero. But I think that it was mainly left to the party members of Errol Barrow to keep the Errol Barrow Day, unfortunately so.

I sincerely hope, Sir, that the rest of the nation or other political parties will not leave National Heroes Day to the Barbados Labour Party alone just because they are the ones who would have enacted the legislation. I am making an appeal island wide and to all of us here to begin, on this day when we would have passed this legislation, to ensure that the heroes once identified, once named and the days that relate to them, both Errol Barrow Day and National Heroes Day will become ours, that all of us will adopt them and make them the success which I hope that they will be.

We will need to resolve the political debate as to who indeed really was father of the nation and rise above that, settle it once and for all, and write the facts down, the truth, so that our children will see what they really are, and write in such a way that they are not encouraged to be biased against one hero or the other hero.

Now, Sir, the way forward, I think, is what must also occupy our minds. What do we do, where do we go from here? I would like to suggest, Sir, that as part of this arrangement that we establish somewhere in this country a national heroes park. Somebody was proposing that Queen's Park be changed to become that but I think that Queen's Park has a culture of its own already and there are lots of activities going on there which should not be pushed aside. Therefore I would not myself recommend that or support that as the

way. I think we can look for a completely new area in the island and have that designated as the National Heroes Park and then go further, Sir, and have within that park a national hall of fame and use this combination to help us to remember or keep before our minds and our eyes the life and times of our national heroes, these and the ones that will come later. So that appropriately placed about the park and the hall would be appropriate plaques saying something, a mini story, about these heroes.

Then we would make use, I would expect, of the modern technology, use of the computer, the video tape, the microfilm and all the modern technology that is available to keep these persons and their lives before us and before our children.

What I am speaking of then, Sir, is the possibility of an area where research could be done and where some entertainment could be provided by having these kinds of records.

I think the television stations and the Government Information Service should be roped into this whole process. I have not been happy with the way that the TV station, when there was a lone TV station, operated where historical information was not stored and kept but was destroyed or abandoned as the case may be. I hope, as I am hearing, that has improved but that is what went on so a lot of useful information was lost and, Sir, there was the policy where there was no follow-up.

I think that a television station and a radio station should be able to spot persons who are destined for greatness at an early enough period of their lives and begin to document. I am sure even the police have dossiers on the people who are bad people. I am not talking about the ones that the police would have dossiers on, I am talking about the others, those people who have done exciting things in their lives, who, now that we know the criteria, appear to be on the way towards greatness. There is no reason to wait until they have had 2 strokes and then to sit them down to try to interview them. I have seen some pitiable interviews on the television with some of the more elderly serving persons of this community and it was all because those who should have been chronicling the events of their lives waited until they felt these persons would soon die then to write down or then to photograph what there was, and that was a failure. I think there is nothing wrong with members of the Press and the television and the radio media observing Senators, for example, and coming to some conclusion as to who is a person to watch. You will usually find that you will be right or you cannot be that far off.

The alternative, Sir, is statues which I myself do not support. I have a difficulty in supporting a statue as a useful way to help us to recall events of history. Statues remind

me of the person dead, not alive. I think that we should not accept that simply because it is what we got out of the same colonial times that we are criticising at this point. We are criticising the colonials for being people handing us a way that was not acceptable and part of that package was the statue and now we ourselves want to go and get involved in that.

There are several other reasons why the statue is not the best possible way. You can only have space for a limited number of statues. After you have placed a few at strategic points of this island you really cannot put them all over the place. Therefore if we cannot accommodate all those who are worthy of that honour then I do not think we should get involved with just a few of them at all.

There are some, Sir, who feel that we could use the roundabouts and all of us who drive past the Bussa roundabout and indeed more recently the roundabouts with labels realise how difficult it is to get through a roundabout watching the traffic, especially now with this 'jambusta' thing. You have got to watch right and left at the same time and ahead of you and also to read about Bussa. How would you manage that? How are you going to put statues about the other roundabouts and be able to see them?

2.50 p.m.

Otherwise, if they work at all, you will have those who are heading for the statues, or whatever the monument is, holding up traffic as they cross the road to get into the roundabout to see what is there. So I would advise against putting any statues or any monuments that are to be observed or read or studied in any of the roundabouts of this country.

Sir, a query about the living heroes of whom there are two and I have the highest regard for those two persons, Sir Frank Walcott and Sir Garfield Sobers. Perhaps if it were not for the fact that these two were so ably qualified to be heroes in this country, I would outright disclaim any association with a Bill that is honouring people to that extent in their lifetime. Not because any doubt about the capabilities or the accomplishments of the persons, but because I know Barbadian society and our society places a heavy burden on those who have been singled out for honours. They seem to forget that these persons are still ordinary human beings and expect them to behave as super humans and therefore expect a level of morality of life, of contribution, or whatever that is beyond any human being.

I think it is time, Sir, that our politicians realise that often they are led to the slaughter by the electorate and left there. I heard people tell off the late Tom Adams and I heard them boo Errol Barrow in this court yard here. I saw someone refusing to show Mr. Erskine Sandiford to a seat in a church after he had lost the government. You see, these things are happening and all to people who like, ourselves

here, devoted our lives to helping the society. And then you cannot be sure how you will be treated, while at the same time the very people are expecting a higher standard or level of life from these very people who are so treated.

I wonder if we would not be doing an injustice to any person to make him or her a hero in their own lifetime when in fact we are asking so much of them? I throw that question out and hope there will be some answer to it.

Sir, I have a few comments coming more directly from the Bill itself. On page 3 of the document, section 8 where there is mention of the eligibility for appointment to the order. It says

"A person

- (a) who was born in Barbados; or
- (b) who was at the time of his or her death
 - (i) a citizen of Barbados; or
 - (ii) Entitled to be a citizen of Barbados."

Now, I am no draftsman, Sir, as you well know but I think I am fairly good at English construction. I raise the question, does it not exclude living persons who were not born in Barbados, if you read it carefully and I wonder if that was intentional or if that was an omission, because it seems to me that if we are talking now about a one Caribbean and we are giving freedom of movement to certain Caribbean people to move from one territory to another, do you remember the Bill we dealt with some time ago where the CARICOM people and the University people are concerned. Now it is quite possible that someone might have moved into this territory having been born in St. Vincent or Jamaica and made their contribution and I recall the late Dr. Cato who was not born here. So I am questioning whether the way should not be left open for a person not necessarily born, but having made a yeoman's contribution to this country, and qualifies in every other way for the position of National hero. Especially as we make the provision in the next section there... But the other provision is about after death, those who are being honoured after they die. I would like some clarification on that when the Honourable Leader of the Senate sums up or at some other point.

I have another point here which relates to the Prime Minister. Section 6(2) on page 2 where the Prime Minister is the one who gives the Governor-General the advice. I would prefer to see written in a provision for a body of people such as I referred to earlier on. We have in this country, and we are so fortunate, especially now that the age of retirement is 60 years old and we have had so many people at a particular time in history being employed and who made it into civil

service and teaching and so on and who are now, what I regard as quite young retired people in this country and they are becoming the majority, people who have served all the different political administrations and who could not be regarded as politically biased in anyway, or if they are, who are able to work in spite of that, not just to hide it but are able to be fair. We have a large number of such persons in this country and I think they ought to be made use of and their contributions should be drawn on. These are the people who should be thought fit and ready and able to advise on a matter like this. You do not want to have a situation where it is left to the Prime Minister no matter how careful he is, but that it is left with a group that can canvas in a way that no Prime Minister could and get the feelings of the people.

Ultimately, the heroes if they are to be revered and respected and to be regarded as having that title, "Right Excellent" which is what this Bill says, must be people that we are not just happy with, but are proud of and ready and willing to honour. I think that at the earliest opportunity that should be put right where there is a body to whom is entrusted that choice.

Now, my other point has to do with a question. Since this honour is being bestowed on people in their lifetime, and that is conceived as something to continue, how does one withdraw the status of national hero if it becomes necessary and under what conditions? There is nothing here that suggests that it can be withdrawn for reasons. As is to be expected, those who are given it posthumously, there is no problem with them. But for persons alive, and since it is envisaged that that will continue there must be rules to help us understand how that can be done.

3.00 p.m.

Sir, those are my comments on this. I think that we are doing a good thing and I am sorry that so often by the time this kind of legislation reaches us in the Senate it is not easy to make any kind of adjustment to change and that is very unfortunate because I hear some of the more important speeches in the political arena around this Table as you yourself would have heard and it is very unfortunate that when we have heard those speeches that they are just like air for the most part and that there is very little that can be done.

I would hope that there would from time to time be promises from the Leader of the House or some Minister that this point arising in this Senate will be taken seriously and will be passed on to those who, even if they have concluded the Bill, can still by virtue of the rules accompanying be able to do something in keeping with what we discuss here.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I rise only to deal with two points, clarification of questions asked by the Honourable Senator who just sat down.

In section 6(2) of the Bill says:

"The power conferred on the Governor-General by subsection (1) shall be exercised by him on the advice of the Prime Minister."

I think anybody who has ever sat in a Cabinet and who knows the working of Government would know that though the Bill might say "on the advice of the Prime Minister" that any sensible Prime Minister would constitute the necessary body or committee to advise him on whose name should go forward and this does not say that the Prime Minister would willy-nilly pick anybody. The Bill does not restrict the Prime Minister in any method of how he goes about formulating a policy on persons to advise the Governor-General.

The next point that I would like to deal with is that the Senator said it does not leave room for a person who is born in another country and might have given yeoman service to Barbados to be conferred. Section 8 is quite clear. The point is those persons – forgive me saying so – who do not understand the interpretation of the law make these funny statements. It says:

"A person

(a) who was born in Barbados; or..."

You can see "or" at the end of the line.

"(b) who was at the time of his death

(i) a citizen of Barbados; or

(ii) entitled to be a citizen of Barbados."

Section b(ii) clarifies the issue. If you were legally in Barbados for more than 7 years you are entitled to become a citizen of Barbados. The draftsman knew quite well what he was doing when he drafted it that way.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Senator is misreading what he heard. After (b) all that applies after the death of a person and not to a living person.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, today I feel a sense of pride and a sense of gladness that we are recognising some of the heroes of Barbados. There is a dramatist who has said that "unhappy is the land that has no heroes". I think that today we need heroes more than ever before.

Mr. President, two of our heroes emerged at a period of social and political sterility. I am thinking of Charles Duncan O'Neal who was conscious of the oppression of the masses and who founded a democratic movement in Barbados. I have a great sense of history because I knew some of these people, and let me hasten to add, not in the days of Bussa. As a young girl, Dr. O'Neal, as we children referred to him, lived in Bank Hall Cross Road and I knew him. I would see him passing up and down, a very imposing figure and much respected in Bank Hall as well as in the Island because in those days, of course, for a black man to be a doctor was a very great achievement.

Of course, Sir Frank Walcott lived in Bank Hall Road and he and his wife were two of our very good friends, of my brothers and myself. We visited each other and there again we knew them not only personally but also knew of his links with the Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Workers' Union and his very outstanding achievements and contributions as a trade unionist.

When I returned from England as a student one of the first places that I was invited to a party was in Black Rock. There again I had known Errol Barrow from the time I was a school girl. So I am saying that these are all people whom you could identify with as outstanding patriots.

Sarah Ann Gill I will leave to Senator Workman to talk about, but I am a Methodist, as we say in Barbados, born and bred. Therefore, I have always felt that I knew her vicariously because I had always heard of her courage, her strength and the dangers she faced as a Methodist and her struggle for religious freedom and for the preservation of Methodism in Barbados.

Of course, there is Sir Grantley Adams, my hero, whose sacrifices for the poor and underprivileged in the 1940s and his fight for adult suffrage carved a path to freedom and democracy. He has deservedly been called the father of democracy.

There is Sir Hugh Springer, another one of my heroes who in a quiet but most impressive and dedicated manner did so much for education in the Commonwealth, not only in Barbados but the Caribbean and also for trade unionism.
3.10 p.m.

I know there are so many Senators besides myself who wish to make a contribution.

But, Mr. President, I do wish to say that a country needs heroes and they emerge in times of peace as well as in times of disquietude. Heroism results from many qualities. There is courage with which people face physical danger. There is also the achievement born of extraordinary talent as well as talent that is cultivated, and just as children benefit

from role models, so do they and adults need heroes and heroines as objects of admiration and example.

Mr. President, a distinguished English clergyman has observed that while sheep and cattle keep their heads on the ground – they look down to the ground – men stand upright so that they can look up to God in prayer and worship. This is, perhaps, indicative of man's yearning to look up, not only to the Supreme Being, but to those whom they admire and hold in high esteem.

There are several ways in which we can learn about people. I have great respect for the Archdeacon, as he knows, but I beg to differ with him as far as statues are concerned. I love art. I love all forms of beauty and artistic expression. I have always enjoyed, when I have visited countries abroad, looking at statues. Monuments speak about the history of a country and I am very much in favour where an island as small as ours can accommodate them, of having statues to heroes and, indeed, to others who have made outstanding contributions.

There are other ways too in which we can acknowledge our famous people, our great people, such as videos and records of their speeches. I do not think there are enough of those and I think it is vital that we start to collect and preserve more and more of the speeches of our outstanding citizens. There is, perhaps, more than any other form of commemoration, that of writing books. It is important too to encourage our children more and more to read.

Therefore, Mr. President, with those few words I just want to say that I gladly support this Bill and that it is one of the most glorious days in our history that we should be recognising those heroes whom we can praise and to whom generations to come can look up to and make them feel what a great thing it is to be a Barbadian.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I am a simple farmer and I really do not understand some of these things very well. This Bill says it will provide for the conferment of honour of National Hero. By passing this Bill, constitutionally it has to go through the Lower House, then it has to come to the Senate, and then it has to go to the Governor-General for his assent so the Bill is not law.

The Bill is what provides for the conferment of the term of National Hero so I am a little bit perturbed that it is announced who these National Heroes are before the Bill was passed because it seems to me that the Lower House assumes that by making these pronouncements that the Senate is going to rubber stamp what is said in the Lower House and the Governor-General has to give his assent.

I think it is a little bit of a disgrace to tell the Senate that here is a situation, these are the people and now you pass the Bill to confer after the act. It is regrettable that was done and I really do not see any need that we had to announce who these National Heroes were until after the Act was passed.

The appointment of these heroes cannot happen because, according to the Bill, the Governor-General has to affix the seal and they officially become National Heroes so up until that time they are not National Heroes. We are telling everybody, yes, these are the people. It is on the front page of every paper that these are our National Heroes and legally speaking, from my interpretation, they are not until the administration of the Governor-General actually creates them.

The importance of this legislation cannot be argued about by anybody. I think everybody feels the need for it. However, like Senator Boyce and Senator Springer, I am not really happy with the role of a Prime Minister, not this Prime Minister but any Prime Minister having that sole right to do it. My feeling is that the Governor-General should appoint a committee. They would come up with a list that should go to the two Houses of Parliament who would then confirm who these National Heroes are. I do not feel happy that it is left to the role of a Prime Minister.

One of the other curious things that has arisen, and I am not a historian, but I remember hearing somewhere that Clement Payne, our National Hero, was deported from Barbados. Now, if he was deported, he could not have been a Barbadian. Under the Bill he has to be a Barbadian to be a National Hero so, again, I am a little confused as to the legality of his nomination under the Bill. It seems very strange. I do not know what the explanation is.

Another point I would like to raise is that this term these people are entitled to, the Right Excellent. We have in recent years heard something that has really annoyed me considerably that we have adopted some protocol belonging to some other nation which says that people who are dead lost their Sirs and Dames and that we cannot call that statue Sir Grantley Adams, it has to be just Grantley Adams because he is dead. I think that is disgraceful and disgusting and should not be so.

The same thing with Dame Nita you have to put the Nita Barrow Roundabout and not Dame Nita. I think that is disgusting. Are these people now who are dead going to be called Right Excellent? Is it the Right Excellent Mr. Bussa? Is it the Right Excellent Errol Barrow? Do they have this title or they are not entitled to the title under the same protocol? I would hope that there would be some inclination of what Government is thinking along these lines. I think myself I would strongly support that these people who have the titles

they are entitled to during their life should not lose them just simply because they have passed on.

Senator Springer referred to what I call the lost years. I find this also a very strange phenomenon. A few years ago rightfully and with great pride we celebrated 350 years of Parliament and yet there is a deathly hush in the time before the abolition of slavery as if nothing happened in Barbados. Who were these people? What did they do? How did Barbados get to where it was?

The second stained glass window from the left there, is Sir John Gay Alleyne, without a doubt one of the most prominent Barbadians of his day, recognised not only in Barbados but in London by the Houses of Parliament as one of the most able people who brought this country, through its Legislative Council and through his Speakership, to a position of eminence in the British Empire, cannot he be recognised?

The Leader of Government Business said that we are a mature society. We are big enough to give credit irrespective of class and ethnic differences.

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: If that is so, I am proud to hear that but certainly looking at this list there is not one single white person on that list. What does it mean? Have white people done nothing for this country? What sort of message are we sending out here today? Are we saying that white people have no position in this country? Are we saying that these are a minority and therefore they should be ignored? I do not think that is right.

We talk about the abolition of slavery like if there were slaves from Barbados who rioted and got rid of the abolition of slavery. It happened in London and Barbadians in London who were active in the Parliaments to get the public opinion in England against slavery. Who are these Barbadians?

There were a number of Barbadians like a John Alleyne who was recognised as a legal luminary of his time who appeared before the High Courts in England on the case against slavery. There was a Reverend Nicholls in the Anglican Church who published tracts and tracts of stuff and helped definitely to sway public opinion against slavery.

There was a W. W. Greenidge who worked very hard for the abolition of slavery. These people were white, therefore, they are not eligible? In the time of freedom from slavery to democracy alongside Grantley Adams there was a man called T. T. Lewis who marched in Bridgetown here shoulder to shoulder with Grantley Adams. Is nobody mentioning the work he did? Or is it because he is white?

To me it is a very serious concern. I know most white people do not like to talk about race. People feel uncomfortable to say it. I am a white Barbadian and I do not feel uncomfortable. I feel that I have my rights. My family was here since 1685 and I have no intention to be a second-class citizen in my own country.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I would like to begin by saying that after listening to the last Senator I am sure glad that we have been able to come along at this time and award National Honours to persons. That we are the ones in the prevailing climate of Barbados based on all we know that is good, honourable and decent for Barbados. That we are the ones who have conferred this honour, party aside, but it has happened at this juncture in history and not at some other time.

Before I go any further, I would like to remind the honourable Senator of the criteria for eligibility.
25 p.m.

If you can tell me that Sir John Gay Alleyne did that, I will say that he should be considered at some other time; (b) is given service to Barbados which has been exemplified by visionary and pioneering leadership, extraordinary achievement and the attainment of the highest excellence which has redounded to the honour of Barbados or has, through his heroic exploits and sacrifice, contributed to the improvement of the economic and social condition of Barbados and Barbadians generally. I would like to know about the sacrifice of Sir John Gay Alleyne. Tell me how he sacrificed on behalf of Barbados. If you can at some future time write a letter to the press or whatever or next time you are addressing the Black Belly Sheep Association talk about this, then that would be fine. The point is that there are clearly laid out criteria, but you have not convinced me that any of them have met any or all of these criteria.

Be that as it may, Sir, I just think that it is regrettable that at a time when, like the Honourable Leader of the Senate said, the maturation of the Barbados society has reached such a stage that we can begin to name heroes. I think that it is regrettable at this stage that we should have people taking 'pot shots' and 'nick-picking' for various reasons. I think that it is a substantive enough occasion that one can deal with the grandeur of the moment and leave that for future generations to do.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I am just saying that I regret that some of the speeches have taken such a turn, that it seems to pour cold water on the grandeur of the achievement. Because if one studies or is familiar with

the social history of Barbados, there was a time in Barbados when it was not even considered that we had a culture. There was a time in Barbados when the heroes of Barbados were cowboys. The Barbadian society has come a long way to the point where it can now name heroes, to the point where the whole question of the 1937 Riots which, at one time you were supposed to have considered as the undertakings of a bunch of hooligans and "nothings", wild boys about town, breaking down and burning down Bridgetown. The point is that the society has now matured in such a way and become broad-minded enough to conceive these events for what they really are in the course of development of Barbadian history and culture that we can accept them.

Emancipation Day has been established as a national holiday, something that was just a day on the calendar like United Nations Day, and was just another bank holiday at one time. That has also contributed to the maturation of the Barbadian society and now we come to our heroes.

This is only the beginning of a process. We have never before had National Heroes in Barbados. Nobody is saying that we had 350 years of practice at it and therefore we should have got it right this time around. This is the first time and we had to make a start. This Bill is only an interim measure until the Constitution Review Commission reports as to how it is going to deal with the whole question of heroes and national honours and what not. The point is that we had to make a start and an undertaking was given that National Heroes Day would be April 28, 1998. This is only the beginning and nobody is saying that the laws are down right pat and perfect. This is the beginning and it can always be amended. But the point is, as I have just said, this is the jumping off point.

Therefore I do not understand what the song and dance is about, especially from the Honourable Speaker for the Democratic Labour Party. The Democratic Labour Party is talking about they do not like the approach of the Barbados Labour Party. What is interesting about this whole thing, Sir, is that nobody yet has said that they do not like the ten National Heroes or that they have any quarrel with the ten National Heroes. All they were quarreling about is that they do not like the approach of the way the ten were chosen. It is like in school when you are doing a sum and you get the answer right but the teacher does not like the way you get to the answer. You show all the steps as to how you arrive at the answer, it is logical, it is factual but he does not like the answer and you get nought or five when you should get ten out of ten. Again, this is black belly sheep logic.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I am sorry, Sir. Everybody agrees that these are ten worthy figures. I have heard it said that some other people should be

on it but nobody is saying that these ten persons should not be on it. So what is the quarrel about? The point is that a Government has to lead.

I refer to a document dated 29th March 1993 which speaks about the establishment of a system for identification and honour of national heroes. Paragraph 16, Sir, if I may quote it says:

"It is the considered opinion of the Advisory Committee that at the end of the debate the question of identification and honour of national heroes, it will be evident that the success of such an initiative is dependent on the level of governed initiative.

Since the recognition of national heroes is an extreme form of national expression, it requires leadership at the highest level. The Prime Minister and Cabinet must be seen as policy shapers and guides in order to impress upon social consciousness the importance of the issues.

It is essential that Government not only reflect but effectively lead the process for proper debate to ensure that citizens do indeed enter a differential and celebratory relationship with their heroes."

Then it adds:

"The submission of these nominations to Cabinet for approval, the mode of national heroes will be debated in the Cabinet".

In other words, I am hearing that the result is right, but that they do not like the Prime Minister having so much power to do such a thing.

The point is that way back in 1993, the role of the politician was acknowledged in this whole process. How it is that a politician could present a budget...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Democratic Labour Party's position and certainly the one I put was one where we are saying that the Prime Minister should not be acting alone in advising the Governor-General and we would prefer to see a committee established for that purpose. The records of this country will show that such a committee existed under the Democratic Labour Party administration which would then advise the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

3.30 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, before I respond to that the thought I would like to finish off is that it seems to me that there is some case being made out

that there are certain acts and events which politicians are so dirty you should not get near them, that only other persons in the society can touch them, that politicians ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think perhaps that ...

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: That is my opinion, if you want me to change it, I will change it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think you can make the point that another Senator is suggesting something sinister or dirty. Perhaps you could rephrase it.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: A different word. Something so sordid, unseemly, that a Prime Minister or a Minister can decide on the price of butter, the price of gasoline, VAT but where national heroes are concerned he is not capable enough, he is not impartial enough, he is not seemly enough, honourable enough, to make a proper judgement. The whole process is that there was a whole system of consultation involved in this process. It was not just the Prime Minister. First of all it went to the Cabinet. Before that there were recommendations and suggestions made from the Social Justice Commission. There were suggestions made by another committee set up in the Ministry of Education and Culture which will look at how to celebrate national events that came up with a programme of the first emancipation day last year. There was even an attempt by the Social Justice Commission to meet with the political parties to discuss this.

I have an account here where a series of letters went out to the political parties. Senator Gill could speak about this later on when he speaks. There was a meeting where 3 representatives from political parties attended. Senator David Gill of the BLP, Professor Hilary Beckles, DLP and Mr. Eric Sealy, PPM. While emphasising that he was not a member of the DLP as the commission had anticipated, Professor Beckles told the Commission of the existence of a former committee of which he was a member and drew attention to the documents considered by that committee. So an attempt was made to embrace the whole political spectrum.

Letters were being sent out to political parties. On October 13, two members of political parties attended the meeting, Senator David Gill of the BLP and Mr. Eric Sealy again. On October 18, a third letter was sent to the political parties who had not officially expressed their views to the Commission. The point I am making is that the DLP never really showed they were interested in being part of the process because Hilary Beckles himself said at the meeting that he was called the same day of the meeting and told to go and represent the Party, but that he was not a member of the party. That is the attitude that the DLP took to this whole process. It reminds me of when we offered them to serve on

statutory boards and they said no. First of all they said it was a trick and secondly they said no, any mistakes you make is all of your own making. We do not want to be part of it. We want to be free to criticise you. You attempt to spread the big tent and the big net. You seek to practice the policy of inclusion and they run away from it all the time. It is the same thing. It is another step. So a lot of hot air that is being generated is just for pure rhetorical purposes.

I even hear, Sir, historians saying they were not invited. As far as I know they say that historians would be the most objective people in the world to do this. As far as I know history is not even a social science like sociology or psychology. It is no kind of science at all. There are no strict objective factual criteria laid to interpret events. It is probably one of the most subjective fields in the area of study. What makes history? History is just somebody's interpretation of past events and if historians want to do a job, what they do, they provide the research, they do the professional research, they know how to go to the primary sources and the secondary sources and the tertiary sources and all kinds of sources. They will tell you, you present your sources and let people who are in a position to make decisions make decisions. What gives a historian, just because he is a historian, special powers of insight and analysis and forethought to say this person should be a national hero or not. I am really amazed at that attitude.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President, I think that the Honourable Member is again misleading the Chamber. To give the impression or want to give the impression that historians are not social scientists is wrong. It is known that historians dwell work on facts of history. They work in the social science. That is a given fact. If the Honourable Member does not know this he should desist from talking about historians.

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

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you, Sir. Why I am so almost incensed about this attitude by some historians, I know historians who have made money from this process. I know of at least one historian whose services were acquired to check a text prepared by agencies on this whole process because there are a number of publications being prepared on the various personalities who have been made national heroes who have been published.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I am not saying that. It is just that I would think that if I were personally an historian or anybody of that ilk and I had strong objectives to be a part of a process I would not want to make money out of that process. It seems to me that if

professionally I thought that a process was not done right and proper and there was not enough due regard given to historians or whatever I would not want to be part of it. I would not want to profit on that process which I think was flawed. Therefore, Sir, I am just trying to give the facts. I have not even told you how much money was paid. I would leave that for now but if you push me I would tell you how much money was earned on this project.

I am also amazed at some of the cries about these things because some people are calling for objectivity etc., to keep it out of the hands of politicians and when I read page 2979 of Hansard 30th December 1988 in which there is a one Mr. D. J. H. Thompson saying, Sir, in wrapping up debate on this Bill, Errol Barrow Day Bill, he is saying: "In closing, Sir, it is my own instinct and I must say the original position of my branch and the other people whom I spoke to in St. John was to establish an Errol Barrow Day but we live in times where I believe that to avoid the partisan position of some issues one is always prompted to give some leeway to others and perhaps that is how the concept of National Heroes Day came in. I would like to say this. I do not wish to be uncharitable or contentious in this matter at all. When the question as to the naming of the newly built airport to west coast highway came up nobody said, set up any committee. All of a sudden we talk about objectivity and that is why I spoke about it at the beginning. I do not place any premium on it. Historians like to talk about objectivity but they can only be jokers. You cannot come to knowledge objectively. You have to be subjective in a sense that you do not go in a bookshop and pick up every book and read. You know where your interest lies and you try to further your knowledge in particular areas."

So the question of objectivity does not come into being. It has been pooh-poohed. It has been shot down. I can say some more but I do not want to. You are beginning to smell the cabbage. You are beginning to smell the gravy.

Let me take a different tact now. I am very proud, Sir, to be part of history. To be part of this process when Barbados is establishing another facet of its development. 3.40 p.m.

My fellow social scientist like Cannon Springer will appreciate what I am talking about here.

Sir, I think it is an excellent choice of National Heroes and I look forward to seeing the "Right Excellent" attached to their names. For the benefit of Senator Laurie, the removal according to protocol, according to etiquette and according to established customs, we do not put the title onto a building or monument. For example, that is why the Elsie Payne complex is called the Elsie Payne and not "Dame Elsie Payne

Complex". That is the way it is, we did not invent it. I am sure all you know about rearing black belly sheep, was not invented in your field.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I know nothing about black belly sheep.

Aside

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, the point I am making is that the world is an interchanging place. You have to borrow on the knowledge, customs and practises of other people. You might modify them by changing them, but you do not invent everything from scratch every time. That is the point I am making. That is why the "Sir" has been removed from Sir Mencea Scott Roundabout and Sir Ronald Mapp Roundabout. There are now Mencea Scott Roundabout and Ronald Mapp Roundabout and as far as I know you do not look to a title when you die. Your reference is still made to you as having been such and such. So the point that these persons will still be referred to as "Right Excellent" as a matter of course, because that is a title conferred to them in a proper way and legally as we are seeking to do every day.

Sir, I am particularly pleased to see that, for example, someone like Sir Frank Walcott being renamed as the Right Excellent Sir Frank Walcott, a man who in his earlier days used to describe himself as the "boy from obscurity". For that is from whence he came. He worked on Swan Street as a Cash Boy and his talents were spotted by Grantley Adams who brought him into the Union. He came with formidable talents. He was a product of the Clubs where people had debating societies and he honed his debating skills. For example there was the Weymouth Debating Club, *et cetera*. He had excellent talent from the beginning and it is no wonder that he rose to such prominence.

The point is, Sir, is that he represents the true Barbados story where through your ability, achievements and hard work and excellence, you can go from obscurity to become a national hero, upward social mobility at its best. The same applies to the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers. He was not born with any silver spoon in his mouth. The point is that these men, in the case of the Right Excellent Sir Frank Walcott and the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers are examples as to what can happen to people in the Barbadian society.

It is also a compliment to the openness of Barbadian society that people can rise from the most humble beginnings to reach the top by dint of hard work, by excellence of effort, *et cetera*. I think therefore it has a compliment both to them as individuals and a compliment to the society. I am very glad that my Party has been the one to put it in place. But my Party is also a product of the society. My Party is

also in sync with the vibration of the society, so that you pick up the feelings and the efforts and you express the ideas in society and we have all coalesced at this time to manifest ourselves in this produce.

I think it is a tremendous achievement to Barbados as a small country to establish itself in such a way. I have fond memories of Sir Frank Walcott as a politician. I remember covering him as a journalist in the House of the Assembly. He is the first man I recall who popularised the term "infrastructure". Among the journalistic corps we often referred to him as Mr. Infrastructure, because he always talked about infrastructure. A man of great talent, tremendous drive. I remember one of my most telling interviews with him was when there was a very thorny, stormy and difficult set of negotiations going on between the Advocate and B.W.U. in those days and there was some disquiet on the floor of the *Advocate* as to why he should be seen smiling with the executives of the *Advocate*. He made it quite plain and said when I am negotiating around the table I am not just "Frank Walcott", I am the same executive as they were. Then the members began to understand that by being friendly toward them he was not selling them out, but he was just being an equal to them as the workers' representative.

He has a tremendous set of ideas and I am glad to see that he is still with us to enjoy the Honour that Barbados has bestowed on him, as the same with the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers. I know that Mr. Barrow has got his due reward. I am glad to see that we have taken him a bit further rather than just naming him with a day. Anybody who studied or is familiar with how these societies work, how customs are built, and how traditions develop, would know that to name a day after Errol Barrow and put in place any programme, structured events, any ceremony or ritual, would just leave it to be another Bank Holiday and that is exactly what happened to Errol Barrow Day.

These things do not happen by themselves. Somebody has to consciously and deliberately put in place and set a train of events in motion. When one goes to London and watch, the Changing of the Guard Parade, somebody started that sometime, it did not just drop out of the sky. Somebody had an idea sometime and said, "let us start this" and built up a tradition and it has not become an established international spectacle. The same thing has to happen in every society. So to blame the Barbados Labour Party for not developing Errol Barrow Day is no fault of ours. You named it when it was on your watch and you did nothing about it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Therefore the fault is that you were short sighted.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Not you, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party. You are never short-sighted, Sir. The Democratic Labour Party did not see beyond naming a day and did not put in place any arrangements any ceremony or any ritual and therefore it was just a Bank Holiday or a fete day. You go to the beach, you play cricket and you cool out. There was nothing meaningful to commemorate Barrow, nationally. I feel that if he is supposed to be the first national hero, there should have been a national set of events to give him the grandeur that he deserved.

That is what is going to happen to Mr. Barrow on April 28th, and all the other National Heroes and unless that is done, any other event will just fade it away. It is what we have been attempting to do with Community Independence. You have to give people leadership and guidance and they will start to generate their own ideas.

Sir, I could not end, Sir, unless I paid some attention to the contribution and the Honour accorded Grantley Adams. I grew up within a quarter mile of Grantley Adams, as he then was and of course, in the 1950s one heard great stories of this legendary figure. In fact I remember my first political meeting, when seeing him experiencing his stature in the 1951 elections that got me hooked on politics. I remember going down Spooners Hill in front of Grace Hill School where there was a shop belonging to Ms. Clarke and seeing this towering figure with a massive head and booming voice of this grand man that one heard so much about, for first time speaking in person. Those were the days when one had to vote for M. E. Cox and T. O. Bryan.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have two more minutes.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Already Sir? I was really beginning to enjoy this. The point is that Sir Grantley Adams made a tremendous contribution to Barbados and I would like to correct any misinterpretation of events that Senator Boyce might have given, in making it seem that Grantley Adams and the Barbados Labour Party had been opposed to Independence.

What we argued all along was that we should have independence within a federation. I went to the meetings of the under forties and I know what was being said. The point is that even Mr. Barrow himself only went for Independence alone at the last minute when he and John Compton fell out and therefore could not discuss the idea of an independent federation. So we were never opposed to independence. All we are saying is that we were never opposed to

Independence *per se* but all were are saying was to let us try for it within a federation.

Sir, I just want to say, as I wrap up, that this is a tremendous moment in the history of Barbados and I hope that all Barbadians will come out on the 28th April to be part of the events. Apart from the events that are happening outside of Government Headquarters at 6.00 p.m. the Independence Committees that has been organising Community Independence Celebrations, they are also having a series of events in the communities in the morning up to about 4.00 p.m. when people are then supposed to close up and come down the Bay Street for the magnificent moment.

Therefore we are making sure that just as we have tried to with independence, to not just focus on Bridgetown, but that for National Heroes to be meaningful it has to encompass the community and incidentally as the very same groups are celebrating National Heroes Day in their communities. They are also selecting and honouring some of their Community Heroes, who have made contributions in their communities and they think they should single out for attention.

I would just like to close, Sir, by saying that, if I might quote Will Rogers:

"We can't all be heroes because someone has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by."

I, Sir, am proud to be able to sit on the curb and clap as this magnificent ten go by into the pages of history.

I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I am sure that this is a historic moment. After all it is the first time Barbados is going to be celebrating a National Heroes Day and so this is an important enterprise that we are taking part in today.

I see it as a coming of age because we have had all of the trappings, we have had all the symbols of independence and nationhood and now I see us manifesting what we thought we meant by being a country and nation by putting in front of our population National Heroes for those to come. Actual flesh and blood human beings. Now I am not going to talk in any in-depth way about the persons whom we have had before us as National Heroes.

Generally speaking I think they have been good choices. I will have of course, my particular pleasure in seeing people like Bussa, the proper pronunciation of that African name Bussa and I am happy to see that there is a woman there.

The point I am making is that we have to pass on our values to the young people. We see the whole question in terms of criteria of sacrifice, leadership, extraordinary achievement and we all support these values. One of the most important things to me that comes out of this whole exercise is the fact that we begin to see a new spirit in Barbados which seeks to give praise where praise is due. Which seeks to glorify and honour those who came from us. And hopefully the people will stop pulling down and tearing down. It is bad for the human spirit of course. What is happening here as I see it is a spiritual boost, a sense of which we are moving up in consciousness.

3.55 p.m.

I am so happy to see it and I really have to thank this Government for the fact that they seemed to have embraced Pan-African notions of what is important for our society to understand who they are, where they come from and where they are going. I am saying that in the context that we now have an Emancipation Day. We now have recognised our national heroes. We have recognised Clement Payne as a hero.

One of the things about this is what it gives to the people who seemingly have been on the fringes. It makes them more acceptable, their ideas more central to this country than was seen 10 to 15 years ago. By the way, in this context I want to say that in the context of achieving a lot of the agenda of Pan Africanists I would like it to be recorded that we have felt for a long time that national heroes should be recorded and remembered and promoted but, in this context, I would like people to remember that we still feel, and I must thank Senator Boyce for even mentioning the name, that we must move from the national to the universal.

I hope that we are large enough and mature enough to honour one of the greatest men of the century. We have pushed for it and I want to see it happen and I hope it will happen that Farley Hill becomes the national park named after Nelson Mandela. It is part of our whole orientation towards giving honour where honour is due, to be recognising what is good and right and wonderful in the human spirit to not only say that we value leadership, sacrifice, compassion, integrity. We value those who can sacrifice and yet be forgiving and loving and feel that they have a responsibility as a leader to change the consciousness of the people of the world.

I never assumed that what we are doing here or doing in Parliament must be taken lightly. I have always felt that the whole question of being leaders in a society especially in a society that has only had 30 odd years of independence. After all we have been a society that has had as Senator Laurie has reminded us, over 300 years of Parliament and yet this is a society that only last year recognised officially the contribution of the majority of the people of this country, the descendants of African slaves.

I find it absolutely amazing that a country could have gone on living without the depth, the deep-rootedness of who made this country what it is today. We cannot say it often enough that sometimes the true heroes of a country are the unsung, sometimes, sadly enough, the heroes of our country can probably be seen in the geriatric hospitals. Sadly enough, I think that some of the heroes of our country never get the opportunity even to be thanked for what they have done.

What we do is symbolically and ritually get together to say these are the values which are embodied in these people. We hope that our children and our children's children will recognise that what we set up for them as national heroes are really values that must be enshrined in their daily lives, values not only as I said of sacrifice and leadership and excellence but values which as I explained in people like Nelson Mandela go beyond the purely material to values of consciousness moving us away from those negative things in life which make us want to destroy rather than to build up, to divide rather than unite.

As it has been said over and over again the question of national heroes must unite us and not divide us. The question of national heroes must be a question which says to everyone we know who we are, we love who we are and we will continue to give praise and thanks and honour to those we think deserve it because we praise and give thanks and honour and love ourselves.

I am not going to be as usual taking a long time to say what I have to say. All I have to repeat is that this is a historical moment in Barbados. It is a coming of age and it hopefully is the beginning of a new era, an era that encourages us to give honour where honour is due, to give respect where respect is due.

4.00 p.m.

In reference to something Senator Murray said, I think we have to turn back the thinking in the Caribbean of the people who somehow are involved in Governments, people who are Parliamentarians, people who are politicians are somehow people we cannot trust and people we do not give the respect due. We must begin to show by the example of our heroes that we must begin to love, respect and cherish those people who are making the sacrifices in time, money or whatever it is, to say that they are willing to carry on the business of Government.

It is with absolutely great pleasure, Mr. President, that I must repeat as a Pan-Africanist, as someone who – I like the expression "seized the day". I was so happy I used that expression the last time we were here. I am so happy that this Government has seized the day in terms of using the issues

that seem to be marginal issues in this country and has brought it on centre stage. I am saying they can go one step further and make Farley Hill known as the Nelson Mandela National Park.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, I rise to make my contribution to this Bill but, like Senator Davis, I am pleased to see that the history of this country has now been made not only incarnate by this development but a fresh set of vestments has been put onto the structure of our history.

Sir, this now brings our history into focus. As it were we stopped in 1966 and everything else just sort of ebbed along. One only has to go over the bridge to see a picture of the late Prime Minister, Mr. Barrow, fading out. One does not know what colour the man was. You cannot make out his facial structure, nothing of that. It was left there to pale in the setting sun evening after evening, day after day.

It gives me, Sir, even greater pleasure to see that this Administration . . .

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Sir. I hate to interrupt the Honourable Senator but he is misleading the Honourable Senate. The image of Mr. Barrow in the arch has long been replaced by a copper carving, to use the word loosely, a copper template and it is no longer the photograph which he is referring to.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: I am glad to hear that something has been done. It grieved me whenever I passed there particularly when I was in a traffic jam, to be honest, Sir.

Sir, we live in an island which like many cosmopolitan countries is very cruel in its customs be it culture, religion or the arts. One thing we must be very careful about as this plurality begins to creep in, is we may begin to lose our identity and with something like this, honouring our heroes, it will bring us right back into perspective and bring us back on track.

There was a time, Sir, where religion was mainly Christian, Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Moravian, you name it but now we have to contend, because the world is but one big city, with the Rastafarian religion. We have to contend with the high religion and several other religions. Therefore, we begin to lose, as history creeps on, what today is of significance, what today is a high point, what today may represent the key stone of our culture in another 50 – 60 years would just be but another brick in the wall.

This same plurality, Sir, applies to music, art, food, you name it. In other words, Sir, the country is undergoing a

constant metamorphosis, and we have to be very careful that this metamorphosis does not lose the true origin and the starting point of the country.

4.05 p.m.

Sir, some months ago I was in the company of some younger folks around the ages of 30 and 35 years old and I was surprised to learn that these young people really did not understand about Independence. I asked the question, what does Independence mean to you and they were all blank. One youngster was bold enough to say, a bank holiday and then all the others said, yes, it is a bank holiday, it is just another day off.

Sir, if we do not remind young people as to whom the trail blazers are and have been then because we are assuming that they know and because it is put on radio or television that they ought to know, we are wrong. We have to reinforce it, we have to keep mentioning it time and time again, it has to be brought into the schools. I will speak about that later on.

Sir, only to show you that we could be in our own little domain and do not know what is going on. Only a year and a half ago I was travelling across Brittons Cross Road and there was a group of young primary school children running across the road and the Prime Minister was travelling one or two cars ahead and I heard a little boy coming out of Budg-Buy saying, look the Governor-General. He said to his friends, look the Governor-General. At first I laughed but then I said, this is very serious. If our children cannot appreciate what is going on right here now, nothing to do with the Errol Barrows or the Grantley Adams or the Tom Adams, then, Sir, this is telling me that there is a big bridge in our history be it current or past and that we are taking a bit too much for granted.

Sir, in North America, the country from which we copy lock, stock and barrel – wholesale, the smallest child can appreciate or recognise the contribution or know a bit of history about the Jeffersons, the Lincolns or the Kennedys, irrespective of ethnicity and/or religion. They know their sports heroes. In other words, Sir, we must at all times keep our heroes firmly etched and in the forefront of our minds and memories of our children because our children and our children's children will at some time be the ones in the position that we are in here today.

Sir, if we allow our Sundays and our holy days to go into oblivion, if we allow our heroes and our builders to go unnoticed in our country, then the country is fast in rewind.

I do not believe in having a mere picture of our builders and our heroes on the currency notes. I do not think that is enough. Those of us my age and older would remember when our copy books had on a picture of Her Royal

Highness right on the front. I am saying that the time has come now for us to have the pictures of our heroes on the copy books of the primary school children.

Asides.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: They will have to be taught and be tested because it would seem that the only way that you can get the modern child to really take cognisance of certain things is if he or she is tested. Once they are not tested, they tend to relegate the material to a lower division somewhere in their brains. A section of our common entrance examination, Sir, should be reserved for a compulsory question dealing with our builders and our heroes.

Although we may seem to be long behind countries like Jamaica in recognising our heroes, I must assure you that the way in which this debate is being conducted outside of this Chamber, be it on the street or be it on the call-in programme, is living testimony that Barbadians have welcomed and have longed for this juncture in its history.

Sir, the mere fact that I am able to contribute and to participate in this debate represents one of the high points in my personal life.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill and to say that I rise as a Barbadian who recognises the contribution of these ten heroes who have contributed to the formation of the society that we enjoy today and who have brought us to the stage of democracy and freedom that we enjoy.

Quite frankly, I think that that is at the core of the matter, that we need to let people know where we came from and the lack of human freedoms that obtained in the past.

Mr. President, I have had some acquaintance with heroes and the deeds that they have done to be so called, albeit in a different sphere of human activity. I understand the fear that they overcame. I understand the threat of death and I understand what people do when they put their lives at risk for the good of their fellowman.

This is the type of activity that we are talking about here today. People who put their lives and family at risk, never mind their personal belongings, you can always get more of them but you have one life to give. There are people here who remember bullets being fired at Tyrol Cot. They remember the threats that were made against Sir Frank Walcott, they remember the tremendous sacrifice that these people made in the 1937 riots and into today. We take for

granted the tremendous freedoms that we have, that underpin our democracy.

Today it is very convenient for some countries to say that because you have had an election that you are a democracy but democracy goes a lot further than that. The gift that our forefathers have given Barbadians today is the development and the appreciation of those freedoms which were hard fought for and not easily won.

I recognise the fact that Barbados was settled in 1627 and that there are many countless generations that have contributed much to the development of our infrastructure, to the development of our economy and to the development of the society that we have here today. I know a few businessmen that have risked their lives to make their contributions. This is the defining difference between someone who has contributed mightily and a national hero. It is as simple as that. Therefore, when we look through history's pages to analyse and decide who will be our national heroes and who are really our national heroes, the criteria is very very clear. Those people who have been selected I support wholeheartedly. Some previous mention was made of Sir John Gay Alleyne. His very good friend Joshua Steele who was an Englishman and who owned the Kendal Plantation was really an abolitionist. He virtually abolished slavery on his plantation at Kendall. He died in 1796 but he did not go through to full manumission because in those days the cost of manumission was prohibitive. He had a *de facto* type of release of slaves from bondage. However, he did not suffer any undue hardships or put himself at great risk nor did he make a fundamental change in the direction. He was part of a movement that eventually got under way and which took some sacrifice and some violence on the part of the slave rebellion in the early nineteenth century to bring things more to a head.

I think, Mr. President, that we have recognised those who have really transformed this society and have made Barbados the nation that it is today a nation of which I am very proud. I am very proud to be part of it. I am proud to be part of this debate and I am proud to be able to honour those citizens that we are so honouring today. I totally support this Bill.

I recognise that my own family has been here since 1648 and they have made contributions in the area of planting, I assume. Certainly I know in the area of fishing down at Consett Bay because I have a beautiful photograph taken in 1885 with some of my ancestors all of whom were dressed in burlack bags. I know something of the poverty that they came from and some of the hardships that they endured.

When it comes to Sir Grantley Adams, Mr. President, this is someone whom I know as a young boy and therefore

I can still relate to some of the defining history because I could hear this first hand from my parents and my uncles and I have some feel for what transpired and I can imagine the tremendous pressure that was put on that gentlemen as he strove mightily to transform this country into a modern day democracy and did so peacefully and did so for all the citizens of this country.

I think, Mr. President, that this Bill deserves the wholehearted support of this Senate and I so extend my support to it.

Thank you.
4.20 p.m.

I think, Mr. President, that this Bill deserves the wholehearted support of this Senate and I so extend my support to it. Thank you.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, like all others I have to give support to this Bill before us today and in doing so I consider it a great privilege to be a part of what I call a historic collective parliament which began yesterday in the Other Place and is continuing today in This Place as we seek to give passage to and legal effect to the Bill before us, a Bill which will honour people of our soil who through a spirit of sacrifice and dedication and vision have given to us today the freedom and the human dignities which we enjoy and which, perhaps, some of us so easily take for granted.

The substance of all that we are seeking to debate today really lies in the criteria for eligibility as set out in the Schedule to the Bill. Although there is room perhaps for varying views to be given as to the method by which the advice should reach the Governor-General I think those pale into insignificance when we understand or ought to understand that no sensible Prime Minister in any age would make a decision of this magnitude without consultation with persons in the appropriate places.

Many are the cries of historians that they have been omitted from consultation. But I say, Sir, that historians compile our history and we thank God that through some of these same heroes we today in this chamber have got ability to interpret the history and apply the history to the context of today's situation. So, Sir, it is necessary for us today to reflect on words from Ecclesiasticus 44 with which I know, Mr. President, you are very familiar, particularly the opening verses. "Let us now praise famous people (famous men) and our fathers in their generations". But just to say that as the writer of Ecclesiasticus was thinking of the word famous, it does not mean famous in the way in which we earthlings understand fame but rather that famous goes to the piety of the individual. So the essence of this piece of legislation lies

not in saying, 'look me here', but rather, what is my life speaking that builds good human society. That is the essence and the criteria on which this legislation is founded.

The writer, Sir, of Ecclesiasticus goes on to say "there are some of them who have left a name so that man declare their praise". But more importantly, and there are some who have been named today, "and there are some who have no memorial, who have perished as though they had not lived. They have become as though they had not been born and so have their children after them". Listen now, Sir, "but these were people of mercy whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten" and we remember those righteous deeds today and that is why we are part and parcel of this process of passing this piece of legislation entitled the Order of National Heroes Act 1998.

The writer goes on, and this is what the legislation is about, "Their posterity will continue forever and their glory will not be blotted out." Those are very heavy words, Mr. President, but they are words which we as a country need to recognise and cherish and utilise, not just for us of this generation but for the successive generations which are to come. Therefore, Sir, this Bill must not find its roots in political madness or political myopia; it must not be rooted in political partisanship, but I believe, Sir, that it needs to be rooted in very firm and sound principles of giving honour where honour is due, giving interpretation to the facts which have made our history and also giving expression to those facts.

I believe, Sir, it must be based on the principles of writing our history's pages in correctly corrected perspective as we seek to put right some of the wrongs of our past and to move on into the future. This Bill, Sir, must be seen as harnessing and preserving for posterity the gifts and graces and the ingenuity of men and women of the past and present generations whose selfless and gratuitous service have enured for the welfare and the well being of others.

Much has been said, Sir, concerning the 10 persons who have been named and I do not think it is necessary for me to elaborate on what has been said before. But, Sir, I think that I need to make specific mention of the one female who has been honoured, who in Methodist circles is known as "The Heroine of Methodism". And as you know, Sir, I am a Christian but belong to the Methodist denomination, with an ecumenical spirit. Sarah Ann Gill, Sir, and myself share a common birth day February 16. As we look back to the history surrounding this dear lady it makes nonsense of statements attributed to certain historians that all she did was to prop up a church. That supports my contention that we are gifted enough to interpret the history of our country. What is important in human life is the sowing of seed. Those seeds can be seeds of good or seeds of destruction. As you know, Sir, and I am sure Senator Laurie knows better than all of us,

when you sow a seed that seed may or may not germinate; but those that germinate will go on to bear fruit and it is that type of fruit which has come from the seeds sown by the life of Sarah Ann Gill which have grown and borne tremendous fruit which, in accordance with the words of the criteria in the legislation, has altered the course of the history of Barbados.

Let us look at the circumstances in which she lived, and, if I may, Sir, I would like to quote from 'Methodism 200 years in Barbados' by one of our local historians, Mr. Francis Woody Blackman, which I make a document of the House. Sarah Ann Gill was persecuted and prosecuted not once but twice. On the second occasion on which she was prosecuted the prosecution was brought by the Honourable, the House of Assembly of this country purporting to be brought under a law which had been abolished in England but which the hierarchy of that day, at all levels, had used to terrorise and to keep in order those who sought to use their mouths to assert their God-given freedom. One of these who spoke out was Sarah Ann Gill.

4.30 p.m.

So today the Parliament of Barbados in the passage of this legislation is confessing a sin of our forefathers in Parliament and we need to say "Father forgive them in their ignorance of that time." That is the circumstance in which Sarah Ann Gill was living.

At the tender age of 24 she was willing to give £10, which was a lot of money, for the establishment of the then city chapel on Chapel Street at a time when the Methodists of that time who were and still are great social reformers began to speak for the freedom of coloured persons and slaves the plantocracy of that age, these are just facts, I am not pointing any fingers. I do not think there is anybody thin skinned in here, but these are facts of our history, the plantocracy of that age did not do what some will go today and get somebody else to do the dirty work, they with their own hands pulled down the building, piece by piece.

The then Minister, Reverend Shrewsbury had to flee from this island for his safety and the persecution continued against Sarah Ann Gill under what was called the Conventicle Act of 1664. This meant that people like my goodly Senator friend Cannon Jimmy and myself, could not associate because that Act prevented Methodists in groups of more than five from having any kind of meeting which they thought would be contrary to the established church which was the Anglican Church.

So we are seeing, Sir, the pit from which we have been dug through the life and witness of Sarah Ann Gill. It is her money, Sir, which was generously given to establish the church at James Street, where the mother church of Methodism in Barbados stands today. All she has been

given by our Methodist Church in recognition is a grave hidden at the back of the same Methodist Church and the oldest broken down wooden church which was at Eagle Hall and is now relocated in the new building in Fairfield Cross Road in Black Rock.

Had it not been for the oppression of that day, the James Street Methodist Church would have been named the Sarah Ann Gill Memorial Church and none of our Methodists in spite of a call from my own voice have had the guts to make that change and I say to my fellow Methodists that the time has come now, as I said before, that the James Street Methodist Church should be renamed the Sarah Ann Gill Memorial Church and that the new church in Fairfield should be named in memory of the late Rev. Dr. David Mitchell who tirelessly fought for the removal from the old rotten church building at Eagle Hall to the new site in Fairfield.

Now, Sir, that was the seed sown by Sarah Ann Gill. What fruit has it borne to alter the course of history and of life in this country.

4.35 p.m.

The Methodist Church, not alone, was in the forefront in education. Schools were built throughout the length and breadth of this country. Providence in the South, Speightstown in the West, Beulah, Shrewsbury and Ebenezer in the East. Providence is where Senator Farley went on Sunday. Selah in the North. Wesley Hall Boys and Girls which began in what is now the Hurd Memorial Building in James Street and was later split and the girls remained in James Street and the boys went to what is now known as the Youth Town Building at the corner of Sobers Lane and Baxters Road in the City.

The Ministers of the Methodist Church became chairmen of many of those school boards and through the collective efforts of the Church, and I use that word "church" in its plurality, Government recognised the need for harnessing the educational resources culminating with the Education Act of 1877.

In the field of culinary arts, the Methodist Church for years at a peppercorn rent has permitted the Government to use those lands on Bay Street where the Housecraft Centre was established and ably run by my own godmother, the late Ivy Alleyne, sister of Charles Alleyne, the former Government Statistician. Arising out of those classes at the Housecraft Centre many young women learnt not only how to provide for their own families but were able to obtain jobs in the guesthouses within Barbados and these have been the precursor of what is now the Hotel Training School.

Another fruit of the seed sown by Sarah Ann Gill is the fruit of social change brought about by the agitation of the Reverend Francis Godson who brought a sense of community responsibility for the aged and the indigent and the underprivileged. It was through his tireless efforts that Government recognised its duty, rather than being ashamed of its neglect, and old age pensions were introduced in this country.

In the field of community development, in 1954, the Methodist Church organised a national arts festival to give expression to the giftedness of our people. Again, Sir, a precursor of the National Cultural Foundation.

In terms of Christian citizenship, the Methodist Church has always spread the gospel of temperance. It has always been against gambling in all forms and the evils of alcoholic liquors and, to this day, in the same Hurd Memorial Building on James Street owned by the Methodist Church Alcoholics Anonymous meets several times per week.

The Methodist Church, Sir, has given to this country two Governors-General, Sir Winston Scott, my god-father, and Dame Nita Barrow of recent loving memory. Dame Nita not only served as Governor-General but was recognised by the World Council of Churches as a pioneer for education. In the field of business we have a stalwart like Sir Archibald Cuke who was a member of the Bethel Methodist Church.

The point I am trying to make is that Sarah Ann Gill fulfills ably the criteria set out in the Schedule of this Act. The Schedule to the Act is really the meat of all we are doing today.

I agree, Sir, that we need to establish some place or places where the virtues of these heroes and heroines of ours can be ably extolled and fully ventilated. I understand my goodly brother, friend and senatorial colleague, Senator Springer, on the issue of statues. I, myself would prefer a plaque placed in a garden of remembrance; and when I say a plaque, a life-size plaque on which we engrave the virtues of these people. In this garden of remembrance the history and the struggle of our people can be carefully and clearly etched out in lasting bronze for all generations, not only to come to see but moreso from which they can learn and emulate.

It is these virtues which are being lost in society at this stage in life and which we must reclaim if we are to continue to build on the foundations set by our forefathers in the faith.

I congratulate all those on whom this great honour has been conferred, those who have gone before and those who are yet alive with us. To say, Sir, in respect of Sarah Ann Gill that although those of her time did not see fit to bestow on her her rightful due, through this legislation, and through

the process of time, the God she served has put it into the heads of those responsible for elevating her to this high honour to remove her from the lowly place in which she was put and given her a title above all others, the title of Right Excellent.

Today, Sir, is a very important day in the history of our nation and all people of this nation and all people who love this nation must grasp fully and properly the significance of the step we are taking today and use it as a fulcrum to push us onwards and upwards resting not in a quest for fame, not in a quest for what we have done as a political party, but resting in the quest and search for truth and change so that that truth and change can propel us to make a difference in the years to come.

Mr. President, I am happy to support this Bill and pray that we who now enjoy the fruits of the sacrificial labours of those whom today we seek to honour may use to the benefit of ourselves and our children and grandchildren after us those great virtues which have made Barbados the hallmark and the gem and the jewel of the Caribbean and indeed the gem and the jewel of the wider world. Thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 5.10 p.m. today.

The question that the sitting do now suspend until 5.10 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR MISS C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I am feeling very honoured to be part of this Honourable Chamber and to be given the opportunity to make comments on this Bill. I want to say how privileged I am and I know other Honourable Senators are to see that the time has arrived when all of us as proud Barbadians have been able to identify from among us 9 heroes and one heroine.

I think that it is significant to our history and it says how mature this Government has been in putting forward or implementing such important aspects of our history that we know have been lacking for years. We know too that there are thousands of people within our various communities who have over many years performed with distinction. They have

given yeoman service to their various communities and institutions. We know that all of them cannot be put into categories. We know that the criteria are set out as to the eligibility of the individuals here mentioned.

I want, Mr. President, to laud these efforts, particularly in the light of the youth in our society. We know that we forever criticise them, sometimes taking the small percentage of those who are on the negative track and making it look as though it is the 99.9%. I think that a measure of this nature will really go a long way in helping our young people to identify with role models and the heroes that we identify not to mention the heroes within their communities, particularly their parents, the priests, the police officers, the teachers, the nurses and many others within the community whom we know have continued to play a very important role in helping to shape and mold them to be the kind of Barbadians we know would be assets to our society as the years roll on.

Ever so often it is easy for them... I am not going to call it cultural penetration as such, but it is more that kind of cultural cross fertilisation with other Caribbean countries and the rest of the world. Certainly within the household where I live almost every tee-shirt shows Bob Marley or Marcus Garvey or Malcolm X or any other of the heroes and I have absolutely no difficulty, because if you are living in a changing world, then we need to let our young people know that it is not only your history that you should be familiar with but also the history of many of the other nations and the other cultures in the world.

So I think it is important that we in Barbados take this opportunity to promote the outstanding work that these pioneers have played in the development of our country and in our history. I know that only a few historians have been able to register our history. Certainly when I was at primary and secondary school we heard a lot about Columbus and Lord Nelson and many others but we heard very little about the same people in Barbados many of them being some of the heroes and the heroines that have now been identified and therefore we found it very difficult to be able to identify with them and the outstanding role that they have played. I want at this point to encourage the various Government institutions as well as those that are private, to ensure that the educational programmes be well prepared and that the documentaries be made available in the media houses, at CBC, in GIS, in the print media so that all and sundry could get opportunities to be able to learn about their heroes and about others in their history who have helped to make Barbados to be the safe country that I consider it to be as a Barbadian having lived here all my life.

Mr. President, I want to encourage the other Government institutions, the various Ministries, to play their part as well in ensuring that the pamphlets, the video tapes and the books, documentaries and other things are also made

available so that our young people can get opportunities to know about those pioneers who have gone before and those who are living now that they can identify with.

I think that it is particularly important that there are individuals who are alive who have been identified on that list so that young people in particular can get opportunities to rub shoulders with them, to be able to sit and interview them, to be able to hear about the important roles that they played during their lives to be able to help Barbados to reach this stage in its maturity.

It is okay to talk about watching movies and seeing Mr. T and these various people whom our children identify with, but it would be good if many of them can start to emulate persons of the kind of Sir Garfield Sobers and Sir Frank Walcott those two who are alive as well as to know about the other heroes that have gone before.

Mr. President, I also would encourage many of those individuals who are looking at businesses not only the business workers now but people within communities who are extremely talented and very gifted to start looking at ways and means of using these same heroes in their handicraft so that that is another medium through which individuals can learn a bit more. The memory is there if you see the face of one of these heroes on a tie or a handbag, in the books that you can buy in the bookstore, momentos that you can see on your display cabinets in your houses and the offices. I think that that is very important to help whip up interest and to educate our people in this little country.

I am confident, Sir, that this historic exercise will bring about a consciousness among our people to help them to be able to fill that void that has been in existence for many years.

I am pleased to be associated with this Government and the outstanding role it has been playing in helping to educate Barbadians about where they have come from, where they are, and in helping to point them where they should go. Certainly it is not only this Government but successive governments. One has built on the other.
5.20 p.m.

Therefore it says that as a wise set of people we do not tear down, push down and knock down but we continue to carry on from where the other has left off to help cement whatever it is we are doing.

Certainly, Mr. President, if we continue as people in our society to whom young people look for guidance as Members of this Honourable Senate, or even of the Other Place, it is very important that we be very cautious and conscious of the things we say because it is okay for us to say one thing in here and not to think that it reaches the

public. We cannot continue to tear down and pull down. At the end of the day we want one Barbados. We need to give praise where praise is due to all of those pioneers in history who have played their role.

As I said earlier, Mr. President, I know we have a lot of unsung heroes and therefore everybody cannot be a hero identified here now, but if we continue as a people to play our roles in our communities and educate others and bring them along – there is no point in us reaching a particular stage in life and becoming snobbish and far removed from the others. We who have benefitted from this society need to put back some of what we have been able to receive into the society to help those who may be less fortunate, those who are the underprivileged or poor, or whatever their status might be at this time. It is important that we bring everyone along with us.

Finally, Mr. President, I want to say that it is okay for us as well to be talking about our heroes but I think what is very significant to this whole effort is to encourage our people, not only young people now because we have some very senior people in our society who are very undisciplined, and I think we need to let them understand that discipline has been the hallmark of what many of these individuals would have done. It is as a result of the good discipline that was instilled in them that they were able to develop virtues such as good courage, not to back off when they knew they were standing up for something that was upright and proper, or virtues such as honesty.

Many of us look at honesty, we look at the word and talk about it but in truth and in fact many of us do not practise honest habits. Those are the things young people look at us for and say: "Politician, my eye. Priest, what? They are only wearing cloth. Teacher, what? They only want the money" and they criticise us because we do not actually always practise what we preach.

I think these heroes would have been people who would have stood up for what was correct and proper, were very well disciplined and they shared whatever experiences they had with their people to bring them along with them so they would not be leaving them behind in any situation where they would remain illiterate, or remain impoverished or whatever the situation.

Certainly, Senator Workman would have spoken to the heroine who would have done many, many things within her community and the wider Church to be able to bring along individuals so that they could reach a higher stage in the society and benefit as a result.

Indeed, the Barbados Labour Party, Mr. President, has stuck to what has been outlined in its Manifesto on page 18 to do with Heroes Day and actually made it a reality. I am

indeed very privileged to see that these 10 individuals have been identified in this lifetime that I know that my children and grandchildren will get an opportunity to get a better feel of what is a hero and what things heroes do. They will recognise that everybody cannot be a hero but, certainly, the little bit I can do in my block or in my area can help reflect something good to another set of people in another community. It is like lighting that little candle in the corner where you are brightening it so that the light will radiate and it will spread to reach out to others in the society.

Mr. President, we know of the indelible mark these pioneers have made in the lives and the history of our country. I want to commend them, those who have passed and those who are yet alive, for the service they have given and I want others to try to emulate them so that they too can play their part and be heroes within their communities, schools, churches and the institutions in which they work. I am sure that if this is practised by all Barbados will indeed be a better paradise for all of us to live in peace and comfort as we approach the new millennium.

I want, Mr. President, to lend my full support to this Bill and to encourage other Barbadians to keep the good fight. Remember our forefathers and foreparents, including the females, who have played their part in helping to chart the course that we in Barbados have now reached and are so privileged to be able to live in this safe and peaceful society.

I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill wholeheartedly. I personally do not know about the history of these people but I would like to congratulate the Government, the Committee and the persons themselves who will be awarded this Honour. I am not a historian. I am not very good at history because I used to make up my own facts myself so I have no intention of going into any historical context about this.

Mr. President, although I am very happy for this momentous occasion which is historical, I am a bit saddened that out of the 10 persons identified as exceptional persons only one could be found to be a woman. I would have felt a bit better, Mr. President, if they could have searched a bit harder or examined the records a bit more because I am sure that they would have been able to identify more than one heroine among the batch of National Heroes.

Why I am saying this, Mr. President, it is very easy for the boys, the young men to identify with all of these male heroes. It is not that easy for the females to identify with male heroes and even when the females start identifying with the men, and trying to do what the men are doing, they are criticised. They are not feminine enough. They want to wear pants, *et cetera*.

My point is that we should try and balance it a bit so that we can have enough women that we would like to groom our young people to use as heroines and role models and look up to. Nobody is perfect but at least you could say at least this is what I would be aspiring to, because it is difficult for me as a woman to be aspiring to these 9 men and there is only one woman.

Mr. President, it is not gender but what I am trying to get across is that we need to identify some more heroines. I will make up one, Mr. President. There is one called Dame Nita Barrow and this is not the first time that I am calling her a heroine. When she was appointed Governor-General I wrote that she was a true heroine of Barbados. It was the best thing that could happen to Barbados and it turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to Barbados. The young, the old, the black and the white of everywhere liked her. She did a lot in Barbados.

5.30 p.m.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, this is my opinion and I am saying it because I feel that Dame Nita Barrow does meet all the qualities and the criteria set out in the paper and goes way beyond that. She goes way, way beyond the criteria, to the Commonwealth, and to the world.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: She has trained society both locally and internationally. I was here to witness someone calling Farley Hill, Nelson Mandela Park but she has helped to change society. She was on the eminent persons' list. She has taught us and she has taught me. She was my examiner and I am a role model.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, seriously speaking, it is good to have heroes and a heroine but they are many female heroines around. Who is responsible for bringing all of these men into this world and nurturing them and grooming them and risking their lives to do it? They are women who are heroines. You do not have to be in the public's eyes. You do not have to be a trade unionist to be a hero or heroine. You do not have to be able to speak on a platform. They are those heroines who worked assiduously, long and hard hours behind the men who we make role models. This is the plea that I am putting on behalf of women. It is very easy to identify persons who are in the public's eye because they are there but they are many who are not in the public's eye who have made their mark.

Mr. President, there is one plea that I would like to make and which I would like to add to Senator Forde's. It is about the education of our young people regarding persons identified to be heroes. We must educate our young people about it. When they get older they themselves will do research and they will find out what the heroes did be it in Barbados or wherever and what they did not do. I am sure that their research and their discussions will bear fruit.

There is one comment that I would like to make and I hope that it is taken in the correct way. We have two living heroes and I hope that it does not put an additional stress on them in order to follow a path to the extent that they cannot enjoy their lives fully. There are advantages and disadvantages of being a hero or heroine when you are alive and one of the disadvantages when you are alive, is the amount of public stress and pressure that could be placed upon you. You have to be able to deal with that because you are on a pedestal and you are a hero and therefore everything you do is going to be interpreted in the light of being on a pedestal. That is one of the disadvantages of the living hero.

I support all of these, I am not criticising it because I do not know the details about their contributions but these are some of the cautions and the warnings that I am making.

Mr. President, the reason why we knew so much about the Queen *et cetera* is that when we were in schools their pictures were all on the wall everywhere for everyone to see, the flag was there and we had to salute the flag every morning *et cetera*. These are things that were drilled into us. What we are going to have to do is that we are going to have to take their pictures and make sure that they are in every classroom throughout the country and of course the pictures of our Governors-General and Prime Ministers. They need to know all of this because this is historical.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I think the Ministry of Education will have to spend some money because it takes a little bit of money to reproduce them but they should be standing in each classroom for everybody to see so that when they look they will see the pictures of not only the heroes and the heroines but also the various persons who have lead this country, be it their Prime Ministers or Governors-General.

Mr. President, I would like to thank the Social Justice Commission for their work. I do not know if they are going to continue the work in identifying persons to be heros and heroines but if they do I would like them to think a bit more

in terms of more social justice and have some more women to be recommended for these positions. I am quite willing to help do some research although I am not a historian and I promise not to make up history about them but I am quite willing to help so that they can be identified.

Mr. President, I think that I have made all the comments that I felt strongly about and I would like to support this Resolution.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I believe that the events that unfolded in the Other Place yesterday and is unfolding right before our eyes today will perhaps be the last very significant event in the history of this country for this century. I feel particularly pleased as a member of this Chamber to be a part of that history.

I feel also particularly pleased that someone who sat in the position that you are now occupying has been singled out as one of the ten Barbadians who we seek to honour today as a national hero and I speak of no less a person than Sir Frank Walcott. Sir, it makes me feel particularly pleased that the contribution of someone who has held such a honoured position as President of this Chamber could be recognised not only for his contribution politically but for his contribution as a trade unionist.

5.40 p.m.

If there is one regret I have here this evening it is that the present leader of the Trade Union Congress, Senator Trotman, who had to be taken away from this Chamber for some personal reasons, could not be here to share in what I consider to be a very momentous occasion for anyone who has the interest of the Trade Union at heart as I am sure he has.

I really must say that I believe that we must not lose sight of the fact that among the 10 people who are honoured are 2 persons who are alive today and I have absolutely no problem making national heroes of those people who are alive today. Sir Frank Walcott and Sir Garfield Sobers have made distinguished contributions to the development of this country and I think that in particular Sir Garfield Sobers remains perhaps a person whom young people like myself and younger people could emulate.

Mr. President, I have the view, in the words of Queen Elizabeth that youth is a state of mind and not just a chronological factor. But I am happy that Sir Frank Walcott and Sir Gary Sobers have been singled out for honour in their lifetime. I think that the honouring of Sir Gary as a national hero sends a message to the young people of this country that irrespective of the humble background that they might have had, in spite of the fact that you might not have benefitted from a secondary education, that there are certain God-given talents that a person can have and if they strive

for excellence that they could achieve the highest honour that a country could bestow upon them and I think that is significant. And I think that at a time when our young people are emulating, in my opinion perhaps, the wrong role model, particularly because they choose to, because the media houses in this country have not been fair to our young people in pushing the likes of Sir Gary and the young cricketers and the people involved in culture, except perhaps for the area of music when they have situations where they can see the Michael Jordans, the Tiger Woods as heroes but the people who exemplify the culture and the psyche of the Barbadian poor young black people who strive for excellence have been left out of all the glitz and glamour that you get on television from week to week. I am happy for these two particular people.

I am also happy because I think that the contribution of Sir Grantley Adams is one that I personally am very proud of. I think that the significance of adult suffrage has been lost because it is something that our young people take for granted but when we reflect that it was only as recent as 1994 that our brothers in South Africa had this right and when we reflect on the amount of blood that was shed to achieve the right to vote then it becomes clear as to the significance of adult suffrage because had this process not occurred in Southern Africa, Nelson Mandela would not perhaps now be the President of that country. I think it is, in my opinion, perhaps his greatest contribution to this country and I want to make special mention of that in here today.

Sir, it was only last Thursday, except for the casual glance you would have travelling along Black Rock of the Ann Gill Memorial Church in Eagle Hall, that I knew anything at all about Ann Gill except for a programme on VOB on Thursday when I heard sentiments similar to what Senator Workman expressed here today which really enlightened me about this woman's contribution to the development of this country. I say that to make the larger point that I am fearful for the fact that we have identified 10 heroes and unless we start a process of education among our secondary and primary schools and also within the adult population because we had the admission here today by Senator Rickinson that she does not know a lot about these heroes, I think the process of education must now start. It is not enough to identify heroes to the young people of this country, people whom we expect them to use as role models if they do not know anything about them.

I believe strongly, Sir, that an initiative which I know took place only this term in the first forms of Queen's College and I hope would be, if it has not yet been done, carried throughout the primary schools and other secondary schools of this country where about 50 people whom the teacher has identified as having made significant contributions to Barbados from the time of its discovery as a project in which these first formers were asked to work on.

I believe strongly that this process must continue if our young people are to have an appreciation of our heroes.

Sir, I think that it is one of the areas that I would like to see addressed through the Ministry of Education that we would seek, through the school system, through the media, to truly educate our people about who our heroes are.

I also believe strongly that we could never really identify all those people who perhaps are deserving of the honour of a national hero. There are a number of us who did not have the privilege, like the planter class and the whites in early years, to have their story told. Many unsung heroes, slaves, who fought and whose contribution history has not recorded but whom we know we must hold in high esteem because deep within my heart I believe they have made a significant contribution to make this country what it is today.

Sir, I am not one who has any strong feelings about monuments to heroes or these sorts of things but I feel strongly that at a time like now when Barbados, in my opinion, needs to be greened I think that perhaps one of the things I would like to see done in memory of these heroes is a project which I know the Barbados Workers' Union had started along the Grantley Adams Highway, a project in which they were greening and planting trees all along the highway. I think it would be a good symbol, not only to celebrate this achievement of the naming of our national heroes but I think it would have had significant environmental and ecological significance that at a time like now when we are seeing so few trees around this country, if we can have a project that would see the greening of the highways from Grantley Adams all along the ABC Highway, the Highway 2A and around this country, as not only a lasting momenta to them but an event of environmental significance that we can look on and when we drive along the Highway, without having to read anything we can say, this was done in memory of those great heroes.

Sir, it is with this small contribution that I feel very pleased to be part of this historic occasion and I look forward to the day, Sir, when the character and the qualities of these people who exhibited extraordinary bravery and commitment and greatness, when we can take these qualities back to our communities throughout Barbados and become the local heroes of those young people who are looking for role models. It is with these few comments, Sir, that I commend this Bill to this Honourable Chamber. Thank you very much.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, I am one who always hate to speak at a time when everyone seemingly has exhausted everything that one could say on anything either in the Other Place or here about something as important as this Bill.

5.50 p.m.

But it is very important that I think that almost everyone or everyone in here has an opportunity to add something to this debate and this Bill.

I deem it, Sir, an honour and a privilege for me as a Member of this Chamber to be here when Barbados confers the Honour of the National Heroes for the first time. I think that we are part of history. This cannot be reversed. I also feel an immense sense of pride at being associated with the actions of a Government which understands how important it is for us to have people, National Heroes, that we can look up to and we can emulate.

I think, Sir, the major objective of this legislation, however, is that this Government understands how important the psychological welfare of our people is to the whole process of development. I think sometimes we get lost at looking at only the economic side or the wider social side, but specifically as it relates to the psychological welfare of our people, it is important that this particular Bill be tabled in the House of Assembly or in this Chamber or in Parliament at this time. This action, I believe, stands up just like all the other actions, for example, the day of national significance, the concept of August 1st as Emancipation Day. These are the kinds of acts that in my opinion lend to a Barbados of the future, a Barbados, Sir, in which we can respect and look up to the people who have really made it possible for us to be where we are today.

This debate, Sir, should never be about trying to score political points. It does not matter how we try to get over the concept of scoring political points some people still seem to bring it in. I believe that it makes no sense us arguing about whom the ten are or who else should have been added or whether or not there should be a wider consultative body. I think the important thing here is that we seek to understand that in any concept of noting the contribution of people there must be some subjective criteria to it. Whoever we would have put, or whatever the consultation would have been, we would have ended up still with somebody crying out and saying somebody else needed an opportunity or somebody else should have been given a chance at this time. I think, Sir, that what is important is that we respect the ones that have gone through. The ones that we honoured and that at sometime, which in the future we will have another opportunity to name national heroes in Barbados

I myself, Sir, have some concerns regarding the Bill, mainly along the lines, for example, as Senator Springer pointed out the concept of leaning heavily into the last 100 years of Barbados' existence. I suppose that this country, I am sure, had been built up over a number of years, much more so than 100 years and there were certainly a number of other people that could have been mentioned.

There is the fact too, of the concept of honouring living heroes. Honouring an individual while he or she is still alive obviously places a heavy burden on them trying to live up to the expectations that society places on them. That in itself is a measure of concern for me because national expectation will be high regarding anyone who is named as a hero while he or she is alive and it puts an undue amount of stress on them to live up to some expectation that the society may have created.

I think, Sir, we should never, however, even consider the concept of the withdrawal. I heard Senator Springer state some notion about how would you withdraw the concept of a national hero? I do not even think that we should even entertain the thought that a person, once named as a national hero should have the Honour withdrawn because I do not think that whatever he or she could do, I do not see it negating what that person had done initially to have been named as a national hero.

The concept of keeping the names secret or under wraps as Senator Springer also talked about, whether or not it was a secret. It was not really a secret. I wonder if these names were released earlier, if it would not have caused wider debate, complaint and descent in some ranks regarding whom the people were. I feel the body was well within their right to keep them under wraps for an initial period of time and then name them. I think there was enough national debate for everyone to vent their own concept of whom the national heroes should have been. I think the people that were put in place were well within their right to keep them where they were and not to cause undue descent in the society about who should have been named or who else should have been named along with them.

I am particularly pleased, Sir, to see that in this ten, Sir Garfield Sobers has been named. I want to spend some time on the fact that Sir Garfield Sobers was an athlete and that he has been named and I am not interested in where he came from. This goes beyond that. I am particularly pleased to see that an athlete has been chosen because in this society we still seem to be grappling with the concept that brain versus brawn. Now the fact that Sir Gary was one of the people, if you took any of the ten, a lot of people may say within the society that Sir Gary may be the least intellectual of all of the ten people that were named. The fact is that when I was going to school I remember all the jokes that people used to make regarding Sir Garfield Sobers and the fact of whether or not Garfield Sobers was an intellectual. Although I dispute the fact that Sir Garfield may be the least intellectual of all of them, I certainly believe and am heartened to see that by naming Sir Gary, we have moved out of a sphere of only naming politicians or would be politicians or people who acted like politicians to the concept of who a national hero should be.

Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir, I believe would have been lost in another generation had he not been named as a national hero. Because, the people that are becoming our national heroes particularly in Sports are the Michael Jordans and the Charles Barkleys of this world and not necessarily Sir Garfield Sobers.

I want to say this, just recently when the Barbados Carifta Team was going off they went into a retreat in St. Lucy at the Barbados Youth Service and one of the people that we contemplated and we actually called to speak to our athletes before they went away was Sir Gary. I am ashamed to say that some of our Carifta athletes did not know who Sir Garfield Sobers was. It is a strange thing that children at the age of 15, 15 and 14 did not know who Sir Garfield Sobers was. This is not an exaggeration. This is fact. I am saying that had it not been something as important as this piece of legislation to the people of this age Sir Gary could easily be lost in a generation or so. It is important that Sir Gary as an athlete is one of the people who is singled out and that contributions to national development do not only have to be made within some political sphere or sphere of development that we see as economic, but a social contribution that can be seen at the highest level.

Sir, of the ten people that are named I do think outside of Barbados I believe Sir Garfield Sobers is the best known of the ten. If one says he is the least intellectual of the ten, it is ironic enough that outside of Barbados, Sir Garfield Sobers is the best known of the ten globally, I try to put Sir Garfield Sobers with the likes of Mohammed Ali. If the American society or the American build society is one that can say that Mohammed Ali is the best known person on the face of the earth, I think that as a Barbadian I do not think there is any Barbadian that is known globally more than Sir Garfield Sobers. It sweetens my heart, Sir, as an athlete to be associated with the naming of Sir Garfield Sobers.

I also want to go on to say that the tabling of the legislation is not the only important point. What happens after the legislation is tabled is something that is of concern to me. It must be said that there is a need to constantly sensitise the people of Barbados, a continuing concept of education about our National Heroes. The public relations aspect of this Bill is also vitally important to how these National Heroes are seen and how they are respected within the communities for generations to come.

The recognition factor and the monuments that are erected to them are equally as important. I am trying to figure out in my mind how you would leave some lasting monuments to one of these Heroes if you do not erect a statue? If you do not erect some kind of monument. I heard Senator Springer say that he did not like statues a lot but

whenever I travel outside of Barbados and I travel anywhere in Europe or South America or wherever... I saw the big statue standing of Simon Bolivar in Caracas. This thing is tall. One is always inclined to ask a taxi driver who is this person, who is this man up there. I am saying that whether it is in a roundabout or whether it is at the side of a street anyone who is inquisitive enough will ask who is this person, what has this person done, why is this person standing there? 6.00 p.m.

I think it is necessary for us, Sir, to erect monuments to the memory of these people who have helped to build this nation and helped us live in a nation of which we can boast.

I want to make reference to Senator Laurie's part about the whole concept about why a white Barbadian would not make it into this list. When I consider the object of the Bill and I want to be very clear on this. The same way in which this is a very sensitive and delicate issue, the way in which Senator Laurie attacked it, some things must be said. I am going to say what must be said on this fact. The concept of our heroes inspiring us at this stage in our development and the fact that the majority of Barbadians are black, I want to make it clear that I believe that it would be difficult at this time within our society, given the criteria as laid out here for eligibility, given the social history of Barbados – I am not saying that any white person did not make a contribution to Barbados or to the development of Barbados I would never say that. What I am saying is that it is necessary at this time, given the objectives of the Bill and all that is happening around us in Barbados for us in this group of people to name people whom we, the masses of Barbados, can easily identify with.

The Act has deep significance as I said before for the psychological welfare of our people, given what is happening all around us. I am sure that in the future white Barbadians will be named. I am not dealing with right and wrong. This is not to say that whites did not make a contribution or that whites did not help to build Barbados. Given the history of Barbados where we have come from, where we are going and the existing and prevailing climate, it is necessary at this time that we name these black Barbadians to the honours list. It is important to identify the clear objectives of a Government that is building a nation. The concept is to use these national heroes to help develop our human potential, to help foster our cultural diversity and development, to nurture our excellence and to inspire our people, particularly our young people and that is why at this time it is necessary that these people that are named are black Barbadians.

Sir, I want to say that to continue to create the concept where these people are known and where these people are seen not only in Barbados, I believe that every Barbados mission overseas should carry the photographs of our national heroes. I believe that all government buildings

locally should carry the photographs of our national heroes. I believe that all schools need to have them displayed permanently. I believe that buildings in Barbados, public buildings, need to be named after them so that we can constantly make reference to them. I believe that the media need to constantly make reference to our national heroes. I believe that festivals and other cultural activities should be named after them.

I believe that it is important also that within this national curriculum that we are talking about that the history of these people will be told and be constantly told.

Finally, Sir, the title of Right Excellent. I have always wondered about the concept of Knight of St. Andrew and whether it fits into the whole culture, the history of Barbados. I think it is a little bit wordy and heavy when you call Sir Garfield Sobers or Sir Frank Walcott the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers. It sounds really good but it may be very wordy. I am happy that we can add this Right Excellent to his name, that truly identifies him with Barbados and things that Barbados can easily identify with and we know why he is there.

I close, Sir, by saying there are those of us who will dream and continue to dream in perpetuity. There are those of us who live to see our dreams become a reality and the Barbados Labour Party is not dreaming. We are making our dream come true. I, Sir, want to be associated with the Bill in a big way. This is history in the making and I am happy to say that I have been here to be associated with such a forward step. I thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I cannot let this occasion pass without adding to the record my sincere thanks to the Government of Barbados to have the vision, and the courage to institute National Heroes Day and to honour 10 people who, by their very lives, have made significant exemplary contributions to this Island which we all love and cherish. Sir, last year we had Emancipation Day being instituted and although a lot of people felt that they needed a special invitation and did not present themselves on this momentous occasion, I feel that all Barbadians felt that Emancipation Day, the whole idea of commemorating emancipation was forward thinking and it shows that the society was coming to grips with its past.

Sir, this Bill on National Heroes and the institution of National Heroes Day goes even further along the same path where every Barbadian, regardless of sex or colour comes to grips with the past. We cannot go forward as a nation unless we accept the reality of the past and we need to accept the fact that in this country of ours men had to sacrifice, some with their very lives, the ultimate sacrifice in order that the

sons and daughters of slaves can hold the highest offices and have the highest honours in this land of ours.
6.10 p.m.

Sir, I am reminded of the famous statement by our Lord that "greater love hath no man than a man to lay down his life for his friends." Some of them, Sir, paid the ultimate sacrifice. Some of them gave up lucrative careers in order to pave the way for generations following to reap the benefits of their service and today, Sir, we salute all 10 of them.

Now, Sir, the debate will go on as to whether there are too many. Some argue they should be more. We get all of these arguments, but no right-thinking Barbadians will pour any scorn on the idea of honouring those who have made significant contributions. Some Senators feel strongly that there should be more women. Some feel they should be more people of different races. Some people might feel that there should be more carpenters. All of us have our views on this but we are together with one common purpose that in spite of all the difficulty, the difference of who should be in and who should not be in, we all agree on one thing that we need to come to grips with our past and honour those who have made contributions to this society.

I am sure, Sir, all of us in here might come up with a different set although all of us would have common names in them but all of them would have a little difference here or there. That is beside the point. All 10 of these persons have made tremendous contributions to this country of ours and I am glad to be part of the Parliament of Barbados which passed, and I hope it is with acclaim, this piece of legislation.

Sir, the criteria as set out for being a National Hero are very clear and is given in the Schedule to the Bill. Two words are almost common, service and sacrifice. In all three of the criteria those words appear. I think, Sir, that whoever did the choosing have chosen well because they go so far back as to name those persons in our history who would not accept the condition of slavery but sought to put their lives at risk in order to effect an amelioration of the conditions of the slaves in those days.

Sir, to me I cannot put a face to Bussa but Bussa is me because I was part of what was going on so while we cannot put a face to the person, he represents me and he represents all those who came subsequently. Sir, to me he is more than a person. He is an ideal and a slave man who refused to be a slave, who cherished freedom and who believed that it was better to die for his rights than to accept conditions which were intolerable. That was an ideal.

Sir, I would find it extremely difficult to have alongside him a person who tolerated and participated in the very same system of slavery. I would have extreme difficulty that alongside those who fought against slavery you are going to

have those who could have made a difference but accepted the *status quo*, benefitted from the *status quo* and refused to raise their voices in protest against the system. I would have extreme difficulty with that sort of arrangement.

That, Sir, is something I am very clear on that in those days the system operated against the majority. Anybody who cooperated with the system was an active participant, as far as I am concerned, in the system because when you speak about choices you choose either to suffer affliction with the majority or benefit for a season from the sweat of the majority. You cannot have it both ways. So while we are naming heroes we must be cognisant of that fact. The person who is chosen must have sacrificed to bring about a betterment in the condition of the masses. I am very clear on that.

I am also happy to note, Sir, that around that same period a lady by the name of Sarah Ann Gill was honoured because whether we like it or not, religion has played and will continue to play an important role in the life, especially of the oppressed. Any person who dared at that time to stand up for religious freedom, to stand up so that people could express their religious ideas in a way they chose, any person who sacrificed to that extent in my view, Sir, is a hero or heroine. So when people talk about Sarah Ann Gill that she should not be here, they do not understand the psyche of the African. They do not understand the part religion plays in their own cultural experience. I applaud the choice. It shows that whoever has made the choice recognises this important fact that to the people religion remains the single most important force.

Sir, I wish there were others who could be here because of their religious stances. I think of the Moravians, although it might be difficult to pinpoint an individual, especially since most of the early missionaries would have been from Europe and England, it would be good if while we may not be able to pinpoint a particular person, we could pay tribute to the Moravian Church and the others who brought about significant changes.

I think, Sir, of Sharon Moravian Church which is very close to where I was raised, and what my uncle told me about what that Church meant to slaves and former slaves because it was built around 1799 toward the end of slavery. We are told how the slaves had to fool the master. They left the plantation in their work clothes but they would have the Church clothes hidden in the bush and then when they got away from the plantation they would change and go to Church looking decent and so on, so we applaud their efforts.

Sir, naming Sarah Ann Gill there, she is there not only in her own right as such but representing a class of persons who by their actions helped to bring religious education and

religious comfort to the masses in those days who were denied this basic fundamental right because of the evil system that perpetrated. Sir, we could go down the list. 6.20 p.m.

Sir, Prescod was a mulatto who made sure that he used his position to bring about meaningful change in the society in those days. He has every right to be amongst those who we honour today because he made a sacrifice so that all those can have a better change of fulfilling their aims and objectives.

Then we come down to the period of the 1930s where the masses by now, as a result of the churches and so on, were getting education and they were expressing themselves now in other ways. They moved from the fight for basic freedom to the fight for the ability to rule themselves. Those were the heroes of the 1930s, Duncan O'Neal, Clement Payne and Sir Grantley Adams. They played an important role in the betterment of the society.

According to the criteria that is laid down here these men have every right because they have passed the test. They sacrificed so that today we in here can have the liberty and the freedom that we all so deeply cherished. They have every right to be here because they have earned it.

Then we have the trade union movement where the three men who built the union, Sir Grantley Adams, Sir Hugh Springer and Sir Frank Walcott, who in the face of hostility, adversity and deprivation made sure that the workers of this country of ours, the sugar workers who were working under some terrible conditions, they made sure that there was improvement in their lot. We have some revolutionary legislation being passed in those days. There was the Holiday With Pay Act and the Act requiring employers especially the plantocracy who wanted to pay the workers with yams and potatoes.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: That is a fact. But those fighters made sure that they were paid in the coin of the realm. That was extremely important. Sir, those men earned the right to be there. There are my heroes, they are all heroes because they could have lived a comfortable middle class experience.

Sir, Sir Grantley Adams was shot at. He was prepared to sacrifice for his people. They have every right to be here.

Then they passed the torch on to Errol Barrow who ran with it and made some important revolutionary changes in the Barbados society. He built on the foundation that was so courageously laid by Adams, O'Neal and Walcott and he impressively built on that foundation. He, Sir, must be one

of our heroes. Although I never belonged to that party or I never will, the fact that he worked tirelessly for the improvement of Barbadians meant that in spite of the political divide, he is my hero.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The word 'hero' knows nothing about politics or race nor gender divide. They are recognised for their worth and their work to mankind.

Then, Sir, cricket is our sport. I join with Senator Lynch when he made the statement that of all the heroes the one best known outside of Barbados is Sir Garfield Sobers. He has brought countless honours to this country of ours and he has every right to be named among the heroes. He has earned his every right to be part of this exercise. He has truly earned it. He has shown that it does not matter where you live or where you come from but that by dedication and by hard work and by being focused to your goal, you can walk with kings and queens. That, Sir, is why he is my hero.

I applaud the Government for making sure that he is named among the ten.

Sir, the fact that other people are not here does not mean that their contribution is not noteworthy. The fact that others are not here does not lessen their contribution. All of them have made significant contributions but these ten are the ones that we have chosen for exemplary praise. It is not only these ten that built Barbados. They are other nameless and faceless people who over the years have made this country what it is. They are countless people.

I think, Sir, that accordingly to the definition that people include women because my great, great, grandmother, I never knew her but she was a heroine to me. She sacrificed that her sons and grandsons could be men and women. I never met her but to me she was still my hero because they sacrificed for their children and they went without to make sure that some of their children got a little education and was able to progress in life. They are also our heroes. These ten have been chosen. They are a good ten and the top class. They are singled out for honour this evening.

I want to applaud those who are living and those who are dead and those who stuck with them through thick and thin. The wives and the husbands who stuck with them. The wives took some of the pressure off the men so that they could go and fight the good fight knowing that all the home files are well looked after. They must also be saluted. That role, Sir, is of extreme importance because they could then go knowing that they had the support of their women folk so that when they come home at night with all the pain and turmoil that they had a little bit of comfort. That was of extreme importance. They are also our heroes.

Sir, I want to commend this Bill to this Honourable Senate and to the people of Barbados. We should ignore who should be in and who should not be in. Forget that because the matter is sealed and signed and let us all forget our pettiness and our prejudices and our biases and let us recognise contribution for contribution and for what it is worth and acknowledge the effort that these ten have made.

Thank you very much, Sir.

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

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the SENATE resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 – 7 were called and passed.

Clause 8 was called.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Sir, just to remind you of the explanation which I asked for as to whether this is meant the way it is written or if there is some other explanation.

Just to clarify, Mr. Chairman, I was wondering whether a person who is alive but not born in Barbados could ever be a national hero. It is not stated clearly there.
6.30 p.m.

Mr. President, I am not going to move any amendment. I think I should leave it to the people who are drafting, with your assurance, that that would be put right. It seems as though it is hardly likely that this was intended to be so and I raised the question of another West Indian coming to live in Barbados who happens to be born in Trinidad or St. Vincent but who made all his contribution and I gave the example of Dr. Cato who was one such person. This would mean that a person like that could never be a hero in Barbados.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. Chairman, if I may try by way of explanation I believe that the object of the Bill is that the honour goes to Barbadians. A non Barbadian who is residing in Barbados may, during his or her life time, leave and return to some other country but when one dies here there is a presumption of domicile that you intended to belong to Barbados after spending such a lengthy time and therefore, after death, these provisions of the Act could come into play in determining whether that person could be granted the status of this national honour.

The question that Clause 8 stand part was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Clauses 9, 10 and 11 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Order of National Heroes Act, 1998.

ORDER NO. 2 – THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ACT, CAP. 352

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Bill before us is a very simple one. It seeks to amend the Public Holidays Act by basically changing the Schedule to give effect to National Heroes Day being a Public Holiday as well as to remove the holiday which was celebrated in October and which was known as United Nations Day. And which in a previous incarnation used to be known as Clerks' Holiday.

It also seeks to clarify in respect of the situation in which Heroes Day and other holidays occur on Sundays what happens then and also where the Emancipation Day falls on a Sunday or a Monday and in the case where Emancipation Day as the first day of August falls on a Monday it will also mean Kadooment Day will also fall on that Monday and in that given year the Tuesday would become a public holiday. The other clarifications are all well known in respect of December 25 falling on a Sunday.

Mr. President, the number of holidays therefore for the year would be 12 as laid out, the change being National Heroes Day and the elimination of the holiday in October.

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

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, just a very short comment. I support this Bill whole-heartedly but I would also like to make a plea for nurses and other persons who have to work these holidays to have these holidays tacked on to their holidays because they are public holidays and people get them as holidays but nurses do not get all of them. They lose out. So I would like it made clear that if there are holidays the nurses, I am not sure about policemen, but the nurses will work on the holidays but then it should be tacked on to their holidays. It is given to them as a day off therefore they are really not benefitting from the

holiday. There are 12 extra days a year that everybody is getting so nurses need to be given them tacked on to their holidays. Thank you.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, just a short comment because this question of holidays certainly occupies all of us and indeed I know the private sector of Barbados likes to refer to the number of holidays which successive administrations might have either instituted or added on and they often accompany these changes by comments about effects on productivity, effects on the national economy, how well we can do and what are the dangers we might be treading if we continue down these roads.

6.40 p.m.

Sir, I think that we must look at the possibility of not necessarily eliminating the celebration of great lives or heroes as we just spoke about and we must become accustomed to giving days designations in association with great men and great women of this country and not necessarily making them holidays. Not that it has not been done before. The day of national significance for instance is such a lead. If we think that we stand the danger of maybe making too many public holidays and probably being accused of more recreation than work, and treading on making Jack a dull boy, Sir, we could possibly look at the real possibility of celebrating our heroes by naming days after them and continuing to observe these days as working days. Some Heroes, Sir, would be even better celebrated with that kind of designation.

That is my contribution.

On the separate motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill. HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

SCHEDULE

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that the first Schedule becomes the Schedule to the Bill.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the

PRESIDENT, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Public Holidays Amendment Act 1998.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT LANCASTER PLANTATION, ST. JAMES AND BLACKMANS PLANTATION, ST. JOSEPH FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Honourable the Senate is sought to acquisition a number of parcels of land at Lancaster in the parish of St. James and at Blackmans in St. Joseph for the housing purposes.

The details of the Resolution are contained in the five schedules which are attached to the Bill and I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now past.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I want to make a contribution again on this matter of land acquisition in Barbados and specifically today, to speak to the acquisition of the land at Lancaster's Plantation in St. James and Blackman's Plantation in St. Joseph for housing development.

I am going to, I know; be accused of repeating this plea that the housing needs of Barbadians are not being served under the present arrangements and this is clearly borne out by the results which we see and which we encounter when we move around and we discuss this whole question of housing.

Sir, only this weekend we had a lengthy discussion again, Sir, and I listened to it very closely on Sunday evening when a number of Barbadians were expressing the position in respect to how we use our land and how we allocate our land for housing at the price of depriving ourselves of good agricultural land.

Sir, all the signals are there for this administration to see and we in the Democratic Labour Party have taken our call not only in this Parliament, but we have taken it across the length and breadth of this country. There are persons in Barbados who have associated with comments which would want to suggest that because we are saying that we are taking all or a lot of our agricultural lands and allocating them to housing or to various developments that we are attempting to spread panic in this country.

The truth is, Sir, that when you speak to any eminent Barbadian agriculturists, you speak to the people in Barbados who knew Barbados when it was a very vibrant agricultural country and indeed if you yourself take a drive around this countryside we can see our development encroaching on us. We really really are reaching a stage where the Government has almost a moral responsibility to draw the line, Sir, and set out very clearly what the criteria and what will be an acceptable standard in respect of lands that remain in agriculture and land that will be taken out of agriculture for purposes of housing.

We need, Sir, to look very seriously and open the debate in this country in respect to the acceptance of the fact that we cannot necessarily continue to provide housing at one storey.
6.50 p.m.

We need to look at and sensitize the Barbadian public to the whole question of high rise accommodation and we need to implement a policy or to discuss a policy which will allow Barbadians to give the political decision-makers their true feelings in respect of how we can direct our building needs. We need to remember that when we are looking at that kind of accommodation high-rise or semi high-rise, 4 storeys or so we need to include certain facilities which we might not now be accustomed to.

We do not want to hear responsible persons resisting the suggestion that for instance if we are providing low income housing and it is over 2 or 3 storeys there should be the provision of elevators and lifts so that persons can have adequate access. It is not good enough in 1998 in Barbados for us to be saying that it is okay if we accommodate the elderly on the ground floor or we accommodate the physically challenged on the ground floor. We need to include these kinds of facilities and we need to start the debate on this whole question immediately.

Sir, we need, too, in respect to the act of acquiring the agricultural land because the land certainly in Lancaster, I am familiar with that particular area for years has been a vibrant source of sugar cane. Whenever one makes this point in this Chamber we get comments emanating from the Other Side as if one is saying something that is not a fact.

Sir, whether the Barbados Labour Party administration likes it or not and whether the Members in here of that party like it or not the debate out there in Barbados is clearly on the side of the fact that we have to stop acquiring our agricultural land for purposes of housing and for purposes of development. This policy that has its genesis in certain requirements of the international lending agencies about making sure that land is taken to its highest economic value has to be challenged. We are a small island and we are a small country and we must not be afraid to stand up to these

international bodies and tell them how we feel on matters of this sort.

We have a situation where we cannot look forward to the prospect of a viable sugar industry. We cannot look forward to the prospect of an agricultural sector which can attempt even to put on the tables of our locals and our visitors alike a meal which characterises the food that we grow.

We are in a situation where we are saying to Barbadians that because we are signatories to the international organisations and the World Trade Organisation we have no choice. This is the kind of excuse I am hearing from that Side and I am saying that we have to challenge this situation and nip it in the bud. We have to go back to a situation where we encourage agricultural efforts and indeed part of the EduTech programme for our schools, in the future, in the next couple of years, should include a vibrant programme of agricultural training and we should be looking to go back to the time when you had a vibrant 4H-Movement.

Sir, there is a saying that when man was first created he had long toes and very long fingers so that we could climb and we stopped climbing so our toes receded. We stopped growing food so that source of nutrient for the crop to grow might have concluded that Barbados does not need me, why bother. We are building buildings in their place. I think it is fair warning and I do believe in spite of the grumbles that are emanating, in spite of the unconscious protests that I am hearing, that the Barbados Labour Party administration is seised with these facts. An administration which could be so sensitised about nationalism and national heroes must also be aware of the challenge to land use in this country and I expect to hear in the very near future that we have got a new and considered discussion and debate in this country and that we will return to a position where there is an eco-balance in terms of our development.

We cannot have a situation where we concentrate on just building buildings. Even in tourism, even in the building of hotels today and in the development of our tourist product the emphasis is beginning to come down very heavily on the side of environmentally friendly buildings and practices. In other words, we accompany the development of our physical structures with the planting of trees and the implementation of policies which encourage this kind of sustainability. I want to see that reflected in the way we go about our housing development in Barbados. We want to see a situation where we have parallel development in terms of provision of houses and in terms of provision of essential food by way of agriculture and I want to associate myself firmly on the side of those who are calling for a reversal almost of the policy in terms of land use. The trends which have been practised by successive administrations must now be reversed to the

extent that we can look forward to a day in the very near future where once again we are growing the majority of foods that we eat.

We said that our children do not know our heroes. Our children do not know eddoes. Some of our children do not know plantains, not local plantains, or local bananas. The pawpaw trees in Barbados have not borne ripe pawpaws for many years and the sugar industry which was the bedrock of our existence and which I would like to say is still a very important crop in this Barbados because nothing has changed in terms of our soil structure and we know that the scientists proved long ago that sugar cane was the crop which the Barbadian soil best supported.

7.00 p.m.

We have been able to excel in the international arena in respect of sugar cane research, for instance. We are still the place where many countries come for information or new breeds and new types of agriculture.

Sir, an offshoot of that has been the mechanical developments relating to the sugar industry which has also placed Barbados on the map. This pioneer was one of the persons who was loud, although he is very soft spoken, in his protest on that programme on Sunday evening. We need in our sober reflection to consider very strongly the debate that is going on in the country in respect to these issues.

I certainly want to, as I have intimated, state that I am truly concerned about the state of our agriculture and our sustainability given the untethered building and construction which seem to characterise the Barbados that we have got to know today.

Sir, with those few comments I end my contribution to this particular Bill.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, at the very outset of Senator Boyce's contribution, he admitted that he was going to be virtually repeating himself, singing the same old song over and over, not even a dance, a song. One would have thought, having made that admission and having implied that it is a subject with which he has had long familiarity, he would have produced some facts, figures and statistics. It is not enough to talk about giving up all the agricultural land to housing, development and the sacrifice. One would have thought that he would have produced some facts.

It is quite clear, Sir, that the Democratic Labour Party, having failed miserably on the "VAT card" and the mooted subject produced to recapture the imagination and the attention of the public, is now trying to play the "land card", whether it be land as is said to be given up to agriculture, or

whether it be land being sold to foreigners. They are saying it over and over again, almost word for word.

I believe the Honourable Senator listens to the call-in programmes a lot because in terms of structure of presentation, in terms of virtual word for word in many instances, it is virtually what the daily radio spokesmen of the Democratic Labour Party have been pontificating about over the airwaves, persons like Keith Simmons, Henderson Bovell, Peter Walcott, men from Dodds, all kinds of people talking about these things.

Sir, I predict that this very same "land card" will fail as miserably as the "VAT card", if only because the Barbadian public is a sensible public. We are not going to seek to make any decisions in the future on emotions. He would have had us make the decision on VAT on emotion without any study, because they postponed it about 10 times because they did not have the factual information or the guts to take a decision to which they were committed. You only know about it now because you are in it now, but there is a history. Sir, in the same way we had to have a history to be able to select who our heroes are, we need to have a history to decide what our position is on issues. They just do not come overnight.

The point I am making, Sir, is it is well established that there is a Parliamentary Committee being set up in the Lower House to deal with this issue in a factual, logical, systematic manner, bereft of all the emotion, and all the hot air and politicking that has become the standard fare of the Honourable Senator and his party on this issue.

Therefore, what we are saying is that mechanism has to be given a chance to work whereby persons will be asked to come before the Committee and present facts through research and analysis. At the same time, there is also a Land Use Study going on which will provide information, facts, figures and statistics on which long-term decisions can be made. Not on the kind of *ad hoc* decisions that were made, somebody spouting off their mouth sometimes and saying they do not want to see another sugar cane blade growing in Barbados, not the kind of emotive position you would have heard had someone decided to cut up Neils, Rowans Park, Mangrove, Cottage, all over willy-nilly like that, so that persons, very often cohorts of a party, can benefit from. We want to have a properly constructed policy based on rational thinking and rationality.

The same thing is going to obtain with beach land. It is going to be the sale of land, all types of land. The Barbados Labour Party is obviously committed to defending and protecting the rights of Barbadians' access to land. This started in the 1950s with the same Sir Grantley, our National Hero, and is entrenched in the law.

The current Prime Minister has only recently paid a visit to Christ Church, next to San Remo and near

Hart's Gap, where Government is committed to acquiring land to ensure that Barbadians have traditional access to beaches. We are conscious of the fact that people must have access to the beaches within not only narrow tracks that would provide pedestrian pathways, but we want to provide amenities, car parking facilities, picnic benches *et cetera*, so that access will mean more than a pathway. Access will mean a way of life where Barbadians can have access and appreciate the sea in a proper manner.

Therefore, as to this talk about "we must stand up and resist these international organisations", I am impressed with the theatrics, but then I remember the facts that under the Democratic Labour Party Government there was a resident IMF person at Government Headquarters under which men could not even begin to think of the Budget, sign a bill or do anything unless, he agreed to it. This Government kicked that out. This Government made sure and told the IADB that we would not be imposing fees on students attending the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the University of the West Indies or the Community College. We have a history of standing up to these people. You are telling us what we are already practising, but which you yourself did not practice when you had the chance. So I am not impressed by you. You are just looking for a hobby horse to ride.

The Democratic Labour Party, having ridden the fat hobby horse into the ground and falling flat on its face, is now seeking to resuscitate itself or get back on its feet on another hobby horse. I wish you luck, but I predict that just as in the case with the VAT, Mr. President, the Democratic Labour Party will be embarrassed when the policy is formulated on a proper and sustained basis that will, like we said, fit into the whole trend of a Government which is seeking to protect its patrimony, which is seeking to solidify its heritage through the institution of National Heroes and National Heroes Day. We will do the same thing for the use of land or whatever. I wish you luck, but I predict you will fail.

Thank you, Mr. President.
7.10 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I am supporting this Bill but I am going to ask a question. If there is a Parliamentary Committee and a Land Use Study, what is the urgency of acquiring this land? Is it urgently needed for housing? We have acquired so much land that has not been used to date. Another question that I would like to ask. What is the process of acquiring this land? Does the Government send bulldozers on to people's land to start cutting roads without officially informing them that they are going to acquire the land without bringing it to this House to be passed?

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I am talking about these pieces of land that are acquired. One should come and acquire the land and then let the people know that the Government has acquired the land and then move in the bulldozers and start cutting the road into the land. It is not really fair to the owners for things to be done on the land even before you have acquired the land. It is not right. It is trampling on people's right.

Another thing is that I do not know if this is agriculture land. I would like to have a map and I have asked for a map on several occasions to be given to us. In some other Senates throughout the Caribbean it is done. I went to a seminar and that is what they taught me. They said that when they are acquiring land they give them a little map and they show them exactly where they are acquiring, so that the Senators know that that is what is happening. That has not happened here and I have asked on several occasions. We have Town & Country Planning and with all of these sophisticated techniques, such as photocopyers and all sorts of other copiers and it does not take very long to map it out. Then we can sit back and see what is being done and what is not being done.

I am supporting this because as I have said several times, I believe the Government needs to get land and make it available to those people who cannot afford to pay the prices that people are asking for land and they are asking very high prices, prices beyond the reach of the average middle class person. I am very glad that there is a Parliamentary Committee and a land use study and I sincerely hope that it will come to fruition very quickly including the use of beach land because the price of a small piece of beach land is over US\$2 million. That boggles your mind. When they put the land up for sale and you ask how much, they say over US\$2 million.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Those are the prices that people are asking for land. Does it mean that we cannot live there any longer? We are Barbadians and we want to enjoy the land. There are some fishermen along the West Coast who were born on the West Coast, do fishing on the West Coast all their lives and now they are in trouble, they cannot really pay the land tax and people are offering them enormous sums for the land.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: They are feeling the pinch. Go to their houses and you will find that out. We need to look into these things. If necessary put price controls on land.

Mr. President, I am talking on behalf of myself and the people of Barbados. I am saying that we should be able to

enjoy the beach just like anybody else. We should not have to sell our land in order to live in Barbados. It is a dangerous precedent that is being set. A very dangerous one.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Those kinds of statements are dangerous ones. You may sell yours for millions but that is not the point. That is asking for social unrest and we must be very, very careful and treat this seriously regarding the use of land in this country.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise in conclusion in this debate on this Resolution to clarify a number of issues that have been raised by Senator Boyce.

Senator Boyce was quite correct when he indicated that it would appear and that he could be fairly accused of having made similar comments before and he not only stuck to that promise but he also was as much less than accurate and the speech was generally clothed in the level of generality which were it not for the fact that accurate records are kept on a number of these matters, would allow one to walk away with the impression that his views have been elevated to the level of fact and in fact all that he is saying is correct.

Further, given that he speaks with such confidence and reinforces it with such volume one would tend to believe that this is a man who knows what he is talking about.

Mr. President, I believe that Senator Boyce is being sincere. I do not think that there is a hint of insincerity in his approach to these matters but he is ill-informed of these matters. He does not know that before his involvement in these matters – he is very keen and I applaud keenness – but keenness must also be honed, it must be tempered and it must develop the fine edge which could only be developed with a knowledge of these matters.

If he knew what I knew, he would know that the Democratic Labour Party has no moral authority to speak on any matters in relation to housing or land or agriculture in this country. He went on to make this grand assertion that all of a sudden in a few short years that we are taking out all the land out of agriculture, that we are presiding over the demise of the sugar industry, that we cannot grow enough canes because there is no agriculture land and that we cannot feed ourselves and so on.

When more than anything else, his Party has presided over a decline in all those areas. If you look at the period of Democratic Labour Party Administration you can see quite clearly, and this is not incremental development in housing,

this is large scale abandonment, reckless abandonment of agricultural land in Barbados. I know of what I speak.

I have always lived in rural Barbados. In fact, he makes mention of a suggestion which I thoroughly support and I urge him to support it too. That one of the things that we need to do is to have a strong 4-H movement in Barbados. On Saturdays, I drop my daughter to 4-H and I hope he does the same thing too.

Mr. President, let us get on to the matter at hand. It is an indisputable fact that it was under the watch of the Democratic Labour Party that large tracks of agricultural land have been removed from agriculture. Lands like Frere Pilgrim, Cottage, Rowans Park and you can go on and on and on. For his enlightenment, Mr. President, let him know that he has to be careful when he is representing the Democratic Labour Party in these matters.

Let us get to the short facts of the matter, Sir. He is suggesting that because of what he says is an encroachment on agricultural land by the Barbados Labour Party that we are not in a position either to grow our food or grow our sugar.

The Economic Report for 1996/97 should be out shortly. It says contrary to what he is saying. These are the facts, not views and thoughts elevated to that level. It says here "that the area of sugar cane cultivation rose for the first time in over a decade".

7.20 p.m.

A decade, Sir, is 10 years so for the first time in 10 years in 1996 the area under sugar cane cultivation rose. Not only that, Sir, that rise was not an accident. When we assumed office in 1994 we were faced with a situation in which, as part of the structure of the sugar industry in this country, the Democratic Labour Party had already entered into an arrangement with Booker Tate and they had made a number of policy choices. One policy decision, Sir, was that they were going to go with a 65 000 tonne industry and the two factory option. Bulkeley factory was to be closed because as a 65 000 tonne industry it was not economical to have 3 factories.

Now, Mr. President, the fact of the matter is that this Barbados Labour Party administration made the decision to move to the 75 000 tonne option in the sugar industry. We therefore set about, as part of a deliberate policy from 1994, to increase the acreage under sugar cane cultivation. It was a deliberate policy to increase the acreage as is supported in this report so that the accusation by Senator Boyce is totally unfounded, totally baseless that the Barbados Labour Party has presided over the reduction in acreage under sugar cane cultivation.

He also suggested, Sir, in his very confident and loud style, Sir, that there was a difficulty now in growing food. But this report indicates that there were a number of increases in the acreage and the output of vegetables and so on for 1996. The area under carrot cultivation increased by approximately 100 crop hectares leading to an output of 179.2 thousand kilograms, 46.7% higher than the previous year. Beans rose by 30.9%. Hot peppers and sweet peppers, they do not give the percentage there but they give the volume, 106% and 261.2% respectively. Okra production increased for the third straight year and so on. So that I totally reject as being baseless, unfounded and calculated to mislead this Honourable Chamber, those grand charges by Senator Boyce because the fact of the matter is that the acreage under agriculture generally has increased, specifically the acreage under sugar has increased, so has the acreage under food crop and if we look at the output, looking at this report, the output for sugar from 1986, the period of Democratic Labour Party rule, right through 1994, decline. It looks like the escalator going down in DaCostas Mall. Then as part of our policy, we had a drought in 1995 but we have gone back up for 1996, part of the deliberate policy of this Government not to use the 65 000-tonne option but the 75 000 tonne because we were of the view that not only should we seek to fulfil our international obligations which was the 65 000 tonne option but that Barbadians should also be able to use Barbadian sugar and those are the facts of the matter. We are working towards that.

Now, Mr. President, I therefore urge Senator Boyce... Like I said, I understand he is sincere. He meant no harm. There was no malice intended. He was sincere in his views and his perceptions and perhaps these were more based on the general comments he has heard from persons in the public and so on but the facts of the matter are somewhat different and I hope that I have been able, Sir, to enlighten him and hope therefore that next time he speaks on this matter he will have an entirely different approach, one which fully rests in the facts.

Mr. President, I am therefore satisfied that this acquisition of land is in no way going to be contrary to our agricultural policies and that agriculture, both sugar and non sugar will continue to grow.

Mr. President, the Clerks have just indicated and asked Members to double check to see that there have not been any errors in the Schedules which were circulated. There are in fact two schedules to be attached to this Resolution. The First Schedule concerns a parcel of land, the property of Carlton Estates Limited, Plan No. 587/97 and the Second Schedule is land of H & G Limited at Blackman's Plantation, St. Joseph, with a plan number of 673/97. Those are the two areas in question on this particular Resolution.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

**ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE LEASE OF LAND AT BRANDONS,
ST. MICHAEL, TO COLIN SEALE
FOR OPERATION OF A BAR
AND RESTAURANT**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Honourable the Senate is being sought under Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225 for the leasing of a parcel of land at Brandons Beach in St. Michael to Mr. Colin Seale for the operation of a Bar and Restaurant.

This is a matter, Sir, which the Government is pleased to pursue but it dates back some years previously where Mr. Seale was given permission to erect or to place a mobile canteen on the Brandons Beach area back in 1992 subject to basic terms and conditions for such operations.
7.30 p.m.

He was however able to improve his business and to grow his operations. The demand required that some expansion be done and this included the provision of bathroom facilities on the premises instead of the continued use of the public facilities on the beach.

The Ministry of Housing has been liaising with Mr. Seale. The Town Planner has approved the application for the development which is taking place on the property. The Government is now seeking to regularise the situation of the lease of the land with Mr. Seale, because obviously it is in his best interest in terms of the advancement of his business to have a lease which is for some reasonable duration which gives him the kind of permanence of location which would definitely be required if, for example, he finds it necessary to approach any financial institutions in connection with financing for businesses and so on.

We would appreciate the absence of a lease or some other form of permanence, in terms of arrangements in terms of land tenure, is a major difficulty which some business persons will face as they attempt to provide some financing for their businesses. In pursuing this development, the Government through the Town Planning Department is also conscious of the fact that the area is directly onto a public beach and it sought to ensure that the interest of the businessman, as well as the interest of the patrons of the facility, the interest of the general users of the beach area and indeed the interest of the residents of the surrounding areas was also considered, so that the approval is given for the expansion of the service has occurred.

There are specific provisions and requirements for all of the waste water generated by the facility to be treated and kept on the premises. There will be no cause for flooding in the area; that adequate precautions be taken in respect of fire; that no cutting or trimming or other handling of trees will be done without the permission of the NCC and the Chief Town Planner. Generally to ensure that the health and safety of the public are protected as well as that the general uses of the area as one of the most popular public beaches is not compromised.

We are pleased with the development that has taken place and it has in fact added a new dimension to Brandons Beach which is now becoming more popular not just for the traditional users of the beach in terms of the residents from Deacons and Black Rock and the general western area of St. Michael and the southern part of St. James. But, also for persons from other parts of the island who now find it convenient to be able to drive in and to park, but also to be able to take lunch to have a drink and to use other facilities.

I notice as well that there is now the addition of some water sports activity in the area as a result of the increased traffic on the beach and we are therefore pleased to be able to conclude this lease which is proposed for a period of nine years with a rental rate of \$2 400 per annum and with usual other provisions. We trust that the businessman in question will continue to benefit from the lease of the area and that the public will continue to be able to enjoy the improved amenities which are now available through the expansion of this business on Brandons Beach.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I want to add a few comments to this Resolution in respect to the lease of the land at Brandons and I know the area very well, Sir. Indeed it is obvious to all of us that it has been for a long time one of the most popular beach areas in Barbados. The activities there besides the normal swimming and fun which families will have there had been also the organised arrangement for years with a Sun Fish Club which hooked up where a number of Barbadians have learned to sail in that area.

The development of Brandons Beach is one of those areas too which has suffered because of our overall Barbadian development and the creation of the Spring Garden Highway. The requirement for the Spring Garden Highway, although it opened a new area of land which could be utilized by such essential services as the Barbados Light and Power Company and the Shell Oil Company, Sir, it also created the separation of a community from their normal activities.

The actual land on which the bar and restaurant are constructed now would have been an area on which fishermen and children from the Brandons area many years ago would have enjoyed their past time. Indeed in the case of the fishermen, of course, they would have been able to make their livelihood. This has been a tremendous change in the life to the Brandons community and I had the great fortune of getting very close to that community not too long ago when I worked in 1994 in the particular area of the adjoining Farm and Deacons, as the Senate Leader just said, Brandons and Holders Land, Sir.

It brings home one of the things that we are always talking about and which we tend to get up in defence of our position, one or the other and dismiss those who speak of these things of bearers of bad tidings or prophets of human gloom. If Barbadians wanted an example of a community which has been severed by our progress, Brandons is an ideal example. The facts are that now the community of Brandons when they go to the beach, you see the people that we see on the beach now are probably more persons who have driven to that beach from other areas of Barbados than the actual local residents. The residents now risk life and limb, I mean, I do not know why some Members do not like to hear the facts as they are. This is what the people talk about. This is what we see and unfortunately the reality is that we read about it. We read about the tragedies.

Again, we have not had any attempt to make access to this beach easier for the residents, either by way of an underpass or an overpass in that area. Indeed I know that Mr. Clyde Mascoll, the Member of Parliament for the particular area has been at pains to present certain recommendations in terms of what he would like to see happen for the good people of Brandons, Sir.

We are dismissing these things and we are sacrificing these things on the altar of political expedience sometimes when we do not listen to the genuine cry of the persons who are on the ground in the area.

7.40 p.m.

Indeed, we are also missing an opportunity to develop the whole Brandons community into a natural project which would bring about greater activity, greater entrepreneurial effort and greater economic viability to a community which suffers as a result.

We have shops, for instance, in the Brandons area which are just about 40 yards away from this actual location and whereas this property can enjoy a vibrant business these shops on the other side of the street do not do any business whatsoever, just across the street. I invite the Honourable Members to take a drive into Holders Land and Brandons and make the observations themselves. So you see, while we are providing the tremendous opportunity and I am not

against providing the opportunity which we provide for the persons in this arrangement and indeed the property is now being leased by another entrepreneur to carry out the restaurant business. We must recognise that on the other side of the road there is a dying business community. If there was that linkage in terms of the shops and the bars which exist in Holders Land and in Brandons. You can go and look for yourselves and see what I am talking about.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have no intention of going.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: No, Sir. You know what I mean. I would urge Honourable Members to take a visit and feel for themselves. It is amazing. That is all I can say. It is an amazing feeling to go on the one hand on the beach side, on the land which we are contemplating going to that facility and then going on the land side and visiting similar businesses which are struggling to make enough money to pay their electricity bills.

Sir, along with the non-development of an access way to the beach so that they can pass freely to this facility and to the beach itself we have had proposals for the development of tourist related projects where craft can be sold, where people can engage in recreation and where the tourists who visit coming off the cruise liners like to stop in the evening before they go back on board and they would have the opportunity to mingle with the locals. This proposal was clearly presented and I hope that the Barbados Labour Party in spite of the fact that theirs is not the representative for the area today would find the opportunity and find the time to try to look at the possibility of putting certain aspects of this project in place for the overall development of the area. I am sure that the spin-off effect, in other words having that access made and having the counter-development on the other side by the playing field, we could have a much larger development and there are examples of it all around Barbados today.

They themselves, the Barbados Labour Party administration, have been responsible in large measure for these kinds of projects. So I do not know why I think I am hearing noises which seem to resist the suggestion. Because even in Oistins which I am very familiar with we have seen the development of a massive business opportunity for a number of persons and I think that we have that same opportunity in Brandons. And as we contemplate hosting more and more tourists every year in order that we can develop our economy more and more we need to embrace these kinds of projects. We need to put aside our partisan considerations at times and look at the greater picture.

We had promises during that period of an annual festival to be held in that same area. Of course the promises by the Barbados Labour Party were just that. Two years have passed and this annual event has not occurred again but the

people of Brandons and the people of St. Michael North West spoke to that very clearly and I hope that the representative has the energy and the courage to keep pushing his ideas in respect of the overall development and I think it is really a tremendous effort.

Sir, I was happy to hear the comments of the Senate Leader when he spoke about the provision that there should be certain treatments in place at the facility in terms of the treatment of waste and I will certainly pursue that investigation to see like he does how the facts relate to what he has indicated to us and I will come back and at the appropriate opportunity I will relate the facts about this planned development, about the water treatment that is in place, about the prevention of flooding that has taken place and all these physical infrastructure which have been put in – I had a toss up between two offerings and I had to make a quick decision – which are aimed at preserving our environment.

We know only too well the challenges that we face in respect to the treatment of our waste, both our solid and liquid waste on the West coast of Barbados. We believe the South coast is a massive problem but the West coast is gigantic in contemplation. The reality is that Barbados has to face a massive economic cost in order to preserve our offshore reefs and our beaches which we have become so famous for. I am sure we will have many opportunities to visit this kind of discussion. I would not want to prolong that aspect of the debate and as I said, I would be happy when I go there again to be shown around these particular fixings which would support the kind of environmental protection and that which the Honourable Senate Leader spoke so eloquently of while he introduced the Resolution.

I am happy to support. It is almost like a double entrepreneur effort in truth and in fact in that the named party here has been able to allow another entrepreneur to do well on the premises and I have had the opportunity to talk to the young man. I think they are actually in today's newspaper. They are featured as Weisers and I am working on him to try to increase the range of product offerings that he makes to the public and that is why I know. I have had the opportunity to look around the facility more and to report back to this Chamber.

Sir, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this debate.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I listened with great interest to the contribution of the Honourable Senator and if only because I am very familiar with this area I was familiar with this area long before there was a highway, long before it was developed. I used to traverse the area between Brandons, across roads to the beach. I would come from Spooners Hill and go to Brandons

or Brighton and use a shop which is there now or go through some cart tracks before you get to the beach. I just want to paint that picture that it was a track and, therefore, to seek to romanticise how it was then and that what has happened now is a backward step, is inaccurate and unfair, because the facilities being offered now on either side of the highway even, in the so-called truncated or cut off Holders Land area, are far superior. There was largely bush and houses with a track leading between them to the beach.

The most there was at that time was a nightclub called the Coconut Grove where I had many a dance, many a night. You had to come through Holders Land and go to the Coconut Grove. There was no road to the beach and Coconut Grove was a novel facility in that area. What has happened is that with the coming of the highway, a number of shops have grown up along the road to take advantage of the accessibility and of the improved facilities.
7.50 p.m.

That highway has actually enhanced that side of the road also. If you sit in any of the shops to fire a beer, Tiltman or otherwise, you can look at the sea. You can look at the sunset. It is an improved atmosphere.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, what I am trying to say is that despite all the prophets of gloom and doom, despite all the dreary predictions about what the Spring Garden Highway would do to that area, it has now mushroomed into a major area of development. It has one of the loveliest stretches of beach in Barbados. Trees have been planted. It has been greened, so to speak, and there is now a much improved facility beside the road.

The Honourable Senator had made issue of the failure to provide an overpass or an underpass. I seem to believe that the Spring Garden Highway was there between 1986-1994, and no overpass or underpass was built, despite all the tragedies.

I remember, Sir, when the Harbour Road was built and they had some accidents. For the first few months people were in hysterics. Because there was a new Highway, people had to get accustomed to it. They had to get accustomed to a wide road *et cetera*. The same thing has happened to the Spring Garden Highway, Highway 2A and others, that people after a while make adjustments, and that is exactly what has happened.

I still go to bathe down there occasionally and I see people coming down from Deacons Housing Area and from

Brandons and crossing the road quite safely to go to the beach. So it is not that this is some imaginary Berlin Wall on that side of the road and they cannot cross over and they are forever prohibited and banned from crossing the road. There is an interconnection between the two by using the Highway safely, so the picture painted by the Senator is inaccurate. Again, his facts do not gel with the reality of the situation.

I had a wife from that area one time so I know that area well. I just did not go to that area for two or three weeks for a campaign and have never been back. I know the area well. Therefore the plan that the Senator talked about, Mr. President...

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, you have already spoken. If you persist in interrupting the proceedings, I will enforce the Standing Orders.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, his colleague on whose behalf he has spoken, had this plan which he was to produce in three weeks after the election, a fantastic plan. That has gone the way of his 5-4-3 plan. That has gone the way of the St. John Development Plan. So we must forget about these plans that spring out overnight just for the sake of a by-election and know that they will die a natural death like the dodo bird.

Sir, I just want to assure the Honourable Senator that the facility we are trying to enhance used to belong, not to a small black man, but to a small brown-skinned man. Therefore, we cannot be accused of selling the beach or giving away the Government's beach to a white man. I am glad to see, Sir, that we have formalised the arrangement to Mr. Seale. It is a lovely location. It is well patronised by both locals and visitors. I look forward to seeing it being able to offer an even better service to the public and I can only wish him good luck.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The question that the Honourable Senate do now adjourn sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
8.00 p.m.

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