
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, August 5, 1998, at 11.25 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator N. A. LYNCH

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator J. A. WORKMAN

Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN

Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN

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

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Dr. V. J. DAVIS

Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON

Senator J. D. E. BOYCE

Prayers were led by Fr. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. Customs (Amendment) Regulations, 1998.
2. Report of the Public Investment Fund for the quarter ending March 31, 1998.
3. Discussion Paper on Foreign Policy for the 21st Century – Barbados and a Changed World.
4. The Annual Reports and Audited Statements of Accounts of the National Conservation Commission for the Financial Years 1993 to 1994 and 1994 to 1995.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT DEANES TOWN, ST. JAMES FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the matter before the Honourable Senate is a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Deanes Town, St. James for housing development.

This matter, Sir, relates to the acquisition of some land at Deanes Town, St. James which is an area, Sir, as you will probably recall which was a small settlement comprising of some 13 households up until 1980. The area at that time had none of the necessary infrastructure in terms

of utilities, there was no electricity or no water. Given the cost at that time of providing those services in that community, the decision was taken to relocate those households at Sion Hill in St. James. The opportunity was taken to provide some enhancement to the housing situation as well as to provide access to electricity, water and the other basic amenities. That move occurred in 1981.

However, given the developments which are occurring in the general area of this settlement in the Deanes Town area, Mr. President, this is part of the larger Orange Hill community. Most persons would know it in relation to that part of Barbados. That area as you know and has been identified in all of the planning activities both in relation to the planning activities of the Town Planning Department and the Ministry of Housing and the National Housing Corporation has been identified as being a stable settlement area. That is part of a larger area in which there are all of the basic requirements for housing development, good public roads, access to public transportation, availability of electricity and water, community facilities, including recreational facilities, commercial areas for shopping and other activities.

Therefore, it is considered prudent at this time to incur the cost of installing the necessary utilities namely, water, electricity and road work which would make this particular area a viable settlement as part of that general expansion which is occurring in that larger Orange Hill area. So that this acquisition of land by the Crown will allow for the development of some 52 housing lots which will provide some opportunities for housing for low income persons. And as I said, this development is very much consistent with that of the larger area. The area in question, Mr. President, is some 2.7 hectares and that is the matter for our debate this morning.

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution for the compulsory acquisition of land at Deanes Town, St. James for housing development do now pass.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I note, of course first the improvement in the electronics and I am really impressed, Sir. I think it will lend to us hearing each other better.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, this question of the acquisition of these parcels of land at Deanes Town has been getting a lot of attention from the Democratic Labour Party. I think that even as the Minister gave his introduction, one recognises why it is we often have to remind this Government that there should be a lot more sensitivity and a lot more careful examination gone into these acquisitions and I am sure there will be opportunities to deal with this from time to time.

It has been said in public many, many times, commentaries from our priest, our community leaders, our politicians have all been one voice in respect to the kinds of questions which arise in these acquisitions. On this occasion in the ministerial briefs, Sir, which I have been given a copy of, I do not know if it was a deliberate anticipation of events to come, but the commentary which the Honourable Senate Leader gave outlines the history of what happened to these people at Deanes Town. In 1981, as he said, they would have been up-rooted for the reasons he has given or least the stated reasons that they could not get electricity, water or the infrastructure which is the term being used.

I do not accept that, Sir, as a totally fair assessment of the events then. We can cast our minds back to where Barbados was in 1981. What would have been the accepted level of infrastructural development, *et cetera*. And indeed the question one would ask is what condition was Sion Hill in at the time when these people from Deanes Town were taken there. Why would it have been so much easier to install infrastructure at Sion Hill as against Deanes Town? At least they call it Deanes Town. I am asking the question again. I am from that area in the North of Barbados, Sir, and I am still to be told exactly where this Deanes Town is. I have asked the Honourable Senate Leader on numerous occasions for some kind of precise location for Deanes Town. What part of this entire Waterhall area are we talking about? When we were talking about Apes Hill, I recall a lot of discussion about Apes Hill and again the question of Deanes Town came up and the development of this Deanes Town.

And indeed we have had pronouncements by Ministers in this period of Government which have indicated that there is going to be the creation of a third town or a fourth town depending on how you look at it. But this is nothing new coming from the Barbados Labour Party, Sir, in terms of the creation of towns, because what they describe as a town might not be accepted necessarily in the general definition.

Sir, I recall and want to put on record too that the Democratic Labour Party no way lags in respect for provision of housing for Barbadians and the Democratic Labour Party is often chided by the Honourable Leader, Sir, for the way we went about providing substantial and effective housing in this country in the early sixties and seventies. And he is acutely aware of all the tremendous work done in areas like Cave Hill and Oxnards in respect to substantial housing development. Something which is blatantly absent from the programme of the Barbados Labour Party in 1998 and that is the question that we have to ask on this Side.

There is no organised programme for housing. Everyone has thrown their arms up and tried to introduce all sorts of red herrings in respect to housing. And in respect to the use of land we had the benefit of numerous surveys, Sir, and it appears to me that nothing is falling on fertile soil on that Side of the table. We are not seeing any programmes coming out of the Barbados Labour Party housing ministry which would give us on this Side hope, and allow us to sit quietly and allow these Resolutions to pass in the normal course of events. They continue, Sir, to acquire land. I had prepared a list of the acquisitions, but there is no point going through it now. I mean, the so-called land bank which they have created is precisely a bank, I do not know, the economic gurus in here would be able to describe that kind of bank, a bank where you only deposit. It is obviously a fixed deposit arrangement, Sir. You buy the land, you have the land bank and do nothing with it. You collect interest. Frozen deposit, Sir, that is the term that the financial people use to describe this kind of activity. So the land bank that we hear about in Barbados is a frozen deposit arrangement which the Barbados Labour Party has created.

And, Sir, I invite the Honourable Members of this Chamber to go around Barbados and have a look at some of these areas they talk about and come back and let us know what they visuals tell them in respect to what is happening out there, in direct variance to what we are hearing and these stories we continue to hear, these promises we continue to hear being made week after week.

The Honourable Minister, I believe, is almost to the point of embarrassment. I really believe so Sir, in this regard, because he cannot boast of any substantial building programme except for other economic reasons. But as far as the provision for small income houses in Barbados is concerned the Barbados Labour Party has to be fully condemned and convicted in this regard. The only thing to this day that they can boast about is 30 units at Pondsides which are not yet complete and which have now resorted to snail's pace, and the question to be asked is what is happening out there.

11.35 a.m.

This Deanes Town question, what kind of housing units, what kind of land lots are going to be made available? It has been drawn to the attention already of this Chamber, I believe by my colleague, that the arrangement for funding, for instance, will not adequately cover the kind of facility which this kind of project will support. The arrangement for lending to the poor people of Barbados through the Housing Credit Fund or the facilities held by the National Housing Corporation for this purpose is inadequate in this regard. These are the things that the Government of Barbados should be paying attention to now.

We talk continuously about terrace units and everybody is trying to find reasons why we cannot build terrace units

which are economically more reachable for a wider percentage of this community and which would indeed serve the purpose. In my regard and I am sure in the regard of many other persons, the building of a substantial number of terrace units would make an impact on the housing needs. What purpose are we serving? I continue to ask the question. What purpose are we serving if we are coming in here acquiring land at Deanes Town to build units that are essentially unaffordable to the people whose applications lie catching cobweb over there in Roebuck Street.

We continue in this Barbados, in 1998, because we can boast of economic growth and because we can boast of foreign participation in development we are finding ourselves embarrassed when we start to discuss the commensurate development of the ordinary Barbadian. We are behaving as though all these needs have been satisfied and I am disturbed. Young mothers, single parents, sometimes older people, and there is no adequate provision for housing. The units which they conceptualise are essentially unused, untaken. Surely, Sir, this administration must have a plan about how the units they propose... The Honourable Leader of the Senate was at pains to indicate that these units will now be cut into some 52 lots, will be created for low income housing and the necessary infrastructure will be put in place. Precisely the question I just asked, Sir. Because of the arrangements for funding through the National Housing Corporation Credit Fund they will not be able to access a number of the credit facilities contemplated.

This Government is in confusion obviously about who will build low income housing units. A couple of months ago, I was hearing from the Members of this Government that the private sector is better placed, better suited, better armed and are the best people to build low income houses. They said that when they were discussing the question of the Apes Hill Development. I recall hearing it many times. The commentator said that the reason for returning the land was that the developer was going to do a better, quicker job in respect to the provision of low income housing. All kinds of names were called. I am not calling any. They know who they are and I would like to know what is the reality. Is the private sector better suited, better equipped, to do low income housing in Barbados or will Government again accept its responsibility in this regard and arm the people at the National Housing Corporation and the workers at the Ministry of Public Works with the tools that they can carry on with the programme which they have done admirably by the way of the last 30 years or so of our independence. I want to commend them in passing because we have a lot to be proud of.

This private sector mind set which is being foisted on us is one which I am extremely wary of. I have been there and I know what they stand for. The people of Barbados

put a Government in place precisely to look after certain areas of their welfare which the private sector finds unprofitable and Government has that responsibility. And every five years a mandate is given and we should be able to go back to the people proud of our achievements in that regard and not necessarily dwelling on the achieved dream of a couple of the wealthy. That is a vexing question which has come to haunt the Barbados Labour Party administration and one which they will have to provide answers for, and provide them soon because the time is short. They have to start providing answers in this regard.

Sir, there is another question which comes to mind when you look at the history for this acquisition. The list of households whom the land is being acquired from is given. I think it is 19 persons. I do not believe we have to be very accurate in matters like this. The list is given. The sundry owners of the property – remember it was precisely stated that these owners, these people on the property were moved off in 1981 because the facilities were thought then by the Barbados Labour Party Government, we must remind ourselves, to be inadequate. All I want to ask is that this Government make sure that if there is among that list persons who were removed in 1981 they must have an opportunity of first choice on these lands. It is only reasonable. They must have an opportunity of first choice.

Sir, we have to make sure that our selection process has a conscience. The kind of noises one hears sometimes ranges from they do not deserve it to they do not want three square meals, all kinds of noise you hear sometimes being uttered around Barbados. People do not need three square meals and that kind of thing. It is not good. I do not like to hear it, especially from the lips from whom they fall. It worries and concerns me.

What are we developing in Barbados? What kind of society are we developing? We have to be very careful and I am calling on the Government to ensure that those property owners who were removed from Deanes Town as they call it now, and this Resolution states to Sion Hill, be given priority in the selection of these sites. What is happening in Barbados now, too, Sir, is spectacular because with the rapid appreciation in land value strange things are happening.
11.45 a.m.

Even the Honourable Senate Leader before he had put down his 1998 model, politician, Sir, before he had parked it, he was up in Fairy Valley overseeing the eviction of some squatters, they call them, but squatters in Barbados is a funny word, Sir.

The point I want to make, Sir, is that the appreciated value of a place like Deanes Town and my enquiries in Fairy Valley there is a drastic similarity in terms of the

ambience that is going to be created in these developments. As the people of Deanes Town will have the opportunity to stare from their porches and windows and look right out on the west coast of Barbados, look over the Westmoreland Golf Course, and the other golf course that is coming, and maybe if they look back they will see the other golf course when that is completed, similarly in Fairy Valley there is that beautiful view which was going to be created in that area. So there had to be a revision and we get the term "squatter" being applied and being used, to my mind, not carefully enough. Sir, this is a point related to acquisition, land use and housing and who lives where.

A lot of persons have found themselves in places in Barbados not because of their own doing, or not because of any deliberate intent to break the law, but circumstances relating to inheritances, unclear lines of title to property, *et cetera*, have contributed substantially to some of these moves, and precisely the ballpoint in some of the areas where we dive in sometimes and accuse persons of squatting and we have to be very careful with that.

I want the Honourable Minister to assure this Chamber, he can do it today, or he can do it sometime later at his discretion, but assure this Chamber that the persons who have been dislocated because of the Barbados Labour Party's actions in 1981, now that the Barbados Labour Party has seen fit to allow people to live at Deanes Town again, that they be given the opportunity to once again enjoy an environment to which they are truly accustomed.

I want to urge the Honourable Minister – I know the Shadow Minister of Housing has made that public request already that he wants to see the people that were moved from Deanes Town being the first beneficiaries of these lots. You see, Sir, a lot of people do not understand how Shadow Ministers work but in a little while we will all know how Shadow Ministers work. We will all understand how Shadow Ministers work so we do not have to worry. If people do not understand now what a Shadow Minister is, when their turn comes soon...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, what this has to do with...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Just explaining the relevance and the significance of it in that because you are Shadow Minister means precisely that you have a responsibility to the country you serve because you serve the country. You are the voice of the Opposition in that regard. I hope that his call will be heeded. I hope I have done his call justice and have built upon what I see to be a very fair and reasonable request.

Sir, I want to deal for a little while again too with the question of land acquisitions. I want to state that

the Barbados Labour Party Administration has to explain to Barbados why they believe they must create such an enormous unused land bank at this time in our history. That is the question I want answered especially given the kind of debate that is going on in respect to, for instance, the provision of food.

I am sure last night I saw a clip on the television about sugar and we all know where sugar is now in respect to the quantum of sugar cane there is. There is the view in some quarters that sugar will not be a product of Barbados in a very short while. There is the view in some quarters that we should not worry to grow any food whatsoever, import it because it is cheaper, and that kind of thing. I know, like me, there will be support in this Chamber for retaining substantial portions of land, and I do not mean substantial as being an over-kill situation but adequate land for us to grow our own crops on and to feed ourselves.

I was most heartened by a visit I did over the weekend, Sir, because between all the revelling one has to make time to do your work. I visited this home and I really was thrilled at the way this man had his property developed. He has his cows. He has his sheep. He has his little garden patch and he has a fully sustained environment.

I regretted to him, and I want to regret now, that we have not allowed some degree of that kind of development to spill over into all or more, and if not all of our housing development programmes that we have contemplated. It is a serious question. I do not care if there is a cow in every backyard or not, Sir, but it is a serious question because you can use that as a slogan: "A cow in every backyard." That can be the slogan we adopt. It can have a broad sense in that we can encourage every householder to do their part in respect to providing sustenance for themselves and, by extension, for wider Barbados.

I would like to encourage this Administration, if it can be encouraged, because sometimes the kind of responses one hears, not officially all the time, gives you the impression that we are dealing with people who have now become less than open to comment and I am not worried about that. They can remain that way because that will assist down the road when judgement time comes, so they can behave as belligerently as they want. I am saying to the Government of Barbados that their housing programme, their provision of land for housing, for all the range of housing that Barbadians require falls woefully short and they need to get into a substantial programme, not of acquiring land as they are doing here now but as providing not only the facility but an adequate facility in which potential homeowners are at the lower end of our economic ladder can operate effectively and provide for themselves. That should be our target. That should be where Barbados is striving for. That is the social responsibility of any Government. It is not a private sector

job. It is the social responsibility of the Government that we elect every five years.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Much as we appreciate and welcome the new loudspeaking equipment which is, no doubt, very efficient, and much as we appreciate Senator Boyce that you spoke with a great deal of passion, I would ask you if in future presentations you would moderate your voice, if you can, out of consideration of other Members of the Senate.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, let me hasten to say that this is first-class equipment and befitting an institution of this prestige, perhaps, a little belated in the dying days of its life, but that is another subject.

I wish at the outset, Sir, to say that I wish to support the measure before the Chamber, and would not wish unduly to delay the Honourable the Senate, but I still think it is very important that I make some observations, both in my personal capacity, and furthermore regarding the institutions which I have the honour to represent as I see it in this Chamber.

11.55 a.m.

I am concerned that over all the years we are still in a situation in Barbados where, whoever is the Government, or whoever is the Minister, we come before this Honourable Chamber in a piece-piece fashion addressing matters of land acquisition. There has to be some problem relating to this arrangement. I think in the first place that it is an inefficient use of time and secondly it does suggest a lack of adequacy in the way that we approach the matter of a very limited resource that we have.

Land, Mr. President, is too precious, is too scarce in Barbados. If we compare land with water and I do not wish to be facetious but if we compare land with water we may even say that water may be replenished from time to time if God is gracious and we get good rainfall and as we are trying now we may get some desalination plants which may provide additional usage of water. In terms of our land, land like life, gets less with time. Those of us who have seen parts of our prime go quickly by, must be able to recognise that in the same way that for us there is not much left of life, for us in Barbados there is not much left of land. Consequently, we have to be very careful to cherish what is left of available land and to nourish it.

It is therefore in my view, very important, very critical that, notwithstanding the need for us to support any arrangement that provides low income housing, I will come back to that in a minute, that we look beyond just this measure which is before us and realise the need that there is

for a well articulated, simply delivered, properly distributed land use policy which all and sundry might be able to see, to read and to understand for our country. I do not say this in criticism because it is a matter which all persons who have formed Oppositions have called for, it is a subject that all persons who have called themselves Government have indicated that they wish to speak to and yet so far as I am aware there is not a clearly articulated policy which looks at the land space there is in Barbados and which defines for the locals and for the foreigners, for the academics and for the lay persons and for those who would wish to have a cow in every yard. It distinguishes for all and sundry the possibility for us to know where a cow may go, where a pig may go, where the chickens will go.

Asides.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I refuse to allow myself to go outside of the narrow limits of my brief. I am thinking, Mr. President, that inasmuch as we have managed to range from Deanes Town, through Fairy Valley and so on to the east coast that I may be allowed in making this presentation....

Asides.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: In the same way that we have been able to do that, Sir, I am hoping that we might be able in recognising the need for a land use policy, to recognise the value which there is for a completion of an exercise commenced some time ago that allows the Government's programme of a Select Committee of the House to look at this same subject and to be sure that, in the effort to determine a land use policy, we bear in mind the importance which there is for Barbadians, our local people to be able to have an assurance that this scarce commodity of land is not taken from before their very noses.

The question of the purchase of land at Deanes Town is relevant as raised by Senator Boyce and it raises the question of the sale of land in St. James generally and also by extension the question of land in Barbados. When once that position has been put and accepted by this Chamber, then one must be able within that framework to look again at the threat which exists in this country of having our land sold from before our very noses and then have us become people who have to beg for a pass when we want to go to our beaches.

A land use policy will be able to address this. The question of everybody having access to a beach is not really accurate. There is a question of having access and begging for a pass. I use to have access one time to go places but when people put out their dogs I could not have free access. Access is one thing but free access, unfettered access, is what we are talking about.

We have to be able to understand....

Asides.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Unrestricted access, thank you very much for the loan of the word. Unrestricted access is what we must look for. In any policy arrangement which we would tend to put forward whether it is a policy for the purchase in Deanes Town or a policy statement in regard to purchase of land generally in St. James, we must realise that as a small society, one such as we are, with the level of goodness that we have, not that we as people are good but God has been good to us, we must become an attractive point, an attractive area for several people from outside our regions and outside our country. I am talking about foreign personnel.

A land use policy must therefore spell out so clearly for all and sundry that we do not have persons being put under serious threat and under serious pressure when they are faced with millions of dollars put in front of their noses to take away the limited land that they have when we know that the purchase of such land puts the whole of Barbados under threat of foreign domination, not by guns but by the use of the dollar.

Sir, we have to be able to indicate the conditions under which persons will be able to purchase land if they are not residents or citizens of Barbados and they must be conditions attached to how long we will lease land to those persons who are going to lease land within our country.

There cannot be anything very wrong with an arrangement where a land development policy is looked at and I am borrowing this from one of the Senators. Because land, as limited as it is, must be garnered and nourished and so used that at the end of the day we serve the greatest good of the greatest number. For that reason I am sure that when we look to developments like Deanes Town we will concern ourselves with ensuring that Government looks more and more towards these kinds of areas which in my view would be land that cannot go into agriculture and endeavour to take those kinds of land and develop them so that some of the poor people can use them too. There are far too many areas of land in Barbados, Mr. President, which in my humble opinion have been set aside over the years for land exploitation in such a way that there can be no doubt that what would otherwise happen would be that our housing stock would be forced to use up arable land thereby denying us the opportunity to use our land for agricultural purposes and all that time the land that there is on the ridges that could be used adequately for housing is left to wait for the value of land to escalate beyond the possibility of the poor individual to purchase it.

12.05 p.m.

This may have been said before, Mr. President, but it has to be repeated from time to time because, as with the Bible, if one preaches a sermon only one day and does not get back to it then the message within the sermon might be lost because we are so taken up with our personal views and our personal interests that we have to be reminded ever so often. Any good preacher or any good teacher, Mr. President, would remind our noble Senator of the correctness of that position.

I wish to say, Sir, that we have to concern ourselves possibly with establishing a broad-based body of persons, a committee set up by the Government but including, as we have seen happening more and more, members of the Opposition parties and experts who are not necessarily related to any particular political party who would look at the land we now have, call it a bank or whatever else you want to call it, and who will give some kind of serious study to and, therefrom, arrive at some suggestions and recommendations as to what part of Barbados can adequately be attributed to housing, what parts of Barbados can better be attributed to agriculture and we should never leave out agriculture, Sir, and what parts of it should be given to other usage for development.

I know that if we look into various manifestos of political parties over the years we are going to see commitments to the public down that road and I did not want to refer only to manifestos because I believe that over the years all of the parties have erred in that they have promised a land use policy but they have not delivered. None of them has delivered. What we have to do is to realise that we have to move beyond the commitment and do something about it at this stage.

Sir, we are running out of time, not politically, and we are running out of land. I thank you very much.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution and I note, Sir, that out of the 5 items on the Order Paper for today there are 4 which deal with this important question of acquiring land for housing development.

I believe, Sir, that that is no accident. I also believe, Sir, that it is no accident that I am speaking immediately after Senator Trotman. Not that he has gotten in before me but we are working according to a spirit, I believe, Sir.

The question was asked earlier, Mr. President, by Senator Boyce, why a land bank at this time? I believe, Sir, that he asked that question expecting an answer from the Leader of Government Business. I am not in any way attempting to answer for the Leader of Government Business, I am just following what I thought, Sir, I was being shown to say at today's Sitting concerning land acquisition for housing development.

We need, Sir, to have at this time an underlying principle by which the Government and the people of Barbados must be guided. We began, Sir, by asking in our prayers for divine wisdom on our deliberations and I believe, Sir, that as we seek that divine wisdom we will find an answer particularly for this time because, Sir, we are in a time of transition.

We have had a time for Moses and we have had in our own Barbadian parlance a Moses, the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams. But we must not, Sir, remain in the time of Moses, we must come, Sir, to the time of Joshua; for under Moses was the period of deliverance from bondage while Joshua brought the children into the time of possession, possession of their inheritance, their God-given inheritance. We must see, Sir, the whole question of land ownership as a God-given inheritance. The God-given inheritance for land was not that some must have much and others little or nothing. This inheritance showed that there should be an equitable distribution of land. So, Sir, we need to ask who is it at this time who are entitled to this inheritance.

This rock called Barbados is first and foremost for Barbadians. It is our God-given heritage which we must not only preserve but which we at this time must seek to possess. When we look at the long history of this country we see a period of tribulation, we see a period dispossession, we see a period of struggle for human rights and human dignity and for the preservation of justice for all people. That is what Moses fought for, Moses and Aaron.

People like Errol Barrow and Tom Adams, are the Aarons of this nation but the Joshua is the Government of this nation. Successive governments from this day on must be the Joshua to put our people into possession of the land and that should be the underlying principle for the land bank.

Maybe the Government has not been cognisant of what they have been doing but very often there is that higher force which guides men and women to carry out His divine purpose and I believe that unknown to the Government and unknown to us in this Chamber, all of these acquisitions over the past 4 years have been effected to bring us to this point in time where a dispossessed people can now be given possession of their inheritance.

Mr. President, let us go to the divine wisdom because I have none. These were the divine words, Sir, which still apply to us today. They were words to the children of Israel and we today are children of Israel because we are the seed of Abraham. "When you pass over this Jordan you shall divide the land for an inheritance among your families." But listen to the most important part, Sir, "and to the more you shall give more inheritance and to the fewer you shall give less inheritance." We have it the other way around in

this country and it is time that it is put in correct perspective. "You shall give to the more, more inheritance, and to the less you shall give less inheritance." Everybody in this country knows who is more and who is less.

12.15 p.m.

Therefore, Sir, the question of the land bank is vitally important for us at this time and we need to ask ourselves, does the Government alone as Joshua necessarily have the responsibility to give a house and land? I believe that the whole question of housing development lies in three domains. One is for the individual, one is for the private sector to put up their project and one is for the Government to have their own projects. But underlying all of that we can only have that opportunity whether through the personal efforts or the private sector efforts or governmental efforts if the land is made available. So the Government has to make land available and although we are dealing particularly with housing developments, developments for housing must not just be the rock lands that are lying at part of the plantation. At the same time we must have development of the agricultural land because the rock land is for us to live on, but the agricultural land is for us to live by. Therefore there must go hand in hand a policy whereby land is available for us to live on and land is available for us to live by, and that policy must be developed in such a way that all of the people of this country can have part and parcel of both land for living on and land for living by.

Sir, the days of Moses have gone. At Senator Odle's father's funeral there was a text,

"Moses my servant is dead. Therefore arise and go over this Jordan and take possession of the land."

Our Moses is dead. Our Aarons have died. But we today collectively, who form the Government of this country, we the collective leaders of this nation at this time in our history must see to it that lands both rock and agricultural are simultaneously made available for the inhabitants of this country so that every "Tom", "Dick" and "Harry" and every "Coral" can have part and parcel of the heritage that is ours.

It is against the principles of God and the principles of Justice for some to have so much at the expense of the majority. It is immoral. And so, Sir, we will discover in this country that some who have had large tracks of land which we call plantations and who have used the money of the taxpayers to borrow by way of loans to manage these plantations, are now leaving them because it is not an economic proposition. Let the Government take those lands back for the people of Barbados whose hearts are still in agriculture! People who are not just looking for agriculture to make money, but for people who are looking to agriculture to sustain those who are being given a piece of the land to live on – and there are many of those plantations.

If there are disputes in this country as to who can buy which of the plantations, let the Government take them, acquire them and settle the dispute in favour of the majority of this country.

So, Sir, all of us together need to take stock today because the commodity of land is indeed scarce, extremely scarce. All of us are aware of it but all of us need to act together. This is not a time, Sir, for the Government against the Opposition, or the Opposition against the Government. In my first speech in this Senate, I referred to the lesson you read at James Street Church from the book of Nehemiah. And I said that a time will come when there will be certain measures where we will need to join hands to do "this good work" and to rebuild, and the time has come for that, Sir.

We have to join hands, now! That is why I support the Committee that Senator Trotman has called for. I know, Sir, there is already a Committee, but it is not of both Houses of Parliament. We need a broad-based committee and not only a Parliamentary Committee, but we need to draw on the resources that we have in this country and the resources of men and women who have fair minds and who have as their sole concern the goodwill of all people of this country.

I will wait for Senator Farley to answer on behalf of the Government the question that was asked by Senator Boyce, but, Sir, those are my views and I support the Resolution and trust that we will give passage to this and the others today as we move toward the underlying principle or vision at this time of ensuring that the majority of people of this country receive their fair share of their inheritance in the land of their country.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Workman, despite your very eloquent presentation I cannot recall mention of Deanes Town and would ask other Senators to stick within the four walls of this Resolution. This is not a general debate on land use policy. There are numbers of similar Resolutions today that could end up in being a very open-ended affair.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: First of all I would like to say that the opening bowler for the Opposition was somewhat deficient in his usual presentation, in the sense that he usually likes to brag when one is dealing with acquisitions of land, about the weekend trip or the afternoon trip he took to the spot in question and that he had talked to two old ladies and a goat to find out what were the feelings of the community about the spot. I am disappointed even. I was looking forward to his enlightening insights about what would have transpired in his conversations with the poor old lady in the shop, sitting on the step and the goat grazing on the grass. So therefore I am disappointed that he did not visit Deanes Town like he was supposed to.

Sir, I would like to be able to give some history to Deanes Town and I believe that Senator Bolden would help us in that respect as far as political history and the political education in particular, are concerned.

Deanes Town, from what I recall came about in 1981 when it was found that having looked at the environment and at facilities in Deanes Town, that at that time it would have been better for the people and less expensive, to move the people from Deanes Town to Sion Hill where there was already an established community and provide proper facilities and infrastructure as one can see in Sion Hill today, as against spending what would have been an astronomical sum of money in those times. We can afford to do it now because the Barbados Labour Party has improved the economy to the extent where you can afford to take facilities to Deanes Town. It did not happen between 1991 and 1994 that is why it remained stagnant. So the history is that at one point and time it was not economically affordable to take the facilities to the people in Deanes Town and it proved correct to move the people from Deanes Town to Sion Hill and provide a better environment for them and put them into the heart of a modern community and an existent situation. What has happened is that we have now been able to afford and because of the continuing need for housing and the demand for housing, we are now in a position to be able to take facilities to the people of Deanes Town.

Now Senator Boyce made a very snide remark about the relation of towns, *et cetera*. He seems to be obsessed with towns. It reminds me of, Sir, when we were talking about developing Oistins Town and that was in another era. It was laughed at and there was talk about the "tale of the two cities", Oistins and St. George, Warrens. All of the DLP had poor thoughts and could not appreciate the vision that existed in the Barbados Labour Party in developing towns, whether it was Oistins Town, Deanes Town or what would be known in a few years as Warrens Town, Speightstown, *et cetera*. So I am not surprised therefore at Senator Boyce's lack of appreciation of what is being done.
12.25 p.m.

In addition, the Barbados Labour Party has nothing to apologise for about public housing or housing in general. We were the pioneers of public housing. I was born just after the Riots, six years after the Riots. I remember the Pine coming into being. I remember what is now called Deacons Court, what used to be Deacons Housing Area, Goodland, Cave Hill and I remember hearing about Society Hill in St. John.

The only public housing in St. John is Society Hill. Forty years after the Democratic Labour Party's rule they never found time to build any kind of town in St. John.

We have no apology to make for housing. Our manifesto – I have to stick to my manifesto because I belong to a Party that believes in a social contract. In our manifesto we talked about our record in housing, that we said we would resume the building of terraced units for rent for those who cannot provide for their own housing. It said:

"The main thrust of our housing policy will however be the provision of incentives and facilities to encourage those who will help themselves."

We have done that.

What we are seeking to do with Deanes Town and other places is not just provide terraced units, although we are in the process of building 20 three-bedroom terraced units at Flat Rock in St. George, but we will talk about that next. I will give details of that. We are providing a healthy mix of the Government building terraced units and that is only one project.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: You made that in eight years. Whether it be in Pondsides, Flat Rock, Maynards, we believe in a mix, a role for the Government, a role for the private sector, a role for individuals like a previous Senator said, and there is a role for us to provide sites and services for persons to help themselves.

We do not believe that we should forever go on producing generation after generation of people who have to spend half of their lives queuing up at NHC to get a housing rental unit or begging somebody to do a favour for them to get a rental housing unit. We believe that we should give people the means to own their own houses and that is what we are seeking to do.

While we recognise that there will always be persons who cannot help themselves or who cannot afford to have their own houses, we will do that through terraced units. At the same time, we have a multiplicity of spots throughout Barbados where we are giving people a chance through sites and services to own their own houses.

We, therefore, are using a combination of devices and a land bank where we acquire land that can be put to different purposes and some of which will go to sites and services. We also believe fully in taking fullest advantage of the Public Workers Housing Credit Fund, because when we came into power we found about \$26 million sitting dead and dormant. We have been dispensing it freely for persons to expand their houses, improve their houses, acquire land *etc.*

Deanes Town is going to fit into the overall scheme of things where the Barbados Labour Party and its plan for housing are concerned. Therefore, there is no real truth in

Senator Boyce's charge about a private sector bias regarding housing.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President, the Honourable Senator is misleading this Chamber. I stated a fact when I said that it was publicly stated in Barbados that Apes Hill was returned to the developer, that it was returned because it was felt that the developer could do a better job than Government in terms of building low income housing. That is a matter of record.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, Senator Boyce also talked about a private sector bias being foisted upon us. Obviously, he had memories of how the IMF foisted things upon us in Barbados when persons could not go to the bathroom unless it was approved by Fritz Krakow. Be that as it may...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would ask you to withdraw that particular reference.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I will withdraw it, Sir, but the point is that there was a man called Fritz Krakow who dictated even a Budget in Barbados. So none of that is being foisted upon us. Our policy is something that is home-grown and it is something which this Government has devised in keeping with its manifesto to which I spoke about.

I still do not understand these snide remarks about golf courses when it was his Party who gave substantial and generous concessions to Westmoreland, some of the most generous concessions to any project anywhere in the history of the world and were making plans to do the same for Kingsland, Sir, and had planned to do a similar thing for the casino in St. Philip.

We realise that golf courses are necessary to part of our development, our mixed tourism product, to attract tourists to Barbados and golf courses are part of a mix. We are not going to be a golf course country and therefore I think that Senator Boyce's protestations are not really in keeping with the record established by his most recent Government.

I would like to say that I know the question of land is a highly emotive subject and rightly should be. Barbadians have historically wanted to own a piece of the "Rock", a 14 x 9 *etc.* We have not sought to destroy that dream. As a matter of fact, it was the last DLP Government who shattered those dreams for most Barbadians when it disallowed income tax concessions on mortgages, mortgage interest rates, home maintenance and insurance *etc.*

We, in the Barbados Labour Party, brought the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act in 1980 to allow persons who were dispossessed for generations through slavery, to own land at 10 cents per square foot. Then his most

enlightened Government took the steps to frustrate that policy by an amendment to the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, the ill effects of which we are still suffering today. We had defined by that legislation a tenancy as two houses or more. They raised it to five houses or more. That has done untold damage to the ability of lots of Barbadians to acquire the land which they would have been living on for a long time, in frustration of the principle and the philosophy behind the Freehold Tenancies Purchase Act. Therefore, Sir, we have no apologies to make for our housing policy. We are seeking to incorporate the views of the public and get the views of the wider public where the sale of land, whether on the West Coast or elsewhere in Barbados, is concerned. We have established a broad-based parliamentary committee. It might not be the most perfect committee, but the point is that work has begun. We have recognised that it is important that the public of all walks of life, should be allowed to make an input into this policy and the devolution of policy over the acquisition of land. Whether one should have an alien land-holding Act or not, and there have been public meetings. The public has been invited to contribute to the debate and all input will go towards, I believe, what should then be known as a Land Use Policy.

The Land Use Policy is going to be influenced by several factors – by the work of that committee, by the general community, by the hearings that are being held on the 1998 Physical Development Plan where again organised sessions with the public to make their input are being held.

Sir, I believe that this attitude towards public access to land and beaches is better represented by the steps that have been recently taken by this Government to ensure that certain parts of Barbados continue to provide traditional access to the sea that has obtained for generations.

One only has to think of the land that Government is moved to acquire next door to San Remo on the South Coast. One only has to think...

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is irrelevant, Senator.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. President, but the point is that all of these factors contribute to an enlightened policy where land use and land ownership is concerned. I give this Resolution my fullest support and I am sure that the Government in its acquisition of this land at Deanes Town will put it to the best possible use to satisfy some of the housing requirements and demands of the populace. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Sir, I rise to lend my support to this Resolution because I see it as a continuing effort on Government to provide much needed housing units for the poor in this country. I have a view which is at variance with some Members of the Opposition that Government has been tardy in its housing policy. I have

heard on a number of occasions that Government has only built 25 houses within the last four years. That is a fact that no one can deny but, Sir, if you accept that as a fact, you must also accept as a fact that Government's housing programme is being accelerated at a tremendous rate. We have at present about 44 units at Ponside which are due to be completed in November of this year these comprise 8 bed-sitting units, 12 two-bedroom units and some 24 three-bedroom units.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are these moving to Deanes Town?

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Sir, I am trying to establish the fact that the development at Deanes Town is a continuing effort by Government to expand its housing programme for the benefit of the people of Barbados. That is the point I am trying to make that Deanes Town is a continuing effort on Government's behalf to ensure that the housing needs of Barbadians are met.

12.35 p.m.

Sir, we also have a situation where Government has started some 20 terraced units at Flat Rock in St. George in an effort to further advance this housing programme. The whole idea that Government has been tardy in its housing programme is a myth that I believe needs to be dispelled because the facts do not support that contention.

The Government has returned to Deanes Town in an effort to satisfy what has been a tremendous demand for housing at all levels in Barbados and, particularly, at the level where the poor people in this society want to own a house and want to be in a situation where they can move away from the traditional idea of living in a terraced unit like in the Farm Housing area, Gall Hill in Christ Church and those housing areas, to areas where they can acquire a piece of land with services, they can start a starter home and they can still get involved in some form of agricultural type activity like small farming, a little vegetable activity and things like this.

We have seen in the last four years a move away from terraced units. We have a situation where at this point in time, I believe by the end of January this year Government would have completed some 117 terraced units. If we examine, however, Government's record in terms of disbursements from the National Housing Corporation for loans for housing development, we would get a fairly good reflection of the sort of housing activity that is going on in this country.

Sir, in the year 1993-1994 loans to the tune of \$416 000 were approved by the National Housing Corporation for on-lending to prospective homeowners. This figure was reduced between 1994-1995 to \$172 000. This brought to a total of almost \$700 000 the amount of money approved by the National Housing Corporation for on-

lending to the poor in this country for the repair of houses, the building of houses and the purchasing of land for the establishment of housing development.

Sir, we have seen a dramatic increase between 1995 – 1998 to the tune of \$9.9 million in loans being approved for housing development in this country, a move from almost \$700 000 between 1993-1995 to \$9.9 million. That is a phenomenal increase in the amount of building and housing activity which has been provided through the National Housing Corporation and, largely, the Barbados National Housing Corporation caters to the poor and low income in this country, so Government's record cannot be viewed as a Government which has just provided 25 houses but it must be seen within the context that by January there will be 117 terraced units built in Barbados for the poor people of this country. The whole issue of the land bank is such that I am proud to be part of a Government who, at this present time, has accumulated something like almost 1 300 lots throughout Barbados for housing development.

I take the point that Senator Workman said that land that is in a land bank owned by this Government is land that we can feel assured is secured for the poor people of this country.

We have situations also, Sir, where Government's programme has been stretched to an extent as a result of the shifting of people from Thyme Bottom road development...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Welch, I hate to interrupt you but please return to the Resolution.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Sir, I am hopeful, and I believe that the poor people in this country are appreciative of Government's efforts in providing not just terraced units, not just housing lots, not just starter homes but I am happy that the Government has renewed its effort by acquisition of land for housing development at Deanes Town to look after the needs of the people in this country who, all of us in here and everyone in Barbados, are satisfied within themselves are searching for land and searching to find themselves in a position where they can own their own homes.

I want to say, Sir, that I want to commend Government for taking all the effort at Deanes Town and at several locations throughout this country where they have acquired land, where they have made money to the tune of almost \$10 million available to poor people in this country so that they can be in a position to do what every single Barbadian in this country is proud of and that is of having their own roof over their heads.

Government has been informed by the success of a number of programmes in this country which have sought to provide lots for people in an effort to move away from the terraced units. Sir, that is the only point I am trying to

make. I am sure that all decent Barbadians would support any Government in an effort to try to look after the housing needs of this country.

With those few words, Sir, I hope that everyone in here would lend their full support to this Resolution.

Thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 1.45 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting be now suspended until 1.45 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
12.45 p.m.

RESUMPTION

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of the following questions:

To ask the Minister of Public Works, Transport & Housing.

Will the Minister state:

- (a) the estimated volume of leakage from the water distribution system in Barbados;
- (b) state the outline of any programme proposed by Government for the detection and remedying of such leaks; and
- (c) if there is such a programme, the cost and the implementation time thereof.

To ask the Minister of Public Work, Transport & Housing.

Will the Minister state whether Government or any of its agencies, statutory board or corporation propose to build a desalination plant for the purpose of supplementing the water supply in Barbados.

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative will the Minister state:

the cost of construction of the proposed plant, the effect of supply by desalination on the total cost of water supply, the effect of supply by desalination on the price to the consumer of water supply and the proposed location of the desalination plant.

To ask the Minister of Public Works, Transport & Housing.

Will the Minister state if any environmental impact study on the operation of a desalination plant has been undertaken for Government and by whom.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I want to join this important debate and I want to lend my strongest support to the Government for the acquisition of these lots noting, Sir, that the acquisition of these 24 lots would lead to the establishment of 52 lots which will be available to the people of this country who, as we all know, are desperately suffering from eight years of neglect when the last Democratic Labour Party administration did not see it wise to provide land for the people.

Sir, if there is one thing that we know is that the people of Barbados want to provide for their own housing and Government must make sure that adequate land is there for the people to look after their own housing needs because Sir, we all know the culture of Barbadians with regard to housing. Once he has a piece of land whether it is rented or whether he owns it, in two twos as we say he will have a structure up and before you know he will start from the back and come forward and before you look around good he has a house of which he can be proud. Therefore, Sir, the provision of these lots bears testimony to the farsightedness of this present administration in ensuring that the housing needs of the people are in some way being addressed.

Sir, we know that there is a huge demand for housing lots in this country of ours. Sir, I remember in the last Budget debate in the Other Place, I hope I am not misquoting, that the Opposition Leader was commenting on the fact that people now are not asking for jobs, they are asking for house spots. Such is the situation in this country and Government must move with even more dispatch to reverse the trend between 1986 and 1994 when that administration sought not to try to satisfy this very important need.

Sir, we have heard a lot of talk about land use policy and so on. If I may be allowed, I just want to touch briefly on that. It is all in connection with the Deanes Town development. If we look at the history of this we note one or two things here carefully. That this is a settlement with a long history. By 1981, of the 24 lots that are now being acquired, only 13 lots were used and we can only speculate that conditions at Deanes Town were such that people were leaving Deanes Town because there was no electricity and there was no water. It was then a dying community and the decision was taken then that it would be far better to relocate these people most of whom were old people. Most of them were pensioners so it was a decision to relocate them where instead of carrying services to the people you carry people to the services. There are times, Sir, when Governments has to make these sort of decisions.

Here we have now, Sir, land that was basically idle. The time has come now where Government is revisiting the whole Deanes Town area. This must be seen as part of a larger housing development that is going to take place in that general area. Government is now revisiting the whole Deanes Town Complex and note that there are some six acres of land that can be use for housing demand. Note that it is not land that is taken out of agriculture, I am sure that will please Senator Laurie who considers himself to be the guardian of agriculture land in Barbados, except when it west of Highway 2A.

Asides.

Senator T. E. BARKER: I know that he would not have any trouble with this Resolution because this is land that was into housing and it is now going back into housing.

Sir, the point must be made that we have to be careful that we satisfy the legitimate aspirations of our people. Sir, I am a member of the black race of which I am extremely proud and one thing I know about our race is that we are very close to the land. When you take the land away from us, you take away our identity. Our whole psyche is destroyed because we are not basically town people. The development of these sorts of communities is important for the national psyche.

Sir, I felt proud when I was able many years ago to own a piece of land. I know the physiological boost that I received from owning a piece of this rock. I can understand the desire for Barbadians to own land even if it is a 4 000 or 5 000 square feet of land and we have to do everything to satisfy this desire.

I have heard a lot of complaints from the Other Side about the amount of acquisitions that we are doing. Sir, it stands to reason, the majority of people have not been land owners. It is a historical fact. The only way that we can become land owners is if Government or some governmental agency intervenes, especially for those who are not in the upper income bracket and for those of us who belong to the working people. Government has to have a strong interest in the whole question of land development. That is why, Sir, we are here discussing a Resolution like this because the Government must come in and of necessity carry out these sort of developments to provide land for the people. Some time it is unfortunate but it has to be land which is in agriculture. That is a fact of life, that the land that goes to housing was previously in agriculture. Just like the land on which Westmoreland Golf course is being built was in agriculture and the land where Sandy Lane estate was built and is being built was in agriculture. You can go even places down Fairfield. Fairfield was in agriculture, Atlantic Shores was in agriculture. Sir, it is a statement of fact and you cannot hide your head in the sand. The important point is that we have to satisfy the legitimate aspiration of the people

when it comes to land ownership. We cannot avoid that, we have to satisfy their legitimate aspirations.

What is of concern to me, Sir, is that there is a lot of speculation on land, where a lot of land was taken out of agriculture and went into some of these parks and terraces and I have no problem with that but the point is that unlike Deanes Village, there has been land taken out of agriculture and gone into housing but for years remained undeveloped.

I am not sure, Sir, if that is wise in the national context of what is happening. I am told that there are as much as 2 000 that have not been built on and that is some thing we have to look at in the face of a shortage of land. The figure might be higher than the 2 000. I was told that it could be as much as 20 000.

Remember, Sir, that one of the mandates of the Urban Development Commission was that it would look at bringing some of these unused lots back into circulation so that would ease some of the shortage. So, Sir, I have no quarrel at all with what Government is doing with regard to housing because before you can build a house you have to have land on which to build.

2.05 p.m.

Now the Government, Sir, has to acquire even more land because the demand is so great and the result of the improvement in this economy brought about by the people's revolutionary change in 1994 was that there is now a more open economy and people now see a future in Barbados where in 1994 the light they saw at the end of the tunnel was the on-coming train.

Now, Sir, there is more hope. There is even going to be a greater demand because people now see an island and an economy which they can grow with and they want to grow with the island and the economy. Sir, we can even expect more.

Sir, there is also a point that the Honourable Members fail to realise that when this land is acquired in Deanes Town or wherever, Government still has to now spend a lot of money and time putting in roads and other services. You cannot acquire land today and tomorrow put people on it because you have to put the infrastructure in before people can take possession of the land and provide for housing.

Sir, if we look around the country today we will see that the amount of road building that is taking place is tremendous. You look all around St. Michael and you will see the Urban Commission is doing its bit and the Rural Commission is working over time and the Ministry of Transport is working over time in relation to the private developers. So all around you see reasons why sometimes these acquisitions in Deanes Town and other places take a little time between the acquisition stage and the actual building stage because the amount of activity that is

going on is so tremendous that it will take a bit of time before the services are put in so we have to be a little patient, all the time remembering.

Sir, I want to digress a little bit to mention that I saw in the papers only today or yesterday, tenders advertised for road works at Cottage and Groves in St. George, which land has been acquired a year or so ago and now the services are being put in. So it will take a little time before these lots become available to the people of this country. This is the first stage because you cannot build a road before you acquire the land first. The point is, Sir, that people fail to realise that people were living in these places and in 1981 they were moved to Sion Hill and they have established a good life there for 17 years, nice surroundings. Now, Sir, they are being paid for the land. The whole question of giving them first choice I do not think is very relevant in this situation because they would have been moved and they would have gone to better surroundings and they would have established themselves so I do not know if they would want to remove their houses back there now. It does not make sense and I am sure the Honourable Senator who made that point may not have been thinking clearly when he made that point. He probably did not understand what went on in 1981 and he probably does not understand why the process is not as reversible as he thinks it is because those people would have, over the last 17 years, built up a new life so to speak and to go back would not really make sense. The only sense it would make is to score a political point which of course the Honourable Senator does not intend to do. He does not want to score political points especially in St. James.

So, Sir, I want to lend my support to this Resolution and encourage Government to carry on trying to satisfy the needs of the people. The people must have access to land in order for them to satisfy their legitimate aspirations of owning their own house. The time will come in the very near future when the tractors will start rolling in Deanes Town, the roads will be put in and you will see some lovely houses being put there for the people of this country. Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, it seems to me that having had a number of Resolutions of this type over the last few years that what we have been learning to expect from Honourable Members is one half of a speech that says these are problems here and the other half that says, I will however support the Resolution. I do not think there has been much difference, Sir, over Resolutions like the acquisition of land at Deanes Town in St. James. The difference, Sir, is about the speed with which the land acquired is being used for the housing that is proposed. There is a gap in between and I am happy to hear Senator Barker state that very soon after the compulsory acquisition of land at Deanes Town and elsewhere that people will be moving on with their houses but that is not my experience, Sir. My experience has been that there are many people in this country who want to have house spots now and some of them are being given notice to

move their houses off somewhere or they are acquiring houses of their own for the first time and they want to know that there is somewhere where they can build and if it is going to take a long time, as it has done in many instances, to convert the acquired land of Deanes Town and others into suitable house spots with services then I think there is a need to speed up that process and that would be my appeal, Sir. I think that we need to close the gap between the acquisition and the building of houses on site.

There are some other problems associated with this, Sir, and it is the problem of compensation for the lands acquired. I am not sure who these people are or what their status is, who are the owners of Deanes Town but I hope it is not a situation where they have to wait for endless years before they receive the funds that have been identified as belonging to them because of the acquisition process.
2.15 p.m.

I know, Sir, that this process has taken many years in many instances. I do not think, Sir, that the Government is necessarily hamstrung in that because the land has not been paid for that the Government cannot go ahead and develop. I do not think that that is the case at all. I believe that the Government could do almost anything. But it is unfortunate if any development should take place while people are still waiting to be compensated.

Sir, what we have to remember is that land becomes more valuable with age and if people are not paid at the time of the acquisition, the question is should they not be paid more by the time the Government gets around to paying them. That is a very important point. Even over and above any interest that is due, I think that the land should be reassessed after people have waited for ten or so years to be compensated for their land.

At some point, Sir, I had made the point that like Deanes Town there are other areas of land in Barbados that are not in the hands of the wealthy, which are acquired from time to time from people who cannot afford to wait because their land is their livelihood.

Sir, there is also another point that interests me and I hope that this is put right, in an area that is supposed to be several acres like Deanes Town, six acres of land – that can accommodate a lot of housing, and since the process has been turned out to be a slow one in allocation of lots, I would like to see some new agency or persons responsible for organising these spots for people. Because I have the experience of Church Land, which has been donated in some instances and acquired by the Government in some instances.

But, I speak mainly to the ones that have been donated where for years the churches that donated the land had the problem of trying to sort out things and it is costing them: a lot of personnel and a lot of money involved, people being paid for something that is not going to bring any money in

to the owners of the land. And yet they continue at 10 cents per square foot having to supply the organisation that keeps the thing in motion. I think that this is an area the Government should move into and not have some lands that Government deals with and some that are left to the donors to develop, even if the donors, as in the case of the Anglican Church and St. George, are enthusiastic about giving the land to those who are in need.

Therefore, Sir, it is a matter when they acquire this land, not just to attach it as has been said to the land bank, but to hasten to use it for the purpose for which it has been acquired. I think that a lot of our talking and our questioning and so on would come to an end if we could be assured that when Deanes Town is finally acquired we would know that in a very short time it would be used for the purpose intended.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, as far as I understand the development in the Deanes Village area, because one of my Order Papers says Deanes Village and the other says Deanes Town, I think that this is in Deanes Village and that the Deanes Town is going to be created from lands from Orange Hill, Hope, Deanes Village, Waterhall and the surrounding areas. So the Government is in the process of acquiring that whole area to make it into a special development area which will be called Deanes Town. I understand that there is something like 1 100 houses that are supposed to go up into this area.

Now the development of Government housing at the rate of even, let us be generous and say that in the last year we have managed to complete somewhere 89 house spots. If we are going to build 1 100 houses, this will take us 12 and a half years just to complete that one area, so like other Senators have said before, we need to do something fairly drastically there to improve the rate at which we are going to do this development bearing in mind that we have acquired 300 or 400 acres in various other parts of Barbados which are going to be similarly developed at the same time.

I support this Resolution because I like the idea of creating in an area that was not very good agricultural land for housing area with which we have all of the facilities in one place and we are creating another town in that area.

I do not think I can agree with Senator Boyce that we can see the West Coast from there, because in walking over that area, the area of the Hope which is slightly higher, blocks out the view below, but it is a very nice area. It is rather interesting that it is not very far removed from the Waterhall area which the Government acquired and then returned because they said it did not have water. So it confuses me as to why we returned that acquisition at Waterhall for whatever the reason. Why does that reason not apply to the same Deanes Town area? I hope that something is going to be done infrastructure wise that will change that whole position.

Interestingly right next to Deanes Town is that same area which is returned to the private sector and the private sector has built and finished every single lot on there with small wooden houses. Very interesting indeed. We talk about housing for the poor. The National Housing Corporation houses, and I have called them and asked them what are the prices. The house is \$50 000 and the land is somewhere between \$15 000 and \$25 000. Now, how can poor people buy these houses. We are not talking about poor people, surely what we must be doing is to develop modules of wooden houses that we can make available to people who are earning \$200.00 and there are a lot of people out there in that category.

This is what the Government should be doing. If we have a \$50 000 that should go to somebody in a middle income bracket who can afford it. It is ridiculous to mislead people that you must own a piece of land, nowhere in the world, the whole population of any country in the world where 100% of them own land. In most countries it is less than 50% who own land. They rent and this is where I see that poor people have to be guided. To go and mislead them that they must go out there and spend the money on housing is an emotional thing. Let us try and approach this thing scientifically. Look at what their budgets have to spend. They cannot afford to spend this on housing. They cannot. They have to be able to spend it on the education of their children. These things are more important. We have to put things in priorities and get them straight. Do not let us mislead people that owning a piece of land is going to solve their problems. That is wrong. That is very, very irresponsible for us to mislead them that owning a piece of land will solve all their problems. We must approach things in a realistic way. It is very nice. It sounds very good from the heart, but let us look at this thing properly and say, "okay, take this house and rent it and from there you can then build your own fortune." You can invest some of that money. I mean it really hurts my heart to look up on some of these ridges and see people have spent ½ a million dollars on a house for what, rather than putting it into something that would give them part of the economic pie of Barbados.

We talk about economic enfranchisement, it is crazy if you thinking to enfranchise people economically that building a \$500 000 house is going to do it, that is absolutely nonsense. They should be taking that money and putting it into business and thereby becoming leaders in the business world of Barbados.

Therefore, I hope that we can take this opportunity at Deanes Town to develop this town for poor people, that is Government's development and Government's development should be at the heart of poor people. Leave the bigger development and more expensive houses to the private sector.

Thank you.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I did not intend to get into this debate but Senator Laurie has just dragged me in. I think it is time that we bring a little bit of sense to this whole community.

I remember, Sir, Deanes Town, because I do not think anybody in here, not even Senator Boyce knows what Deanes Town is about. I developed Waterhall and Deanes Town is right next to Waterhall and back in the 1970s when we went to the then Democratic Labour Party Government and said "let us develop Waterhall in conjunction with Deanes Town," they told us "no". But Senator Laurie does not understand that Deanes Town has changed three times in 300 years. They moved the people from Deanes Town and they planted it in canes when the agriculture was good. When agriculture got bad, they moved them back into Deanes Town and in each 100 years the people in Deanes Town have moved and gone back. Then they said it was not good enough for agriculture, because there was a concept at one time, and forgive me saying this, when the white man ruled Barbados that one time they put you up on the hill, next time they put you back down in the bottom as it suited them. Then suddenly when they realised the hill lots had the precious view, they kept you down in the bottom.
2.25 p.m.

Let me go down my list gradually before I reach Senator Laurie. We talk about why should Government keep acquiring land in this country and I say it is absolutely necessary that Government at this stage acquire as much land as possible because I have said that within the next five years the average man or woman in Barbados will not be able to buy a house spot.

I had a group of people here last week from the United States searching for land to create an experimental research centre and I have been quoted for land in the country at \$10, \$12 and \$15 a square foot.

When the Barbados Labour Party talked about the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act and reserving and preserving the land in the tenancies for those persons who had given their sweat and blood to the plantation, the late Errol Barrow and the DLP walked about and told the people not to buy the land because they would now have to pay taxes.

The late Errol Barrow rode on a horse next to Colonel Drax up through Drax Hall and said he would be the man to put the Government in court for taking away the land from Colonel Drax and the plantation. Now all I am saying is that the Barbados Labour Party has always had a vision of making people in this country land owners whether you were poor, middle class or rich, once you belonged to this country. If you go back to the cement plant in this country,

the late Tom Adams said that we must have a cement plant because we want to get away from the wooden houses.

Ninety percent of the house fires in Barbados occur in wooden houses. So Senator Laurie must know that. You know, they must be in chattel houses that every time you hear a fire you have to run and see what is happening. I will get to you in a minute Senator Laurie.

Now we deal with the question of land. I have said in here before this is one of the few countries in which Government has never owned Crown land. If you go back from the beginning of this country the kings in Great Britain have always given away every square foot of this country and Government has had to purchase back everything they want. So that we have not got any Crown land in this country so Government must buy and continue buying. That is the truth.

The reason why you have difficulties are for one or two reasons. If the people who own land – the older people who own land in this country sometimes cannot find the title deeds so therefore you come to Parliament to acquire. On the other hand, you can negotiate and at this point I can say that Government needs to put in place a private negotiating team and take it out of the hands of civil servants who sit down on your documents and make laughing sport about how long they can keep you before you get compensation. That is what I would like to see Government do. Get a team of people who know what they are doing, a lawyer, a solicitor, a real estate agent and a valuer and they can settle land acquisitions speedily.

I was in Parliament and I know that when they acquired land from the late Governor-General in St. Lucy, when the Governor-General said that he was not selling at that price I heard the late Errol Barrow get up and say that he could not carry it through at that price, that the land is worth more than that, and they came back in Parliament later and paid the man a better price after he brought in his own valuer.

So Government needs to look at the rate of compensation, the speed at which it is done, and remove that unit out of the hands of the civil servants and it can be done speedily. I also think that Government needs at this time to get into the acquisition of a lot of land, not only in little villages to set up NHC houses. They will have to get into land like on the West coast and move quickly into the South coast in order to bring a stabilising effect to the price of land on the West coast and make the price become stable so that Barbadians would not be tempted to sell it and Bajans would be able to buy it. That is my honest view.

There must be a time lag between acquisition and construction. At the present moment we talk because we

want to score political points. At the moment, the Central Bank is asking not to heat up the economy. Private builders are saying slow down Government buildings so that they can get on with their building. There is a three-months wait for blocks if you want to build a house now. That is no excuse why Government should not be getting on with their building programme. Government has to be separate and distinct from private enterprise. Now the goodly Reverend spoke about Church lands. With all due respect to you, Sir, I am not attacking you. I am attacking the Anglican Church now. They should be the last people to talk about land in Barbados.

The Anglican Church owns substantial land in Barbados that has been lying idle for hundreds of years and they will not do anything with it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, can you bring us back to Deanes Town?

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I am dealing with Deanes Town and the acquisition for building houses. St. Silas Church. If you remember, Sir. They will laugh because they do not know where St. Silas Church is. If they do remember, St. Silas Church was once the centre of a thriving community which included Waterhall and houses 200 years ago. That is why I said the people in here do not know the history of Deanes Town.

Sir, history will show, and I have had to research it, because I was very prominent in the development of Waterhall. Then all of a sudden St. Silas Church stood alone with the people walking from Deanes Town, Waterhall, Apes Hill and the surrounding areas to the church. Now you are bringing back people to St. Silas Church. It is now the centre of a thriving community of which Deanes Town is a prominent part.

What I am saying is the Anglican Church has land all around it. If you go into St. Joseph, St. John, there is land lying idle for years and they have done absolutely nothing with it and the Anglican Church represents the greatest capacity of those people who profess to be Christians who are looking for houses and the Anglican Church has done nothing. They have allowed buildings to fall into disrepair while they argue back in the church halls about what to do with them.

I do not mean Father Springer, but you can carry the message. The Anglican Church owes a responsibility to the people of Barbados to use the land they have and put it to good use and help create housing in Barbados. They should be the ones who develop Waterhall and Deanes Town *etc.*

I come to Senator Laurie now and his psyche about we should condition poor people's minds to buy and live in chattel houses. In 1966, I was a young man in Barbados, just

home from England, and I scrambled to buy a piece of land in St. Philip and, as Senator Barker says, you get a sense of achievement when you own your first piece of land. I sat down and drew a house and I wanted to build it. I had a plan. I went to a certain bank in Bridgetown asking for money and do you know what the Bank told me? They would not lend me \$20 000 to build a house but they would lend me \$35 000 to go and buy a motor car. So that is the business that poor people must get into, because in three years time you will buy another new car.

There has just been a statement made in this country a few months ago or a couple of years ago that all black people want is a house and a motor car but now I hear they are reduced to a chattel house with an outside composting toilet. That is all they are supposed to have in this country. That is a sure prescription for another riot in this country. I would advise that we do not go out there.

2.35 p.m.

We seem to have a strange thought that you must have some people out there who cut the canes, sweep the gutters and those sorts of things and go home to a little chattel house and a composting toilet at Deanes Town and catch a bus to get to Deanes Town, but then you have another lot who can live in the nice big houses, go and drink champagne, drive the Mercedes, the Volvos and all those things and you say: "I see it in Venezuela. That is why they always have trouble down there." That is what you call a two-tier centre.

I see it in Jamaica. That is what you have happening and that is where the crime is high. I think Barbadians should be very much aware that that is not what we want in this society.

I say, if I can live in a wall house with a BRC roof, with a swimming pool in the back, it should be the aspiration of every Bajan to do the same thing but I will not be one to go outside and preach to people that you are only entitled to a chattel house with a composting toilet, not me. I bet the Senator does not have a composting toilet at him.

Mr. President, I am supporting this Resolution. I am saying that Government must keep on acquiring lands. You cannot build as fast as you acquire, and I think they should acquire. When it is the West Coast lands there is no objection to it because I bet the Senator would not tell those people they must have composting toilets or they must put chattel houses on that side of the road. I would bet you that.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: You do not remember the debates in here, you know.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair, Senator.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I can leave Deanes Town and come back to Deanes Town several times but I am saying, Sir, that I support the Resolution. I disagree with a lot of the statements made about conditioning certain people in this country's minds that they must live in chattel houses because when the fires come then you will turn and hear the National Housing Corporation must have houses set aside for tragedies like these. I am saying that the late Tom Adams made it absolutely clear, he would like to rid Barbados of chattel houses and I am still in line with that philosophy.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I am forced to be a part of this particular debate. Since we have so many items here that resemble each other I wanted to speak a bit later but this particular item has created so much heat and such little light that I thought I would lend my contribution at this time.

In dealing with this matter on Deanes Town and these 52 housing lots, Sir, I would like to approach it in very practical terms by making reference to the Government's White Paper on Housing if only to make the point that the Government of Barbados has not yet proven to me that it is serious about low income housing in Barbados. I believe in order to make these 52 lots available for low income housing, there are some things the Government of Barbados must first prove.

I would like the Minister to tell me what constitutes low income housing in Barbados today. As standards of living change from time to time, as the quality of life changes, one adjusts such information. I am not sure I now understand what is low income or lower income housing in Barbados. But the Government of Barbados in its White Paper on Housing has made it very clear for me that its statistics show that 36 057 persons, or 34% of the labour force, earn less than \$200 weekly which automatically excludes them from acquiring housing in the formal markets both in terms of affordability and qualification.

It further states, and I am quoting the White Paper on Housing on page 27 which says that:

"Another 27 154 persons earn between \$200 and \$300 weekly, accounting for one quarter of the labour force."

In that same Paper, the Government states:

"In the absence of cheaper housing or some form of subsidy to assist select households in acquiring a home,

some 60% of Barbadians will be unable to afford a home."

The Government of Barbados for the last number of months, and I thought I would say this immediately after Senator Laurie because I wanted to make the point – I do not think there is anyone in this Senate or anywhere in Barbados who doubts which side I stand on in this country. Everybody is clear of my politics. I am firmly on the side of the working-class of this country. It is all right for us to acquire lands. I love it. I want to make sure that we have lands in the bank. I am afraid though, when I listen to the tone which says, acquire it quickly or else, that is saying to me that not even in the Parliament of this country do we have the power to determine that our lands should be ours. If we do not buy it and put it in a bank somebody else is going to own it. So who is running Barbados, and who determines who is going to own land in Barbados, when and where? It is a frightening thing. As I sit here this evening and hear the plea for us to rush and put these lands into the bank rapidly or else, I get the impression that Barbados is suddenly becoming a colony again.

The Parliament of this country and the people who manage the affairs of the people of Barbados are responsible for that and we can determine who will own lands in Barbados and when. Please, let us not create that kind of posture because it is frightening.

Mr. President, I think that if the Government of Barbados is really serious about lower income housing, it would not only acquire these lands. It would not only embark on a sites and services programme, but it would make sure that the resources are made available for the individuals to acquire these houses, and the Government has to assist. The Government in this same document has stated that a house spot in this country after they put in electricity, water and all that, would cost no less than \$20 000. The question must be asked, when will a poor man be able to complete his payments for a house spot which is costing him \$20 000 and then start to build his house which cost him thousands of dollars. Let us deal with this thing in real terms. We no longer have the time, this is a matter of urgency. We can no longer acquire land and pay for it over time and then build a house. Government needs to get back to the days when the Government of Barbados either public sector only or in conjunction with private sector builders and embark on a housing programme which gives individuals a complete home.

2.45 p.m.

Now, back to low income housing. The Government of Barbados in this same document that I am dealing with, Deanes Town or whatever you call it, which is a low income area, and I want to make sure, really, that individuals can own houses on these 52 lots. I do not want the lots to be available and people cannot get there.

The General Workers Fund. I want to revisit that fund. I believe that in order for individuals to be able to construct houses under this fund, Government must increase the ceiling. The maximum sum of money which can be made available to an individual under the General Worker Fund. There is no house and land that you can get in Barbados for \$40 000 today. If the land is costing \$20 000, what \$20 000 house are we putting on that land. What is it going to be built of. The same criticism that we are leveling about whether it is going to be timber or not or whether it is sending us back to the past, by not doing anything about that Fund, we are actually admitting that we want to construct only timber houses under the General Workers Fund. We cannot contradict ourselves. We have to be consistent on these matters. There is no \$40 000 ceiling which can give to a Barbadian a piece of land and a house in Barbados.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I am therefore appealing to the Government of Barbados to revisit the General Workers Fund and look at that ceiling.

I am not engaging in this rhetoric. I work in the financial services and I prepare people on a daily basis for mortgage housing in Barbados and I know the real cost of housing in Barbados. I know about housing when you are using labourers to help build and I know about housing when you are bringing in contractors and I know about housing when you are having sub-contractors. That is my business so let me talk about it. The Government of Barbados is not approaching this matter in real and practical terms. The Government has also to look at the Housing Credit Fund.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, are you on your feet?

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: These institutions under Government which are really supposed to cater to Barbadians who would encounter difficulty accessing finance in the regular financial services sector in order to get housing accommodation. I would like this Government to stop jumping up and *'pompe-setting'* every time we come in here and compulsory acquiring land and give a lot of fancy talk about housing. I am not seeing any housing going up anywhere in this country. I agree that there is going to be some little lag in between acquisition and construction but that land is really getting out of hand. There are no houses being constructed by the Government of Barbados. I listen to the Governor of the Central Bank and all those other individuals who give caution from time to time about the economy and I am worried because construction in this country is skewed in the direction of large developers and international investors. The reason why I cannot go on my telephone today and order some concrete blocks to build a house in Deanes Town, in Flat Rock or in Greens in St. George is because all the

construction that is going on in this country is construction surrounding major development. We can get no construction going for Barbadians in low and middle income housing in this country. If you listen to the calypsonians, you will know that it is a problem of major concern and we should not fool ourselves. This is not empty Opposition talk. That it has made social commentary in this country in the recent Crop Over festival should tell us that it is an issue and it a major concern to Barbadians. The Government of Barbados has to do something about it.

I heard Senator Boyce talk about riots. Yes, there will be rioting if Barbadians get on bicycles and motor cycles and walk the streets and see all these big fancy buildings going up around here while at the same time water is falling in their heads, the place leaking and they are begging for a lodging and these kinds of things.

Mr. President, on this matter of Deanes Town, I heard earlier somebody saying about there is a cow in everybody's back yard and we laugh about that. There is a cow in everybody's back yard in Barbados because the Government of Barbados every since 1994 has acquired a lot of land, a lot of cow land but it has not been building houses on this cow land. There is a cow on every lot of land, but not in people's yard. I want to see this cow in more yards in Barbados.

I also want to enquire about whether we are paying these small individuals for their land. In this vesting I note there are some 24 individuals whose lands were involved in this area at Deanes Town. For some time I have been saying that the Government should come up with an instrument, a form of promissory note which Barbadians can use and which they can take to a commercial bank, credit union or other financial institution in this country and have access to finance while they are awaiting the Government's payment of money.

We come in here with strip bonds and all kinds of fancy instruments to deal with other areas. I welcomed that and I supported it when it was brought to the House. At that time I asked when are we going to look for an instrument which Government can use and give to Barbadians when we acquire their lands. We can be creative about it. I agree with Senator Springer that in between the time when we acquire an individual's land and Government eventually pays for this land, the value of land goes up and it is going up rapidly.

I want to say to the Government of Barbados that it is really shooting itself in the foot as far housing is concerned in this country. It is because since the Government is not intervening in the way that it should in terms of building construction in this country, what is happening is that by allowing too many buildings to go up in the wrong area we are pushing the cost of construction up in this country, defeating our very so-called objective of providing low income housing in Barbados. Labour costs are going up.

We cannot get artisans in this country to work for us under a certain rate. All rates, masons and carpenters, those rates are premiums rates now. We are pushing the total cost of construction up. The labour cost alone in order to construct a building in Barbados has risen significantly. The Government can help in this area and it must. The Government must determine when it will put the brakes on construction in these other areas and allow some construction to happen in the areas of housing especially low and middle income housing.

I support it in part because I want to see individuals in the low income category in this country own their homes. I know it is going to be a Resolution because I am not satisfied that the Government has a master plan for the creation of low income housing in this country. I call on the Government of Barbados. I appeal to the Government of Barbados, its planners, to sit and seriously look at the true cost of lower income housing in Barbados and come up with a workable plan in order that we can see some people owning their homes in this country once more because we all agree that the ownership of a piece of land, a building is of the utmost importance to all Barbadians and we need to get past the talk and lip service and see some real work happening in this area. 2.55 p.m.

Mr. President, I hope that Deanes Town or Village whatever we care to call it, that by this same time next year when I familiarise myself with the area a bit more I will be meeting some residents and not just some bald land sitting there waiting for houses to go up on it. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, we have had an interesting debate on this matter. The last Senator who spoke, spoke about having lots of heat and little light. We also had quite a bit of noise and it reminded me of an assertion that noise proves nothing because if you are a rural person like me, Mr. President, you would know that very often when you hear a hen cackling sometimes it is so loud you would think it laid an asteroid rather than an egg. But Mr. President, amidst the very loud presentations I want to make a few quick remarks in conclusion of this debate on this acquisition of land at Deanes Town.

I fully support this proposal for this acquisition of land particularly as it relates to providing opportunities for the average Barbadian to participate in that process of ownership.

Sir, I totally reject the suggestions made by some Senators here today, particularly Senator Laurie that it is an incorrect aspiration for one to want to acquire land. I, Sir, am of that background of a village person. If that assertion was to take root, Sir, the assertion that Barbadians should concentrate on things other than owning land, my parents,

Sir, and subsequently myself would still be on rented land in a village in a chattel house with what in a previous matter was referred to as a composting toilet. It cannot be the role of any person in the Parliament of Barbados whether it be in the Honourable the Senate or in the Other Place, in 1998 to suggest that the people of Deanes Town should only aspire towards rental accommodation in some government unit somewhere.

Rental accommodation is a useful first step to help to get a leg up but to suggest that it should be the ultimate aspiration for persons to aspire to rental of a small unit in a block of other units and that should be enough for the average person, is ridiculous and it is part of the reason, Sir, a clear understanding that we are not of that school at all. Certainly I would be flying in the face of my ancestry and my friends and family and colleagues if I were to decide that as a Member of the Parliament of Barbados in 1998 that those persons who already have managed to own should continue to own and those persons like the ones who will be going to Deanes Town in St. James should not go there rather they should go into some rental accommodation or be scotched on a gully side some place in a chattel house with a composting toilet.

Sir, we have to understand quite clearly that this development at Deanes Town is part of the Government's thrust to ensure that Barbadians are able to gain access to land and to fulfil their aspirations.

Senator Thompson in her presentation quoted from the Government White Paper on Housing and she made a quote from the White Paper to the point that unless there is Government intervention that some 60% and I am taking it that she quoted the right figure, some 60% of persons will not be able to gain access to ownership of housing and that is important. The point is this, that it is through Government intervention that the subsidies and other matters which are referenced in that White Paper are being done. So that the fact that according to the same White Paper a fully serviced house spot, fully serviced being with all the utilities and so on in place, could cost no less than \$20 000 is not in and of itself a barrier to ensuring that low income persons gain access to house spots in Barbados and I can give concrete examples.

Under an earlier Barbados Labour Party administration we were able to develop Parish Land in Christ Church. Parish Land in Christ Church is just one of several examples in which the Barbados Labour Party, as part of its philosophy of finding the most efficacious means of providing a better life for our people, Sir, has been able to do in other areas what it will do for the people in Deanes Town, St. James but by way of example of the kinds of mechanisms which the people of Deanes Town, St. James can expect. In Parish Land there are persons who have rented spots from

Government. There are some who some 15 to 20 years later are in the process of purchasing those spots now that their circumstances have improved. There are others whose circumstances have not reached that point as yet. But the point of the matter is that the Barbados Labour Party Government of the day recognised that they could put persons in contact with the land, they can take control of it and the ultimate freehold ownership of it would come eventually. It is the same philosophy that would have informed the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act, because we recognise, as Senator Workman said, that ownership is important, that we are to perform the role of the Joshua and to move the people toward possession and those are parts of a coherent housing development strategy.

3.05 p.m.

Yes, we will build terraced units as well, but other vision of the people of the social class from which I have come is not one which will see their entire future bound up in an alien culture of accommodation in Government rental terraced units. But the vast majority of persons I am sure are persons like me who are accustomed to running around in the village and having a little contact with the ground at least a few times during a 24-hour period and who aspire toward ownership.

But, Mr. President, I want to also indicate, Sir, that this business of provision of housing, again at Deanes Town, St. James and other areas are for a number of purposes. Mention was made earlier, and I want to reiterate the point that there are a number of very urgent and pressing situations which we have to face. There are a number of persons who are in zone 1 water protection areas and who for the safety of the wider community have to be relocated elsewhere. There are people who are still affected by the amendment which the Democratic Labour Party administration made to the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act and there are the ones who are philosophically opposed to ownership of land in Barbados by Barbadians given a stance on that particular legislation in addition, of course to the natural population growth and so on.

So we take our responsibilities very seriously in this matter, Mr. President, and we will pursue developments like Deanes Town in St. James as part of that overall commitment to ensuring that Barbadians will be able to gain access by one means or another. So that we have no difficulty, Mr. President, with the fact that we are making acquisition of these lands because they are not just being acquired for acquiring sake, Sir. As a matter of fact to acquire land purely for acquiring land sake would be contrary to the Land Acquisition Act. Government could only acquire land for some fit and proper and stated public purpose. Each acquisition is a very specific legal transparent public activity, Mr. President and we therefore on each and every occasion need, and we will seek, parliamentary approval. And we are proud to say that we will be in a position to provide the very compelling reasons why Resolutions such as this, the

acquisition of land at Deanes Town in St. James, for the provision of housing for my brothers and sisters, the working-class people of Barbados.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING
CORPORATION OF LAND AT FLAT
ROCK, SAINT GEORGE, FOR
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Honourable Senate is being sought for the vesting of some 27 708 square metres of land at Flat Rock, St. George in the National Housing Corporation.

This land was acquired sometime, as was mentioned earlier in this session of the Honourable Senate, by private treaty and it was acquired for the dual purpose of recreation and housing development. The National Housing Corporation is a Government agency which is charged with the provision of housing and the execution of a major part of the Government's housing programme. And it is necessary in order that the National Housing Corporation can proceed with all of its work to vest the land in the National Housing Corporation.

The area in question will provide some 28 fully serviced lots along with 20 terraced units for rental, three bedrooms, I have been advised and they will also provide for much needed recreation in that particular area. The vesting of this property in the National Housing Corporation will allow for some expedition in the disposal by rents and sale and whatever will be appropriate of the particular lots.

The contract with respect to the road works for this area has been awarded. In fact the contract for the construction of the terraced units has also been awarded and work, Mr. President, has started on both aspects of the programme. The road works are very much under way, the actual units are under construction and we anticipate therefore, Mr. President, that very soon we will be able to accommodate persons in the units and the lots will be available for transfer whether by rent, lease or sale to the 28 families. That is more than a tangible expression of the positive impact and the swift implementation of Government's housing programme in this country.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, of course I rise to contribute on this Resolution mindful of the cautions. Sir, I sought counsel with the technical people downstairs, they have advised me that taking the microphone a little further away would assist in the modulation of my tone.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Or take it out of the room.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I did not take that suggestion seriously, Sir, I thought the person was being slightly unkind when they said I should go out behind the door.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: That, Sir, is a power which only you have in this Chamber and I know that you will discharge your powers here with the continued custom of order.

Sir, Flat Rock is an area I know very well and I know that you will get the usual comments from the Members of the Other Side, but in preparation for these debates, we in the Opposition take our jobs very seriously. So when I hear the Honourable Leader of the Senate promise that these units will be ready very soon, I of course would have to ask him to tell us what very soon means. Because I visited the units on Saturday and I know he did not visit them, not on Saturday and certainly from the cross talk I heard between himself and Senator Murray, he probably has not visited them recently at all.

Sir, the units are not really that near to completion. They are progressing like all the other housing programmes that this Government has spoken of from 1994. They are at some stage. In the 1996/97 paper on the same project, 1997 Report of the National Housing Corporation, the quantity surveyor had been appointed. One set of units are just about at the top ring beam. The second set of units are about that same stage, but the third set of units are very near the start, if you want to make a proper comparison of where they are.

I would estimate in my limited knowledge of how contractors work, not taking into account the references to overheating in construction, not taking into account any non-availability of stone, brick or whatever of materials, I would think that the units would not be ready. I will be surprised if they could be ready by the end of this year for the people to use. But I would be thrilled if this could occur, because as one of the Senators referred to this morning, this administration has the proud record, Sir, of having supplied 20 units up until now. This is since 1994. You see a lot of people would believe that housing for the Barbados Labour Party starts whenever they feel like talking about it. So they set their own dates and time when they start to count their houses. But the records are the ones that we examine, Sir. And the records of the National Housing Corporation will show the truth as it relates to the allocation of housing in Barbados over the last couple of years.

3.15 p.m.

We do not have to quote extensively and I am going to try to stay very close to St. George in my presentation. Where Flat Rock is in terms of rental of houses, the 1996-97

report indicated there were 38 applications and one accommodation. The record is there. All over if we take the entire island, 762 applications and 100 accommodations.

If we look at the historical record in Barbados I do not think that either administration has anything to be particularly happy about, given that they have not been able to fulfil that urgent need. That is the point we want to make. We are not making the point in isolation. The Democratic Labour Party, as I have said in here before, we have a responsibility because we were the Government of this country before and we will be the Government of this country again and very soon. So we cannot walk around and make statements that do not bear any connection with reality. We appreciate the difficulties.

If we say to the Government of Barbados today that in our estimation, having looked at what is happening in the country, the amount of energy and money being spent in private construction, the amount of time, the amount of resources being put into private construction when you compare to what is happening in public construction and public housing there is a dire and urgent need.

If they want to sit down there on that Side and throw comments around and make nonsense proposals when people on this Side speak they can do so. We hear references to the completion of Apes Hill. Apes Hill can always be completed because it does not belong to Government now. You made sure of that. They made sure of that in here, Sir. I do not understand where the contradiction is. We are clear in our position. The Barbados Labour Party is not doing enough about housing in Barbados. It is as simple as that.

The record shows that we are not doing a good job. Whether they believe that having been able to report economic growth and to talk about tourism arrivals and to talk about all these other areas of the economy which have been moving at the same time as being unable to speak to the facts that the majority of the people of Barbados – when we refer to the White Paper on Housing... Let me go there because this is where all of us are involved. There are a lot of us in here who believe that we only have to speak on certain issues and only the Opposition has to speak on certain issues. I do not agree with that view. I feel that every Senator must contribute because all of us are about Barbados and where Barbados is going. We were able to quote from the report, not of the Democratic Labour Party but the White Paper on Housing for Barbados which is prepared independently.

If I get others to get up and speak I would be very happy. I would have achieved some of my objectives. It speaks to the fact, and the Senator referred to it earlier, that some 34% of our labour force earn less than \$200. We walk

about and talk about our labour force all the time, about the successes, and we talk about the growth, and Senator Goddard is famous for talking about the growth in the informatic sector, a sector which is largely responsible for these kinds of wages. We know that for a fact. It is not anything to dispute. There is nothing Senator Goddard can do about it. If it is that kind of industry you attract it is that kind of wage you will get because the investment can go elsewhere and they can do better.

Faced with that situation, the point we are making is that you have to put in place along with the arrangements you have now something extra because the requirements have outstripped the arrangements that you have provided. It is a simple equation. I do not understand what is so baffling that the Honourable Senate Leader cannot understand and appreciate that.

The fact that the land now costs \$20 000 and the house costs \$50 000 means that the entire package comes to \$70 000 and it is out of the reach of the people. So you have to move your arrangements. You have to make your accommodation wider in order to provide adequately for these kinds of people and these are the ones that I am interested in. These are the ones that we should be working towards. I will continue to make the point that if we continue to look after only one sector of the community and ensure that they are getting what they want we are going to find ourselves in a situation which has been referred to already in here where people are going to get up and express their anger and their disappointment. They are already doing so. There are certain mandates, certain responsibilities, given to successive administrations in this country and if we continue to frustrate them we are going to find ourselves in a very difficult position in this country.

We just spent a weekend talking about emancipation. The Barbados Labour Party has a way of making you think that these things were created by them. Let them go down that road. I am not going down there with them. I am talking about housing for the emancipated. That is what I am talking about. They can build their monuments and stand by them as they like. We are talking about housing and providing housing, not for them to stand up in the cold, nor to stand up in the rain but for them to take their families and offer them shelter, a basic human need. That is what the Barbados Labour Party should be concerned about, instead of the parades and the charades which they are best at in terms of giving impressions.

So let that be. If that is the style of the Barbados Labour Party I have no quarrel with that. They are the Government. They do it their own way and be that as it may.

Sir, the Flat Rock example is an interesting one and it really would amount if it were to be fast-tracked and be really made available by the end of the year, as I have

suggested. It would amount to be the first substantial, low income housing project completed by the Government. There are a few terms in that phrase that I need to elaborate on – substantial and completed. Substantial would mean that it not only encompasses the accustomed provision that I have encountered in here: the provision of these lots for rental or purchase, the 5 000 or 4 000 square foot lot but it would also encompass what I still believe and I am firmly convinced that is the answer to some of our housing problems, that is the provision of terraced units.

When we juxtapose these together in one project we begin to make sense. So Flat Rock is beginning to make sense if that development can be carried through and can be completed and not be interrupted because contractors are being stretched to the limit and that is a fact. The reality is that the contractors in Barbados are stretched to the limit. Their resources are to the limit. I know the contractor building the Flat Rock site and I know exactly that position. So it means that you cannot finish them. It means that if the contractors are too busy they will not be able to complete anything as has been a feature for instance of the Urban Development Commission. There are a number of areas, and I think a Senator referred to it earlier, where we have situations where roads have been started and that is about all because the same contractor, in some cases small contractors, and I agree and I really am happy to see that these small contractors have had these opportunities, but in other cases, and we will get to them – I would not even worry to deal with that now because we get a lot of information all the time about what is going on in Barbados and when appropriate we will use it.

3.25 p.m.

Sir, a couple of these small contractors are so stretched that they have had to be picking at one contract, one contract, which is normal but the point is you have a tremendous amount of disruption taking place at the same time. So if we are in that situation, Flat Rock cannot reach completion in a timely way. As the needs build up we find ourselves in a position where we have achieved nothing because the demand has again caught up with us and as I think referred to by another Senator, we are not closing that gap. I think the Government in sober reflection, Sir, would agree that the gap is not closing.

I have said in here before if you are going on the one hand say that the Democratic Labour Party was unable to do anything about housing when we did more between 1990 and 1994 than you have done so far, when we did more in dire times than you have done so far in years of boom, that is the point, what are we hearing at all? What is the logic in this argument?

The only thing the Barbados Labour Party can show to the people of Barbados in terms of the growth in construction

is the higher income areas of Barbados and these sectors, the ones like Flat Rock, the ones like Deanes Town *et cetera*, are not being served.

The construction is not occurring and for many, many reasons, not least of all the one which has been dealt with and which we are hearing this large protest about. The point is that if the people cannot pay under the present arrangements, and you have no way of guaranteeing the increase in salaries, indeed you have no way of even guaranteeing they are even being represented. And I am sorry the Honourable Senator who deals with that matter on a daily basis is not in his seat because I am sure he would speak to it if he was here because if the wages cannot rise, and it seems as if they cannot rise because if you cannot represent you can hardly get the wages to rise. So those people do not stand a chance in Heaven unless we adjust the batting strip, and that is the point.

We have to relax the terms under which these housing arrangements are given because we cannot change the other items and do not tell me it cannot be done. I keep saying even to my party it has to be done because we are always finding ways to accommodate other kinds of investments in this country so we must find ways too to accommodate when the people's needs are to be met but because of certain circumstances which we cannot do anything about, they are not necessarily in a position to meet the criteria at this time. I am saying to this Chamber that we can change the criteria. We do it all the time. We relax taxation. We give concessions. I say let us give concessions to the poor people of Barbados in housing too. If you say you are giving them concessions already, give them more because we are not closing the gap, and that is the important thing.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: We know where the gravy train is coming from. When the gravy train arrives I do not know if that will bring the concessions. If there is a gravy train, Sir, that will bring concessions to allow people to buy more houses and to own more units all over Barbados, I want to see that gravy train sooner than later. It should come and it should discharge its cargo as soon as possible because the people need housing. There is a dire need.

Therefore, Sir, we obviously have no opposition to this Resolution. In fact, we are moving from the state of acquisition to vesting and that is important because we do not always get there. That is another point we have to remember. Sometimes we go to an acquisition and suddenly we tack back and go another road. We have to be careful with that too. So we have gone to vesting of land and I am pleased to be part of this arrangement because we do not always get there. The people who we contemplate will use these units at Flat Rock will be able to take advantage of this development.

While on this, Sir, it is important that we open up some more of our policy in respect to the giving of these units. I hate the situation where one has to have favours done or ask special favours in order that housing can be provided. I believe that a provision such as housing should be a clear open door policy. It should be out of the hands of political favour. I think that in 1998 it is a sad fact that there is still evidence of political interference in respect of the giving of housing units in respect to the people of Barbados.

We must move either to a situation where we develop a certain percentage for each parish or if you want to go in each constituency and we can allocate them freely. We must not have a situation where politicians, and I am not afraid to say, can step in and intervene and so jump the queue in respect to the provision of housing.

We need to provide in every unit an emergency arrangement whereby if there is an accident or if there is a situation which cannot be dealt with immediately or urgently there is a facility which the people can use. We are talking about housing people. We are not talking about animals. We are not talking about things without feeling, without a mind. We are talking about a country where we are complaining every day about the youth. We are complaining about how our children are behaving, how their mind-set...

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I will ignore Senator Goddard this time. I was fortunate to hear a contribution by the MP for the Pine area recently and it is amazing how we know it is there. I know that the Senators over there know the problem is there. I go to Sayes Court. I tell you, the situation, the dilapidation in some of these units would bring you to tears. It literally would bring you to tears and I do not see how we can continue in Barbados to sit with any kind of comfort, given that these situations occur. We need to provide more such units. The need is urgent. You are talking about families of 6, 7, 8, 9 and those are small ones, 12 people in the same unit.

Mr. Lashley, the Member of Parliament for the Pine made the point that the youngster told him he is not comfortable in the house that is why he was out on the road. Some of us, Sir, regrettably would not be able to appreciate the gravity and I do not think it is our fault. Sometimes even the gravity escapes me, but when I get close in my work and talk to the people concerned, I recognise how serious the situation is and how urgent it is.

The National Housing Corporation Officers will tell you themselves, Sir, because they are the ones who go out there every day and they encounter the difficulties. They will tell you about the social problems that are part of this whole question of low income housing in Barbados and

terraced units like Flat Rock will develop those same kinds of problems if not attended to so we need to take along with these programmes community solutions to the kinds of problems that we will encounter.

3.35 p.m.

We have to take along programmes for building neighbourhood watches. Neighbourhood watches in Barbados unfortunately, have become a fanciful frolic of the rich and famous, the so-called heights and terraces have adopted this term neighbourhood watch. The incidences of the low income areas being involved in these neighbourhood watch schemes whose programmes are designed at community building and community bonding, whose programmes are designed at building of family values and family virtues. We have got to recognise in Barbados that a lot of our work is unfinished in this regard and to continue to sit back and accept as a *fait accompli*, and say, well, we have put 20 units up in Flat Rock. When I see that child with her baby on her shoulders going up the stairs of National Housing Corporation, she does not stand a chance in Heaven of using one of those units but she probably has a greater need than anyone else whom might have been in that waiting list for ever so long but all of them have a right to a house. All of them have a right to a facility. We need to sit back in sober reflection and Government must be urged to do exactly that and see what else can be done because there is money. The point about not having funds is an old story. That is not a 1991 situation. We are in 1998 where we have excess collections on VAT, where we get excess payment from the investors. We have large liquidity in the banks so where is the problem.

Sir, we should be in a situation where you have housing units going for next to nothing. That should be what we are dealing with. We should be dealing with a situation where you have too many houses given the kind of boast that we hear from the Barbados Labour Party about the economy. On the contrary where the situation in August of 1998, two or three days after Emancipation Day and the second year of its official celebration where we can have an Honourable Senator on the Government's Side get up in this Chamber and admit to the fact that they have only been able to complete 20 housing units since 1994.

Sir, I support this Resolution but I am truly ashamed of my Government's record. My present Barbados Labour Party Government's record, given the economic situation which they are dealing with, I am truly ashamed of their record in respect to the provision of low income housing.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I believe that it is fair to say that it was a slip when the last Senator admitted that he is ashamed of his Government's record in

housing, because with the completion of this project at Flat Rock, St. George, we would have exceeded their record in eight years. That alone....

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President. Lest the Honourable Senator should continue to mislead the House. May I make it clear that I made the point and I will repeat myself. My Government is the Barbados Labour Party Government of today. That is the one that I was referencing, Sir. That is the point I made.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, if that is so then he can begin to be proud, because like I said, with the completion of this project, his Government, the Barbados Labour Party Government would have already exceeded his last Government's record in housing. But that is just for the record.

The point is, Sir, I have more than an academic or political interest in the project. Honourable Senators can afford to spend half of an hour pontificating...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, please.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I mean politically, pontificating, swiping politically or whatever. I am talking about political hallucinations. Nothing more than that. I would never attribute anything other than political hallucinations in this Honourable Senate, Sir.

The point is, Sir, that this is reality. When I drove through Flat Rock yesterday and I saw those units, most of which as the Honourable Senator said, are close to ring beam level, I realised that we were getting there.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Nobody is living in them yet but the point is that they are well on their way to completion. They are well on their way to satisfying that pent up demand that had existed in the Barbadian community at all levels, but particularly at the low income levels during the dire and dark days of his last Government's reign when houses were sold, given away, lost, or seized by the bank, because of the economic circumstances that his Government deliberately, oversaw not through any act of nature, not through any hurricane, storm, earthquake or whatever, but because his Government did not want to commit political suicide in 1991, in circumstances brought on itself and on the country, and then ended up cutting salaries by 8%. Those are the facts.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: The Honourable Senator was getting up but he changed his mind. He was obviously afraid of the blows that would follow. Be

that at it may, Sir, I am very happy to see this project come to realisation. You will remember that this same plot of land that is being used for this project was part of a larger area which was the subject of much contention a couple of years ago, when a club by the name of Clippers Sports Club had to be moved off the land by the land owner, a Mr. Jackman, who had been away and came back and wanted his land.

The point is that that Club which is on land adjoining and attached to this same portion, had been given a prefab building with toilet etc. by the last Government without having been to Parliament. I am very happy to see that we are today talking about vesting land and following the legitimate constitutional route to vest this land in the National Housing Corporation to provide housing and recreational facilities for that neighbourhood, as against what had transpired when the Sports Club was given a prefab building and a toilet and told to go and play on it. No constitutional route was followed and we know the political outcome and the outcry that there was as a result of that action.

This Sports Club, as part of the sporting facility that is coming with this project will have a pavilion and the field is already being developed. The Government has already spend \$80 000 in developing the playing field for this project and it will be a pavilion that will allow the Club to return to the BCA. As a result of the miscalculations of the last Government, the club had to be evicted and as a result lost its ability to play in the BCA competition. I am glad to say that with this project and with the provision of the pavilion and other recreational facilities, the Clippers Sports Club will once again be able to defend its proud record which it had been able to obtain in the BCA cricket competition.

In addition, I am pleased to say that the Member of Parliament for that area, Mr. Gline Clarke, has been in consultation with the owners of some land across the road to the east of this spot of land on Flat Rock, lands which are owned by Applewhaites and Lucas Hall Plantations, about the provision of a park. Anybody who knows the neighbourhood would know that as you go past the project on the east of the road, there is a commanding view of the west coast and south west coast and it would provide an excellent park and playing facilities for residents of the neighbourhood. Mr. Clarke, the MP has told me that they have spoken to them initially and they said that when the actual project is completed, they would be interested in donating the land to the community to provide a park for the entire neighbourhood. Already it is a natural area where people congregate. If one passes through there, particularly on afternoons, one sees the youngsters playing road tennis, playing cricket in the road, liming and sitting among the trees. I think it just needs to be landscaped and developed and given some order and structure and it will be a nice facility. Senator Laurie do you know Flat Rock? Do you know what I am talking about?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I am sorry, I was just wondering if all the Senators in this Chamber were as familiar with the area as I obviously am.

The point is, Sir, is that this is going to be a natural addition to the neighbourhood where most of the houses surrounding are of wall, where people have used their plots of land to improve their houses over a period of time. And I would think that just next to the woods there are probably about 40 to 50 houses and about 90% of them are in fair stages of completion in wall. People are following the good old Barbadian tradition of improving their lots, step by step and a lot of them are near completion.

I am sure with 28 fully serviced lots that will come with the 20 three bedroom terraced units, that Barbadians will start with the wall foundation, with their wall back and move forward and very soon in a few years time will no doubt, given the Barbadian inherent desire to own his own plot, own his own home and improve his circumstances. And that has given us a *per capita* record of having one of the highest rates of house ownership in the entire world. Very few Barbadians believe in renting from birth to death. That is something we can be proud of. I believe in the good old Barbadian tradition that if you improve your housing stock and improve the educational opportunities of your children that you make a further contribution to the development of the society.

Sir, in this entire Flat Rock area, apart from the area we are now talking about, a lot of that land is private tenantry where people are renting. Mr. Gline Clarke, the MP has also told me that he has begun talks with the agent of the owner of the land, the owner lives overseas, and it is about 15 acres of land altogether, to devise a programme under which the person will be able to buy the land on which most of them are now renting. And, Mr. Clarke has given the pledge that Government will assist persons, as it has been doing through the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act and other schemes, to own this piece of land.

3.45 p.m.

Senator Laurie would be glad to know there are hundreds of other Barbadians in the Flat Rock area who will own their own piece of the rock and I think the MP is to be commended for his farsightedness. The persons involved, both the agents in the case of the rented land at Flat Rock as well as the Plantation owners who own the land where the proposed park will be, are to be commended for their public-spiritedness, their community mindedness and their strong social conscience. Therefore, Sir, I am pleased to be associated with this project which will take a few more months to be completed.

I think originally it was said that the terraced units would take some 40 weeks to complete and I am sure they will be completed, if only because there is no lack of funds. We are not likely to see another unfinished St. Thomas Secondary School or the Polyclinic in St. John or Sherbourne Centre unfinished, because this Government did not have the funds to complete. Hopefully we have passed the stage where never, ever again in the history of Barbados, will a Government embark on a project for which it has not provided funds and therefore could not complete. That was the first blotch on the history of Barbados where that is concerned and we say never again, never again. So therefore, Sir, it gives me great pleasure to be associated with this project and to give my support to it.

I know that this will go to partially satisfy some of those persons who are seeking to occupy their own houses. I am sure too that as we provide these facilities we will not cater to the lowest common demoninator in persons and encourage persons, as was so badly done prior to 1961 by a DLP Government when in seeking office they encouraged people not to pay rent. The argument was that their taxes had already gone to build houses and therefore they had no responsibility to pay rent. The houses were to be theirs. They had allegedly already paid for them. That created a culture where many tenants of the National Housing Corporation houses no longer are prepared to pay rent and it has resulted therefore in a depletion or non-accumulation of funds by the NHC to provide the kind of maintenance that has allowed the houses that Senator Boyce talked about, to be in a dilapidated state. We are not going to cater to that.

When Senator Boyce talked about if the gravy train was going to see more people getting houses therefore he wanted more of that, it reminded me, Sir, that in 1971 when the Barbados Labour Party in opposition was arguing about inflation and the DLP never recognised or understood what inflation was about, their argument was that if inflation meant more fridges and more cars and more TV sets, they wanted more inflation. We know what happened when the oil crisis came and the inflationary spiral that we experienced. So therefore, Sir, we are not going to be catering to the lowest common denominator, we are going to provide a proper service, proper facilities to people and appeal to the noble elements in the Barbadian personality, in the Barbadian characteristics, to make a substantial contribution to the country, to treat their facilities with respect and to take good care not only of their own property but those which are rented.

I have no doubt, Sir, that the Flat Rock project will be a very useful and proper addition to the ambience of St. George, particularly in that aspect of rural development. We said in our Manifesto that we do not believe in two Barbadoses, a developed urban Barbados and a dilapidated and run down and neglected and abandoned rural Barbados. So we are doing both at the same time.

There is a confluence of activities through the Urban Development Commission, the Rural Development Commission, plus the NHC, plus the Ministries of Public Works and Housing, all coming together so that there are no bottlenecks and a halt and frustration in people, to provide the development throughout Barbados. It is the kind of development that I am proud of.

I just remembered, Sir, that not so long ago there was an ad in the newspaper asking for tenders for the provision of a public centre complex also in St. George not very far away from Flat Rock which will have a new post office, a police station, a community centre and ancilliary works. When all that is thrown together with the work that is going on at Flat Rock, other parts of St. George, near where Senator Laurie lives where there is a new road being built by the Rural Development Commission, when that is added to all that has happened to St. George, the work that is going on even at Charles Rowe Bridge where the road is being widened, and the drainage system is being improved. There is a beautiful mural at the corner of Charles Rowe Bridge. We are also improving the bridge that had caused flooding in the area because the bridge was for a long time too small to handle the volume of water that sometimes came down there.

We are doing all we can, Sir, to bring an even-handed spread of development to St. George, because I am speaking on behalf of MP Clarke who does not intend to do to St. George what the DLP did for St. John for 40 years. I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I want to thank you for this opportunity to make my few comments. They may be first general and then I would try to be a bit more specific.

I take it as a great insult, Mr. President, when every time Senator Boyce stands he is challenging us over here to get up and talk as though we do not speak when there is need to speak. I have a difficulty, Sir, in standing and talking when I have little or nothing to say. I only believe in making a contribution if my contribution is worthwhile to the benefit of Barbadians. I am not going to get up, Mr. President, and speak as though I am on a political platform for cheap political gains. I will speak when I know I have a contribution to make to the public, particularly the young people of Barbados. They are watching us, they are listening to us, they are learning from us, they will get an opportunity to make the decisions that are necessary. I will not be in the ring but I shall surely keep them focussed.

Mr. President, Barbadians are very proud people. I am not going to be very long, Sir. As I said I should try to be general in the first instance. I am not going to be very popular. I do not care whether the media are here or not. I am not speaking for the media. I am speaking generally for

the working-class people of Barbados. It is all I know and it is all that I will be as a result of the training, the guidance and support of my parents, my teachers and other individuals in this society who have helped to mold me and thousands of others whom I know will come back and give back some of what they have received to this society.

3.55 p.m.

Mr. President, I will speak boldly about Flat Rock, since Flat Rock is in one of the central parishes. We have no sea, but we have wonderful people who are thrifty, honest, forthright, hard working, dedicated to the development of their own community and the rest of Barbados. And I want to go down that road.

Mr. President, there is no quick fix about a loan or a mortgage and as to how you will pay it. You will repay your fund. We cannot encourage Barbadians to eat the calf out of the cow's gut, which is a Barbadian saying. We need to sit and meet with our people in communities and to discuss with them the importance of learning to be industrious; being thrifty, in other words, Mr. President, the importance of doing some of the things that our fore-parents did when they could not have access to a mortgage or a loan or a handout.

I have a tremendous difficulty when we sit here every day and we talk about improving the amounts or the loan ceiling or whatever for mortgages and so on and there are thousands of people out there who cannot reach that stage. However, there are facilities that are available to help them to reach their goals of home ownership or land ownership or whatever material ownership there might be.

Mr. President, I, yours truly built a chattel house as a result of business in Bridgetown that give you twice as much in materials to match the money you brought in as a down payment for materials. Therefore if you had gone to a business in Bridgetown; and I will not advertise that, with \$3 000 you were allowed to borrow \$6 000 in material and repay per month. That is how I was able to achieve a little wooden house, in other words, a chattel house, according to Senator Laurie with a washroom or a toilet or a pit toilet in the backyard. But it has made me no less than a woman, Mr. President, to be able to function in this Barbados and to deliver of my services to the development of this country.

Mr. President, we need, as I said earlier, as leaders in this society, to get into our communities, whether it is in the church, in the community groups, in whatever forum there is, and talk to our people and encourage them. Many of us appear to be far removed from the people in the communities where we live. And unless we can command or demand their respect, then we are, according to the young people, "ain't saying a pang."

I am saying this, Mr. President, because my mother raised eight of us with a father who had a small income. But

because there were no facilities other than the Bright Star Lodge that was in Welchman Hall where she would save the little coppers per week and join up everybody so that at Christmas time, everybody could get a pair of shoes and a dress for church. That has taught me how to learn to be appreciative of small opportunities and how to become independent and not to try like a grave digger, to start from the top and come down. She taught me how to start from the bottom and to climb to the top and not to spend \$1.01 when I worked for \$1.00.

We need, Mr. President, to encourage our people in the communities, particularly those who have got their spots as a result of the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act, or have had the opportunity to become tenants of the land around them, not to just go and mortgage away their lives, to buy the biggest insurance policy, to be able to get that mortgage or to have access to that mortgage, but to grow a garden bed around the house, to raise a few chickens in the backyard, to teach their children to raise two black belly sheep, to encourage their children to get involved in a meeting turn or what we call the su su now. I am no Trinidadian, we call it a meeting turn. We need to teach them now to be industrious enough when they get up on mornings, to sell newspapers for the first hour to get their own pocket money.

Do you know what our biggest problem is, Mr. President, everybody wants to get a gold cap? I am talking working class again, because I do not see many middle-class people with the kind of jewelry that a lot of our people who are unemployed want to wear or are wearing. Everybody must wear brand name. I have never had a brand name pants or shoes yet. But we make the people out there feel, well if the rest have brand names you can have brand names too, whether they are working or not. I have a difficulty with that.

Mr. President, I passed through a housing area and every house had up a multi choice antenna, if that is what you call it. And these are people who are not paying their rent, some of them, who are not paying their utility bills, except the telephone or perhaps the light. But they are not paying the water bill, some of them. Not all, because I know some of them who are very, very honest and upright citizens. We do not teach them how to recycle and reuse. We do not teach them that when they have one little five year-old and then a three year-old boy to hand down the clothing, because it worked for us. Why are we telling our people everything they have must be brand new and they must keep going into those institutions to borrow away their life? I have a tremendous difficulty with that. Those to me are the rules that we should help to point our people through to help them to be able to acquire these little spots like the ones at Flat Rock, Mr. President.

At the present moment, Sir, the Rural Development Commission and the Urban Development Commission have

been doing outstanding work to accommodate those who have their little tenantry spots and those who are renting at this point and time. Some of them have been given the water toilet added to their houses, because you would appreciate that many of them may have relatives who are incapacitated for one reason or another and therefore when it is raining they cannot get out. So they need that water toilet attached to their houses. Those two Commissions are doing excellent work. The members who are involved must be commended for the outstanding role they are playing in helping to develop the plight of poor people in Barbados.

Mr. President, I know of the role the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act has played for thousands of Barbadians. As you move around where they start being conscious as to what their limits are, the amounts they have to manage they start building from the back. They do it. Buying a hundred bricks this month, getting them put up and adding another 100 the next three months when the meeting turn comes around. That is the most important thing that we must tell our people.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, could you mention Flat Rock occasionally?

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: I am going to come to Flat Rock. I thank you. Mr. President, I am only making those points because when our residents get to Flat Rock in a couple of months time, I do not expect them to go to borrow and borrow their lives away with the numerous credit cards and so on, but I expect them to live one day at a time within their means so that at the end of the day they will be able to improve their own positions and that of their families and generations to come.

I was making those comments, Mr. President, and as I said, I will be general at first and I thank you for helping me to get back on stream. I am happy, Sir, and am supportive of this particular project and to learn that it has come to such a stage. I am aware, Sir, that all efforts are being made for the completion of such a project. And, I almost went down another road to talk about the St. John's development plan.

Aside.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Well, St. John is just above St. George and Flat Rock is in St. George. But I will leave that, Sir, to another debate. But I just wanted to make the point that as a result of all of these things we are doing, we need to educate our people. That is the basic thing I wanted to say. I am supportive of the project and I hope that one will soon come to St. Thomas, Mr. President, because we are also helping to develop ourselves and we do not want the two Barbadoses.

I am not talking about Atlantic Shores, Mr. President, I am talking about Flat Rock and I want to commend this Government for the vision that it has taken in reaching into

these various communities to ensure that the people within these communities benefit as a result of all the building and the planning and the development that is going on because they too are a part of the whole of this Barbados.

I am closing, Mr. President, by saying I stand boldly to support this project because I know of the needs of the people within our society. I know, and I have been told that this has been upgraded, the National Housing Corporation General Workers Loan Scheme, which I will not talk about now. I will get another opportunity, Sir, when it will be more appropriate to make mention of that, all this only goes to show this Barbados Labour Party is very conscious of its motto "A better life for our people" and the only way that we can get a better life for our people is to put projects in place where Barbadians will benefit. The poor working class that are black and the poor working class that are white and the middle class and all others. Everybody will benefit as a result of the various projects that this Government is doing. I want to commend the Honourable Minister of Housing and his team of officers for the excellent work they have been doing so far and I would want to give my full support to this project at Flat Rock in St. George. Thank you.
4.05 p.m.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ABANDONMENT OF THE ACQUISITION OF LAND AT WELCHES, CHRIST CHURCH

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks to adjust a decision taken concerning the acquisition of a certain parcel of land at Welches, Christ Church of some 255 square metres in area. That particular area as described was acquired for the purpose of the construction of the location of a lift station as part of the South Coast Sewerage Project. As it turns out, engineering advice suggests that there needs to be some realignment of the location of that lift station a short distance away from the present location. What is needed in order to give effect to the engineering advice in terms of relocation of that lift station is for the original acquisition to be abandoned and for procedures to be put in place to start a new acquisition process of the newly defined area on property also of the same owner.

This abandonment of the acquisition in accordance with section 91 of the Land Acquisition Act is the first of the process which is required in order to ensure that this station will actually be located where the engineers specifically want it to be. This particular measure which the Senate is asked to approve will basically have the land which was previously

acquired by the Crown to revert to the owner. As I said, notice will come subsequently of the intention to acquire a new parcel of some 330.1 square metres on a slightly different area of the parcel of land the property of the same owner.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I have listened to the introduction by the Leader of the Senate and noted all that he said about the particular Resolution, the abandonment of the acquisition of a parcel of land at Welches in the parish of Christ Church, and the Schedule attached describes the land as all that certain parcel of land *etc.*, John L. Richards *etc.* and the details are there for all to see.

The particular interest, of course, was his reference to the fact that the new engineering advice guided the change which has required them to move the proposed lift station. Because we know the reality of the situation with respect to the sewerage project is that the entire management of the South Coast Sewerage Project is today in shambles. Every day it is costing this Government more and more money which will eventually revert to the taxpayers of this country or, indeed, more directly to the users of water in this country. Because I believe it is a matter of record that the South Coast Sewerage Project will become part of the assets of the Barbados Water Authority once the project has been completed and the recoupment of cost which will be derived has to be found by the Barbados Water Authority.

Of course, the only revenue I am aware of that the Barbados Water Authority collects is by way of sewerage rates which they charge for dumping into the sewerage plant or attachment to the sewerage plant and then for water. We, the taxpayers of Barbados, must be watching very carefully as these mistakes at the South Coast Sewerage Project continue to manifest themselves and as the cost of the project skyrockets.

Sir, the lift station which the Honourable Senate Leader refers to is one of many which will be located right along the South Coast starting outside the Aquatic Gap and the last one contemplated is somewhere in the region of Oistins. So this one in Welches would have been probably the second last most easterly lift station.

The design of this project has brought about a lot of debate in terms of both the attention to engineering, in terms of what level of sewerage treatment we should be looking towards in Barbados. Because we are all aware now or we should be aware by now that the station contemplated for the South Coast is what they call a primary treatment station and the effluent will be put out to sea outside Needham's Point about 1.1 kilometres outside.

The lift stations are required so as to bring the sewerage from the residences, the business places, collect the sewerage and take it to the pumping station which is located at Graeme Hall.

The delays in this project have been extremely taxing to the people who live in these areas and although the project has not reached Oistins or Welches yet in terms of the laying of pipes, certainly the area for the lift station was already evacuated and I believe the shift which we are going to get to some time soon, the new location, will tell me exactly where. But even as I look at the description of the boundaries, it looks as though the lift station is going to be relocated. Instead of being smack in the middle of the property, it will now be at one corner of the property which makes a tremendous lot of common sense in all respects and I do not think that anybody would have any difficulty with that kind of thing.

What is important about this sewerage project is the management of the sewerage project, what has been happening with the management. It is going to have an effect on all these operations. As you travel along the coast now there are numerous abandoned lift stations which only present a danger to motorists. This one in particular has been in excavation for some time and only because it is a wooded area it has not been thought necessary to conceal it in the way that the others are concealed with these yellow triangular covers.

Sir, it is important that we know that this has only been at the urging of a lot of Opposition spokespersons on the way this entire project has been handled.
4.15 p.m.

The Barbados Labour Party Government will want to claim that the Democratic Labour Party was part of the decision making but the final contractors were chosen by the Barbados Labour Party themselves with all the knowledge and experience of what they were capable of. We have a situation now, Sir, where we are running into horrendous losses on this project.

In Maxwell, very near to Welches, there are at least two storage areas which have been created for equipment and pipe work belonging to the Sewerage Project. All along the South Coast, including Welches, there is this kind of disruption that has occurred to people's property and in some cases to public property therefore presenting danger on roads which are already difficult to use.

We do not even have to mention the economic loss that is being riveted on the businesses on the South Coast every day that this project is delayed. I do not want to stray too far

but it is all related to the South Coast Sewerage Project really and I think that you, Sir, will allow me to just mention that even the development work planned in areas like St. Lawrence Gap has been put on hold awaiting this project. Decisions like the engineering decisions to move the Welches Pump Station will contribute to these delays, not in as big a way, of course, as the major contributor which has been the inability of the Government to manage the contractor because that is how I see it.

You have a situation where the outfall pipe was laid in less than the time required. I think it was a six-months contract completed in four months. Unfortunately there was one death. There was one diver who died, and regrettably so, but these accidents do happen.

Sir, the plant itself has been completed and sitting in moth balls now for about 18 months. Only Heaven knows when we get to use that plant what parts of it will still be operational.

Sir, the connections from the houses to the mains have been awarded and I commend the contractor who is attempting to complete that contract without knowing exactly where the main outfall pipes are because that is what these lift pumps would provide. If these lift pumps were in position, as they should be in by now, and if the pipe work was in position for the connections, well then the contractor who is building the connections to the houses and the business places could go ahead knowing where he is going but, to my mind, he is working on areas that have been handed over as complete. I learn that some areas in the Bay Land, *et cetera*, connected to the project have been handed over as complete and to some extent areas of Hastings and Dayrells Road.

Substantially, Sir, the South Coast Sewerage Project is in chaos. I must join the chorus in this country. It is but another manifestation of the inept management of Government business in this country because if we continue to believe that we can just point our finger to one area of investment, *et cetera*, or say there is investment in hotels, and there is investment in offshore business, in the meantime the health of our nation is being degraded day after day. We are building a sorry health for ourselves. There is no other word that could be used to describe what we are constructing, in fact, Sir.

We have recognised the need for this Sewerage Project many, many years ago and after much study, effort and negotiations the project was put on train and the money was borrowed through the European Bank. We have a situation where the Barbados Labour Party has taken over the management of this project and has driven it to the ground, Sir. It was already in the ground but they have driven it beyond that. They have thrown it into total chaos. I think

that every Member over there would have to chorus me and say, yes, it is true. It is chaos.

I am putting questions to the Honourable Senate Leader to tell this Chamber when he responds later this evening, in about an hour's time when I am finished, what is the status of the South Coast Sewerage Project, when can we expect a restart in the works that would allow the connections of these lift pumps, and when can we look forward to a completion of the South Coast Sewerage Project?

It is a need which we recognise in terms of preserving our very fragile coastal area, something which in conjunction with the work of the Coastal Unit, and again, I must commend the fact that we are getting ahead with some areas of legislation which are needed for these things. We are beginning to recognise how vitally important the environment that we have the privilege to manage is if we are to have a sustainable island, or a sustainable community which we can look forward to hand to our children and they to theirs.

Sir, the whole question of the management of waste in this country, compounded with the other catastrophe, that is all I will say at this time, is one which certainly in my estimation brings about grave distress.

The Government has no way of indicating to the people whom they are acquiring this land from when they are likely to build that lift station because it is one thing to acquire the spot to locate the lift station but the lift station is not going to come and fit itself in there alone. There will be disruption of the gentleman's property.

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Resolution is about abandonment, not about acquisition, Senator.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Yes, Sir. The point I want to make is that when we get to a stage where we have to abandon arrangements and move to another, because it is not abandon to forget you know, Sir, because the design requires that there be a lift station so the situation is even brought more into focus. The tragedy of the situation is even more grave because here we are dealing with an abandonment in a situation where we know there is a need. There is an engineering requirement.

I think the Honourable Senate Leader alluded to something that will happen in the future relating to a new acquisition.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, but we should not anticipate discussion on that Resolution.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: What I am worrying about, Sir, are the implications of abandoning this lift station

without replacing it by something. I am suggesting, based on the engineering information that I have, that there will have to be a replacement for the lift station. I am only making that suggestion at this time.

Sir, the substantial point is that it is not even so much the abandonment of the acquisition that is of concern today but the abandonment of management of the Sewerage Project. That is the one that is of gravest concern to Barbados and it is certainly something that is going to haunt us for a long time. I do not want to get involved in the pros and cons of the situation.

4.25 p.m.

I have no doubt there will be legal implications because the contractors who started to build the project....we have got to understand and make it very clear that they are four different contracts involved. The one dealing with the placement of the lift station is the one that was awarded to Fomentos & Cubiertos, everybody in Barbados is aware of that and the fact that they were not able to complete the pipe lines.

By now Barbadians should be enjoying the benefits of this tremendous investment. It think it is something in the region of \$45 million. An investment which is going to be now at least doubled based on the claims that I heard bandied about. Of course, all the time that this is going on there is continued degradation of our south coast by the effluent from our hotel industry, by the effluent from our residence. There is the continued degradation from the Graeme Hall Swamp and there is now the opportunity to build an environment which demonstrates the commitment of Barbados to this kind of knowledge. The fact that we must be conscious of our contribution in respect to the way in which we treat our environment and the effect that we could have on the eventual lost to our ecosystem of things like our coral bed and things like our other seafood like sea egg which is a gone delicacy now, we have not seen them for a long time and it seems as though there will be a long time coming.

I am joining the debate on this abandonment with special knowledge of what is going on in the South Coast Sewerage Project. I am concerned for the residents of that area who constantly want to know when is it going to happen, what is happening next. The residents of Oistins and Welches, because there are a lot of houses in the Welches area. I was in that area about two weeks ago in Hythe Gardens and there were about 30 or 40 houses there, some 76 residents and all these have to be collected to this lift station. Then, of course, some of them too from the Fairholme Gardens would also run into the area contemplated for the lift station.

Although I appreciate the fact that we are dealing with an abandonment, I want to extend the discussion to the fact

that the abandonment is one that has got to be temporary because of an engineering requirement and there must be a new acquisition to replace the lift station. It is like leaving a bolt off your hub cap. If you put on a new tyre on your car and you left off one of the four nuts you can anticipate that there will be some imbalance eventually if driven long enough in that state and one can contemplate an accident.

I am sure that there is going to be an acquisition to replace this abandonment. All the time the delays are multiplying. All the time the cost of the Sewerage Project is sky-rocketing. All the time the people of Barbados can prepare themselves for when the Barbados Water Authority finally acquires this project that we have got to pay for it. The European Bank, I am not aware, is not about to hand us anything. The IADB is not going to hand us any money to build a sewerage project. Remember, we have got a track record to preserve too. We have got a track record, not even to preserve but to create in this area. We have had one Sewerage Project built and the Water Authority annual reports indicate that that is well over its sizing so there is no question about the need. We know of the stage of the West Coast Sewerage Project. There is that requirement because as we contemplate massive building in Barbados these things are going to be necessary.

We talked earlier about being able to borrow, being able to borrow from small businesses in Bridgetown and the same thing applies. If you have a good track record and you pay your bills, the guy or lady is likely to lend you some money again. But if you are in a situation where you are not completing your project for one reason or another, they are not concerned so much about the reason. They are lenders of money and once they see this kind of track record, I am afraid that our ability to attract the required borrowings is going to be damaged. I think that our record of management on the South Coast Sewerage Project and indeed the record on management on the health in general in Barbados for at least four years have been one which bears serious questions.

I would urge the Honourable Senators on that Side to try their level best to see if they can achieve what we on this Side have not been able to achieve and that is some positive change in the management of the health services of this country which includes the South Coast Sewerage Project because it falls directly under the portfolio of the Ministry of Health at this time and see if we can have injected into it some kind of urgency. See if we can have some kind of reporting system because we have a habit of having a situation and not even informing the public of where it is at. Nobody in Barbados knows what is the status of the South Coast Sewerage Project. Why must we be in this state of ignorance? Why can't we have at least every two months, every three months, some kind of notification of what is going on? You have a public relations office that has been created and it is almost ironic that that office after we asked for it about a year was created just about the same time as

the Project went on standby. It is operating now on standby, that is what I call it. When the Project went on standby the public relations office opened outside the area opposite the hardware store in Worthing. I would not describe it anymore thoroughly unless we call names and I know we are not to call names.

The property owners of Welches, the property owners of Fairholme Gardens, no where are really in a position to know what is going on. Sir, I do not know how to say it any different, Sir, because you say things in here and the Honourable Members over there want to laugh and this is urgent business. When I leave here and I go and sit down with the officers in charge of this project they would want to convince me of urgency. Yet I am not getting that same vibration coming from that Side and if they are the Government, the policymakers and the managers how can the poor civil servants who they love to deal with, let me leave it that way that they love to deal with the civil servants. But how can the civil servants do any better if the policymakers are in doubt.

We have got to get our policy cleared up as regards to health and as regards to the management of the South Coast Sewerage Project. The abandonment is one which I know will have to be followed by an acquisition in order to keep the whole system in balance. Maybe when that acquisition comes whenever it comes, I will have the opportunity if we get to discuss it to deal with some more aspects or any new developments. I hope by that time we would have heard some new development in the South Coast Sewerage Project which can give us hope rather than dismay.

I know that the people all along the south coast of Barbados are waiting for this kind of information. I really think that it almost approaches cruelty, the kind of treatment that is being meted out in some of the areas. Some areas are not as badly affected and I gather from a certain news story that some people will receive compensation very soon. Of course, the compensation will hardly be adequate but the point is there is that anticipated disruption in the rest of that area where people are waiting to build driveways. In the same Welches area people are waiting to repair roads and to repair walls and fences and cannot move because they do not know when the contractor is going to come in to do his work. They do not obviously want to have a situation where we do work on top of work because at the end of the day somebody has to pay for it and clearly it always ends up with the taxpayers bearing the burden.

Inasmuch as this Opposition is charged with that responsibility to look after the rights of our taxpayers and to make sure that our Government is managed in a proper and efficient manner, I want to, at this time, record a very strong protest to the way the entire South Coast Sewerage Project is being managed and the lack of information relating to the

project. I want to ask the question of the Honourable Senate Leader: What is the status of the project? When is it likely to restart in full? I want to ask of the Honourable Senate Leader: What is the new anticipated completion date for the South Coast Sewerage Project? Finally, what kind of cost can the people of Barbados now expect when this project is handed over to the Barbados Water Authority?

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do not pass.

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

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
LEARS PLANTATION, ST. MICHAEL
FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Resolution before the Honourable the Senate is for its approval for the acquisition of land at Lears in St. Michael for the purposes of housing development. The land in question, Sir, is some 3.875 hectares. The relevant notices and so on have been published. The main purpose for which this particular property is being developed, and the property in question is adjacent to existing housing development, is to accommodate relocation of some 25 houses which have to be relocated from one of the Zone 1 water protection areas and that Zone 1 water protection area is at Lewis Gap, also in St. Michael. The remaining lots which are being developed in the 3.875 hectares would be used in the provision of housing lots for additional persons, all part of Government's thrust towards satisfying the demand for housing lots in Barbados.

Mr. President, I commend this Resolution to the Honourable the Senate and beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I did not intend to get up so quickly again because I thought, Senator Forde is not here so I can say it, the other Members were going to speak on the other Resolution.

Sir, the Resolution before us is one for the compulsory acquisition of land at Lears Plantation in St. Michael for housing development and I was glad when the Honourable Leader did mention the area from which the people were being moved because only if he had done that was I going to speak on the Resolution because the acquisition at Lears is just another one of those acquisitions which we heard about in here so long and so many times. We heard a lot of debate on it today itself and I am sure the record when examined by the Members over there on that Side, will guide them in respect of the kind of decisions they should make either fast

track or otherwise. The important thing is that the use is for the relocation of these people at Lewis Gap or Storey Gap. The two gaps are juxtaposed. I was at Lewis Gap on Saturday and I had a long discussion with some of the residents about the whole question. Of course, these human factors would not be part of the considerations on that Side but certainly one is always amazed at these technical conclusions when you can see one side of the street being condemned as Zone 1 and the other side of the street with a division of not even 16 feet sometimes, Sir, being recognised as Zone 2 and you are allowed to build on it and not on the other.

One always has to ask the question, what else is there in the mortar bar the pestle? But I would not accuse the Government of having anything else in the mortar but the pestle. I only want to know that the people are fairly treated. They have obviously not been allowed water for a long time but they have been there for some time now. And the question always in people's minds in villages like that when one gets accustomed and one grows bonds and one starts to build communities one is concerned about the destruction that would be caused by any movement. And we can stay here and we can adopt any amount of matter of fact approach that we want or any amount of business as usual approach that we want, it is not so easy for the family out there whom we are going to move around. I think that the Members on that Side have got to bear this in mind. No matter how much justification they can bring to bear on the project they have to bear in mind the human factor and what are the kind of difficulties that they are undergoing now.

Of course, when we move these people from Lewis Gap one contemplates that Lears would be providing a better condition. We know that is usually the case. And any improvements that should be made in the house at the same time one would hope that the Government ensures that these things be thrown in. That has also been a practice which we would hope that the Government would bear in mind.

Let us get back to the substantial point, Sir, and the visit down there in Lewis Gap was interesting because of that question. Then of course the question of you being able to tell me that 10 yards away from these 27 houses is a dwelling with all kinds of facilities, water borne toilets, animals, farming, all kinds of things and they are not affecting the Zone 1 water, Sir? That is a question for the technical people to answer for me and I am not going to get into the question of water.

Again the other problem in Lewis Gap and probably an even more urgent problem is the question of the clearing of the waterways because there is certainly a build-up of rubbish and debris in our gullies and I do not think Lewis Gap is unique in this regard. As a matter of fact I believe

there are areas of Lears that have the same problem. But when I get to look at Lears more closely, I would be able to report on that but certainly in the Lewis Gap area that is one of the problems that the people have been talking about. I am sure the Democratic Labour Party candidate in that area, Mr. Leroy McClean is going to deal with that as carefully as he can. So the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition at Lears is not one that we have any tremendous quarrel with. I just want to be sure who the owners are, Sir.
4.45 p.m.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: All that land is the property of C. O. Williams. Again, we have to be careful. I am certainly concerned too about the question of land ownership in Barbados and it is a fact that this company does own a lot of land in Barbados and whenever there is debate on acquisitions or abandonment involving that ownership, Sir, one tends to check carefully. And I like to follow the developments in this regard. Because we do not want to create in Barbados this two-tiered society or to propagate this two-tiered society where we have one grouping of persons who can afford or to whom special treatment is rendered because there are all kinds of stories which I cannot relate in here about those kinds of acquisitions.

The question of payment, compulsory acquisition, so there is no question. I am sure that that will be dealt with carefully. Sir, the important thing is that when we go into Lears to develop the house spots for those residents from Storey Village, we bear in mind that from Lewis Gap to Storey Gap, all the amenities, and do not only restrict amenities to water and electricity because a lot of people feel that that is the only amenity we need. But we need that element, and I say it often in here and for fear of repeating myself, that whole creation of a community and Lears is a very expansive area. So we need to be careful how we develop the whole housing project so that the people who are coming now from a small community and who will now have to encounter a different ambience, a bigger area. There are some big businesses in the Lears area, so I hope that all these factors are borne in mind when the acquisition is finally carried out. The vesting takes place, *et cetera* and the development eventually occurs.

Sir, I have no particular difficulty with the resolution as it stands and I hope that the technical question which is used to move people from this zone 1 area where you are suddenly deemed zone 1 and somebody picks up and move and 27 moved from here and 55 that have been there all the time remain. The question will always be in Barbadians minds and I think that we have a responsibility to explain to these people exactly how we arrive at this sharp demarcation in this regard, Sir.

I thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I want to support this Resolution and unlike the last speaker, I make a distinction between Lewis Gap and Storey Gap. There are two different gaps all together and I would know because that is an area that I raised in and I know these areas very well. There are two separate and distinct areas, but the point is that the Government has to ensure that the integrity of our water supply is always maintained. That is crucial to the development of this country because we do not have rivers like other countries, we depend solely on the underground aquifers for our water supply and any chemicals or anything getting into the water supply can have a very serious effect on our future development.

That is why, Sir, the Government has divided the island in zones where activity is not permitted in certain areas because we have to protect the water supply. This move does two things. One, it allows the people who are being moved to enjoy the most water facilities because right now, Sir, because there are in the wrong zone, they cannot put down water borne systems. And I for one, Sir, am not going to advocate compost toilets. I want to be clear on that. I am not going to advocate compost toilets. Our people must have the most modern sanitary conveniences in their homes and the move of these people from an area where they could not have it to another area where they could have the most modern system is an improvement in the quality of their lives.

This Government is about improving the quality of life. Now any move is going to have some measure of inconvenience to people. Because people are accustomed living in communities, you make your friends and so on. But the people are intelligent enough to ignore opportunistic politicians and see that a move is being made for their own good. We have no quarrel with the people because we believe that the people are intelligent. They understand these matter and they will not allow any politician to come and caffuffle their heads with cheap politics. But I can assure the residents, Sir, that this Government has a record of looking after its citizens. And you can be sure, Sir, that when the move is made to Lears that the human element will take precedence over all other things. Because, Sir, they are people with needs and they are decent law-abiding citizens and they understand the need for these things.

Sir, it is a fact that any time you have areas of delineation, I am going to be here in zone 1 and the Archdeacon is going to be in another zone. It must happen like that, that a road or a track must divide zone 1 from zone 2 and zone 3 from zone 4. It is a fact. How else can we do it? Are we going to have buffer zones? And one part of the road is going to be in zone 4 and the next part is going to be in zone 5. It is as clear as that. So some people are going to remain where they are and some unfortunately are going to

have to be moved. I do not see the big thing about it. But in the end the Government is doing it for the good of the island and we must respect the zoning regulations. We must respect our water quality because I have travelled to some countries and you are afraid to drink the water from the tap. But people come from all over the world and drink the water from the tap without even thinking because our water has a reputation for being very, very pure. And I have heard of no known instances where visitors come here and suffer ill effects from drinking our water straight from the tap. But it will not keep like that if we do not pay special attention to the zoning regulations.

So this move is to ensure that the stipulation of the zoning regulations are adhered to. The Government is going out of its way to put alternative house spots there for the people. Sir, you are saying "yes", you cannot do certain things there but we are going to make land available to you on other locations so that you can fulfill your basic human needs. So this is a good move by the Government and we are going to have to be continually doing this sort of thing as we seek to protect the environment of our beloved island.

So, Sir, with those few words, I want to support this Resolution and comment on it to this Honourable Chamber.

Thank you.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Just a very small intervention, Mr. President. The particular land, about a quarter of it is very flood prone. The land is associated with the village. The village is on the road and the land is at the back of the village and you go down toward Friendship estate, the land goes into a deep gully area where it was cultivated, but it does flood from time to time. And when you put houses on it you will exacerbate that situation. So I would like to ask the Government to consider this because downstream from that is the area around Lower Friendship going towards Belle Gully eventually and this is the water that could cause flooding in some of the houses so we should look at that very carefully when we look at drainage and perhaps take the opportunity to excavate that low part and put a pond in there and save that water for people doing agriculture in that area.

4.55 p.m.

The other thing I would like to touch on very quickly is that I would ask Government if it would slow down the acquisition of land in view of the fact that we have just spent millions of dollars on consultancies and the reports have been published and are being circulated for comment and those things address these problems. We paid millions of dollars for it, so why are we ignoring the possibility that we will have good advice or at least we will have a chance to look at this advice and accept or reject it and come up with a land use plan? I presume that is what the Government

spent millions of dollars on so that we can know for sure because sometimes when we acquire land it is already in conflict with some of the suggestions laid out in some of these plans.

I would say if we could put a moratorium on acquiring land until the land use plan has been put in place, I think that would make a lot of sense. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I just want to respond to a few things that were raised by Senator Boyce. Senator Boyce has a way of mixing some facts with some impressions so that it would all appear to be facts and usually the fact comes after the impressions. So that, if one went away before the conclusion of his remarks one would be left with the impressions only.

I would want to start from the opposite end. We are opposite across the table and I want to start with the facts and continue with the facts and end with the facts. No impressions. Senator Boyce quite rightly said that the matter of eliminating a zone 1 water area is a technical matter. Unfortunately, he conceded that of his reality after making a presentation which would give the impression that there is some inhumane or sinister approach and a plan to shifting suddenly these areas, that you are in zone 1 today and not in zone 1 tomorrow.

Senator Boyce knows as well as I do and as well as you do, Mr. President, that the matter of zoning of the land from 1 to 5 is in relation to the speed of access to the underground water supply of Barbados and it is done by the technicians at the Barbados Water Authority.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber when he talks about zone 1 and zone 2. There have been changes in zones in this country before and even recently. So I am not talking about an impression when I say there have been zone changes or people can make zone changes. He must not give the impression I am saying anything but facts. Everything that I say about zone shifts are facts and I think that that record should be made very clear.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the changes in the zoning of water supply in Barbados are done from time to time based on studies that are done. Water loss studies and other hydrological studies that are conducted by the experts are done at least once every 10 years and recommendations for changes in zones are made based on that. For example, the changes in the definition of areas would occur based on that but I will not spend time on that but to make the point that once you have a system of demarcation of zones, a zone will have a beginning and an

end and at some point along the way one zone will begin and another will end.

Furthermore, the fact of the matter is that at the last water zone map that I looked at Mr. President, I noticed some 24 positions around the island indicated as zone 1 water areas which is very much in keeping with the whole theory behind the demarcation of zones in relation to the level of permeability of the earth in those areas. The fact of the matter therefore is that you will find in several different areas where persons are able to build on one side of a road for example and cannot build on the other. It is as simple as that.

So to give the suggestion that there are these sudden and in that context, "sudden" suggesting mysterious, whimsical changes in water zones is really less than desirable at the level of debate which we expect from this Chamber.

To give an example of how this zoning becomes important. We all know, indeed it has been the business of this Senate in a previous matter to deal with a situation which was occurring with relation to pollution at Harrison's Cave and that provided for Barbadians a very clear and graphic example, dramatic even of how permeation of water into the earth is faster in some areas than in others and how we have to be concerned about what we actually allow into the earth's surface at different points and where we have zone 1 water areas the fact of the matter is that if we are not careful then we are going to kill ourselves. It is as simple as that.

I would like to think that we at this level would want rather than planting the seed of doubt in the minds of persons who might be affected by these matters to take the opportunity to use the power of office, to use his weight, his influence of office to assist those persons in understanding what is being done and why it is being done. There are lots of myths about water that we are resting over this huge lake of water underneath. And I would just want to urge, Mr. President, that in matters such as these where the welfare of the individual citizen is being looked after because the clear record of this Barbados Labour Party Government both in this administration and in previous terms in office is that where we have had to relocate persons that the quality of the housing and the quality of the infrastructure has been the rule.

We have taken the opportunity to enhance people's position and in terms of making relocations we have always sought to find a location in which we are able to keep the community together. We recognise, and we are not unmindful, ignorant and without heart, that any relocation from the location which one has come to call home is traumatic. Mr. President, even sometimes if you are away from home and you become use either to your hotel room or the residence where you are staying that even a relocation from that to another one becomes traumatic, just simply packing a suitcase to go to another location.

So we would know as human beings ourselves that to pack your house, to pack up your routine of catching buses and waking up at a certain hour and talking with a certain group would be difficult. In this case, we are moving 25 households.

5.05 p.m.

We will take the opportunity to enhance the physical conditions and also do continuous work in the community to ensure that the 25 will be able to stay together and also that they are able to be integrated within the larger existing community. We are not putting them out in the middle of the woods by themselves. They are going into a mature community.

Mr. President, my assertion in relation to this matter is that there is no whimsical shift of water zones. It is a technical issue and it is an issue which has had to be faced squarely by this Barbados Labour Party Administration because the last Administration refused to deal with the matter of persons living on Zone 1 lands. In fact, a Minister in their Administration, Mr. President, you would recall, was the first one who facilitated the activity in terms of encouraging persons to live in a Zone 1 area associated with Barbados' largest catchment and pumping area. Since we have come into office, we have had to protect the wider interest of the community by finding alternative accommodation for those persons. We have had to face these kinds of situations because somewhere along the line one has to stand on principle and do what is right, what is there of the greatest good of the greatest number and that is what this necessary relocation is really all about.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING
CORPORATION OF LAND AT HOPE
PLANTATION AND ORANGE HILL,
ST. JAMES FOR HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Resolution before the Honourable the Senate seeks our approval for the vesting of lands at the Hope Plantation and Orange Hill, St. James, four parcels in all containing in one case some 15 274 square metres, in another 13 668 square metres, the third 4 401.9 square metres and the fourth, 3.792 hectares of land, Mr. President.

These lands were acquired earlier in this session by the Crown. It is now proposed to vest them in the National Housing Corporation to facilitate the development of these areas for housing purposes.

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

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, I was trying to avoid not having to say anything regarding the concept of land.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have not succeeded, Senator.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Well, I am going to succeed now. Sir, before I begin my contribution, I am still wondering why is it not possible for us in the Senate Chamber to have maps of these areas. I am not like Senator Boyce. I am not walking around anywhere on Saturdays trying to see every piece of land and I still believe that it is important that we are able to identify exactly where these lots are.

Sir, regarding this portion of land, however, at Hope Plantation and Orange Hill, let me say that housing development in an area like this once again the Opposition is always on this Government. You are damned if you do and you are damned if you don't. If you acquire land anywhere at all in Barbados to build houses, whether it be at Orange Hill or any other place, you are wrong. If you do not build any houses, you are still wrong about it.

Sir, this piece of land at Orange Hill is going to do the same things as all the other pieces of land and the experience that other plots of land has given us in regard to the ownership of land as opposed to rentals.

Now, Sir, the Cane Garden experience is one that allows the Government to know that people are interested more wherever the land is in owning land rather than renting on land.

Sir, when I listened today to another Senator's contribution regarding those at the bottom of the ladder, those who earn \$200 a week, the 34% of the people who earn \$200 a week, the other 40% that earn between \$200 and \$300 a week, and whether or not it was going to be possible for them to own land, I say, Sir, the contribution that was made in that regard was erroneous.

Now, if you acquire a plot at Orange Hill in St. James and you are going to build, and you earn \$300 a week, we have been able to work it out. If you acquire the land and the land costs \$20 000 and the house costs \$50 000 to build, \$70 000, now we have worked out the mortgage and this did not come from us. This came from people who are versed in the field just like Senator Thompson. It ends up on a \$70 000 mortgage to \$139.76 a week for 25 years. That is exactly what it works out to with everything included. Even if they say that net salaries work out to less, I am sure that a person who is earning \$300 a week because I do not know....

Aside.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: I am talking about people working for \$200 and \$300 a week. The majority of people that go for mortgages go in couples. They do not go alone. If you split \$139.76 a week between two people, it is \$69.88 a week. You are telling me, Sir, that in this Barbados today that we should not be building houses, or not be acquiring land that people will have an opportunity even at the lowest levels to be able to buy them and you are telling me they cannot buy or build a house for \$70 000 earning between \$200 and \$300 a week? I say, Sir, that is wrong. There are people like myself who have had...

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir. This fellow Senator has totally misrepresented what I said here today, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson, I am sorry to interrupt you but you have not spoken in this debate.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, reference was made to comments made earlier on that same matter in the White Paper on Housing.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If the remark was made that too was out of order.
5.15 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: On a point of order. Senator Lynch has totally represented what I said here today, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson, I am sorry to interrupt you but you have not spoken in this debate.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, reference was made to comments made earlier on that same matter, the White Paper on Housing.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If the remark was made that too was out of order.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Sir, it was made and it was also read.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Sir, I will continue. I am not reflecting on anything that was said. A person who earns between \$200 and \$300 per week who acquires a plot of land at Orange Hill in St. James and the land cost \$20 000 and the house is built for \$50 000, Sir, between \$200 and \$300 per week that person can afford to pay the mortgage on the house. I am saying that mortgage payment on houses, this was well researched, Sir, even at \$70 000, and it is not going to be \$70 000 because you will have to make the down payment and it is going to be a little bit less, but the ability to be able to get the land and acquire the land through the National

Housing Corporation and be able to build the house at the same time before you pay off the land is what this is about. There are people who are doing it everyday.

Sir, I want to make the point. These arguments that we bring and try to ram them down people's throat about who earning \$200 and \$300 a week. At whatever level you are earning in Barbados and you want to own a little something to live in, a two by three or a two by four or whatever it is, people make sacrifices. I have to pay a mortgage every month and I consider my salary to be one of the better one, in Barbados terms it is a good salary and I have got to make sacrifices to be able to turn my key everyday. That is the point, a man who makes between \$200 and \$300 a week and he goes with wife, girlfriend, cousin, whoever and he pays \$139.76...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you have laid no particular foundation. This particular debate was introduced by the Leader of the Senate and you have established no connection. In other words, as far as I can see you are irrelevant.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Sir, I am making the point. I am going to bring it back on stream, Sir. I am making the point that if you acquire one of these lots in Orange Hill, St. James and you want to build a house, and you are a low income earner that under this premise you are still able to afford it. Right, Sir, I believe I have struck relevance in this particular area.

Sir, one would like to tell us and mislead us, not necessarily in the Chamber, but one would like to mislead people that because you are at the bottom of an earning ladder, that you cannot acquire land and build a house whether it be in Orange Hill, St. James or whether it be in another part of Barbados. Sir, the concept of ownership has got to be the idea and the base has got to be what we are working towards even if these people are low income earners.

I also, Sir, want to make the point that even if you are only working for x amount of dollars that we have got to make sacrifices to be able to own land and housing. There are people even at the bottom of the ladder in the lowest of income areas who have to make sacrifices to own in Orange Hill, St. James or in any other place in Barbados.

Sir, I want to dispel this myth that because a study is even done it does not mean that everybody has got to adhere specifically to every single letter of that study. The point is that this Government will continue to work for people to get out of the concept of renting. Of course, some people will have to rent but the idea must be that most people should own the land and the house on which they live and that is what we are working towards.

It has been a tradition in Barbados, it has been a tradition with this Party and I believe that it is a tradition with the other Party also but the point is that these people will be able to earn and be able to move into their own houses. Sir, whether it is a public sector initiative or a combination of a public/private sector initiative that builds the houses in Orange Hill, I do not think that Bajans are interested in who build the houses or whether it is built by a cow or whoever else. As far as I know, they are interested in that the land is acquired and that they have an equal opportunity like everyone else to be able to own a lot in Orange Hill.

Sir, this is what will continue to be the premises. Nobody from any other side can derail me from my thoughts in terms of clear thinking as regards to what Bajans should own and what Bajans should have. Nobody in this Chamber can turn me off of that, Sir.

I thank you.

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 this Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

The question that the Senate be adjourned sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
5.25 p.m.

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