
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on January 28, 1998, at 11.12 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Fred GOLLOP (President)
His Honour Senator C. L. Bolden (Deputy President)
Senator the Honourable R. R. FARLEY (Minister of Industry, Commerce and Business Development) (Leader of the Senate)

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

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

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

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

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

Senator D. T. GILL

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator N. A. LYNCH

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

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

1. The Civil Establishment (Leave Passages) (Amendment) Order, 1997.
2. The Annual Report of the National Insurance Board for the year 1996.
3. Instruments adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 84th Session held in Geneva from October 8 to 22, 1996.

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

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

The question was put and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move the first reading of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency Bill, 1998.

The question was put and agreed to.

OBITUARIES

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, it is with sadness but also with gratitude that I wish to pay tribute to Hubert Foster "Bert" Alkins, a

former Senator, educator, businessman and patriot. Born on April 1st, 1908, he died on the 29th of November last year at the blessed mature age of 89. Educated at St. Matthias Elementary Primary School, as it was then called and Foundation Boys', he first taught at his alma mater Foundation from the age of 16 and afterwards at Combermere until 1938.

He was a colleague of such distinguished educators as Frank Collymore, Sir Alexander Hoyos, as he later became, Stanton Gittens and Lionel Gittens.

According to Gladstone Holder, whom he taught, he was an extremely good teacher. Between 1936 and 1944, he was Secretary to three statutory bodies chaired by the Director of Agriculture as the post was then called, Sir John Saint. From 1944 to 1948, he was Secretary to the British West Indies Sugar Association. In 1948, he was appointed Deputy Manager of the Barbados Cooperative Cotton Factory and from 1951 to 1973 he was its Manager.

Mr. President, his list of community activities is impressive. He was scout master, a member of the then volunteer force, Officer in Charge of the Cadet Corps at Combermere and a member of its governing body and Chairman as well. He was a member and Deputy Chairman of the Management Committee of Codrington High School; a member of and Chairman of the Barbados Development Bank; the Director, Incorporated Chambers of Commerce of the West Indies; President of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce 1957 - 1959 and a member of the Higher Education Loan Fund Finance Committee of the University of the West Indies.

He was a member of the Severance Payments Tribunal; Director of the Courtesy Garage Limited and last but of course, very important, he was a member of the Legislative Council and afterwards a member of the Senate in an independent Barbados from 1958 to 1971. He was awarded the CBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

Mr. President, I joined the staff of St. Michael's Girls' School where I worked for 40 years and in 1945, I met Mr. Alkins when he was appointed to the governing body in 1946, later reconstituted as the Board of Management. He gave unbroken service as a member of that body for over 40 years, first as Chairman for over 21 years and as Deputy Chairman for three years. I have said time and time again that St. Michael's School has always had a wonderful Board and Mr. Alkins has contributed much to its successful functioning.

It is difficult to speak of him without appearing fulsome. Indeed, when I think of him, I think in superlatives like great, thorough, very efficient, meticulous with great

attention to details. He was, what used to be called years ago, a gentleman of the old school. Moreover, he possessed a good sense of humour. Of course, he was very interested in education and the welfare of teachers and students and maintained a lifelong interest in that school even after retirement.

He was a person of great dignity too and composure but approachable and he displayed wisdom and tact when problems arose as they will, even in the very best of institutions. His daughter Alison had said that even when he was angry, he never lost control.

In short, Bert Alkins, as I would never refer to him when he was my Chairman, was a very just man and one of great probity. Three years ago, he telephoned and asked me if I would edit a manuscript. In a characteristically modest manner he said that his children had persuaded him to write his memoirs, as he said, for the benefit of his family. I was very excited when I did read that manuscript and I told him that I considered it worthy of publication. In fact, as his son Michael said, in that manuscript Mr. Alkins has mentioned facets of life and work in Barbados over the past 70 years, which make the manuscript a valuable social record.

I sincerely hope that it will be published and that it will find wide circulation because we need all the literature that we can get which describes Barbados and tells us about our heritage.

There is a great deal more that I can say such as his belief in honest hard work and his respect for others but I will end by expressing on my own behalf and the family of St. Michael's deepest condolences to his devoted sons and daughters, Alison, Michael, Joy and Andrew and to his five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mr. President, persons such as Bert Alkins make us more aware of those, and there are many of them who have made the kind of contribution to Barbados which is undeniable and lasting.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise on behalf of the Opposition to express to the family of the departed our sincere condolences.

Mr. President, I must admit that I was not aware that Mr. Alkins had passed away but as I sat and listened to my former teacher of English and Deputy Head in my day, I would like to lend my voice to this occasion.

I can recall watching him on our special occasions. On Speech Days he would always be there in the front

of the hall quite willing to cheer on. I recall having heard from Senator Symmonds that the standards of the St. Michael's School were very dear to his heart and he wanted to make sure that all students who passed through that great institution recognised what a great school St. Michael's was and that they would carry with them the good values which they had gained from that school.
11.25 a.m.

We talk of great men and we talk of the footprints they have left on the sands of time and as a past student of the St. Michael's School, I would like to think that my life would in some way be a reflection of his footprints and I hope that my first daughter who is also a past student of the St. Michael's School that her life also could be considered a part of the footprints of Mr. Alkins.

As I sat and I listened to his record of service, I must say he led quite an admirable life, not to be envied, but I believe to be emulated. He did not restrict himself to the profession of teaching as his record shows, for he reached into the world of commerce to the extent that he became a President of the Chamber of Commerce of Barbados, a rare feat for a teacher in Barbados.

Also one can see the discipline and why he lived a disciplined life, because he spent some time with the Scouts movement and the Volunteer Force and what it is saying to us is that these are areas which we must not neglect even today as we try to develop our young people. As we voice our concerns about some of the waywardness and lack of discipline, we must ask ourselves the question, are we falling short as parents and leaders by not trying to encourage our young people to become members of these disciplined groups in our society?

His life, for me, is a model and it is one which I believe we should all strive to emulate. I do not think that everybody would try to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce or a member of a volunteer force, but there are other areas. Senator Farley, I am not talking about you but there are other areas in Barbados in which we can all make our mark as we set out to assist in the growth and sustained development of our people.

I thank God for his life and for his service and I hope that his whole family, children, grands and those to come, would look on his life and make sure that they, in their own lives, are examples for fellow Barbadians to follow. May he rest in peace.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to associate myself with the previous remarks relating to Bert Alkins. Bert, as I knew him, was indeed a gentleman, a man of great capacity, great ability and exceptional humility. He was diligent in his work as was said

and I had the great pleasure and fortunate experience of working with Bert when I was a young man. He had retired by that time and in one of the companies that I was responsible for Bert came to my assistance as an Accountant. But he was far more than an accountant, he was an adviser and he was someone with great knowledge, great experience, and who knew the Barbadian society extremely well and as a young executive I was extremely fortunate to have benefitted from his advice and his counsel.

As was said Bert was the sort of individual that was a man of the old school, and I think that we would all benefit if the present school, whatever that is, were more like the old school in the terms of manners, in terms of respect for each other and respect for human life and the value of the individual. Too often we find ourselves in a very rude world, a world where good manners are not appreciated.

Bert was a shining example of a well mannered gentleman and as was said by Senator Thompson, one that many could do well to emulate. He was not ostentatious, he was not flamboyant. He was very measured in his comments and his responses but he was not without his sense of humour.

To his family, particularly his sons and daughters, I extend my deepest sympathy and may he rest in peace.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I should like to associate the Chair with the remarks made in tribute to the late Mr. H. F. "Bert" Alkins, a former Member of this Honourable Chamber and of its predecessor, the Legislative Council.

We are indeed indebted to Senator Symmonds and Senator Goddard who knew him personally for enlightening us by recounting some of his achievements. The record shows that he was an outstanding educator and businessman who made an important contribution to national development.

I would ask the Clerk to convey the condolences of this Chamber to the family of the late Mr. Alkins and I would now ask Honourable Members to stand for a minute's silence in tribute to his memory.

The Senate rose in silence for 1 minute.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 5 – CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGENCY BILL, 1998

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the second reading of this Bill,

the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency Bill, 1998. This Bill, Sir, provides for the implementation, by the Government of Barbados, of an agreement for siting the headquarters of the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency. It outlines the obligations of the Government of Barbados as well as the privileges extended to Caribbean Disaster Response Agency and those privileges are standard privileges consistent with the privileges extended to other international agencies in terms of the diplomatic privileges and international protocols.

The Bill also, Sir, sets out an agreement for establishing the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency. This agency, Sir, however has been in operation from 1991 as a result of a continuation and a deepening of a project which was started under the Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project in which in 1991, after the conclusion of that project, Member States in the Caribbean Region decided to create the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency. 11.35 a.m.

The Bill however seeks to put into proper legal framework, the Agreement establishing the Agency, which is the first schedule to the Bill, as well as the second schedule, which constitutes the nature of the Agreement between the Government of Barbados and the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency with respect to the provisions for the headquarters.

This Bill is particularly important as it relates to the Agency in question, because we recognise that the Caribbean is one of the most beautiful, yet perhaps one of the most vulnerable regions in the world. It is my assessment that the source of its beauty is by and large partly the source of its vulnerability. The source of the beauty coming from the many islands stretched in the archipelago from the Florida panhandle in the north, down to the mouth of the Orinoco in the south and inclining eastward and crowned by the jewel in the arch, Barbados.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the fact, Sir, that there are so many separate islands and if we look at the islands, the very beauty of the islands, the rolling hills in some cases, the steep structures rising out of the ocean, the flat land almost to the level of the ocean in other cases, that also is part of our beauty.

But, Sir, therein lies part of the problem. If you look at the potential disasters which confront the Caribbean as we live every day, if you look, for example, at the threat of the hurricanes, which comes from the fact that we are located on the western part of the Atlantic Ocean and we are basically in the natural path of hurricanes as they form off the western

coast of Africa. The fact that we are all small islands and each of us has significant ocean frontage, lovely beaches and so on, also makes us particularly vulnerable to not only the high winds of hurricanes, but the storm surges and other potential effects from the ocean.

The nature of our topographical structure is largely formed out of the fact of the nature of our formation in terms of the movement of the earth plates and so on and the Caribbean is one of the volcanic regions in the world, which is a fact not recognised by many of us. The fact that many of the volcanoes have been dormant for some time does not remove the fact as we all have been rudely awakened to in 1995, with the eruption of the Soufriere Hills volcano in Montserrat.

But, Sir, we also face the usual other perils associated with floods, landslides, epidemics and of course, not forgetting, Sir, the man-made and technological disasters. One of those potential man-made disasters which we have so far been spared, again relates to the nature of our location and the fact that we are along the path from the Americas in the west to Europe in the northeast and Africa in the east. Also, we represent one of the major transshipment points for oil and nuclear waste going to various parts of the world and that constitutes a major threat for us.

But also, Sir, in the Caribbean Region, one can see the very close linkage between the economy and the eco-system. They are inextricably linked, Sir, and one is very much dependent on the other. No more is this more visible than in the case of tourism where the long term sustainability of our tourism, by and large, depends on the extent to which we are able to preserve those natural aspects of our beauty in terms of our vegetation, in terms of our coast line and all of the various elements that go together to make the Caribbean a unique tourism travel and leisure destination in the world.

Sir, as indicated, the economy as well impacts on the whole issue of vulnerability, and also the economy becomes vulnerable because of the nature of the eco-systems. Hurricanes for example, have the capacity to disrupt the entire economy of any or all of the Caribbean nations. We have seen examples throughout the years, Sir, where hurricanes create damage amongst the major agricultural crops in the Region; sugar cane, bananas, fruit, vegetables and so on. In fact, sometimes depending on the nature of the weather systems associated with hurricanes, particularly in terms of wind or flood damage, the damage to the agricultural sector can sometimes last more than the first season after or during the particular weather system.

So that, Sir, the role which the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency plays in having a regional

mechanism which acts to prepare us for the potential of disaster, and also acts in the area of mitigation and recovery is of critical importance to our capacity to effect long-term planning and to insure that we prevent, as well as mitigate the level of dislocation. So most of the functions of this organisation therefore, Sir, include the securing, collating and the channelling to interested and effective governments as well as non-governmental organisations of effective information on disaster management and related issues.

In fact, the collection and dissemination of information on disasters is also a principal role which the Agency plays and I would want to salute the Agency on the quality of the information that they have disseminated over time and through various channels. They have, for example, been very active in terms of publishing information in various booklets and brochures and they have also recently created an Internet website on which one can obtain information about hurricanes and volcanoes thus far. Currently under construction but not yet finished are sites on earthquakes, floods, landslides, epidemics, and technological and man-made disasters. They have also been closely in the pursuance of their mandate working with non-governmental and private sector bodies.

In fact, part of the CDERA system of partnership includes a very close association with the Regional response organisations and the national disaster coordinating organisations. In the case of Barbados, CERO is that particular organisation. They also liaise with specialised technical agencies, for example, special technical institutions with experts on volcanoes, hurricanes and other disasters; resource agencies, the United Nations Development Programme, the United States Disaster Management Agency and of course, the private sector. I want to give by way of example the wide ranging interests and methods of engagement which is used by CDERA in fulfilling its mandate.

When I was in the private sector service, the Chamber of Commerce, we were able with the cooperation of CDERA to arrange a disaster management programme for private sector companies. As I indicated, the economic and ecological links in terms of disasters are important.
11.45 a.m.

That programme focussed on disaster planning at the enterprise level. Very often in our discussions we focussed on what happens on the national level, how many houses are blown down, how many roads are blocked and how many schools are blocked. But at the end of the day people do not live and work neither does the economy operate in abstract or only on the aggregate. The impact which a disaster would have on people's lives will largely depend on the impact which the disaster has on those enterprises with which there are investors, in which there are workers from which they

obtain their supplies of goods and services. Therefore we thought along with CDERA that we would want to position businessmen in Barbados to ensure that they are able to assess the risks which their individual businesses face in dealing with a disaster, develop an appropriate disaster plan, both for natural disasters as well as the man-made and technological disasters, whether it be fires, oil spills or whatever, and also develop a plan which would have the enterprise up and running in the shortest possible time after a disaster so that those persons who depend either on their livelihood or who depend for goods and services from those institutions would be able in the shortest possible time thereafter to live a normal life. CDERA therefore is very eclectic in its approach to the fulfilment of its mandate.

Sir, among the other functions which it performs would be developing the capacity of national disaster response organisations to deal with the issue to provide substantial training and other opportunities for the national agencies.

I know that CERO, for example, has on several occasions been the beneficiary of the training which has been organised through CDERA and through its international contacts. I know also that in terms of mobilising international support or, support generally, for affected regions, CDERA has been quite effective.

On an annual basis, for example, Barbados and other countries will make an assessment of what emergency response supplies and materials are available. They take an inventory of 4-wheel trucks, of tractors, of other heavy earth moving equipment, tree trimming equipment and emergency non-perishable supplies that are available in a given location. However in the event of a disaster whose severity is such as to immobilise the entire national response, through the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Response Agency, other participating states in the Agreement as well as friends and allies internationally are able to channel their assistance through a well structured organisation whose integrity is beyond question and which has the wherewithal to ensure that those persons who are most affected by the disaster are able to obtain relief in the shortest possible time.

We are pleased, Sir, that the agency has over the years been quite successful in speaking to the issues of preparedness for disasters, response to disasters, if they do in fact occur, the recovery of the economy and the society in general and various aspects of the eco-system in the event the rebuilding which needs to occur as well as prevention and mitigation, particularly in the case of man-made and technological issues.

We are therefore pleased to be able to take steps to ensure that this agency puts its organisational structures on a solid footing.

Over the years of the existence of this agency they have been able to provide assistance to the 16 participating countries in CDERA by way of providing relief supplies, emergency communications facilities, emergency management personnel and, of course, financial assistance. By way of having this Bill which is before us they will now be able more properly to conduct their affairs in a more structured manner and with all of the issues relating to rights and obligations no longer clouded as they were before.

You will note, Sir, that from the First and Second Schedules of the Bill that the countries are all members within the Caribbean all of whom are just as susceptible as we are to various disasters. Therefore there is that commonality of interest that has created CDERA and I will venture to say that CDERA will over the time of its existence in our Caribbean region prove to be one of the most critical as well as one of the most effective examples of regional cooperation for us here in the Caribbean region.

You will notice, Sir, that I am using Caribbean rather than CARICOM because the scope of the agreement is not limited to CARICOM as defined in the CARICOM Agreement but it is a wider agreement because the threats to which we are exposed as well as our obligations and our responsibilities go beyond the regional trading grouping for they extend to those brothers and sisters in the Caribbean region which share a common history, a common geography and, therefore, a common exposure.

Sir, there are one or two specific issues which I would like to touch on in making this Second Reading speech. While we are focussing on the establishment of a Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Response Agency and while we are ensuring that on the national governmental level in terms of the Government of Barbados or the Government of Jamaica or Trinidad that there are effective mechanisms in place – while we are focussing on this regional mechanism – we also must not forget that each and every citizen of these countries has a responsibility to ensure that they are aware of the potential hazards and that for each and every household and for each and every business and community that there is a plan which is properly developed, carefully and comprehensively communicated and easily implementable in the event of either natural or man-made disaster.

If we take a look at some of the issues which confront us in Barbados, for example, in the case of hurricanes, we go through the exercise every year of preparation for the hurricane season. But one is always amazed that there seems to be a lack of interest generally speaking from the general public until it is predicted that a hurricane is about to strike Barbados. It is only at that time that there seems to be a rush to purchase hardware supplies, to lock up windows, to purchase canned foods just in case the refrigerators do not

work. There is a rush to purchase lamps and lanterns, batteries and so on. So it makes one wonder whether the message has been taken seriously. And the question cannot be one merely of money for the simple reason that if one is able to go only after the final advisory stage that the hurricane conditions are likely to affect Barbados, in 48 hours, to purchase these items then, therefore, the money factor cannot be the critical one.

In any case, Sir, the fact of the matter is that there has developed an attitude in Barbados that God is a Bajan and therefore we will continue to be spared of every possible disaster.

It is an unfortunate attitude. It is a very sad attitude. But, unfortunately, I have heard it stated on too many occasions for me to ignore it. That kind of approach, however, is never stated by anyone who was old enough in 1955 to appreciate what the destructive force of nature can do.

11.55 a.m.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I was not there in 1955, I must declare for the record. I did not emerge until some six years later. However, because of the great confidence which I place in the wisdom of my elders, I have heeded their warnings that I must be respectful of the powers of nature. So I am not among that misguided group who believes that God is a Bajan and nothing will happen to them. They have even gone so far as to call into question the integrity of our hardworking meteorological folk when, for example, in 1979 or thereabouts when Hurricane David was predicted to hit Barbados and it made somewhat of a turn to the north and went on to cause great damage in Dominica and the other countries in that region, some misguided persons suggested that the weathermen had shares in the lumber companies and that they wanted them to buy up stock, but that is a fact, Sir.

Sir, I am being anecdotal to make the point that there is still work for each and every one of us who are enlightened and convinced of the fact that whilst we are thankful and appreciative of the fact that we have been spared, that we need to ensure that our house is in order because we know not the hour when the disaster cometh.

Whether it be in terms of the construction techniques which we use in our buildings in terms of their capacity to withstand high winds, whether it be in terms of the way we relate to construction on the coastal regions and other flat regions in relation to their vulnerability to storm surges, whether we are prepared for excessive rainfall, and whether in terms of the location of our houses whether we

are paying attention again to the fact that once we may not have had flooding on a frequent basis over time, but again persons would be wise to consult some of the older persons in areas where they are proposing to do construction to understand the nature of the pattern of the rainfall and so on. Also, Sir, whether we are preparing within our communities for any injuries which might result and which might not be able to receive the immediate attention on the national level because of the overall magnitude of the destruction which is wrought upon us.

I am making those points, Sir, to suggest that because we are today paying attention to what happens on the regional and national level, this is not to suggest that this will in any way remove the responsibility which individuals, households and communities have for their own welfare particularly in terms of the areas of prevention and mitigation.

It is unfortunate, Sir, that the matters which have occurred in relation to the Soufriere Hills volcano have so terribly impacted on the lives of our brothers and sisters in Montserrat and indeed in the surrounding islands because the reports indicate, for example, that on Boxing Day, December 26, last year ash falls were in St. Lucia arising out of those eruptions in Montserrat.

We all remember back in 1979 or thereabouts that we obtained some dust falls in Barbados as a result of volcanic eruption in St. Vincent. What that has brought home to us, as I indicated earlier in my remarks, is that we have to be all-encompassing in our approach to preparation for disasters. It is not enough to focus on hurricanes because they are the most obvious annual risk, and it is not enough to focus only on the matters in relation to our national borders in terms of Barbados, but the Montserrat situation is one which affects us all, both from the physical potential disaster situation whether it be dust, the possibilities of tidal waves as well as the eruption in Montserrat triggering other volcanic activity in the region.

There is a more fundamental point, Sir. It also has called into question not only our relationship to each other in terms of our relations with our brothers and sisters in other Caribbean territories, and the extent to which we are able to provide assistance, but it has also, as you would be aware, Sir, called into question the matter of the relationship of Montserrat in particular to its colonial power and the extent to which, on the one hand, it is viewed as part of that particular country and the extent to which in the early days particularly of the disaster they were suggesting that you are really a Caribbean country and therefore your colleagues should assist.

Barbados is clearly of the view, and we have given tangible expression to that, that we are our brothers and

sisters' keepers and therefore we will and we have provided assistance to Montserrat.

The matter of the nature of assistance which is given in such situations is an interesting one to observe and it relates directly to the establishment of this Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency. One of the greatest issues which faces persons managing disasters, especially in the post disaster situation, is exactly what type of aid to give, when to give it and by what channels. Without a coordinating mechanism such as this one, you can have a situation in which all kindhearted citizens and countries may attempt to give the same type of assistance, that is, a single type of assistance through either a single channel or an inappropriate channel and sometimes add more burden to an already stressed situation.

For example, in the early days of the Montserrat situation, there was a great interest by many persons and organisations to send people in to do various things, which is a natural response. However, it was pointed out by the authorities on the ground in Montserrat that to take that approach would be to add a greater number of persons to be fed, to make use of the supplies and indeed if there was a need to do some evacuation a greater number of persons to be evacuated as well, as well as the logistical situation of coordinating so many disparate efforts.

Through agencies like the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, member countries would be advised on what specific forms of assistance are needed. Some countries will provide financial assistance, others will provide security personnel, others will provide health personnel, others might provide medical supplies and other goods.

In the case of Montserrat, for example, Barbados coordinated its assistance efforts directly with the authorities in Montserrat as well as with the British. The British had indicated ultimately that they were taking responsibility but we also were part of a number of CARICOM initiatives.

Barbados contributed, for example, to the construction of the Caribbean Village which provided some accommodation in the designated safe zone. Again, this is one of the cases in which one cannot go into a sovereign country and impose whatever type of assistance one thinks they might need. It is a matter of a two-way mechanism. Barbados also indicated that they will be willing to provide education for the children of Montserrat at no cost. As you know, non-Barbadians are required to pay fees in school and so on. Barbados has also provided technical support and personnel to the Government of Montserrat as required. The point that I am making, Sir, is that the mechanism of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency is vital if you are not to have total confusion in the

efforts which countries of goodwill are making to help their brothers and sisters in a disaster.

12.05 p.m.

Barbados, like I said Sir, has been contributing in a very active way in the relief efforts of Montserrat and we have been guided in all cases by the requests which have come out and requests as well can be in multiple areas. You know that they have been coordinated efforts between the Government and private individuals in Barbados to provide some relief both physical and emotional to a number of the children who remained in Montserrat and over the holiday period a number of the children from Montserrat were accommodated in Barbados where they were able to get away from the stress of the moment as well as the constant dust and other respiratory hazards which they would have been constantly affected by.

Sir, the last area which I want to stress and which I know CDERA is preparing for but which I hope that we do not have to face, are areas in relation to the man-made disasters of technology and other nature. As we progress in terms of the structure of our economy we get into more sophisticated operations whether in the services or manufacturing sector and we get into the use of sophisticated equipment and chemicals and so on, the danger of chemical fires, the danger of oil spills, the danger of nuclear accidents from the shipping of nuclear waste, all these constitute major threats.

For example before we go regional, if we take a look at the national situation, CDERA has been working closely with CERO and the Barbados Fire Service and I know, again from my time in the private sector that a number of joint initiatives were undertaken in the private sector in this regard where there is a co-ordinate move towards identifying all of the hazardous chemicals which are imported into Barbados and particularly identifying the location for storage and the conditions of storage. Because in the context of Barbados where the development of our commerce, of our tourism and of our residences are very confined to close geographic proximity, it is important that the health and welfare of our citizens are not endangered by the inappropriate storage of chemicals. And then, further not only where there is inappropriate storage from lack of knowledge but where this information about the location and storage of these chemicals is not available to the Fire Service and therefore they are not able to mount appropriate responses in terms of the nature of equipment, if evacuation is required. That can be extended to any of our countries in the region.

Sir, the last point I want to make in terms of the critical importance of this agency is this matter of the threat to our total environment in terms of the Caribbean being a major shipping zone for a number of things but most noticeably the movement of oil as well as the movement of nuclear waste.

Barbados continues to launch its international protest and in this regard I must laud the efforts of the various non-governmental organisations which have used their international platforms and their excellent international contacts to continue to plug very heavily in this regard. I do not think I would be offending Senator Trotman's modesty if I were to use my presence here to laud the several organisations, Barbados Workers' Union, CTUSAB...

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Indeed, Sir, his presence as the President of the International Federation of Free Trade Unions in which he has the honour of leading some 260 million people worldwide if my count is correct.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: 125 million, Sir. What is a couple of million between Senator Trotman and me? I am looking forward to the growth of the organisation. 125 million persons worldwide are members of this Organisation but also from his position in the International Labour Organisation. Between the Government of Barbados and in fact the regional governments and these non-governmental organisations, we are hopeful that our continuous lobbying efforts linking with Green Peace and other international bodies will draw attention to this practice and it will awaken sufficient awareness in the home countries that they will in fact put pressure on their governments to halt this hideous practice which endangers the livelihood both economic and physical of these beautiful gems of the Caribbean.

Sir, this Bill sets out quite clearly the legal status of the agency. The agency will be a body corporate to which the provisions of the relevant sections of the Interpretation Act will apply. They are entitled to the various immunities and privileges as is customary and these immunities and privileges will be granted by way of the authority of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and that grant of that certificate will ensure that the usual immunities and privileges, diplomatic and otherwise would be granted to the relevant officials of that agency.

The Bill also makes provision for financing of the agency. As a headquarters there are some obligations which the Government of Barbados will have and the Bill makes provision for those funds to be paid out of the Consolidated Fund. It also makes arrangements that where funds are to be channelled through Barbados into the agency that such can be done through the Consolidated Fund. It also makes provision, Sir, for reading certain aspects of the Headquarters Agreement in terms of the structure of the organisation, its proper lawful functions and the like to

be read into law in terms of this Bill. So that Article 2 paragraph 3, Articles 4, 5 and 6 and Article 9 would be read directly into law out of the provisions relating to the Headquarters Agreement.

12.15 p.m.

It also makes provision, Sir, for the Minister to make regulations giving effect to provisions of the Act so as to ensure that we are able to give proper effect to the provisions there.

So, Mr. President, the Government is pleased to commit this Bill to the Honourable the Senate. We are pleased with the work done thus far by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency and we will continue as the Headquarters location for that agency to give it our fullest support. But more particularly, Sir, our recognition of the inherent vulnerability of the Member States of the Caribbean Region and the Member States of this Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency we will ensure that we use the benefits of the fact of the Agency being in Barbados to ensure that Barbados is able to be in a state of preparedness for any of the potential disasters, that we are able to recover quickly from any disaster and that we are able to rebuild our economy and our society to the same or even greater levels than before any unfortunate occurrence of disaster.

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

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this very important matter before the Senate today, recognising that as we debate this particular item we are looking not only at our home and territory Barbados but further afield to our Caribbean region.

In reading the Objects and Reasons and in looking at the additional information on the Member States which are signatories to this particular document, I am still amazed that for all this time they are talking about a regional movement, cooperation and integration, there seems to be no real attempt to widen these Caribbean bodies which were formed some time ago. We are talking about the widening and deepening of our regional movements and bodies and we say that we are moving towards a Federation of the Caribbean. Yet we continue to adopt these organisations in their very small state.

Now, I think we have to be very realistic. We have to deal with this in its most practical form. Regional integration cannot be achieved overnight as we have accepted. I believe we have been inching our way there because as I have said on more than one occasion, should we attempt to pull all the entities we have in our region together, entities which are

working in a cooperative manner and with success, we would realise that we are probably closer to that big thing called a Federation than we realise, but I wonder why, after all these years, we have not managed to bring on board, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Cayman, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Cayenne, Turks and Caicos.

I believe that if they are really serious about building a strong regional body that can respond, we must recognise that we have to broaden the base of membership of these organisations.

Now CDERA in its role as an organisation responsible for disaster response, put another way, disaster preparedness and response, has to be a very strong organisation and the financial resources necessary for this organisation to be efficient and effective are significant. What are we really talking about? We are talking about large sums, yet we have restricted the membership to these small numbers.

Now, when a hurricane strikes the Caribbean, one of the major complaints we have in this region is an increase in property insurance premiums, and one of the serious problems we have here relates to our numbers. The risk is not properly spread over very large numbers. For some time now we have been toying with, I am speaking about an Association of Caribbean States, a body which I believe will comprise some 200 million people. Now, if we can have an association of Caribbean states of 200 million, that in terms of numbers and in risk carrying and risk bearing and risk assessment is a reasonable number. I would like to think that as we discuss CDERA we would recognise that in order for us to truly tackle the challenges of natural and man-made disasters we need our brothers and sisters, those larger numbers of the regions surrounding us.

We have accepted that the beauty of our beautiful oceans and the attractiveness of our volcanic mountain peaks, assets though they may be, they themselves turn out to be the very threats to our survival in times of disaster and it is essential that we move around and bring our brothers and sisters on board.

The Leader of Government Business was accurate when he said to us that our economy and our ecology are inextricably linked, because there is no international investor, there is no developed country that will have an interest in a region that cannot get itself back very quickly after it has been struck by disaster and that says to us that CDERA and its role must be elevated at the level of Caribbean regional governments.

Now, I note that Heads of the Governments of the Caribbean are a part of the council of CDERA but even though that might be so, I believe CDERA deserves a voice on board other than at the council level and maybe, I

do not think I am out of place, but they should be represented like in a Senate.

12.25 p.m.

I think CDERA should have a voice at the legislative level of the country. There can be no body that holds such responsibility for the sustainable development of a country that should be on the outside of important decision making matters which affect that country.

I think as politicians we like to see ourselves as very important, but when I look at these organisations and their role, without them I wonder if there can be us, because if they do not carry out their functions responsibly and efficiently, governments are really worth very little and for that reason I give my wholehearted support to organisations like CDERA.

There is also in this document, provision for an emergency fund and on that I would like to make a few comments. I hope that the Emergency Fund would not be a bank account sitting somewhere, earning a few dollars interest from time to time and is almost dormant and used only when needed to draw money for a disaster. I think that the fund which is being set up under CDERA should be a very actively managed fund. I would like to think that as the governments of the Region pledge sums of money to this fund that we would try to make sure that this money is invested that we can get returns on it that it can grow, by using the type of astute financial management that would guarantee a security of capital, while giving reasonable returns on such funds. I know there is provision for accountability as it relates to the fund, and I am hoping that we would pay greater attention to that fund.

The matter of a fund for insurance in the Region, I have a great concern for that matter and I hope the time is not far off when, as a large body of people, we are able to carry our risks and we do not find ourselves continually at the mercies of the international reinsurers who know very little about us, because culturally we are different and who, from time to time, charge us rates because they know little about us. I think that as a people who understand our geography, culture and sociology, we ought to bring these things into play as we attempt to strengthen our Region.

I believe that the Association of Caribbean States in its broadest sense, that body which when formed would become the fourth largest economic block in the world, and I believe that we need to do some serious work in that regard.

Mr. President, I would not spend time talking about the hurricanes and the risks at the domestic and regional level. I believe that all Barbadians by now, whether you have experienced a hurricane or not, recognise what a costly

experience it is for us at the individual level and at the level of the state. But I do not think that we are doing enough on a regular basis to educate our people and keep our people on the alert for disasters.

I think that we wait until the hurricane season is approaching us to talk about it. Sometimes I listen to the head of CDERA, Mr. Jeremy Collymore. As I watch him on television sometimes he seems so frustrated and sometimes he seems to be at the point of throwing his hands in the air. Because he does not believe that our responsiveness as a people – that we are not responding in the way we ought to and that we take these threats as seriously as we ought to. I would like to encourage the Government of Barbados, since we are placing so much emphasis on technology and tourism and their role in national development, to recognise that these areas on which we rely so heavily are seriously threatened by disasters and that we should, in whatever way we can, assist CDERA and at the local level CERO, in educating our people on the importance of being prepared in advance for disasters.

The necessary building code and such standards, I know we have been talking quite a bit about such. I know some things have already been put in place, but I hope that the Government will also lead by example and in its housing programme would make sure that those properties are built according to certain standards which allow them to withstand at least that degree of torrent that we can anticipate, knowing of course that we have no control over the intensity of nature when it is at work.

Therefore, Mr. President, with those few remarks I support the Resolution. I wish CDERA well in its work for the Region and hope the Governments of the Caribbean would take this organisation seriously and would go about with the greatest haste in making sure that CDERA succeeds.

But before I sit, I would not want anyone to forget that today I have spoken on CDERA not only as a regional body responding to emergencies, but its role in the development of movement toward the deepening and widening of our Region. I would like to leave with you a few words from one of the former Prime Ministers of Barbados, the late Errol Barrow, as Chairman of the Committee, when he addressed the 1975 Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Caribbean Development Bank and he said,

“We must strengthen the inner circles in order to survive; move to wider circles of regional cooperation if we are to hold our own; and press on to ever widening circles of international cooperation if we are to concern ourselves not merely with survival and

keeping up with the rest but with the advancement and relentless onward march of the people whom we claim to represent and who expect us through this institution to show them clearly the way ahead."

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, it is still the month of January and I would crave your kind indulgence to be permitted to wish you, Sir, and my other colleagues in the Senate as well as our support individuals a disastrous free 1998.

Asides.

I wish from the outset to say that I support the instrument before the Senate but I have significant difficulty with any further bits of legislation which grant diplomatic immunity to members of staff of such organisations. As a public figure, myself, regionally, I have recognised that people in Barbados have suffered tremendous hardship as a direct consequence of the granting of diplomatic immunity to agencies such as this one is. The most recent example of that misuse of diplomatic immunity has been with CARDI where for about 10 years workers were denied their just right to associate freely, to join a trade union or an association and to have their conditions negotiated because those persons, although they were members of staff, and although they themselves were enjoying privileges and benefits granted to them by the region as individuals, thought that they should deny the same basic human freedom, not the privileges, just the basic rights, to other persons and individuals.
12.35 p.m.

I frankly see no reason why it is necessary for diplomatic immunities to be granted to these persons. The University of the West Indies functions quite adequately and, as far as I am aware, there are no diplomatic immunities that they are benefiting from as general staff. I see no reason why, and I would urge the Government to review this position, we have to go looking for special classes of people from individuals who would take jobs as representatives of the region, who will travel and be given all that is due and reasonable to them. I hope that they will travel and that they will be treated properly at airports. They can be given diplomatic passports but this question of being free and above is something which I cannot accept and will not find myself being willing to accept.

Having said so, Sir, I do not wish to give the impression that that detracts from the overall measures which the Leader of the Senate has spoken to and I dare say spoken in very prudent and healthy terms. He almost sounds

as the representative of some constituency. Maybe he is practising, Sir.

I think, Sir, that there is a concern for some of the matters which we shall have to look at and that he himself spoke to as well as the leading spokesperson for the Opposition Party in the Senate. I would want to go back to this and make reference to a concern I have had over the years and that is the concern with the lack of Caribbean maintenance of support agencies. What I mean by this is that the Caribbean as a whole, Barbados being one of the few exceptions, seems to be very keen on having agencies for our development as a region, but do not seem either willing or able to give the level of maintenance which is required to keep these institutions functioning.

The biggest example of this I would think of is the Caribbean Meteorological Institute. The CMI, as you know, in Husbands, St. James, has suffered a very difficult existence. And when we are favoured by the elements and there is not an immediate hurricane or other disaster of that sort nobody seems to believe that there is any need to keep CMI functioning, to have young people trained as meteorological assistants, and to have people being able to give proper projections; because it seems as though we think as Senator Farley said that God is a Barbadian. That is true. We know it is true that people think that God is a Bajan. I am not too sure nowadays whether he would choose here. We would have to do something about one or two things which I am not at liberty to speak about today.

It is true that people may think that way but, at the end of the day, the reality is that it is not just Barbados we are talking about. We are talking about an entire region which is liable to suffer from all kinds of difficulties and it seems to me that there has to be a greater sense of consciousness of the need to plan for a day when a Hurricane David will strike. You would not be surprised to find that immediately following that hurricane, CMI got all the funds that were required for the following fiscal year. That has been the forwardness and the backwardness of the institution and has unfortunately been the same difficulty that CARDI has been faced with.

As you know, although it is a significant institution that should be dealing with our researching and developing our agricultural base as a region, it is an institution now on the verge of collapse because there is not enough funding in the region and when once we in Barbados have paid our commitment as a nation, we find ourselves having then to look and see how we can assist others to do what they themselves ought to do.

I am concerned with what appears to be the lack of, or I should say, the apparent incapacity that there is for us to address the vaster areas beyond the superficial.

The Leader of the Senate has enunciated a number of the things which the Barbados Government did to address the Montserrat problem. And I think that though we do not want to take pride in helping our brothers and sisters that we would have to note that some significant work was done, although much of it might not be known to the public, in the way that they may have thought they would know about it.

I am concerned outside of that with a different kind of vision for transparent systems. Montserrat, as I understand it, Sir, altogether only has about 12 000 souls and I do not understand why it was necessary in our region to send these persons into the back alleys of London and Bristol. I wonder with the capacity we have and the resilience we have as a region, why with the amount of land space available in territories like Dominica and Guyana there could not have been a regional plan to house our brothers and sisters of Montserrat within the region, in Dominica or in Guyana, with the Governments putting in an agreed sum of money over a period to provide the infrastructure for the developmental needs of those people while they contributed to the development of that particular country to which they went and until they were able by whatever they were growing or producing to become effectively parts of the economy of those regions.

I am not prepared to cast blame on anybody, but I am saying that as a people where we have the capacity to do things it seems to me that we have as black people to be able to rise beyond just the superficial and to go farther into how we must be positioned to assist in the process of building our region.

I think that our region is not second to anybody else's. It is true that in terms of numbers we have several large economic and cultural groups significantly larger than ours and Senator Thompson may have forgotten the Organisation of African Unity when she was looking at her numbers and the sizes that there are. Our position is 3rd, 4th or otherwise but whether we are the 3rd, the 4th or even the 15th that is not the issue.

The issue to my mind has to do with the fact that beyond all others we are more cohesive than several of the other groups which there might be. It is true that the European Union has a cohesion that comes from their fear of losing their hegemony. If we for ourselves could begin to recognise that we have much to lose we may be able as well to build on the uniqueness that is the Caribbean and the wider Caribbean and might be able for ourselves to move beyond the here and now to planning for periods much beyond that. If we were to do that, I am sure, Mr. President, that we would be able to devise measures which are in anticipation of disasters and not merely measures which are

brought on stream to remedy these disasters after they have taken place.

The Leader of the Senate has made reference to some of those areas which might be of some concern to us. He has correctly, in my view, made reference to the possibility of oil spillage and I would think that by now we ought as a people to start educating the region not regarding the likelihood that that might happen but about what ought to be done at various stages of our national welfare and our regional well-being when it happens. We would not be able to have the level of shipping that we are moving towards and we have to. We are not going to be able to talk about building our fishing fleets and we will talk about that. We are not going to be able to talk about movement within the region, and I hope we will have regional shipping, unless we are prepared to recognise that at some stage or another we must deal with that as a possible catastrophe, and we have to plan in advance in the same way that at another level we have to plan in advance against the possible disaster that will come from what the Leader of the Senate would call, I think, natural disasters outside of hurricanes and acts of God although I suppose Dengue Fever might be considered to be an act of God but I wonder if you would properly determine that.
12.45 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: I do not know that that is man-made. HIV-AIDS might be man-made but I am not too sure about dengue. What I am aware of, Sir, is that if we were to take the information which is available to us now we would recognise that this particular disease has gone as far north as the northern parts of the United States of America. That suggests to me that with the warming process which is taking place around the world we are ourselves more exposed to that danger than we might have been before. Indeed, we are more exposed even to leptospirosis, it seems to me, than we were before.

I remember as youngsters that we ran about without shoes on our feet. We sucked cane straight out of the ground. We competed in the house with mice and rats. We did not have the incidence of injury or damage from leptospirosis as we now have. We had a little bit of jaundice, yes, but the point I am making, Mr. President, is that we seemed to have been in a position where our immunities were better able to deal with a number of the dangers there were around the...

Aside.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: I am merely indicating from a layman's perspective. I do admit, Sir, that there are people who are more aware of some of

the medical aspects of it but I know that as a youngster I ran around and in running around sometimes I had to ask mice or rats for a pass in the districts in which I ran around as a youngster playing in the sugar cane fields. You know, Mr. President, I was not given to running around otherwise. I still am not. The Honourable Senator could say the same thing.

In the matter of the Dengue Fever, I am saying, Sir, that this matter seems to me as it comes from the south, Latin America, through the Caribbean, it seems increasingly to have reached beyond epidemic proportions and the question in my mind is, what will we do? If we had not suffered the misfortune that we did yesterday we might be positioned today to speak more fully or been able to make representations much more fully. But I am grateful that through the Pan American Health Organisation we might be able as a nation and as a region to address disasters of this sort in a manner that will give us greater degrees of comfort not only when we see March and April come, but during the tough times between October and the rest of the year.

Therefore, I am also very anxious to hope that we will be able to find improved information systems regarding how we might address disasters of one kind or another, Mr. President, and in which we might be able to have, not merely preparation for, but procedures for giving responses to disasters when they take place.

I like the suggestion that at the individual level and at the corporate level much more has to be done. I would like to take the occasion to indicate that that has to be done by greater levels of training and education. It cannot be done alone by our saying in institutions like this that we have to ask corporate institutions to recognise their corporate responsibilities but there has to be greater levels of training and education in these fields.

When organisations like my own, the Barbados Workers' Union and the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados, endeavour to have programmes of this sort, we would like to believe that employers generally in Barbados would make greater numbers of people available to attend the programmes to benefit from them because they are not going to be programmes which will set aside workers to be able to take advantage of employers, if that ever could happen, but there would be programmes to help people to be in positions to protect themselves, to protect the environment and to help build our society.

I could not finish, Sir, unless I made one reference to a kind of disaster which, with your permission, I will interpret to be a food disaster problem. I think of that disaster as a disaster arising from man-made efforts by international shipping institutions, or companies, or agencies which fish just outside our economic zone, but with nets that enter into

our zones and which rake up everything, fish, coral and everything else within our region, thereby killing off the future of our fishing industry and thereby threatening our livelihood as a people who depend very much on the coral, the fish and the ecology that we have immediately surrounding ourselves.

It seems to me that has to be recognised as being as much in need of preparedness for answer and preparedness for response as anything else that we could think about because at the end of the day we have only very limited land space, and sooner or later we are going to have to take to the sea for much more of our food than we now do. We might have to take to the sea for other economic factors as well but I am talking about food as being the basis for our survival as a people.

It would seem to me, therefore, that part of what we need to do in the regional preparedness exercise is to bring our individual territories together, bring our individual nations together into one cohesive response mechanism to whatever threats which there are to our survival as a people and to our development as a regional institution.

I thank you, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I rise to support the Bill. There are a couple of concerns which I would like to mention which, by way of perhaps dealing with them, could help to make the work of the various bodies that we are about to set up by this Bill more effective.

First of all, something that is fairly close home to me as an officer of the church. I think that we have to be very, very careful of those modern day prophets whose prophecies tend to influence or affect the behaviour and the attitude of the general public towards those people who base their prophecies on modern technology.

We have to be careful because I think that whereas the Old Testament prophet or the prophet of old, being regarded as close to God, and perhaps being more knowledgeable than most of the people of their time, tended to say things which showed their ability to peer into the future, because of their superior knowledge and education perhaps. Whereas that was so, in the case of the modern day prophet, education and technology have made such an impact in our society that it is absolutely necessary that any modern prophecies about weather, climate, disaster and so on should take into consideration the groundwork that has been done by our social scientists and our natural scientists.

For example, you cannot predict anything about climate today except you talk to the climatologist, the meteorologist, the seismologist in the case of volcanoes and so on. And even social scientists would need to be consulted before any effective and meaningful prophesy can be made.

I have sounded that, Sir, at the outset as a warning to those who would think that all that is necessary is to go to sleep at night and have a dream and get up and tell the world that what happened in that dream is what is going to happen to this country. I do not share that view of prophesy myself at all. It means therefore, that since there are people who are apt to be influenced by that thinking, organisations like CDERA would need to re-educate the populace in many of the territories so that they learn to rely on the technology and its use rather than any approach that might be based on the mysterious or superstitious.

We must get that one right so that those who are talking about an approaching hurricane will be believed because it is recognised that their technology is superior and I might add, Sir, their technology is given by God. That is a concern that naturally comes out in any debate about disaster and preparedness.

My next comment would relate to something that was said by a previous speaker regarding the reason for certain territories not being involved, particularly the French territories not being involved in the establishment of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency. I think, Sir, that the reason for that has to do for the most part with their background history and that is to say that because their centre of government is based elsewhere in France, in Europe, and not necessarily in Martinique or Guadeloupe. For we know that they send Parliamentarians up to Paris rather than having their own Parliament and because of that, this external kind of influence would naturally tend to keep them away.

There was a time when it was believed that citizenship of France by a Guadeloupian person made that person superior to those of us who were colonists under the old

British system. We do not believe that to be the case any longer, if we ever did, because we recognise that even at the time when most of us in the English speaking islands were colonists that there was progress made in these islands superior to that of those who had direct representation in France. So we have to be careful about any argument that says part of the solution to dealing with what is going to happen in these territories in terms of emergency relief, must be related to the ability of some territories to become citizens of a foreign territory.

Days ago I have been hearing of the move on the part of the British Government to offer citizenship to members of all the remaining colonies, perhaps excluding Hong Kong. That is topical debate at the moment and I say that we must be careful about this because if that sort of citizenship is handed to the people of Montserrat and I take it to mean equal citizenship with a British person, then there might be an attempt by the country that should help to take responsibility for the protection and safety of Montserrat to say, well, they are citizens and they are O.K., and to leave it at that, when in fact we need to go beyond that kind of nominal citizenship to find out what the problems are that need to be addressed.

We need in our region a more hands-on kind of caring approach to people who are threatened by disaster or who have experienced disaster. I expect that this is not, as I read it, simply the setting up of structures, but trying to come to terms with the sociological needs of people in trouble and the social and perhaps even pastoral caring needs that our region must have as we are faced with disaster and as we emerge from any particular disastrous event. These are messages being thrown out and perhaps warnings to those who would look for simple solutions to problems of disaster.

There are two organisations before us and our business is the establishment of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency and this is being described in the First Schedule of the Bill as complementing the Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project which already exists so that it would be as it were, bringing closer together two very important organisations, that is how I understand it. In the one case, the focus is on preparedness and prevention and in the other case the focus is on dealing with the problems after something has occurred.

As I see it, Sir, the emergency response will be more effective if the agency responsible has a quick reaction and it is able to react to the problem whatever the problem may be, whether it be volcano or earthquake or flood or what have you, the sort of thing that we are used to in the region -- not used to in the sense of preferring them, but of

having occurred fairly consistently in our region. This body or any body that is going to deal with these things must be so set up that they can react quickly to meet any of the emergencies that occur. They have to have the authority to mobilise the kind of equipment that would be available to them.

I do not see anything in here apart from mention of disciplinary bodies that would be directed by the agencies. I have not seen any specific mention of what kind of technology, what kinds of equipment would be available but I am proposing that there must be available modern equipment to enable a quick response and these must be available to be mobilised by this body CDERA. I think we need to make available to them services of bodies like the Coast Guard in this country and other places and perhaps even to so update them that the vehicles or ships would be able to move quickly to get from one territory to another.
2.10 p.m.

Suppose we were called upon, by ourselves, to evacuate the people of Montserrat in a hurry we should be able to respond quickly and not to find that by the time we really get into motion that there is a lot of damage done.

Sir, this has set me thinking about the availability of a helicopter fleet for example. We know of how useful the availability of a helicopter was the other day when a tourist, I think, was in difficulty in St. Lucy and in 5 minutes, according to reports, a helicopter was in St. Lucy rescuing someone who was in trouble. You have to have some kind of a fleet, some kind of a force, some kind of a body available that can move quickly to help to solve these problems that we envisage where disasters are concerned.

Also there must be adequate communications systems available so that messages can be passed on and questions answered. Now that relates to the response that will be necessary if this establishment is to be effective. And then where preparedness is concerned, and that to me means ready for any disaster eventuality, it has to do therefore with our ability to escape the damage that would be caused or would be envisaged when there was any disaster taking place in the region.

We have to look again at the building code. I had the opportunity, Sir, to travel to Antigua soon after that last terrible hurricane that flattened so many parts of that island and it was interesting to note that while the old houses were standing the newer houses had been blown down. So it means that during a period of complacency nobody seemed...

Aside.

SENATOR THE VENENERABLE ARCHDEACON

J. L. SPRINGER: Yes the four-hip houses withstood all the forces of the wind and so on. The other houses that were built with a lot of style and modern architectural beauty and so on, those were flattened. So going hand in hand with our readiness to face up to this there would have to be some interest taken in the matter of how the houses are built, how they are secured today as compared with what is happening at the moment. I would also hope that such a body would be working with the one we are about to establish to look after the shelters.

Now, it is expected that if there is a hurricane threatening – and certainly every hurricane season, certain arrangements are put in place by which people are told in what areas they would find shelters and where they should go. Suddenly as June comes to an end or thereabouts, we begin talking about shelters but for the rest of the year, after the hurricane season, nobody bothers about these places called shelters.

I know there was a time when most of them were church buildings – churches or church schools or whatever. I know now there are a number of other buildings, Government schools for example, and perhaps it falls under the direction of one of these bodies if not I hope that would be arranged, that this body will keep a regular check on the shelters, particularly during the off-season to ensure that when the hurricane season starts they would be prepared.

I have it on good authority, Sir, that half of the buildings, and I am not going to say to whom they belong – I am not in a position to say whether they were church buildings or others, but half of the buildings that are believed to be hurricane shelters or are available to be used are unsafe. Fifty percent of them are structurally unsafe and I have that on sound engineering advice. This is not the first time I have mentioned it in here and I have not seen any activity going on out there with respect to checking those buildings. I, in my own time, use my own influence whenever I can to say to those who are my superiors within the church, that church buildings must be made secure. We cannot afford to have people at risk and when our buildings have become unsafe or are found to be so for one reason or other we have drawn it to the attention of the authorities. That is not the case generally speaking so I just want to be sure that that is not missed in setting up proper preparedness where disaster is concerned.

The other point in this regard, Sir, is the insurance of the buildings. I know that there have been times when there was no proper public liability insurance where these buildings were available for shelters. That is something I would like to see placed squarely under the direction of whatever body it is we care to set up particularly here

as we support the establishment of CDERA. It is important that people who go to the buildings, even if they are aware that these buildings are structurally strong must know that they are protected by proper insurance arrangements.

Then, Sir, there are other areas that I hope we would take note of and that relate to the helpless aged people who are shut in and whose houses are not expected to be necessarily as safe as the other houses or as the shelters but who just might be caught in their houses unable to get to shelters and who have a right to be made safe. I would like to see a body of carpenters or masons or people who can use a hammer and a saw and who would be commissioned, as the hurricane season approaches, to go around to those people and not wait until the roofs are blown off, but to check what safety measures can be put in place to help those people to survive.

With those few remarks, Sir, I think that we have made a good step forward. I wish to congratulate the Government for going ahead with this and also for having it so arranged that the headquarters happens to be here in Barbados. I support this Bill, Sir.
2.20 p.m.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: As usual, Mr. President, I will be very brief. In the disasters that have been spoken about, what we have mainly concentrated on are natural disasters and there are other types of disasters such as what we saw with the pink mealy bug occurring in the other islands of the Caribbean.

It clearly was shown that when that occurred, it took several months for us here in Barbados to react and put in place the protective measures. I can only think that we were very lucky that we did not get the pink mealy bug because we were so slow in moving off the mark. I would like to think that we have disaster plans for these outbreaks of pests or diseases that can occur and do considerable damage to the agricultural sector.

In the 1970s we had a swine fever outbreak in Barbados and it just happened that I was working for a Canadian company at the time and we had a Canadian Veterinarian on staff who was able to identify this and we were able to move very quickly to bring some experts in from Canada. Through the Canadian Government's intervention, we were able to isolate it to one farm that of the Ministry of Agriculture, and we were able to slaughter off all the pigs on that farm and contain what could have been a disaster for the pig industry of Barbados.

But, we have no plan. I have seen a plan in Jamaica where they have these things already laid out. What steps

they take; day one, day two and so on, involving sometimes the use of the Defence Force to totally put a cordon around a farm and prevent anybody from going in and out and prevent any movement of livestock. These sorts of plans we should have on the ground, we do not have them, and I think we most certainly must do this as a part of CDERA's responsibility.

Thank you.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I rise to make my comments in respect of this Bill. I would like to congratulate the Caribbean Governments in formulating such a policy, but at the same time in congratulating them, I must say I am rather disappointed that they have not established or created within the preamble a section which would do us more benefit. We should work along those lines rather than to wait for disasters to overtake us and then to mobilise assistance.

Sir, if one looks at this preamble carefully, you will see the second paragraph speaks of recalling that during recent decades many Caribbean states have been adversely affected by a succession of hurricanes; namely, Barbados in 1955; Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Haiti in 1964; the Dominican Republic in 1979; St. Lucia, Haiti and Jamaica in 1980; Antigua and Barbados, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat 1989, that they would have put in another paragraph which says,

"Mindful that the Caribbean states must equip themselves to adequately forecast for themselves pending disasters."

I believe that would have made the document a more worthwhile document. Because, as it stands, Mr. President, we sit down and we depend upon pronouncements from the United States about what is going to happen to us in Barbados and I think it is time that the Caribbean recognises that the United States pronounces for themselves.

Those of you who know about the weather forecasting, every year there are two or three black aircrafts that are stationed at the Grantley Adams Airport. Those fly out into the centre of the hurricanes, but they transmit their data back to Jacksonville in Florida where it is processed and then we hear about it later down here. I am particularly worried because within the last four to five years, we have had a pronouncement from a professor of a university in the United States, Professor Gray, who has forecasted serious hurricanes sweeping the Caribbean but they do not define what they mean by the Caribbean. The result is that insurance companies have jacked up their premium for hurricane coverage to the detriment of a lot of people

in the Caribbean. From the hotel back down to the little board and shingle house and yet, during those years none of the forecasts have come true.

This is why I am saying, those who sat down in the Agreement should have put in a clause and we should have been spending our time and money in helping to establish systems in the Caribbean to do our own forecasting. It is no sense we are waiting until a catastrophe has hit us to mobilise all these people and equipment, raise all this money to solve a disaster when we could have done the same mobilisation to prepare us and let us know in advance what is going to happen to us.

It is not the insurance companies in the Caribbean to blame. They are the reinsurers outside who really do not know the Caribbean, because the United States includes Puerto Rico and those places as part of the Caribbean. Little Barbados, as we know from an aged old tale, gets a hurricane once every ten years. I want to make it very clear, I do not want anybody outside to be callous over what I am saying when you hear about hurricane warnings. I am just saying what I have experienced and as a professional attorney what comes to my office every day.

If you go to the old folks tales in Barbados and even looking at this same document, you will see that this sets out when last we had hurricanes in Barbados. A hurricane was in 1955 in Barbados and we have not had another devastating hurricane since that time, 1955. But our insurance premiums within the last four years, from the time Professor Gray started projecting, have gone up several times.

Asides: ...
SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, on a point of elucidation, I cannot sit here as a person qualified to speak on insurance, and allow this misrepresentation.

Mr. President, Sir, premiums are experienced rated and not based on forecasting. The reason insurance premiums go up on properties in Barbados even when a hurricane has not struck Barbados, as the Senator rightly said, is because Barbados is categorised in the same belt as Puerto Rico, Miami and the others who would have experienced disasters. As a result the risk is evenly spread, so Barbados has to carry its portion of the risk. Premiums are experienced rated and not based on forecasting, Sir.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I would like to understand what the Honourable Senator has said, because as I said from the beginning, Barbados is locked in

with Puerto Rico and the other countries and their rates are the same. So, our premium has gone up because of Professor Gray's forecasting that the Caribbean will suffer these devastating hurricanes. I do not understand what the lady is saying.

So, if they forecasted that the Caribbean is going to suffer hurricanes and Barbados did not suffer hurricanes, we are carrying a premium for something that does not affect us. That is a disaster matter and that is what I am talking about and, as Father Springer has said that these prophesies are by modern day prophets whose prophesies are based on modern day technologies.
2.30 p.m.

So I do not see how the Senator can justify saying our premiums go up because we are in a region where we are not suffering from hurricanes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson, you have already made your point. Senator Bolden, please continue.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I would not like to respond to that aside because it would be even more in keeping with what I am saying if we prepared ourselves for these hurricanes before they arrive we would never have had Hurricane Sandy.

Mr. President, relief comes after the disaster and I would very much like to see the Caribbean prepare itself to adequately forecast what is happening in the Caribbean region. I am happy to note that with the volcano in Montserrat, when we had the rumblings in St. Vincent, that there was a team of vulcanologists from the University in Trinidad who were able to monitor what was happening in those regions and to tell us in advance what they expected. They are the persons who must operate within this region. The Caribbean has found itself for too long depending on so-called foreign experts to tell us what to do. Over and over again, every Caribbean country can look into its coffers and see so-called experts coming from abroad, leaving reports that the governments have never been able to put into effect because – I call them the two-day experts – they do not understand what is happening in the region.

They do not live with it. They do not know the culture. They do not know the reaction of people and therefore their views will never be taken into effect. No government can afford to implement any of the recommendations because it would go contrary to the feeling and wishes of the people. I therefore think that the agreement would have been, in my view, and I am not saying in anybody else's view, if CDERA could have looked at making part of their policy to create the facilities to help us.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I am hoping that we would begin to look at trying to establish our own institutions. We have the Met Office at Husbands which is a Caribbean institution. It is a training institution. I believe that the Caribbean governments should decide whether or not they are going to expand that institution to give us proper forecasts, particularly for hurricanes. I believe we should be able to do that because one of the things which mostly affects us are hurricanes.

Therefore I think we should be able to look at that institution and develop it and do not let us sit down and wait on a university somewhere in the midst of the United States to tell us what is happening. Look at what is happening now. We are hearing all kinds of stories about El Niño. None of us know how it is going to affect the Caribbean and every day there is a report from somewhere else around the world but nothing has come out for the Caribbean to tell us exactly whether there is something called El Niño or whether if there is an El Niño how it is going to affect Barbados and the Caribbean territories.

If we look at it, it is affecting each territory differently because Jamaica has been having floods. Barbados as we heard is going through a drought. The Water Authority before the year begins puts out a notice that we must not use water for this, that and the next thing; with all due respect to the Minister, with all due respect to those at the Water Authority, I think that when they publish such a notice they should then come back and ask themselves why they are washing down the streets of Bridgetown every morning and how much water is lost.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I do not know where it comes from but I am asking that question.

We have in Barbados...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am hearing voices other than the Senator on his feet. Please allow Senator Bolden to be heard.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: There is also the McGill Research Institute in St. James that has always been a helping hand in times of need, and Belair. I think we must accept that as part and parcel of our institutions and ask them to work with us in forecasting disasters.

I am most happy to say so. I do remember in 1976 when as Minister of Agriculture, the Belair Research Institute advised me as the Minister that I would have to do something to stop the fishing of sea eggs around the coast of

Barbados otherwise within the next 2 to 3 years we would have none. Everybody came out to lick the Minister then. The Minister got lashes from the time he opened his mouth and spoke about it based on technical advice from a research institution located in Barbados.

Today there are no sea eggs in Barbados. From that time, 3 years after, sea eggs started to dwindle away. Now this is an institution located in Barbados that has been able to monitor what is happening in Barbados and advise us correctly. That is why I say that the Belair Research Institute and the Met Office at Husbands are the sort of institutions within the island and then there are counterpart institutions in the other Caribbean islands that can be grouped together in a system to do our forecasting.

We would not be left to the whims and fancies of overseas institutions to tell us what is going to happen to us and then it does not happen. "Kick-em-Jenny". I read about that too. I do not know who is forecasting that. I think that is a religious forecast.

Mr. President, as I said in the beginning, we do need the sort of institution like the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Response Agency that is now being legislated. I repeat myself by saying that I would like to see something as a counterpart to prevent us from getting into this. When we get into this, yes, but I think we should have some institution before and I think the governments of the Caribbean should look at the aspect of avoiding disasters, how to avoid disasters, give us the sort of warning that if there is a disaster it would not be devastating because, in my view, the sort of projections we are getting out of the United States of America there will come a time when the West Indian people will say that every hurricane season we run and buy material and board up and do this and that and nothing happens and they may let down their guard and that is the time that we may have a disaster. If we have our internal organisation to tell us what is happening I think we would be better off than that.

I also agree with Senator Laurie. Not only must we be prepared for hurricanes and volcanoes there are several other things that affect the average person in every community as Senator Laurie said – the swine fever. I would also like to have heard Senator Laurie talk about the wild dogs that we have in Barbados that eat your sheep. That is a disaster too. The dogs.

We must have systems in place to deal with all these disasters, man-made or otherwise, whether it be dogs or swine fever. I think the persons who keep sheep and birds would also be protected from these disasters. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think we have extended the definition of disaster.
2.40 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I rise to also give my support to this matter but in doing so, I think it should only be fair to adhere to the old axiom and maxim that charity begins at home. So I would like to take this opportunity to seek to allay any fears and misgivings and to deal, hopefully, to eradicate a certain amount of misinformation and misunderstanding, particularly as it relates to CERO and to CERO outside of the hurricane season. There is the problem where some people believe that CERO only really exists and functions during the hurricane season and that once the hurricane season is finished, that is the end of CERO, and that people at CERO pack up their bags and if not go home, actually sit at their desks and do nothing.

Sir, CERO is also engaged in other hazards that exist. Flooding, for example. There are also landslides and land slippages, and aviation and marine incidents. CERO also have a role to play in that. As a matter of fact, CERO's fundamental role is to bring together all the cooperating agencies in a coordinated fashion to deal with whatever nature of emergency and the type of emergency that occurs.

There was also some indication, Sir, and concern expressed about the quality of our shelters. Shelters basically are divided into two types in Barbados for CERO's purposes, the schools and basically the churches. The last survey of shelters in Barbados was done way back in 1991. Since then the Ministry of Education has been systematically working to upgrade the quality of the protection and shelter provided by the schools by over a period of time upgrading the schools, refurbishing, strengthening them, *et cetera*. Unfortunately, not the same amount of attention has been paid to the churches and the churches themselves have borne the brunt of the remedial effort in the attempt to upgrade the quality of the shelter provided by them.

I am pleased to advise, Sir, that there is a contract actually in the Solicitor General's Office now which will allow the Barbados Association of Professional Engineers to very shortly begin to conduct a survey of the churches, after which they will then go into the schools. There is some additional money being put into the 1998/99 Estimates to help fund this project and which they will get going very shortly.

As I said, Sir, this survey will be done by the Barbados Association of Professional Engineers. CERO is also seeking to supplement that effort by taking the very progressive step

of launching, in a few weeks time, what they are calling an "Adopt a Shelter Programme", which will be an attempt to embrace the support and resources of the private sector who will be asked to adopt a shelter and contribute things like water tanks, generators, blankets, *et cetera*, those facilities that help to keep a shelter functional and ready to deal with any emergencies that might occur.

This programme has already been approved by the Ministries of Education and the Attorney General's Office and this should be underway in another few weeks. There is going to be a formal launching of the matter. When the survey for the churches has been conducted and the results are known, a systematic effort will also be put in place to take care of the problems that might be posed through any deficiencies that might exist in the churches.

That apart, Sir, Barbados has also been playing a fundamental role in the operation of CDERA. We are the headquarters for CDERA. We have, as a matter of fact, allowed the former Director of Emergency Services, Miss Judy Thomas, to undertake a two-year secondment to CARICOM where she is spearheading a programme which is being funded by UNDP. This programme seeks to broaden the whole mandate and scope of CDERA. CDERA, as the name indicates, is now a response mechanism.

What this programme seeks to do is to strengthen all the members, and there are some 15 members of CDERA plus Suriname, which is not a member, but this programme will embrace all 16. They are going to seek to strengthen the institutional capabilities of the members and Suriname. They will be involved in training the staff. There will be improvement of the national organisation. This UNDP programme will also make it possible to broaden the mandate of CDERA to take it from the narrow realm of response to help deal with what some of the Honourable Senators have been mentioning and which goes to the management of CDERA. While they might not be able to predict and forecast exclusively, what they would do is to engage in more cohesive and region-wide preparedness, training, the whole question of recovery, how they will recover in a systematic, scientific and coordinated manner, from the effects of a disaster, and what is known as disaster mitigation.

CERO, I am pleased to announce, is not relying on its old method of operation and, as they say, resting on its laurels, but it is responding to the changing needs of the Caribbean and the region which it embraces. This will be put in a codified manner as a result of this UNDP programme.

Sir, I thought I would just add those few factual titbits to the debate and let you know that as one who has been involved in seeking to help recruit the staff, and be part of the training for CDERA staff, we have been over the last few years, seeking to broaden the basis under which people are recruited and to broaden the training, facilities, the skills and capabilities of the staff which have been recruited, because disaster management and preparedness *et cetera* are really a specialist field and people have to be trained properly. You really cannot take people off the street and expect them to function professionally in emergencies.

Sir, I was old enough to experience Hurricane Janet and I remember very well how ...

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I know I do not look it, Sir. Senator Forde is telling me that I do not look it but unlike Senator Farley I was around then. I was a member of the Cub Scout Troop then at St. Giles and I remember our having been called upon to go down to a school in Carrington's Village and help organise things for the emergency relief being provided at Carrington's Village Primary.

Sir, I am saying that in those days we did not have the most sophisticated mechanism and system as exists now through CERO and even CDERA, but I am saying that all in all, from time to time, CERO staff by implication, even if by indirect association now, the criticism being levelled against the hurricane shelters, that people do not always quite understand and appreciate the role they play on a day by day basis.

Let me assure you, Sir, that the staff is being recruited at a much higher level than in the past and that every attempt is being made to make sure that there is ongoing training and that Barbados is as prepared as is humanly possible and given the limit of its resources, to deal with the various types of emergencies that might occur. We appreciate that we will not be able to produce all of the management, responses and resources ourselves and that is why we are part of CDERA and that is why even things like the RSS also play a supplemental role in bringing relief to the Caribbean.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I wish to add a couple of comments to the debate so far and to place emphasis on the fact that I appreciate the efforts of CDERA

and CERO, but to add that we need to have a sensitization of locals as to the role they must play in situations where there are disasters.

I am unhappy that many people in our society now are not conscious of the role they should play in helping with the development of the communities and therefore the kind of support that would have come from members of the population in the 1950s and the 1960s, and certainly Hurricane Janet and other disasters we may have experienced in Barbados, it is unfortunate now that our community leaders, in particular, are not really very aware of the roles they must play.

I am of the firm belief that we should start with some kind of formal training from the nursery school right up the line so that Barbadians can become a bit more conscious as to what their role is in the community, but it has to start with education.

I remember Hurricane David some time in the mid 1980s and the problems that existed with even getting schools opened to accommodate persons who were afraid to stay in their own little houses as a result of the threat that was announced. It makes me feel uncomfortable when our leaders are not aware of their roles. I think that every principal in the school should know of his or her role. Every church leader, every other leader in the community should be able to play his or her part in helping to educate and in coming out and giving their full assistance.

We only need to remember not long ago the situation in August 1995 in the Weston area where the flooding took place and the number of hitches that occurred before people could even get themselves organised in shelters and get the necessary assistance to make them feel comfortable.
2.50 p.m.

I also want to ask that what we are focussing on will also include the training for the people in the communities where we can have drills and assimilations. Every school should be doing it once a term. It should be happening at the various ports of entry and at the hospital and other areas so that when that time comes, if it has to happen and I trust that it will not happen, that we are all prepared to deal with the matter at hand.

I agree that our shelters should be upgraded and I would not want to labour on that any further but I also want to make mention of the kind of training and personnel at the local level again where individuals who have

been chosen to work in the centres with distribution, whether it be of food or blankets or other materials that those persons be so well trained that the interfacing with the public will help to make people comfortable. When you are displaced from your home and family then you want to be comforted, but there are times when I visit various offices, the treatment that is meted out to people seeking help really leaves a lot to be desired.

I would like for those persons who have to interface with the victims, the people involved, that they be the best trained people and that whenever the training is taking place that they will be some measure of counselling in it so that people in the community who have the leading role, as I mentioned, the principals and other leaders, that they too will be given some kind of training and counselling that persons who are going through the trauma of losing their homes or being injured or whatever, will be able to feel a bit more relaxed as a result of that direct contact.

I want to touch on the aspect of insurance as mentioned earlier by Honourable Senators and to encourage Government in some way – I do not know how it can work out but I trust that the persons who will give the technical advice will be able to deal with it so that the benefit will be meted out to the people, particularly those living in chattel houses, what we call the working class in here. It is to do with the payment of insurance for their homes where I would like to think that perhaps for the annual premiums that it could be broken down in installments per month. Only one or two of the insurance companies are doing it. I do want to call the name of any insurance company that is doing it, but I think that it should be island wide so that people will feel a bit more secure in knowing that if they cannot pay \$500 in one month or a three-month period that they spread it throughout the year or for an eight-month period. At least to know whenever there is a disaster that at least your place will be insured.

The final point that I would like to touch on is this – I have not really discussed it with anyone but I would like that when we are looking at the National Development Scholarships or areas of offering financial support to students that perhaps the area of meteorology be recognised. Because I think that our fleet of individuals in Barbados who really we would want to get the proper training to be able to come back into the country and make a further contribution. I think that that is limited and I would like to encourage that we look along that line so that we would not as Senator Bolden said, have to rely on people from other countries to be feeding us with information but we would have experts in those areas to continue to give us the kind of proper guidance that is necessary in helping us to prepare ourselves for disasters of that kind.

Mr. President, with those few comments, I wish to give my support to this particular Resolution.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill. We have heard contributions made from swine fever to storms, from leptospirosis to landslides and we are anticipating from dengue to drought.

Mr. President, like Senator Bolden, I have my own reservations about the El Niño and I think that as long as the winter continues up north as is, with warming early morning and early evening that the Caribbean has nothing to fear in terms of good convection rainfall for the early parts of the year. Thereafter we will have our usual dry period. Sir, already, if you have been listening to the serious parts of the news and not the flimsy part of the news, you would have heard scientists speak already to the fact that they do not think that El Niño would affect the hurricane season.

Sir, there is one disaster, man-made as it is, that is the transport of radio active waste through the Caribbean. The kind of disaster that we are looking at is one that you would not be able to fly in two or three scientists or four or five battalions to put it right. Those materials have what you call a half life, that is to say, the length of time that it is required to lose its damaging potential. Those half lives can be as far as hundreds of years, 200 years or 300 years and once that has happened...

Aside.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: If you talk about reduce, I talk about to fall by half.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair, Senator.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Sorry for breaking the rules, Sir. Anyway, it could take hundreds of years before you could remove those effects from the ocean, marine life and animals on land. It gets right through the food chain and I think with the Caribbean nations having representatives on many of the international forums and being signatories to many conventions and treaties that it is high time that the entire area, the Americas, the Caribbean and whatever, that it is high time that as one unit, we lobby seriously for the prohibition of the passage of vessels transporting nuclear waste.

Sir, we know that nuclear energy is the cleanest form of energy but the end product is one of the most deleterious forms. With that, Sir, I have made my contribution.

Thank you Sir.

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

I rise to support this agreement of establishing the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency and I look forward to when we can have a similar agreement on fishing and other areas. I think this is a very good start and after this gets off the ground then this could be taken as a blueprint and try and see if we cannot get fishing sorted out as well. 3.00 p.m.

Mr. President, there is an elucidation I would like to make. I really would like to explain something to this Honourable Chamber in connection with running around and getting leptospirosis. It was mentioned earlier on. What I would like to explain to this Chamber is that the germ that causes leptospirosis is not found in all rats. It could be found in some rats, it could be found in cats, it could be found in dogs, it could be found in bats, it could be found in birds and the mere fact that you do not get it is not because you have been eating certain foods, the mere fact is, that you have not been exposed to the germ that causes leptospirosis. So one should not feel that they can run around and not get it because you can get it from certain areas.

Mr. President, I would like to agree wholeheartedly with the Leader of Government Business in connection with the close linkages between the economy and the eco-systems. In this respect, Mr. President, and because we are so heavily dependent on the fragile industry of tourism and because the world itself is not really educated about the location of the various Caribbean islands, any time there is a hurricane whether it is affecting Barbados or not we are going to suffer. Our economy suffers because they are not sure whether Jamaica is in Barbados or if Barbados is in Trinidad etc. So therefore we have to do a lot of educating and be very concerned as to how people see the Caribbean and let them understand that there are various areas in the Caribbean that a hurricane may or may not affect.

Mr. President, one of the functions of this organisation will be the dissemination of information which is excellent, it is important and it is the very basis of the prevention of disasters. There are many types of disasters, the most commonly known are hurricanes, floods, etc. But there are also other epidemics that we can get that can be considered as disasters and I will give you 2 examples. One is gastro-enteritis and another is the epidemic of dengue, in particular, the ones that kills. The ones that did not kill were not too bad. We did not worry too much about that but now there is a hemorrhagic one. We can see on the electronic media that it is not only in the Caribbean but it has spread all up to the

Americas and unless an agency like this can come and mobilise the efforts of all the various health agencies to make sure what is known as the Aedes index is kept below 1%, I am afraid we will all suffer the consequences of being boycotted and the tourist not coming here because of dengue fever that can kill.

Mr. President, there is a lot of education going on about El Niño and one of the causes of El Niño is dengue fever and the leptospirosis in the Americas. So they know about it and all they have to do is tell persons from their country not to travel to such and such an area because it is very dangerous and then you know what is going to happen to our economies, they will more or less collapse.

Mr. President, another area that I would like to query is the diplomatic immunity. I really do not know too much about that but it seems as though we really need to examine that a bit more. I do not know if there is a reason for it. Are they given diplomatic immunity so that if they give the wrong advice they would not be sued? What is the reason for giving these persons diplomatic immunity in this area? I would like us to examine this area a bit more carefully.

There is another area that I would like to talk about, Mr. President, and that is the development of a plan as an enterprise that would be up and running. In other words if there is a disaster, will we all be ready and willing to respond immediately? These are nice words, Mr. President, because as we all know here at the present moment the very agency that deals with accident and emergency and will deal with disaster in this country is short staffed. This takes money so these things need to be sorted out. They are not only short staffed of doctors, they are short staffed of nurses and nurses are there 24 hours and they bear the brunt of the emergency. They are the key people so we should not think that once we have an agreement it is going to be plain sailing. Funds will be needed to get the various agencies up and running, not only for national disasters but also for regional disasters as well. It is not cheap. It is very expensive.

I know, Mr. President, that quite a lot of our nurses have been to Montserrat and they have worked. In fact they found the work in Montserrat much more fulfilling than the work in Barbados because they were given the autonomy to function as nurses in Montserrat and they really enjoyed their stay. Some of them asked for their time to be extended. This is where one would have to sit down and look at the pros and cons and benefit from the various experiences of persons like nurses who go and get job satisfaction and fulfillment in the face of danger all because they were given autonomy and they could use what they were taught to the fullest because of the shortage of

certain other types of personnel themselves. They were left to function and make decisions and that is how it should be. That is how we will have to go if we want our enterprises to be up and running because, Mr. President, whatever is said in any disaster one of the first and foremost concerns is the health of the people. Whether or not there have been injuries, whether or not the water system is polluted so that they will get cholera and diphtheria, it is health, health, health all the way and the majority of those persons who are going to help you are the nurses.

3.10 p.m.

So therefore one has to look at the various health care systems very, very carefully and make sure that they are trained to act responsibly in times of disaster because there is no time to think. Doctors are very short and the majority of health workers will be nurses who will be carrying out the various procedures that are needed.

Mr. President, there is one comment which I feel that I need to reinforce that has been made by other persons who spoke before and that is regarding the transport of nuclear or any form of hazardous waste.

In the Caribbean we need to get together, we need to join together with the Americas and put pressure on the international agencies, not to take the Caribbean people for granted and feel that they can take risks to the detriment of the people who live in the Region. We will all have to get our teachers, our nurses, *et cetera* to speak, who belong to international bodies to put forward resolutions about the transport of hazardous waste.

We in nursing have done it on several occasions and we keep doing this. We have to get the teachers to do it, the accountants to do it and all the various professions to do it, so that if it is repeated time and time again they will understand that we are very concerned as a people, and about such actions that can cause untold damage to our peoples and territories in the Caribbean.

Mr. President, regarding CERO and the contribution with the various things that they are doing, what I would like to see done, is more education to tell us what they are doing, because as far as we are concerned CERO only comes into action when there is a hurricane or upcoming hurricane. We do not hear very much about CERO until the hurricane season is about to start and then we start hearing them. We need to hear about these things over and over again, every week of the 52 weeks of the year and to educate the public about what they are there for, what they are doing, what is the public's responsibility in case of a disaster, *et cetera* and

they need to take different approaches. Every week they can deal with a different topic.

Mr. President, as far as community organisation is concerned, I know everybody is concerned about it, but I too am concerned about what appears to be the non-functioning of the Community Development Division. There is a division that was set up to organise the community. They are trained people who know how to interface with the public and to get communities organised. We sent them out to train and they are appointed there. We need to hear more about them and they need to share their work and concerns with us so that we could understand what is happening, because when you are not hearing anything, you think nothing is being done. Most likely they are working hard in the communities, but we do not know. So coming back to the basis of education, education, education all the time, so that the public will understand what is happening. We cannot expect to be perfect. There will be weaknesses and we could look at our strengths and we could look at our weaknesses. But when we do not hear anything about these agencies, we just take it for granted that nothing is happening.

Mr. President, I would like to support the legalisation finally of this operation and I would wish it success in its operations in the coming years.

I thank you.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, as I have been sitting listening to the contributions in this debate on this Bill, Sir, I have been putting myself for a moment in the shoes of the Senate Leader, who must sit now and reflect on the contributions which have come since his, Sir, and the broad approach that has been brought to bear on a debate which is critical to the Caribbean development, Sir, and to the assurance of a safe and useful future for our countries. I know that during his wrap up he will have the opportunity to make good his earlier recitation, Sir, and add some substance to the Bill which is before us.

The first thing I want to add to the debate so far, Sir, is that this is in fact a historical Bill in that the Bill clearly states that it has been in action since 1991. The signatories, Sir, the Governments of the day were represented by many great Caribbean leaders and, Sir, they would have been carrying through a programme which we in the Caribbean have become accustomed to, which has been one to bring about a measure of unity to the affairs of management of different aspects of our society. Indeed, in the area of disaster preparedness, Sir, we in the Caribbean are even more acutely mindful of the tenterhooks on which we stand.

Although we have spent time in the preamble to the Bill and this was referred to by a Senator who spoke earlier, in recalling what they call the natural disasters, Sir, there is, of course and this has been also intimated, an acute absence to the fact that they are indeed man-made disasters which can sometimes be of even a larger extent and can be of an even more damaging extent than some of the natural disasters of the past.

We spoke at length, Sir, about the events related to the weather system which is familiarly referred to as "El Niño" for instance, without actually pondering the fact that there is again, a very clear relationship between the activities related to the weather feature called "El Niño" and the behaviour of man and this man includes man and woman, Sir, as they have sought over the years to improve their standards of living.

We know now how much we have contributed to the changing weather patterns, the question of global warming, Sir, and the question of rising sea levels, which have become very important discussion points. They have gained the attention not only as initially, the small islands of the specific area, Sir, but large countries like the United States now contemplate the advent of a large degree of sea level rising. I am sure I witnessed a documentary over the weekend which talked about such an event on the eastern coast of the United States of America.
3.20 p.m.

We in the Caribbean must be very mindful of this kind of activity and we must, additional to all the contributions which other Senators have made, be aware of how much we contribute to this destruction of our eco-system by way of the international forces that are placed upon us. Again, I think Senator Bolden alluded to this type of thing where we are being forced to use technologies and equipment and in some cases to use medicine which is banned and outlawed in developed countries but which is thought fit to be used in the Caribbean or developing nations.

Sir, only yesterday, I listened to a very interesting discussion on this whole question of international representation. They were obviously discussing the outcome of the non-partisan effort on Barbados and I certainly want to laud the Government of Barbados on their efforts in this regard and that is the election of Sir George Alleyne to the post of Head of the WHO.

The point was being made that there was a time when in assessing the value of a particular medicine the World Health Organisation is alleged to have taken the position that

it would not have been worth pursuing its development because it did not show the kind of results related to the incidents that would occur in a developed country like the United States or England. However it agreed to the continued research to be used in lesser developed countries like the countries which we have the distinct pleasure to live in.

We must be mindful of these things. In terms of technical information, again the banning of the halogen refrigerants, for instance, which contribute to the destruction of the ozone layer and encourage the whole aspect of global warming, although this has been accepted in the United States and in England and in Europe we are still 10 to 20 years behind and indeed they are selling their banned goods to our countries. We need to make more noise about it.

We need to make noise about the shipment of the hazardous nuclear waste and again if Barbados as a small island can make the amount of noise we made over the last 11 days and, in truth, over the last 6 months in terms of bringing to the notice of the world the prowess of Sir George Alleyne, I submit, Sir, that Barbados alone would be a force to be reckoned with if we attempted the same pressures and, indeed, if we were to join forces with Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and, for these purposes indeed, we have allies in Cuba, Haiti and the Dutch islands of Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire all of whom share the distinct, similar development and the similar dependency on the fragile tourist industry.

We can contemplate the horrors of an accident in the Caribbean with one of these vessels. I think that international forces like Greenpeace and other people who work in this area must be disappointed at the response they get from the Caribbean governments in this regard.

The same way we might want to look as observers and regret certain non-participation in our effort to bring about a successful end to the task with Sir George Alleyne, they would no doubt in the past have looked upon us in the Caribbean and drawn similar conclusions in respect of our support for their efforts in trying to bring to bear on our development a recognition that we are in fact changing the entire pattern of our natural environment; and in so doing we are occasioning disaster upon disaster which we may have not heard of.

That is why the predictions, the dreams of certain religious persons might not even be dreams. They might indeed be reality because it depends upon how much we dig into the information that is available as to the

conclusions we can draw. When we sit down and read about the kind of hazards that can be made to bear on us we recognise the tenterhook on which we actually stand and exist in the Caribbean.

In terms of our beaches and the lack of a oneness of voice of the Caribbean at the time of the transshipment of these goods, again, we are not of one voice when we talk about how much the tourists from Europe or the United States should pay as a head tax to travel our islands. I recall Butch Stewart, the now very famous hotelier from Jamaica insisting that this was our treasure and if we acted as one voice we could gain much more in terms of our revenue in this very lucrative business of tourism.

Sir, transshipment, not only of nuclear waste, and the Leader of Government Business indeed did mention the transshipment of oil. Sir, as we contemplate closure of the MOBIL refinery over the next... We are never sure when it is going to close because the last bit of public news said it was going to close on January 19. Since then there have been postponements. There have been rumours that it has already closed and maybe one day soon we will hear the facts as to whether the refinery is closed.

The point is that we will see a distinct change in, if not the volume of the vessels which bring oil and oil derivatives to our country, in the frequency with which they bring the supplies. There will be certain shortfalls which do not now balance out of the existing equation of Barbados crude versus an imported refined product that will have to be dealt with by way of importation. We are not talking about the basic importation which will virtually be the same. Certainly there will be a change in the frequency and the type of imports we have.

In that regard, Sir, we will have the increased potential for disasters in the area. I am not even contemplating a strike. I am talking about accidents in normal work. As I have said before, certainly in connecting we sometimes do not recognise the danger in connecting these tankers to the existing pipe work. We seem to think it just happens. It does not happen so. It requires an attention to procedure and we must commend those who are responsible for this activity presently that we can boast of the kind of record we boast of in Barbados and in the Caribbean.

We have avoided disasters of this nature. Unless we pay special attention to the continued training and retraining and when we go into the competitive market we pay attention also to the quality of the providers because, remember, Sir, the Government of Barbados or whatever

body takes over the importation or the provision of our fuel oil, will be looking to get the best possible prices for Barbados as they must do and the opportunity does exist when bidding on the world market to do slightly better in terms of first cost of these wares.

3.30 p.m.

We must be mindful, Sir, that we are getting it under the same circumstances, we are getting the same quality of vessels, we are getting double hull vessels, as has been mentioned in here before, and we are not getting a cheaper product but at a higher risk, which is important because we need to know and the public needs to be sensitized to these things and the kind of potential we might be coming under.

Sir, we also had the opportunity to look at the work of CDERA over the past 6, 7 years of its existence and reflect on how it has been able to provide for the Caribbean people. Indeed, again some Senators were careful to point out the fact that except for the hurricane season, which occurs as we all know they say from July to October, we are desperately short in the region of awareness about the potential of even hurricanes or indeed of preparing ourselves for these hurricanes.

I thought, Sir, as I heard the comments being made that in the allocation of this Emergency Fund, we do not have to fear that the Emergency Fund sits and does nothing with it in the event there is no emergency. We can contemplate an agreement which allows us to use that Emergency Fund for the cause of prevention and preparedness and using it to pay for the kinds of studies which Senator Murray alluded to.

A point I want to make here, Sir, is that successive Governments in Barbados are guilty of repeating and reinventing the wheel. I say, Sir, that the study which Senator Murray refers to by the Barbados Association of Professional Engineers has already been done. The hurricane shelters that were designated then have not substantially changed and really although I would not want to take the opportunity of taking away the earnings from my professional brothers, and I know a lot of the work is done voluntarily anyhow, but not to take away that opportunity, in truth and in fact, the work has been done and we do not need to restart the study except we are on one of our public relations hoops again.

We know Senator Murray is responsible for that area of Government which takes care of sensitizing the public as to what is going on. He, I am sure, would recognise the responsibility in respect of getting the answers out and not necessarily spending too much time in the high or the popularity or the popular gain that might be made of the public hearing that there is going to be a study into the hurricane shelters in Barbados. In truth and in fact, that has been done. There have been suggestions and even if I suggest now that we should contemplate using,

for instance, warehouses and business places as hurricane shelters, it will not be new.

I have, as a young man growing up – I am an old man now – heard these suggestions time and time again coming from all walks of life so it is just a matter of getting up off the proverbial bench now, Sir, and doing something about redesignating the hurricane shelters and un-designate, if that is permissible, those buildings which are not worthy.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: If George Street is not in a position where it would be a safe shelter, I say take it off the list. What I know, Sir, is that Roebuck Street requires major rebuilding and once the roof payment is made and there is enough money to buy the other piece of roof next year some time around the time of Estimates, Sir, they will also be able to designate Roebuck Street as a shelter.

Sir, the major point is that there are buildings which are designated as hurricane shelters in Barbados which are not worthy of even their substantive purpose, either schools or in some cases churches. We should hasten to just take them off the list, reduce the number of investigations that have to be made. But I put it to you that the responsible Department has probably just sent forward the list as is and said: "Go back and do over the exercise" and the information, I am saying, is sitting in the CERO office, and has been sitting in the CERO office for a number of years and not even the 8 years that the Minister alluded to. It is much longer than that. People have done it before.

The point is, Sir, let us seek to make a change in terms of this hurricane season in Barbados. Let us be able to designate new hurricane shelters come July that Barbadians can feel assured of a safe haven in the event of a disaster. I think it is vitally important that we move on.

We talk, Sir, about man-made disasters. I remember only two weeks ago the Air Traffic Controllers were complaining bitterly about the standard of equipment which they were using. They complained about continued failure after failure of this equipment. I recall a public comment, not more than six months ago when I believe in the Other Place they were discussing the question of a piece of equipment at the Airport and they said this was the only piece of equipment giving trouble and it was not a major piece of equipment. They said you could fly without it. The point is, Sir, you could fly with one wing too.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: On a point of order, Mr. President. I would just like to point out to the Honourable Senator that he is misleading the Chamber because those accusations were refuted in detail by the airport authorities and the union too.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the Air Traffic Controllers said to Barbados that there was equipment there which was not working adequately and those are the ones who use it every day.

I want to get to the potential for the disaster that I am relating to. We know that Barbados is in no position to deal with a disaster like a large aircraft coming down. Truly, Sir, it is one of those events like death which we always say, Thank God, it is not in my yard. But, Sir, we have to ensure that we put in place and leave no stone unturned because we are prepared to spend thousands and thousands of dollars in areas which cannot be seen as priority areas. I think something like our aircraft industry, given the frequency of arrivals at our Grantley Adams Airport now, although, of course, the headlines in the daily paper which I took some notes from said that there was potential decline.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are not permitted under the rules to quote from a newspaper.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am not quoting it, Sir. I took some notes from this paper I was reading and I was just quoting my notes. It is even public information though, Sir, that American Airlines has indicated that it intends to reduce its frequency of flights to Barbados *vis-a-vis* the Puerto Rico/Barbados hub. I hope to God that we can get that circumstance changed and that we can meet the terms which would allow more aircraft, not less, into Barbados.

I read too, in looking at the Jamaican economy recently, about the losses of Air Jamaica where in 1996 it is reporting something like U.S. \$48 million loss and projecting for 1998 something in the region of U.S. \$45 million, a catastrophic loss. And, if you may pardon me just for one moment, Sir, they are blaming that loss squarely on the activity which it has taken up in the Eastern Caribbean area. Anyway, let me go back to the Bill at hand.
3.40 p.m.

I did have an opportunity to read this Bill and I want to talk a little bit about the insurance question. I know that even now, I sit on a Board who is looking at requiring that insurance coverage be had for all housing. I think that is something that we have to watch very carefully in terms of the cost because if we seek to drive up the cost of housing any further in Barbados, we are looking at a disaster of another kind where we cannot house our people.

What I was more excited about was a suggestion which I have been hearing for some time where the insurance companies be encouraged to re-look their risk coverage and stop looking at total destruction but look at destruction as it relates to the disaster which

is contemplated. I speak to an incident like the Arawak Cement Plant who were submitting that in truth and in fact because they were not using all of the plant that the risk associated with lost be viewed differently. Sir, there have been other suggestions that even in major buildings we can look at insuring the roof and the walls and leaving the substructure which would essentially be undamaged in the event of a hurricane, out of the insurance costs.

These are ways that we can look at re-examining the coverage and so reducing the premiums. But these have to be approached in a regional manner to make a difference because take for instance, say, a brewery as that is the industry to which I am most familiar – a brewery, can easily argue that a fire will not necessarily cause the kind of damage to their cold storage rooms.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am just drawing an example, I am not attempting to be totally accurate or anything... or that a hurricane will not cause damage to their filling machine which costs about \$1 million, and to insure it is going to cost another \$150 000 annually and they can more insure the potential lost in production which would encompass that equipment working together.

These are the kind of approaches which we have got to encourage at a regional level and this is where CDERA can filter down into its participating territories that kind of innovation and the policy makers, who as we read, will be the Heads of Government and can bring influence to bear on these kinds of considerations.

Sir, I took very careful note of the question of the diplomatic immunity. I recognise that more and more Caribbean agencies are jumping on the band wagon of calling for diplomatic immunity. I really do not have a tremendous difficulty with the granting of diplomatic immunity but what we might want to do is to grade the level of immunity which is granted as is done to us in the more developed countries.

We have officers who serve overseas and some officers are treated different to others. You see, Sir, we have in the Caribbean too much of an idea that we cannot treat people who are doing different jobs, different, so as to avoid criticism. There is no reason why in contemplating CDERA operation that every person working at CDERA should have immunity or that in contemplating a West Indies Cricket Board that every person working at the West Indies Cricket Board should have diplomatic immunity in the country which they reside and operate. There is absolutely no reason for that, for the immunity to have to transcend the entire operation.

I, too, want to draw attention to the fact that we tend to treat some of these institutions very seasonally and the reference to the Caribbean Meteorological Institute is absolutely correct in that we only look to them when we have a problem and other than that they sit up there and are not given necessarily the due which they deserve.

Sir, we in the Democratic Labour Party support this Bill and we certainly commend the work of CDERA to this Honourable Senate and we look forward to the continued powerful development of CDERA and other Caribbean agencies in order to bring about that wholesome development in Barbados and the Caribbean that we so much look forward to.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

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

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

Part II – Clauses 3–6 were called and passed.

Part III – Clauses 7–8 were called and passed.

Part IV – Clauses 9 and 10 were called and passed.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that the Schedules 1 and 2 become Schedules to the Bill.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency Act, 1998.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT assumed the Chair.

**ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND
AT THE CORNER OF HILL ROAD
AND DASH ROAD, BANK HALL
ST. MICHAEL**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, the Resolution before the Honourable Senate seeks the approval of the Senate for the acquisition of land at Hill Road and Dash Road, Bank Hall, St. Michael for the purposes of establishing a recreational facility.

The area of land in question is being acquired to provide much needed recreational facilities for the residents of that particular area. The facilities will serve the heavily populated districts in that general area including districts such as Water Hall Land, Bank Hall, Eagle Hall, Kew Road, Pasture Road, Quarry Road, Holders Land, Link Road, Marine Road, Military Road and Lower Bush Hall. The only other hard court facilities in that broader area, if one were to stretch it somewhat, are at Station Hill, and they are already very much heavily and fully utilised.

The Director of Sports has advised of the urgent and pressing need for such a facility, given the heavy requests that have been made in the area. The land, being two vacant lots in this area, presents a perfect opportunity for the establishment of this hard court facility. The necessary legal device by which this is being effected is the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228. The relevant notices and authorisation under the section have been signed and published. The land in question concerns one lot of 508 square metres and the other lot of 162.5 square metres. Approval of the Senate therefore, Sir, is being sought and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Deputy President, I want to speak on this Resolution for a number of reasons. I believe, Sir, that Barbados is truly at the crossroads in terms of where our young people and some of our older people are going. Sir, we are seeing a breakdown in our society the proportions of which I do not believe we have ever witnessed before.

I am not going to be here to cast blame on any political organisation as being more responsible than the other for it because I certainly do not believe that the answer to our present difficulties with our young people lies in blaming each other. As a matter of fact, Sir, I believe it lies more in embracing these young people into our fold and trying, Sir, more to understand what they think of us and want from us than having decided what we want of them and continue to place our, for lack of a better term, Sir, our burdens on them.

Sir, I want to also include in this discussion the whole question of recreational facilities as they are provided. For instance, Sir, I want to talk about the fact that it has become

a tradition in Barbados to provide these hard courts and the lack of use of some of these hard courts really begs the question as to whether they are serving the intended purpose.

The particular spot of land at Dash Road, Bush Hall is indeed only large enough for a hard court. We know that and I did ask for the plan just to make sure that I was on the same square footage as the Honourable Leader of the Senate. If I have my bearings right this spot of land could not have been developed, for instance, to be a cricket field or a significant football field. It is too small. It can only really serve as a hard court.

Sir, we need however in looking at our recreational development to look at where we need to spend most of our energies and where we need to spend most of our scarce resources. I am not afraid to include in this discussion, for instance, the fact that today Barbados is contemplating a situation where we cannot provide enough sportsmen, or good enough sportsmen, to make the West Indies Cricket team. We are in a situation where we have not been able, on successive occasions, to show any serious improvement in our football and similarly basketball and many other indoor disciplines.

4.00 p.m.

Of course, we all as Barbadians revel in the excellence of our athletes, Obadele Thompson and we revel in the successes of Leah Martindale and hope her present set backs are temporary, as I am sure there will be. We look forward to contributions from people like Nikki Neckles and I am sure there are many, many names which I might not recall at this particular time.

Sir, the overall point though, is that until we have a policy in place from the Ministry of Sports and, Sir, indeed the record of the Ministry of Sports over the last three years does not encourage one to think that such a policy is contemplated. A number of other areas which that particular Ministry has responsibility for has suffered the same kind of neglect.

Sir, unless we start to look at the root problem in terms of why our sportsmen are not participating to the fullest and I think that we should concentrate on cricket because that has traditionally been our stomping ground. But as I have already intimated, our performances in the other areas of sport have not been excellent either. I think though, Sir, that in examining the situation, specifically on cricket and listening to the commentaries of the other islands of the Caribbean, although we should not, we might be alluded into taking comfort in the fact that they are indeed themselves doing little better or no better.

Sir, the truth is that as we face England tomorrow in the first test match of the new series, Sir, not many

West Indians are filled with the euphoria which is normally attached to a home cricket series. Even with the advent of Brian Lara as Captain and the related contemplated excitement, I am still fairly certain there is not that same expectation of victory, Sir, that is normally associated with cricket in the Caribbean. I also, Sir, must admit that I am very hopeful that our West Indian boys will come marching home at the end of this series and when the spoils are counted they will come up with the greater spoils.

Sir, the performance of our Regional team depends on the performance of our local teams and the performance of our local teams depends on our performance at the community level. We need to bring into the programme of sporting development in Barbados more emphasis on our school's programme, for instance. I am saying to you, Sir, as we move around schools in Bank Hall, or we move around schools not necessarily in Bank Hall, and watch the kind of recreation which our kids engage in, we do not then have to look too far as to why our performances are not much better.

There was a time when at school, cricket was played almost as much as Arithmetic and English were taught. I was the beneficiary of cricket and cricket being played...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please, the Honourable Member must be heard in silence, please.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I played a little bit too, Sir, not to the level of some of the Honourable Senators, and I have no doubt they will each get up subsequently to try to relate their successes of cricket, none of which we have heard before. I will risk the bet that most of the contributions would fall heavily on the side of fiction. Certainly you would not find them in the records of the *Barbados Advocate* or one of those papers of yours. In the case of the Senate Leader, of course, Sir, his would have started way after 1955, so his would not have been so long ago.

Sir, the recreation facilities therefore that are contemplated for this Bank Hall area and I want to get to the real point and I know that the Senators on that side might not find time to be serious enough for long enough to understand the point, but with these unsupervised recreational facilities, Sir, we have really little or no control as to what is the product of our activity.

Sir, I would like to hope that whoever the responsibility falls upon, be it the Ministry of Sports, be it the Ministry of Education by way of the schools, be it the churches by way of the formation of their youth groups and their Christian programmes, Sir, or be it the communities, like the Pinelands Development grouping of their impact on what the young people of the community do, Sir, that we include a requirement for programme activities such as these. Other

than that, Sir, we will create arrangements where we have hard courts, which two guys or two girls go on an evening and they bounce a ball and they enjoy themselves, but in a community of about 50 houses, how much impacts are we having?

I am saying that along with the programme for provision of the recreational facility we must have a supervision role being played, Sir, and we must, more importantly even, or just as importantly, Sir, have an organisational role being played. For, to just create a hard court at Bush Hall or create a hard court anywhere without any plan and I thought, Sir, the Leader of the Senate would have spoken about the youth groups in Bush Hall who had made representation and who intend to use the facility for basketball.

Then again, Sir, I continue to be disappointed every time. I expect certain presentations from the Senate Leader, Sir. I thought, Sir, I would have heard about the development of a programme for lawn tennis for instance, in communities, a relatively cheap sport. You see, Sir, when you are dealing with policy makers who intend never to listen to the voice of the people, we cannot expect any progress in this country.

Sir, if Senator Goddard, when he gets up to speak, will address some of these issues, because he has attempted in his political career already, to represent the views of the working class people of this country and he should be *au fait*, Sir, with the kinds of arrangements which I am talking about.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Would the Honourable Member address the Resolution and please do not get personal? Please, let us leave out the personal aspect of it.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I would have thought that the Resolution would have been ordained with a programme about how the youths of Bush Hall would be able to make use of this facility for the betterment of their overall selves. As we know, we cannot push the idea of only one-sided education. We cannot talk about the 3Rs and not include the 4th R – recreation, which is the one we are contemplating here, Sir.
4.10 p.m.

There is in the Water Hall area and in the whole area of Bank Hall and Bush Hall a concentration of people that requires this kind of management, this kind of activity and this kind of organisation.

Sir, I am sure when they get the opportunity to speak they will develop even better than myself the point that I am trying to make and they will tell us how they will see the facility contemplated at Bank Hall being able to meet the needs of our young people. Today we are faced with

a situation at one of our nightclubs where amid the accusation of indiscreet police action...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I would ask the Honourable Member to avoid that line for the time being. You are trespassing on the Standing Orders and you may be trespassing into very troublesome waters.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the point is that even today we are brought more aware of the kind of devious behaviour which we have to grapple with as directors of the affairs of this country and I trust that the Honourable Senators recognise their responsibility in this regard and do not look lightly on what history will say of us when it is written that we would have overseen the complete destruction of all that our forefathers and foremothers fought for in the past.

I hope that we will see the Director of Sports because the Senate Leader made it very clear that this request originated with the Director of Sports, ensures that the facilities provided are put to that kind of useful purpose.

I think now of the rebuff more or less which the Pinelands Development Group has recently suffered. I hope this is not trespassing into the Standing Orders this time, but the Pinelands Development Group have been pushing for the erection of a mini-stadium and I now hear that that idea is about to be stolen and taken to a more appropriate constituency and I think this is unfair. The work of the Pinelands Creative Workshop in respect to the development of sports in the Pinelands and Wildey area cannot be second guessed in Barbados.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR BOYCE were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I want to make the point that no matter how much it is said by Senator Barker or anybody else on that Side that theirs was...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, I have not spoken in this debate so any reference to my speaking is totally wrong.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do agree with Senator Barker. He has not spoken in this debate and you must not make comments as far as asides are concerned. You must address the substantial matter before the Chamber.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, he did not say it in here but I heard him say it.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member is certainly making sport while dealing with sports and I

would ask him to be much more serious. We cannot deal with what happens outside of these Chambers. If you continue, I will have to ask you to identify the time and the place and all such.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the point of the erection of a mini-stadium being a manifesto pledge of the Barbados Labour Party or whatever is truly an aside. The fact is that the Pinelands Group have been for the last 7 years that I am aware organising a tremendously successful programme in sports, in night football and cricket in the area and they have been able to attract a large amount of that community into these kinds of activities and channel a lot of the otherwise deviant forces in that area away from that kind of behaviour towards more meaningful participation.

Sir, to think that they will now be deprived of the opportunity of being the landmark, so to speak, of a case of a mini-stadium because of what I can term no more than cheap politics. Sir, I think that this is unfair and the Government is required to explain to the people of Barbados why Pinelands cannot be the beneficiary of the first mini-stadium in Barbados. They have worked hard enough for it. They deserve it.

Sir, the same thing must be thought of the residents of Dash Road and Bank Hall in St. Michael. One day because of this initiative to provide a sporting facility if it is accompanied by the kind of management and direction which I have tried to allude to, if it is accompanied by these things one day Dash Road and Bank Hall, St. Michael can be the beneficiaries of the second mini-stadium in Barbados.

They do not have to have big mini-stadiums. They can be mini-mini stadiums where we can truly feel that community effervescence being expressed in every sporting effort that take place in the area.

I cannot leave this Resolution without referring to the way in which our development sometimes prevents the parallel development of our human resources. I want to make a plea on behalf of the residents of Carters Gap in Christ Church South that sporting facilities be provided for them because as I have said in here before besides Dover and a small pasture at St. Christopher, I cannot contemplate any area big enough for us to carry out any meaningful sporting activity in the constituency of Christ Church South.

It is important that we ensure that this development takes place throughout the island and we must not have a situation where we believe that one area is good for a hotel and hotels only and we forget that humans live there. We must always recognise the true residents because the hotelier is not a resident and in most cases does not reside in the area where his hotel property exists. He sees

it merely as an investment. The people that live around the hotel, the people that bear the stench and the noises of the garbage trucks at 5:00 o'clock in the morning, and the disturbances of the entertainment, *et cetera*, are not brought into the equation, so we need to get the parallel development occurring.

4.20 p.m.

I want to see the day when the young men of Carter's Gap, and we have in Barbados now young Ian Bradshaw, for instance, a product of the Carter's Gap area, and coming fast on the heels of Big Bird, Joel Garner too, Sir, so we need to give our young people that flame to aim at.

I certainly believe that the creation of these facilities at Dash Road will allow some measure of expression of that kind of sporting activity. What we do not want to see is what we also see too much of and, that is, our young men liming around these recreational facilities and taking part in any other activity but that for which it is designed.

We are all well aware of the fact that a lot of our young men and women congregate around these facilities to get into what we will gently refer to as mischief. That is why, if I can connect my presentation again, Sir, I call for the accompanying organisation and the accompanying community involvement in all of these presentations.

We are going to have numerous opportunities this evening, before midnight, to look at many many, questions of the use of land because in truth and in fact, this is what we are talking about, the use of land at Dash Road in Bank Hall for recreational facilities. There are going to be numerous occasions, at least six, as I glance through, where we will have the opportunity to talk about land use and what is the best way we can deal with it.

Sir, I am grateful for the young men and women of Dash Road. I hope that the churches in that area will grasp the opportunity – and the schools too, although I do not think there are many schools very near – but the fact is, I would like to see them use these facilities.

There is nothing wrong with schools including this in their programmes, and we do not see enough of this today. I remember as a school boy at All Saints Boys' School, and then later at Harrison's College, we had opportunities to go out and take part in cross-country racing. I could never understand the concept of cross-country racing in Crumpton Street. That is the truth. But it was termed cross-country racing, I suppose, because you were not running in the confines of a playing field but you were running down Roebuck Street, across Crumpton Street, up Constitution Road, back around Hall's Road and back into Harrison's College via the Globe Roundabout, *et cetera*.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: It might not have been a roundabout then, Sir, but it was the Globe.

There were occasions where we went out to visit facilities. One recalls places like the swimming facility at North Point where the interschool sports were held and one remembers the Aquatic Centre. But, of course, now we have been able to create at the Wildey Sports Complex, and this is all kudos – I believe, a lot of that work would have been led by Mr. Wes Hall as a member of the Democratic Labour Party and it was part of our overall sporting policy.

The recreation facilities being provided at Wildey now are *par excellence* and without challenge anywhere in the Caribbean. It was done by the Democratic Labour Party with assistance from the Chinese Government and through a tremendous amount of volunteerism at the tail end by the private sector in Barbados and, Sir, I was part of that. I was part of the first board of that body and I know what was contemplated.

The addition now of the hockey facility and the contemplation of the Cricket Academy, something which I dearly look forward to, and I hope it is hastened because if we do not hurry we will not have enough academics to put into the Academy anyhow, so I look forward to that creation too.

Sir, I would like to see the schools in the area therefore taken out to this facility as part of their timetable and they will have an opportunity to go out there and participate, as I said, in the traditional hard courts sports, lawn tennis, a little bit of basketball, *et cetera*. I think that provision of facilities like this will be of tremendous benefit to the residents of the area if used properly.

Again, I want to end my contribution by begging that the authorities do really seriously look at the management of the facility, they look at the organisation of the sporting activities and the recreational activities that do occur there and try to involve the churches, as I said, the communities and the schools because otherwise we know for ourselves as honest Barbadians that it will fall into disuse and become more of a hazard to Barbados than to the benefit for which it is now contemplated.

I am grateful to Your Honour.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. Deputy President, first of all I wish very seriously to express strong approval of this Resolution. I have lived for over 60 years in Bank Hall. I have played in Bank Hall and I am very happy to hear that recreational facilities which are very important, particularly in working class neighbourhoods, are being put up by this Government.
4.30 p.m.

A number of people in higher socio-economic brackets have lawns and space for their children but some of our children, and this would apply to children in the neighbourhoods where these hard courts are being established, have no such amenities and they have to play in the streets. Whenever I see this happening, wherever it is, I am at times terrified and generally unhappy because these children are a hazard to themselves and to others and to the drivers of vehicles.

This recreational facility will help to divert negative trends into positive trends. It is just not a question of putting up facilities to be supervised, it is a question of giving wholesome recreation which will save young people, especially the pre-teens from indulging in anti-social behaviour, such things like breaking windows and not to mention, of course, the real threat of drugs which are becoming so prevalent.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: I cannot be distracted by those asides.

When I hear this talk about cricket, I am amazed because in the first place, some of the remarks which the previous speaker made show that he has absolutely no idea of what is happening in sports. First of all, he has been very unfair to the Ministry of Sports in some of the criticisms which he has levelled and obviously he knows nothing about the Astroturf which has been put down and which will be of such benefit to the Hockey Association and an advantage to the tourist industry by the tournaments which are connected with the Hockey Festival. Of course, the National Tennis Centre which has been built is another benefit.

We hear this talk about how many people are now on the West Indies team and I think again that the Senator has lost sight of the fact that there are so many more competitive sports being played, so many options nowadays...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy President, I was at pains to point out that not only in cricket but in a number of other sports in Barbados, we are falling down and not doing well so I am fully aware of progress or lack thereof in cricket and all the other sports in which we take part.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No point of order.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

I am not talking about any awareness or falling off. I am saying that there are reasons for this and the fact that people will not be selected on a team has nothing to do with

it and that it is a question again of people having more opportunities or more options at the schools and that Government has an obligation to provide recreational facilities for its citizens. In putting down these courts, Government is showing that it recognises the importance of keeping young people off the street and indulging, as I said before, in anti-social behaviour. There is also the need to have a beautification policy of any facilities which are put down. I think that this is very important because it will make people feel good about themselves and also feel good about their environment and the quality of life and I would like to see this, not only in this particular recreational facility but in other recreational facilities that have been established or any more that are to be put up. These facilities can also foster greater community spirit. I would hope too, not in this particular one but in any subsequent ones, that attention is given to recreation for older people because adults cannot always tolerate the natural exuberance of young people which sometimes they, the older people will say is noise.

Old people need somewhere to sit and relax and sometimes even the constant bouncing of a ball they may find irritating and therefore I think that in the setting up of such facilities attention needs to be given to some area for older people and I am sure that attention will be given to this in future.

I know that there are many other Senators who wish to express their views. Therefore I will just say that I have much pleasure in supporting this Resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President, first of all I would like to thank and compliment Senator Symmonds for bringing some structure, coherence and relevance back to this debate. Most of all, I would particularly compliment her for respecting the Standing Orders of the Chamber which says that the proceedings are supposed to be conducted in English. Prior to that we were subjected to a string of ebionics which threatened the integrity of the Chamber. I was very glad for the contribution not only as regards contents, but also the form of it.

Sir, I would like to begin by saying that I support this measure, if only because of the Barbados Labour Party's proud record of providing sporting facilities, recreational facilities and community centres all over Barbados. It is an historical record, especially between 1976 and 1981 which has not been matched before and has not been equalled since.

Senator Boyce indulged in a lot of speculation...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE were ordered to be expunged from the records by Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. Senator Boyce indulged in a whole range of speculation and guessing. For example, he wondered about why sportsmen in Barbados were not performing to their fullest capacity. He also speculated as to whether the district was a tough district or not, without offering any analysis. He is an engineer by profession and engineers like to deal with empirical data and facts and figures etc. Nowhere in his presentation was that kind of evidence adduced or presented, and therefore most of what he said can be dismissed as an attempt to fill time since, as he meandered through his presentation, I got the feeling that he was like one of the air traffic controllers at the airport, the equipment was not working and he could not get his landing gear down and he could not find how to end his speech.

4.40 p.m.

Be that as it may, Sir, if Senator Boyce had any familiarity with the district he would know that this is a highly compact area that is badly in need of this kind of sporting facility. It is a multi-purpose facility which will satisfy a multiplicity of sporting needs. There is no other facility of its kind in that neighbourhood, the closest one being the one on Station Hill which is fully utilised.

I remember this district, Sir, from the time I was a little boy. I am sorry that Senator Trotman is not here, because I remember very well leading a team from Bush Hall and Spooners Hill and playing against Senator Trotman at another neighbourhood site. I think it was at Quarry Road and Hill Road where there used to be a stuff bin. We used to call it the "Bin Pasture" and on the other side of the road was a club called Club Hamilton. I remember that very well.

I say that because Senator Boyce, obviously in his call for a structured, organised programme for this facility, betrays his lack of knowledge and familiarity with how clubs and groups spontaneously evolve out of communities. Because, once you get an area where the fellows congregate, where they play games, sooner or later some structured programmes start to emerge out of their own needs, out of what they want, not what is mandated or imposed on them.

I remember, Sir, playing basketball in the tar road in Bush Hall, using a telephone post as the back board and the rims of a bicycle as the net. That is how we formed a basketball team. I therefore am convinced that Senator Boyce did not do the same kind of thing in his neighbourhood in

St. Peter. For he could not walk about, could not associate with the boys, could not therefore be familiar with these things. So he does not know how these things emerge out of the society at all, Sir. That is why he could not understand the impact that a hard court facility could have on a neighbourhood which is hard pressed, which has no other outlet. Perhaps the closest ground to that would be Empire pasture or Combermere on the other side of the road or even the O-Level Institute which is already famous for the basketball it produces. So, Sir, that is the kind of context in which we must see this situation.

He also made clear criticism of a so-called no sporting policy and things of that nature, but I am glad to know that with the new Director of Sports, there has begun to emerge a clear sporting policy for Barbados through the National Sports Council. And therefore I am sure that in due time that sporting policy will also embrace this neighbourhood, and the products of this new multi-purpose facility will have an outlet for their skills at a higher level.

I want to congratulate those persons who have been pushing for the creation of this facility, whether it be the youngsters in the neighbourhood, whether it be the Director of Sports or whether it be the M.P. for that district who is very concerned about what is available to his constituents, Sir.

Therefore, Sir, I would also like to take the opportunity to throw some light on this accusation by the Pinelands Creative Workshop or Development Council about charges of, for want of a better word, "political victimisation", or political spite, which is a very popular term coming out of the Democratic Labour Party these days because they have not been provided with a mini stadium as yet. The charge has been made that the failure to provide them with one is a direct reflection of preference and favouritism of one being promised in the South of the Island. If one reads page 20 of the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto it says "We will construct multi-purpose mini-stadia, each for the north, south and central parts of the Island". From what I recall the first mini stadium being promised is in the south of the Island, so therefore that is a direct fulfilment of this Manifesto pledge. We all know, both this Chamber and this country, of the seriousness with which the Barbados Labour Party always takes its Manifesto pledges. We regard the Manifesto as a binding and irrevocable social contract.

Be that as it may, Sir, the Pinelands have done some good work, culturally and in sporting activities in that district and I think they are a role model for other community groups to emulate. I think the success of their work can be gauged from the fact that the Pine Housing Area, as it used to be known, does not now have the same kind of stigma attached to it as it used to. It is no

longer seen as a haven of crime and illicit activity and anti-social behaviour. I think a large measure of that has to do with the success of the work of the Pinelands Creative Workshop.

On the other hand, I think that organisation has to get out of the habit that every time it does not have its way, especially right away, it cries foul, it cries victimisation, cries that somebody does not like them, that somebody is stealing their ideas, somebody is depriving them. This is not true, because only some weeks ago one remembers the hue and cry raised by the very same organisation about their failure to receive, at their pace, the Government's subvention of \$1.2 million for its poverty alleviation programme, only lo and behold some weeks later, for it to be presented to smiling faces.

Things do not always happen at their pace and they have to respect that if things do not happen right away, it does not mean that they are being victimised. There were charges then when the money for the poverty alleviation programme was not immediately forthcoming, that they were being robbed and deprived and unfaired by politics. The facts are, and as reality demonstrated later, they were given the money.

The same attitude, Sir, is applying in this instance. From my understanding first of all, the Ministry has called for a report from the Board of the Parkinson Secondary School about this whole situation, but from what I understand, the land in question is the land that is already being used by the school and the school is demonstrating at this stage its right to retain the use of that land. Nothing more than that. There is no spite. There is no victimisation being practised in this case, but the Ministry is going way beyond that. The Ministry is at this stage having discussions with a view to improving the facilities at the hard courts and multi-purpose facilities around the country by coming to an arrangement with the private sector whereby the grounds would be fenced in. The public sector would put up benches, all in return for being granted advertising space at these facilities, a kind of trade off. The kind of thing that people pay for at the Stadium and elsewhere or at Kensington, where you see the various business houses advertising their goods and services and products in exchange for a contribution to the organisation.

The Youth Affairs section of the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs have already agreed with the Sports Council to install a number of lights on hard courts, and under this arrangement the Sports Council will pay the bills for electricity. The Ministry will put up the lights and the Sports Council will pay the electricity bills.

Sir, this is also in keeping with a Government that is serious about providing increased and improved facilities and opportunities for the sporting youth of Barbados. I have

no doubt, Sir, that in that context the youth of the Bank Hall district, Dash Road and Hill Road area of Bank Hall, will rise to the occasion just like the Pinelands. I am sure there will emerge from them some positive developments and positive and constructive groups which will make the fullest use of these facilities and bring further credit to that neighbourhood. Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.
4.50 p.m.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Sir, my usual brief contribution, Mr. Deputy President, I obviously would support this Resolution, but I am a little worried that it is kind of small and that not too far away, in Eckstein Village, about a mile away from this place, there is about five acres of land presently used by the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic for a "farm." Because it is a totally unsuitable place to have a farm, they have had considerable problems there of praedial larceny and of very poor soil. In fact, there is very little soil and the place is run down. The whole facility is a terrible thing.

Here is an opportunity that we could take that site and make a mini stadium with great ease, because there is lots of land there to do it. It is not agricultural land by any means and it is quite unfair of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic to force them there when there is land available at the Pine, close proximity to both the Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic where a proper teaching farm could be established. It is good agricultural land and has good irrigation facilities and everything. So I would hope that the Government would look at this possibility in the near future.

One other concern I have, in passing Bush Hall Community Centre the other day, I was horrified at the vandalism that has occurred in the fencing around that, what was a really delightful looking little area under the trees there at Bush Hall. I hope that we can appeal to these people that these other facilities we are about to establish, will not get vandalised.

I cannot really understand the reason why people would go and cut fences, actually remove pieces and remove the pipes and so on and nobody seems ever to get prosecuted for this kind of vandalism. I hope in this particular case that does not occur.

Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I rise to support the Resolution, but I too listened to the debate and became very concerned that it is in two vacant lots and appears to be a very small area. I do not know the area, but from what has been said, it appears that it could not even hold a football field.

Now, it is not so clear to me what is being promoted. Here on the Order Paper it just says for the establishment of a recreational facility which is very broad. Then another Senator's contribution referred to it as a "multipurpose facility" and that really does not say very much and it is not clear what we are trying to promote. Are we trying to promote volleyball, basketball, hard court tennis, that type of sport, or do we want to have land big enough that can also hold a cricket field?

We were only debating the lack of interest of people in cricket and we were talking about trying to motivate people to become interested in the game of cricket, but this obviously does not consider cricket or football. If it is going to be a multi purpose facility, one question I would like to ask, is it going to be used solely for the young people? Or do the elderly people in the area have access to it? Is there going to be a building there where the elderly people can go and have some types of recreation?

Because, if we are thinking about providing multi purpose facilities throughout Barbados, I would like us to think in terms not only of the youth, but of the elderly because we have an aging population and we would like to see the land with a small house or some place where one could have a day care centre, where one could bring the elderly and leave them for the day and then come back and take them, a sort of facility that will be available for use within the community.

Because a lot of us are afraid of leaving our old people at home and what is happening is that they take them to the QEH with their suitcases and they leave them there. It is still happening and they are taking up valuable bed space which could be used for acute care.

Another concern of mine and I am supporting the Resolution because I am all for recreation, it is healthy, it will divert people from mischief and it is good, but I would like to know, is it near to a lot of homes? Are they going to break the window panes with the balls or whatever they are playing with? Is it going to be properly enclosed? These are questions that I would like answered.

Now, it was suggested that they are going to put lights on some of these areas and the Sports Council is going to pay for it out of the taxpayers' money.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: It is being spent on citizens, but it is also taxpayers' money. I am very concerned that at the Psychiatric Hospital, some of the wards do not have lights at night and before putting up lights on these playing fields, we should try and put electricity on all of the wards at the Psychiatric Hospital. At

night nurses are walking around with lanterns and torch lights. That is what concern me. I know that there is a lot of back money around, but I would like to see your social conscience extend to the Psychiatric Hospital and the Geriatric Hospital and try and get those facilities into a habitable state where the people who have contributed all of their years to the development of this country can enjoy their retirement years, because the persons at home cannot have them at home.

I would like to think of these concerns and if you are going to acquire something, why not try and acquire a bigger area so that you can incorporate other facilities into the recreational facility?

I thank you.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy President, thank you very much. For those who are not familiar with the area, I think it is important that you get familiar with the area first and know the extent to which recreational facilities exist in the area before we can talk.

I agree with Senator Rickinson and some other Senators that all of these land resolutions, and we have said so before, need to come with maps, because a lot of people are not familiar.

Aside.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Yes, there is one map to go around. I think everyone should be facilitated with a map. First of all to get back to the sporting facilities, I think it is really uncharitable to say that in recent times Barbados has not done well in sports or is not doing well in sports.

The sports that can be played on any facility, like the one that is going to be erected in the Dash Gap area, netball, volleyball and sports in which Barbados in recent times has done very, very well. As a matter of fact, it is very, very clear, Barbados has tied for second place in the last Caribbean tournament in netball and qualified for the Commonwealth games in Malaysia. Barbados in volleyball won the North Circle Championship and now is rated in the world in volleyball. That is the kind of facility. To say also that it is not going to be supervised or for us to try to act like sporting technocrats to tell anybody in here exactly the way in which the facility is going to be used is ludicrous.
5.00 p.m.

The concept is that in that area, and anybody who is familiar with the area would know, there are no sporting facilities of that kind around unless one filters in as far as Station Hill where there is a small type court in the area

of the Bush Hall community group but, generally, in that area there are no recreational facilities.

The other thing is that that facility almost comes adjacent to an existing football field that was a landfill. It used to be called the Bin Pasture and people know this. The whole concept of boys – boys attract girls and girls attract boys. One of the things that is interesting is that on evenings the only thing that can be played on that field is football. We all know in Barbados that there is a very large following for soccer and a lot of girls filter around there.

The concept of giving the females an opportunity as well to be gainfully involved in some activity rather than just looking for boys is fundamental also to the entire concept of the community development spirit in that area.

If one knows as well I cannot understand how anybody would say that in that Water Hall Land area – if the area is a tough area I think it is even more credent that it needs that kind of facility. If you are familiar with the patterns of anti-social and unsavoury behaviour a lot of it takes place in the evening just around dusk. If one is led to a facility in which one is employed in some activity, obviously after having played football and netball a whole 5, 4, 3 or 2 hours, I do not see anybody getting anybody pregnant, looking for any HIV or breaking into anybody's house. I think it is important that we have that type of facility in that kind of area.

Obviously, soccer is one of the sports that has a lot of professional potential for Barbados. I think that is something that we have put on the back burner for a long time and except for the concept that Kevin Miller has come up with about some football school I think it is unfortunate that in Barbados a lot of people do not take it seriously in terms of creating a professional base for soccer.

I think that if there is that kind of facility in the Dash Gap area that more boys, once there are girls around, will want to get out there and more boys will be interested in taking part in soccer and potentially widen the base of people who will be playing soccer.

Sir, I also would like to note that in all of these areas, especially the ones in which the mini-stadia are going to be built, it also lends a lot of entrepreneurial potential for people to ply their wares in these facilities. If you have people playing games, people will find something to sell, people will be around and more people will be able to make a living out of the entire thing.

I think, Sir, it is so unfortunate that anybody would say that the Democratic Labour Party has been the ones who have built the gymnasium in Wildey. Sir, in the 1991 Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party it was clear before leaving office in 1986 that the Barbados Labour Party settled

with the Government of China for the building of the facility.

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please! Please! The Honourable Member must be heard in silence.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: The Barbados Labour Party Administration of 1981-86 were the ones who signed with the Government of China for the building of the indoor gymnasium to serve the needs of basketball, table tennis and volleyball. So it was on the cards for a long time. In the 1991 Manifesto which we take very seriously – we are not like the rest – it says a re-elected BLP would provide mini-stadia for sporting and cultural activities.

So do not tell me that they had this idea and somebody stole an idea. Nobody stole any idea. The idea has always been. Sir, it is clear. Do not argue! From the beginning, all of the community centres were built by the Barbados Labour Party and all of them have recreational facilities. The Barbados Labour Party has always had a commitment to developing youth and to developing sports while other administrations have always put the cultural and sports programme on the back burner.

The Democratic Labour Party Government that just got kicked out in 1994 had even sworn that they would close the National Cultural Foundation. That is their commitment to the concept of developing sports and culture in Barbados. They were the ones who said that. They never had any commitment.

Sir, I am proud to be a part of an administration which has a policy for the development of sports. It is under this administration now for the first time that we are talking about athletic scholarships at the University of the West Indies. That is not an idea that ever came out of any Democratic Labour Party Government. They never thought that far.

Sir, I run at the university almost every morning. The hard courts facility at the University of the West Indies, the gymnasium and the pavilion were falling apart before this Administration came in. We agree they never had any money to spend because they wasted the money but at the same time they never made any commitment to developing or redeveloping any of the recreational facilities in Barbados

The hard court at UWI has been repaired and it is now fenced around. There is a new gymnasium at UWI. I was just told that a lad called Stephen Jones left on an athletic scholarship to go to the United States. When it was too late for him to get the full scholarship the Government of Barbados helped subsidise the concept of his scholarship.

Sir, I am very much with the whole concept of acquiring land for sports facilities. I am also very concerned about the whole concept of how it is done. I am one who honestly believes and I know Senator Murray made reference to it that there must be some consistent study about how recreational facilities are put down, particularly in urban areas. For instance, how many people within an area actually have...? You know, do 25 people need 2 square feet of land or 3 people 4 square feet of land? I do not know. I think it needs to be studied in a serious social study to be able to decide how much facility we need per capita and where we need to put it. Those kinds of things.

Sir, I think it is important too that we continue this concept of the establishment of a sports academy. I am not buying the point about any cricket academy. Cricket is not the only sport that is played in Barbados. There are a lot of other sports which have the professional potential for people to earn a living. I want to say that one of the reasons why the one sport that may be declining in Barbados - I am concerned about football and I think the Government needs to take football under its wings.

The Government of Barbados needs to look at the people who follow football. There are too many people that go to the national stadium. Football is played more than any other sport in Barbados. Too many young men are involved with football for the Government not to look more seriously at looking at helping the administration of football to get it better organised.

Cricket does not actively go after recruiting anybody and the reason we may have success in other sports like volleyball and netball and even basketball to a certain extent is because my television is flooded with North American sports and I think it is an obligation on the people who show us sports in Barbados, particularly the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, to show us some cricket. Even with Kensington full of people we need to be able to see cricket on our television screens. I do not know any Barbadians that ever play in the NBA but Michael Jordan is up and down in my living room every night playing basketball and I want to be able to see some cricket on television.
5.10 p.m.

There is a Pay Per View facility that we use. I agree that everybody does not have Pay Per View, but Barbadians are resilient enough to share with one another to see a game. We put World Cup Cricket once on Pay Per View and everybody watched it. If we cannot get cricket to be shown on television, let Government subsidize it. Let Governments in the Caribbean subsidize the showing of cricket. Cricket is too important to our national development not to be able to see it in a consistent way. With so many satellites in the air, I do not think we should be playing cricket in Pakistan in

1997 and not have been able to see cricket live on television. That is the reason why our cricket is declining. That is why the tall fellows should be bowling fast and jumping up and hitting balls over nets when we should be bowling fast and not hitting balls over nets. I am calling again. We need as a Government to subsidize the cost of the showing of cricket and if Kensington is sold out, we need to be able to see cricket on television. They are not going to lose any money.

I would like to say finally, Sir, that we have already pointed out that there is a commitment on this Side to developing youth and providing facilities for sports. It has always been a policy of the Barbados Labour Party. We do not make any excuses at all. The Manifesto is clear and for those who are bringing the briefs from upstairs or downstairs it is written here very clearly.

We signed with the Government of China and we were the ones who built all the community centres so when they are ready to talk, let them go back and decide that this Barbados Labour Party Government will always be committed to sports. I am proud to be a part of this Side and I am proud to be associated with this Resolution.

I thank you.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. Deputy President, I do not think there is very much I could add to the speech of the last Senator but I am forced to deal with the opening speaker for the Democratic Labour Party.

It is obvious, Sir, that the Senator does not know about the planning of sports. Those facilities are not for national sportsmen. Those are purely recreational and out of such a facility you will get a national sportsman. You call it scrimmaging, Sir. Fellows go out and play on the hard court an activity to keep your weight down. You hear a lot about healthy lifestyles.

A former Democratic Labour Party Cabinet Minister once said, a lot of people confuse sport with fun. Sir, I was reminded of that comment when Senator Boyce spoke. But I was not at all surprised because in his preamble he said he was not sure of his bearings so he went on, true to form. He mixed up Dash Road with Dash Valley. There is such a facility at Dash Valley and that was the policy of the same Barbados Labour Party Administration. Sir, there is one at Dash Valley, the Pine, Wildey and Clapham. If he was doing his homework properly, he would know that, when he referred to tough areas. I knew what he meant. He did not want to say it. What he really wanted to say was that...

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member cannot presume what another member wanted to say. You will have to withdraw that statement or rephrase it.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Withdrawn, Sir. He referred to them as tough areas but then he went on in a soft way to describe what he meant by tough, because had he said in the first instance it would have been seen to be running counter to the Democratic Labour Party's policy. But in truth and in fact, these are densely populated areas. I know that you need one such court for every X resident. I do not know the exact ratio, but you need it. As Senator Lynch said, just a mile away from there and you have the facility at Station Hill. Out of that Station Hill facility the Advocate Station Hill Ballers have risen to the No. 1 position. They have taken practically every championship at basketball. So to deprive the young people there of a facility that could serve basketball, volleyball, netball, tapeball and road tennis is to take candy from a child.

I am surprised to see, Sir, that the Honourable Member who is courting facilities such as Dover, Maxwell, Paradise and Pride of Gall Hill cannot see that such a facility is needed.

Sir, basketball is a mass sport, so is football. It does not take any extra money. You just put on a pair of shorts and you go and play. You do not have to look for mittens, gloves nor pads. A bat alone costs almost \$200. Therefore, you are putting down a facility which will take, as it were, some of the heat out of the youngsters. On one side you have football and on the other side you have the hard court facility.

Sir, what I would advise and what has been happening in recent times is, the Youth Commissioners have been playing an integral part in sports and community development. If you refer to our Manifesto, page 18, it says:-

"The island will be divided into zones, and then smaller districts, to ensure that Youth Commissioners are capable of knowing and supervising all young persons between the ages of 5 and 25."

This is the section which deals with sport development. It goes on to say:

"A core of persons at the Community Development Department will liaise with the National Cultural Foundation, the National Sports Council and community and church groups in order to establish developmental workshops on a permanent basis."

For the past two years, Sir, we have had these Youth Commissioners working closely with the summer camps. There used to be one big summer camp in Barbados and now there are several. They are fused all over Barbados so areas and facilities such as the one to which we are speaking, fit quite nicely into their programme.

What I would like to see, Sir, is that more of those players who have developed from in these areas come back, work with these Youth Commissioners and try to improve the sport whatever it is, be it basketball, football, tennis. To say that we are losing our focus with respect to cricket is unfair. There are lots of other competing sports and lots of sporting opportunities that were not present previously.

Sir, facilities such as these must be encouraged and if you want to keep communities together, Sir, as I said in my opening words, they must be integral parts of the community.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. Deputy President, I did not intend to speak on this Resolution but as I sat and listened, I have been compelled to rise and make a contribution having lived for some time around this area. 5.20 p.m.

I spent 5 years of my early adult life while I was at the St. Michael School and living around the Station Hill, Hindsbury Road, Bank Hall area and I spent a considerable period of time around the Bush Hall and Bank Hall area so I am very familiar with this area and I know that it is a densely populated area and that road tennis is one of the favourite sports in this area.

The reason I have risen on my feet is this: sometimes the debate in this Chamber gets to the level where we discuss so many political parties and who is doing what, that we seem to lose track completely of whose interest we are serving. And whether the Barbados Labour Party has been responsible for community centres and sporting facilities or whether the Democratic Labour Party has been, the point is this, we have a serious problem of deviance and waywardness among young people which has to be addressed.

As we boast about our economic and other achievements on the one hand no one can deny that on the other hand we have serious problems among our young people. Any policy therefore by a Government of Barbados to make available facilities which would encourage our young people to engage in positive activities ought to be commended and supported, and as we debate such, I think that we should get away from this partisan talk. For the young people out there, they are not amused, they are really not amused and these are some of the factors which contribute to the malaise and general lack of interest in our electoral system, because we reduce these things to a lot of sparring.

This facility at Dash Road, Bank Hall is a good move on behalf of the young people of this area. I see on the television on Sports News, beautiful road tennis. I really cannot believe that it is road tennis as I watch it sometimes. The quality is high and the youngsters are so agile. They look so competent and professional. Although Senator Boyce is being put down for suggesting that it be more organised, I agree that as we let certain sports evolve in communities that they cannot be structured. At the same time I think that we must still not leave them alone, but interest must be shown and that they should get the support necessary to move on from one stage to a next where we can probably have regional road tennis championships and it is then that we can make sure that our road tennis gets on the map beyond the region. I think that Bank Hall is really the ideal area for the proper development of our young people in road tennis.

Mr. Deputy President, I really wanted to make that comment. I am not in any way objecting at all to the Resolution but I think that we should not try to score points on each other about who knows this or that better than the other. We are all here to lend our contribution to what we consider a positive move on the part of the Government for the development of young people of this country. Even though those on the Government side might try to align me with partisan conduct, that is not intended on my part.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I represent the people of Barbados. I want to make that abundantly clear.

Senator Laurie expressed his concern about the enclosure and I too am very concerned about that. It has been for sometime a very attractive facility and very well enclosed and it is a pity that it has reached that real run-down level and I hope that that matter will soon be addressed. I worked for about six years in a consulting capacity with the Bush Hall community group. I am one of the co-ordinators of the Project Whole Programme in Bush Hall training the young people in certain skills.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I may not boast about these things because, I do these things for the development of other people less fortunate than myself and who deserve that opportunity to move on. Therefore I may not shout from the mountain top but my record is there and speaks for itself.

Therefore, Mr. Deputy President, with those few words, I support the Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, we have had a very interesting presentation in this debate and in fact the presentation of the last speaker, Senator Thompson shows how effective one can be when one engages both head and voice at the same time and also engage the heart in this endeavour, which as she quite rightly points out, speaks to the human condition. She recognises that a resort to volume is not a substitute to intellect.

Mr. Deputy President, I support her contention, that we need not in matters affecting the ordinary persons out there resort to scoring political points. However, she said that we needed to make sure that we made our contribution in advancement of the issue and I therefore see it as my responsibility to fill the large vacuums which is clearly obvious in the knowledge of Senator Boyce concerning sports. He clearly in his presentation lack the benefit of studied research in this matter and if he had turned not too far away to a source whom we both know, we would have been happy to provide that studied research. He would have gotten a clear understanding of the inner working of sports in Barbados. He would have been told about a club called Progressive Club in St. George which is a spiritual twin of Deacons Club in St. Michael in terms of the development of volleyball and when you speak of the development of volleyball in Barbados, as was noted by Senator Lynch that we now have a world ranking and therefore we automatically qualify to the world championships in Texas this year, he would understand the connection between the development of sports at a community level and the emergence through planned effort of athletes of national and international proportions.

Sir, I see this development on the corner of Dash Gap and Hill Road in the same context as the development within the front yard of St. Jude's School in St. George of a hard court on which some young men, myself included, would have knocked about with a volleyball those early days in the 1970s.

5.30 p.m.

Out of those knocking out and knocking about in those days has emerged the names which are synonymous with volleyball in Barbados. If he had enquired, Sir, and had gotten the benefit of that studied research, Sir, he would have recognised that sports in Barbados is not as disorganised as he may think.

He has suggested that this facility would be unsupervised. Persons are just going to play around and so on. He talked about the fact that nowadays there is no cross country running in schools and he used to go running, and he had to be corrected. I am sure he did not run because in his day there was no Globe Roundabout as he reported he had to pass. Nevertheless, Sir, the fact of the matter

is that the Government has a programme for the development of sports which is quite clear in its focus and which is implemented directly through Government agencies as well as through strategic alliances with the National Sports Association and with the groups working in Community Development in terms of the Youth Commissioners, the Community Development Division and the various NGO bodies, the sports and social clubs in Barbados.

To give an example, Sir, in terms of the Government's own direct commitment to developing sporting skills in Barbados, there are coaches out of the National Sports Council who are sent to the various schools around the island. My children for example have an afternoon at school which is set aside for activities and you are able to opt. You can choose to be coached in judo, lawn tennis, athletics, football, cricket. You can even opt to be coached in drama and dancing and so on as well. This augments the existence already of specialists P.E. teachers certainly in the secondary schools and the work of other teachers in primary schools. That destroys totally Senator Boyce's suggestion that there is no programme for the development of sports in Barbados.

He has suggested that this sporting facility would be left out on its own, no linkage, no engagement with anybody, not recognising that all of the national associations have competitions at multiple levels throughout the length and breadth of this country – first division, intermediate, second division, third division, premier, however you want to describe it. They also would have localised competitions. They would also have special events competition. In fact Senator Murray would have organised, through his Ministry, as part of the Community Independence Celebrations which were sweet for days, several of these activities. Members of Parliament would have had activities but Senator Boyce obviously would not have realised that so he would have been suggesting that these people are out there on their own, going further, Mr. Deputy President, to further rebut his suggestion that these folks would be left out there to make sport on the hard court.

The Youth Affairs Division of the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture has organised training programmes for community and sports leaders because they recognise that these community and sports leaders must give direction in the various endeavours in the community. They are also looking towards the semi-professionalism of a number of these sports and therefore gearing the sports and community leaders for that. It all ties in with our long announced plan which I believe the Pinelands tried to buy in on because we announced our plan since 1991. I do not know that they spoke about theirs in that period. That also makes me make the comment, Sir. I am amazed ...

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Oh yes, he was a "B" then. But I am amazed, Sir, that there are people who believe that they have a monopoly on ideas that are out there floating around in the world. Mini Stadia are not new to the universe. They are new to Barbados. I am reminded that the MP for the Pinelands area was a member of the Barbados Labour Party at that time so he would have known about it, so to come and suggest now that we who were the originators of the idea in Barbados have stolen an idea that we originated is a ludicrous suggestion and I think we can forget about that.

He also made another point that bears rebuttal. He is suggesting that in terms of the broader focus on community development and in showing that we do not see one sector of the community as largely having an economic focus and not the other, he points to areas in Christ Church in the hotel region and suggested that there were no adequate facilities available to persons in that area and that we should not only consider that those persons' development should consist only of working in the hotel sector and that is that. I would want him to know that if he were to just deviate a little bit from the limited path that he might have travelled in Christ Church and when he is on the ABC Highway just make a right turn through Briar Hall and he would find himself on one of the most spectacular locations for sports in Barbados.

On the Maxwell playing field which would be the beneficiary of additional facilities one would have spectacular views. When you are there whether it be for cricket, football or whatever, one could look and see Senator Boyce's house up in the luxurious area of the South Point Lighthouse. Senator Boyce therefore is incorrect in suggesting that there has not been a concerted effort made to ensure that those persons who contribute to the mainstay of our economy and their families, in terms of the tourism workers, are able to benefit from the finest possible recreational facilities. If one were to look to see the location of the Dover Facility, the Maxwell Club facilities at Applegrove and other areas in Christ Church one could see that there is a clear effort to provide for those facilities.

I however want to make one point in closing, Sir, and this is one on which I think all of us have to pull together. I want to agree that we need to create these facilities and to ensure that they are there for development and so on but we must express strong concern about the level of vandalism on the one hand, because in some cases there is clear evidence that there is vandalism. In other cases it is just extreme lack of care but whatever the cause, whether malicious or accidental, the fact of the matter is that Government's ability to provide new community facilities is severely hampered when time, effort and money has to be spent constantly in making repairs which are of

my son. If all goes well according to plan, I believe at least a 50% clearance, I can see a 50% ownership of that property and he starts a little further beyond the block than I started, then I am satisfied at that prospect.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I do not know what Senator Barker is looking forward to, Sir, but that is what I am looking forward to.
6.45 p.m.

I believe that all land owners because we have come up in a society which views the ownership of land as being critical in terms of our ability to say, we are Barbadians and we are part of this great nation. You see, Sir, it is not a situation like in some countries where there are vast amounts of land like Guyana for instance and certain countries like the continent of Africa where there is not that attention paid to ownership.

Barbados is a small island and according to the predictions it is reducing the size every day in terms of the eco-system and we look forward to that ownership. Even as Governments have allowed the acquisition of properties like Westmoreland - and I am not going any further on Westmoreland today, Sir - that will make certain members very happy. We allow those kinds of developments. We are courting the most serious criticism in this country in terms of use of our scarce resources.

As we contemplate the opening of our sugar industry in probably a week or so time, it is being prefaced by comments by the Head of the Barbados Agricultural Management Company by the fact that again we are facing a decrease acreage in terms of planting potential. We take from this land owner on the one hand and we take from productive lands on the other hand and we go on and we go on *ad infinitum* and when we look around and we examine the facts, we realise that we are pushing our people further and further into the centre of the island.

I have already indicated that I am not even sure that the centre of the island will be accessible to the people of Barbados in future because the kinds of developments that one hears about discussed in certain quarters make you shudder, the kinds of prices that we are talking about in terms of house spots. In this very area, I have heard public debate about the benefits or the non-benefits of the development of a golf course, in this very area. I have heard lively debate on that issue and maybe, Sir, as Senators contribute to this debate later on tonight they may want to indicate to us where those discussions are going.

Sir, the people of White Hill are being used again as a reason for acquiring these two 10 000 square feet lots at Orange Hill.

Sir, I say without the slightest shadow of a doubt, that they are a number of persons who reside in the White Hill area who are not necessarily under the foreseeable threat that this Administration talks about and I say to them that what is required in this Chamber at this time is a survey if we are going to be constantly asked to consider this kind of Resolution. We require that a survey be presented which indicates the true facts as it relates to the residents of White Hill, their imminent threat, their desire or non-desire to move and the sizes of the homes that we contemplate. Without that kind of information, Sir, we are, as they say, batting in the dark.

The Government of Barbados can say anything and us on this side can shout as loud or as long as we like but, Sir, at the end of it all, the people that we are supposed to be serving are the people of Barbados.

The people of White Hill, like the rest of Barbados will have their opportunity to speak and I am sure that when they speak, they will say in no unclear terms what the position is. And the people of Orange Hill will have their opportunity to speak too. Indeed, Sir, I had the good fortune two weekends ago to actually spend about three hours in Orange Hill with the constituents of Orange Hill.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I was not with any particular person. I met a number of Barbadians who live in Orange Hill and they are of one voice in regard to how land is being managed in Orange Hill. I think that sometimes we get caught up in our selfish ambition and as it is often said in here and I believe there was loud clapping and tapping when my colleague, Senator Thompson, indicated that some politicians think they are doing the greatest thing on earth when in truth and in fact they are not in touch with the needs of the people.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Engineers too, you are right. Engineers do the same thing sometimes. If you are not a good engineer you are likely to make decisions which are not informed by all the factors which could impact on the final outcome.

Sometimes politicians go ahead and recommend things based on their gut feeling or the feeling of a particular resident not knowing that in a community of 1 000, a loud voice and a big soul does not necessarily reflect the wishes or the will of the majority.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wonder Senator Boyce which is the loudest voice in this Chamber.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am not afraid even when it reflects on my volume to use the term because I know that the Honourable Senators understand me clearly when I make that reference.

Sir, when I was in Orange Hill the people spoke of this loud voice and not necessarily big soul but they spoke of this loud voice and I tell you that it will be interesting. That is all that I can say. It will be interesting in the going down as the Barbadian will tell you, how things pad out. That is all I will say on Orange Hill at this time, in that regard.
6.55 p.m.

I want to say this too that a lot of this whole question of not necessarily being in touch with the communities and the challenge I am putting out to the Barbados Labour Party is that they are not really in touch with the needs of the people of Orange Hill in this regard and they are certainly less in touch with the needs of the people of White Hill. There is no question about that. That is obvious to anybody who visits White Hill.

The kind of convenient catastrophe which the Barbados Labour Party administration is consistently bringing to these debates is not reflected by an expression of anxiety on the faces of the people whom we are talking about. The people in the majority are aware of the dangers but they are also aware of the fact that White Hill is where they were born. White Hill is where they intend to stay so long as the imminent danger does not threaten life.

Sir, one is immediately thrown back to the events of Montserrat and I do not for one moment want to call a catastrophe of that nature on any part of the world for that matter, Sir, but history will record that even today there are members of the community of Montserrat who insist on being Montserratians and who will not go to Bristol or to London no matter how fat the carrot that is dangled in front of them.

That same issue caused the changing of the Premier of Montserrat. So what are we talking about, a representative of a constituency, when a whole Premier can be brought down on that issue. What are we talking about, one representative out of 28? We are working on that, Sir. We have good plans in train in respect to the people of White Hill. We want their opinions to be reflected in the actions of the Ministry of Housing in this country and we want the opinions of the people of Orange Hill to be reflected in the actions of the Ministry of Housing and Lands in this country. We do not want our politicians to be out there going out on any joy-rides or any self-serving interests in respect to acquisitions and land allocations in this country.

It might not be allowable up here in this Honourable Chamber, Sir, but I am saying to you, Sir...

Mr. PRESIDENT: If it is not allowable I would suggest...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am not going to say it, Sir. That is why I am saying this. I am saying that the people of Barbados will in time speak to the issues that I am talking about.

I saw a book dangling about today, Sir, about John Major. John Major was overseeing probably the most vibrant resurgence of the British economy for a long time and he was brought down because his policies did not reflect the wishes of the majority of the people.

Sir, in Jamaica only a while ago we had a situation where the Opposition would have felt that given their criticisms of the Government they would have been able to take over the country at the last elections. That was not to be. What I am saying, Sir, is that once the politician is at touch at the constituency level with his people or her people, Sir, well then the truth will be reflected in the ballot box.

I want to say, Sir, that we can consider the Resolution and we can look at the values of acquisition of these parcels of land as stated by the Senate Leader ostensibly for 6 house spots but I am saying too that the facts do not reflect that urgency which the Honourable Member wants to introduce into this debate. There are plenty other areas that could be used for the siting of these if they were that urgent but I am challenging this Honourable Chamber to come, say 6 months in the future and say, let us go to Orange Hill, let us go to White Hill and see in truth and in fact how much of the work we have done in here is reflected in the community that we are talking about because we talk about these things in a vacuum.

We are not aware of the fact, for instance, that the Farmers area has not been utilised and we are not hearing any explanation about that but this administration would come in here now, Sir, and want us to treat this with some urgency. I am not part of that, Sir. I will not participate in that, Sir. So the Members on that Side can have their say but the point is that the facts as they relate to this Resolution, Sir, do not bear any urgency.

Sir, the debate on land use in Barbados will continue for a long time.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: The methods being used are not clear to me. If they are clear to the Honourable Senators on that side they are privy to information which I am not privy to.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I will sit in good time, when my hour is up, and I will listen to hear the reasons which are going to be put forward to support this acquisition.

7.05 p.m.

When I moved around Orange Hill two weeks ago, and I travelled down places like the Buccaneer Club and saw the amount of land that has been developed down there, Sir, and I asked who owns all the land, they gave me the impression that they were not sure, but they believe, Sir, it was owned by Eastern Land Development or some such entity.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: There are no houses on this land by Buccaneer Club. So the logical conclusion to come to in this whole question, Sir, that it is like when you go to the shop. I do not know what Senator Barker does, Sir, but in my home we only go to buy sugar when we are likely to run out of sugar. We do not just buy sugar and have sugar piled up in the place. We only buy salt, Sir, when we need salt and indeed, I believe that is a characteristic of all right thinking people, Sir.

I am flabbergasted by the fact that we can go into an area like Orange Hill and see large expanses of undeveloped land and undeveloped house spots, Sir.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE were ordered to be expunged from the records by Mr. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I want to make it abundantly clear that the final judgment on this issue will not lie here. The final judgement about governing a country does not lie in Bay Street or for that matter, Sir, in the precincts of this hallowed area. That final decision is made by the people of this country who matter and from time to time, we will be asked to go out there as representatives of the people to put our case.

The Democratic Labour Party will be resolute in putting the case of the people of Orange Hill and the people of White Hill. The people of Orange Hill and White Hill will make their decision in respect to whom they want. Shall it be they? Or shall it be they? They will make that decision.

So, Sir, when we give the impression that we are moving people from White Hill and in fact, there are not being moved for one reason or the other, because when I go to White Hill again, I am going to say, "well, what are you

doing here? I thought the Government of Barbados had moved all of you."

Sir, I do not know how often you get to White Hill? But I beg that you take an opportunity, Sir, to travel to White Hill and see this place.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think, Senator, my schedule is relevant to this debate.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: If one goes to White Hill, Sir, one would see the kind of occupancy, which really does not befit the tragedies which Senators have been talking about.

When I went to White Hill, the last time I was expecting a barren land, except for these six households. But, in actual fact there are many, many people still resident in White Hill and the tremendous inconsistency, Sir, is that there is nobody on the land by Buccaneer Club in Orange Hill, Sir.

But, we are seeking now today, Sir, to acquire land from a small Barbadian landowner and entrepreneur for one reason or the other. I am saying to you, Sir, this is not fair. There is another saying in this whole Barbados that we live in, Sir, and that is "what goes around, comes around." "What you ain't see yet, you ain't miss, it just did not get there to you yet, but it is coming." Sir, I want the Members on that Side to recognise that in this case I have no axe to grind for any landowner. When I speak in these matters, I have no axes to grind. I am not like Senator Murray, Sir, who would have been at pains to explain that COW Williams and Eastern Land Development are the same. I do not have to do those things.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would suggest that you leave out these *ad hominem* references. Let me also say, Senator Boyce that you are repeating your own arguments. I mean you do in fact have an hour, but there is a Standing Order which prevents or discourages Honourable Members from tedious repetition either of their own arguments or of other people's arguments.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the people of Barbados will therefore be waiting to recognise the fairness in our land policies as it relates to their ability to acquire and hold property.

I am concerned that we might be introducing a vampire in our state, Sir, when we are allowing foreign land owners and investors to come into this land, Sir, and acquire and own property. And, not only acquire and own property, Sir, but to enjoy concessions which are totally out of the reach of Barbadians who are even seeking, maybe to utilise their land for a necessity like agricultural development, Sir. I am fearful that we are creating

a situation which we will not be able to live with in this regard, Sir, and we have got no doubt, to re-examine our whole approach to this question of land distribution and land ownership.

I think it is incumbent on the National Housing Corporation who has that power vested in it, to disseminate more information to this and any Chamber, Sir, in respect to these acquisitions. So that we can be better informed as to the thinking and it will remove from the debate, any of the questions of bad treatment of one kind of citizen as against the good treatment of another kind of citizen.

We must not create in Barbados, two societies, or three societies. We must not create a landless society and landed society. We have strived too hard to run away from that kind of development to find ourselves in 1998 facing the real possibility of falling back into that kind of activity.
7.15 p.m.

I think that as we run after the dollar so to speak we have to be informed by good judgment. I want to say that because of the untold considerations in this Resolution, because of the obvious lack of urgency in respect to any relocation of persons in White Hill, because of the fact that in Orange Hill there is a vast amount of land already owned by the Government of Barbados and there is a vast amount of land which the Government of Barbados owned at one time or another and might have disposed and because the wishes of the people of White Hill are not in fact being met in any part we cannot support this Resolution.

I want to make it clear that we shall be voting against this Resolution. The Government side can speak now and if I am moved by their contribution to rethink my position I will so indicate in my vote. Other than that, Sir, it is a resounding no for this Resolution from this Honourable Senator and I crave the consideration of the other Senators of this Chamber to get into the meat of this debate and hear from that side what is the truth behind the acquisition before us. I am grateful to you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I begin by reflecting on the point that just over 4 years or so in which I have had the privilege and honour to serve in this Chamber, it added a year to it just by listening for an hour.

Sir, I cannot recall an occasion when an Honourable Member has had to be upbraided so frequently by yourself or a presiding officer, when he had to so regularly withdraw and have things struck from the record. I reflect on the fact that the Honourable Member wanted to say something, but did not have the courage to go that far.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. It is a reflection on the character of the Honourable Member.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I am sorry Sir. I withdraw the words. I listened to his mode of speech and I have begun to adopt those habits of his which are not in keeping with the Standing Orders of the Senate. I am sorry, Sir.

Be that as it may, what the Honourable Member should really have begun by saying is that the Democratic Labour Party has always had a philosophical and inherent objection to seeing, as they would say, the "small black man" get land cheap, as evidenced in their move in the last administration on the Freehold Tenancies Purchase Act, under which people were sold land at 10 cents a square foot. Quite incidentally, Sir, this very same land that we are talking about will be sold to the poor, small, black people at White Hill for 10 cents a square foot, the same price at which land is being sold in that general area.

For the people who will be resited from White Hill and who will now go to Orange Hill, the land they will require will be at 10 cents per square foot. So the basic problem of the Member is that his party does not like the idea of the "poor, small, black man" that they claim to represent and love so dearly, having access to land at 10 cents a square foot.

One recalls how they amended that revolutionary piece of legislation that presented an opportunity in the last BLP administration, to make it harder for persons to enjoy the benefits of the Freehold Tenancies Purchase Act, because we had decided that it took 2 houses or more to constitute a tenantry and they upped it to 5. As a result it has put additional pressure on persons who want to acquire lots and satisfy the Barbadian dream of owning a 14x9, whether it be on 2 square feet of land or other. That is a fact. So what we are dealing with here now is a part of the repercussion and a part of the spill off of that retrograde step by that DLP Government.

Sir, as I said, this area in question will be used for low income housing. He has made a big song and dance about what he sees as the NHC not working with urgency on the land it has acquired. But there is always a time lag between government's acquisition of land and developing it. If one has to respect the constitutional rights of a person, you acquire land but there is still a lot more to be done. There is a process by law which has to be gone through. You have to deal with Town and Country Planning, the Attorney General's Office, all sorts of things before you actually begin to construct houses on the spot. That is the reason why, while we have been acquiring land we have not built as many houses as we would want yet. But our record so far indicates that we will never ever reach

the sorry state where they did not build more than 9 houses in 8 years between 1986 and 1994. So reflect on that, Sir.

Sir, this Resolution has a very interesting history. There have been hints and innuendos and a little jab here and a pull back there, and a body beat here and there before getting to the meat of the matter.

The Addenda, Schedules 1 and 2 to this Resolution mentions the ownership of the land under question. Let me begin, before we get down to details, with the history of these 2 lots. These 2 lots are part of 6 lots from this area which were originally subdivided for agricultural purposes. Under that practice, that outlook, that perspective, we were going to be allowing 10 000 square feet of land whereby people can farm and at the same time construct a residence. That was the beginning and that land at that time was sold at 47 cents per square foot.

In order to ensure that this project was complied with, the then National Housing Corporation adopted a policy whereby it made it clear that any beneficiary of this land could not own land elsewhere in Barbados. That was a clear specification. Therefore, anybody who was interested in acquiring any of these lots in question had to sign an affidavit to the effect that they were not land owners. That was a policy of the Board then and is the policy of the Board to this very day.

The history of this area of 6 lots indicates that way back in 1981, members of the staff of the NHC applied to buy these lots. In 1981. One member applied to purchase Lots 4, 5 and 6 and another sought to buy Lot 3. A Mr. Louis Redman whose name is mentioned in the Schedule, who was then the Chief Technical Officer of the NHC and subsequently became the General Manager, applied to purchase these very same lots 1 and 2.

A deposit was paid on these two lots for some reason, despite the Board's stated policy. Mr. Redman paid down a deposit with the Corporation and a receipt was issued for the sum of \$1 991.60 representing about 10% of the purchase price of the lots which was under 2 000 square metres or 10 000 square feet.

It gets more interesting as we go along. He was allowed to make a down payment on these 2 lots of land despite the policy of the Board and while this was against the policy of the Board and this was done, the Ministry of Housing rejected it and maintained its objection of this decision between 1982 and 1986.

It is interesting that under 2 successive Ministers of Housing under the BLP, the point was made that the project was intended for low income households and not for individuals and prospective purchasers who owned lots elsewhere.

The record indicates that while the policy was that persons had to sign affidavits attesting to the fact that they did not own land elsewhere, this did not obtain in the case of Mr. Redman. The affidavit was never signed. Therefore, Sir, anybody who knows what a Chief Technical Officer is, either in the Ministry of Public Works or the National Housing Corporation, would know that that person, by any stretch of the imagination, could not qualify as a low income person. He could not. It was established that he owned land elsewhere, so that was part of the problem.
7.25 p.m.

When the Government changed in May 1986, a very interesting thing happened. The objection by two successive Ministers of the Barbados Labour Party was upheld and maintained between 1982 and 1986, a consistent policy being followed. But by December 1986 after the Government had changed in May 1986, the Ministry was once again asked to review the matter and it was stated that while they were appreciative of the stance taken before, it was overturned and the sale was approved by the Ministry under the Democratic Labour Party Government.

The sale was concluded the following year and between 1987 and now the land has been left in an uncultivated state. So if the Honourable Member – I am sorry he is not in here to listen to me in person but if you want to speak about land speculation, that is land speculation. You buy land for which you are not qualified by the policy of an organisation for which you worked. You let it lie idle and this is it.

The point is, Sir, that all the land, not only this land, but all the land in this area is being used for low income housing and being sold at 10 cents per square foot. This land was left idle while there is a clear and expressed need for housing, not only in the Orange Hill area, but all over Barbados, either for lots or for low income housing. The mere fact that this land is being sold at 10 cents per square foot underlines the low income nature of the project.

The Honourable Member talked about a "small Barbadian landowner". Sir, God help us. But thank God, because of the policies and the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party, persons who lived in "threatened by nature" areas of White Hill, *et cetera*, can now go to an area where they can have the permanency that nature allows them in the sense that they would not be subjected to the harrowing feats of nature. Anybody who knows Orange Hill knows it is a lovely area to live in. They can enjoy an ambience and an environment that is way above and an improvement over White Hill and above all, they do not have to worry about land slippage. Above all, they have permanency, affordable housing and a security of tenure which they did not have before.

Therefore, Sir, let us put a lot of the myths and the so-called crying about the unfairness and the disadvantageous nature of the Barbados Labour Party and the policy of spite against the small man, to rest. That is the true story of that land acquisition.

Therefore, Sir, I do not think I have any more to say on this issue. I rest my case. My support is fully behind this measure because I am fully convinced that the five lots into which this area will be subdivided will provide a much enhanced...

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: It will allow persons to enjoy an improved standard of housing and living and allow persons who I am sure on many occasions over the years would have gone to bed, especially during the rainy season, fearful of the elements, to know that they can really own a safe, stable, secure and a substantial piece of the "rock" of Barbados.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I am especially pleased that the last speaker took the time out to remove the mystery surrounding the acquisition of this land at Orange Hill. I am a bit sorry though that he did not go as far as to state the fact that as Chief Technical Officer of the National Housing Corporation the landowner was responsible for the valuation of this land.

I am making that statement because I am concerned of the fact that a person who cannot be described as a poor man could survey a lot of land, could set a price at 45 cents per square foot, and the sale could be rejected by two Ministers of Lands. He was however permitted to purchase this piece of land by the unfortunate change of a Government in 1986, and could now own a piece of land which a person of his means was not entitled to own.

Sir, I am one who as a Barbadian believe that the people at White Hill have a right to live in comfort and the security and that they should not feel threatened particularly during the rainy season. During the hurricane season the possibility exist that they might go to bed living in one place and perhaps tomorrow with a heavy downpour of rainfall end up somewhere in a gully.

Government has certain needs to acquire land for a number of purposes in Barbados. If we reflect, let us say, in Christ Church where Government was forced to acquire land for the siting of residents at Thyme Bottom who lived in the flight path of the airport, there is a situation where people at Doughlin Village in St. Andrew have to be accommodated because of a road leading into the Greenland Landfill and they will be accommodated at some lots at

Corbin's Village. So there are lots of instances in which Government has been forced, because of either natural disasters or developmental purposes to provide land for people who have been dislocated through development and natural disasters.

I was particularly curious to hear the Honourable Senator, the one before the last, saying that Government needs to be informed by the residents of White Hill about their needs. I wonder if he is aware that three families from White Hill have already been resited at Orange Hill. I also wonder if he is aware of the fact that the Division of Housing has undertaken a survey of the families who live in the White Hill area and 39 of these families have indicated a desire to be relocated. So the Government did not willy-nilly go into White Hill and force people to leave or coerce people to leave. They took their technical people there. They spoke with the people in White Hill and the people decided that they wanted to leave White Hill because they wanted to have a feeling of security when they go to bed at night and they wanted to be able to live in comfort. The Government is only acting to carry out the wishes of the people of White Hill.

It is my understanding, Sir, and I would like to inform the Honourable Senator, that the next time we come in here, if it is after the 15th of next month, he can be assured that the first 15 people from White Hill will be moved to Farmers in St. Thomas. The plan is, before the end of the year, to move the remaining persons to Farmers who have expressed a desire to go on to a place where they can get on with their lives.

This is a policy that I am pleased to be part of when an administration would consult with people before trying to force them into decisions to move, let us say, from White Hill to Orange Hill. The significant thing about it is, Sir, that the families can still remain together and they will still be in reasonably close proximity to White Hill. I do not think they would even have cared if a situation where they would not be in close proximity to people who have grown up with them in the White Hill area.

I want at this point in time to commend the Ministry of Housing for having the foresight to consult with the people of White Hill and to go ahead to acquire a substantial number of lots for the purpose of housing and sites and services because when this administration came to power in 1994, we found a situation where there were only 55 houses built between 1986 and 1994.

7.35 p.m.

There was a dire need for housing and sites and services. You get applications at the rate of about 700 per year for sites and services in Barbados and we have not been able to fulfill this need for sites and services in

this country. The Government must be commended for making effort throughout the country to acquire land for the purposes of sites and services and also for the purposes of developing starter homes and terrace type units so that the housing needs of this country, which have been neglected for about eight years under the Democratic Labour Party Government could be met.

Thank you very much, Mr. President and I want to implore other Members of this Honourable Chamber to give this Resolution their wholehearted support.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President, I am rising to support this Resolution and I am very glad for the clarification that has been given because I had several concerns as it was very complicated but I understand it a bit better now.

I would like to congratulate the Government for selling land to people at 10 cents per square foot in Barbados. It is needed. People in the lower income brackets cannot really afford to buy land at the exorbitant prices that exist and therefore if they can pay just what they can afford to pay every week or every month it would go a long way towards providing the necessary houses for the low income people that are needed in Barbados. I am also glad that at Farmers they will be able to pay 10 cents. Some people are willing to just try, put up a home bit by bit, room by room until they can expand their house and that is what is needed because they really cannot compete with the prices at the moment.

Mr. President, I would like to say that I have read the impending Resolution sent to us and it has not yet been discussed but I am looking forward to the time that we develop a land use policy in Barbados. I have been told that there is one. At a community hearing, I was told that the Government always had a land use policy and that all we have to do is to ask for it. I have been trying to ask but I have not been able to locate it at this point in time. Someone who was in charge at Town & Country Planning made that statement at a property meeting so therefore I would like to be enlightened on that, if anyone in here knows about the existing land use policy that is always there but yet we are saying that we need a land use policy.

With no more ado, I support this Resolution.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I am going to support the Resolution but I rise on the question of immediate payment to any land owner whose land is acquired for housing.

I know that there is a saying running through certain departments of Government that they know where land have been acquired from persons and the persons have died and

have not received their money. And I would wish that this might be the case whereby the Minister will make sure that everything is done to pay this land owner as soon as all requirements are completed because it is quite clear that there was a certain amount of 'shilly-shallowing' in this whole affair and when the land owner purchased the land from the National Housing Corporation he would have had to pay his cheque in order to get his conveyance on the completion of the conveyance and I hope that the Government will reciprocate as soon as they get matters finished that they would pay the land owner.

I hope that this will be the beginning that wherever Government acquires land from any person that payments are made within the normal time of vendor and purchaser and that persons will not have to die leaving the money for the land outstanding.

Also, this particular Resolution has brought to light some very revealing facts which have worried numerous persons before. There are very disturbing as Senator Rickinson has said and I am happy that Senator Murray has been able to clear the air because the Senator who spoke first, gave the impression that this acquisition was being used as a vindictive weapon against the land owner and we have to be careful in this society.

Many times I have said to Senator Boyce that in his speeches before the Chamber he should really consider his Party's policy and what he is putting forward before he makes statements. Because we have had this same experience in other land transactions in this country where development or sub-development of land have been turned down by Ministers responsible for land or housing in the Barbados Labour Party and immediately the Democratic Labour Party came to power those very lands were passed. A typical example of that is the lot at the corner of Haggatts Hall by Bussa where Town & Country Planning said to me, we turned it down and the Minister passed it, what do you want us to do?

I think when we are looking at land acquisitions, when we are looking at these things - I believe that Senator Boyce should be wary in what appears to me as casting aspersions on the Minister responsible for Housing when in truth and in fact, the history of the land was such that this matter should never have been debated in the Chamber.

I thought that as far as Senator Boyce was concerned that if this Resolution had slipped through the Chamber the public would not have known the 'shilly-shallowing' in this affair because it smacks of impropriety to think that a Senior Officer and a Manager of the Housing Authority who would know the policy of the Government, who would know the policy of his own department would go down

to such depths as to acquire land which was acquired, not for persons of that standing but for people who can ill-afford to buy other lands. Especially when one of the conditions are that you must swear an Affidavit that you own no other property in Barbados. If one should look at the application forms, it asks you for your salary, the number of persons per family, how many children and who will help you pay for these pieces of land which shows clearly that these sales by National Housing Corporation are designed for a certain level of purchasers.

I think, as I have said before, I am grateful to Senator Murray for having set the record right after the onslaught by Senator Boyce in this Chamber.

I support this Resolution. I thank you.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I am just really rising to explain a little thing about this land use policy. There is a Physical Development Plan, in fact there is a copy in the library and I was looking at it only today so if Senator Rickinson wants to, she can consult with it there.

However, in spite of the fact that we have this Physical Development Plan which was made in the early 1980s, it is now being revised. It has not in any way influenced Government policy in land use.
7.45 p.m.

We had a situation in the previous Government where 85% of the applications for development of agricultural land were turned down by the Town and Country Planning but that decision was reversed by the Minister responsible for Town Planning.

Now, I have always said that no Minister of Government should have this power and I think, from what we heard in the recent public consultations with the consultants who were preparing the new land use policy, they are saying very clearly this should not be there. I know I have had discussions with the Honourable Prime Minister on this before his coming to power and I think he felt along the lines that it was a disgrace what had happened in the previous administration.

I think we have an opportunity here with these consultants. They are doing things a little strangely because they have completed the first draft of the Physical Development Plan and then there are new consultants who are now looking at the agricultural sector. One would have thought that Government would have brought in the consultants to do the agricultural sector first and that would have fed into the Physical Development Plan. But we have the Physical Development Plan in its final phases of completion and the study on the agricultural sector has not yet started. So it is going to be a little bit strange if they come up with conflicting suggestions to Government but

that study I was told by the consultants in the original Physical Development Plan was due in November last year and I think the sooner that it is brought out, particularly to us in Parliament, so that we can have a look at it because I consider that it is going to be one of the major sources of debate in this island. As Senator Boyce said, I think this feeling of land use is probably the most important debate that is going to come in the coming elections. Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I sat and listened to the debate from both sides and I want to make my contribution this evening. One thing I want to state clearly. I intend to raise my concerns and no case put will in any way influence the questions I have to ask and what I have to say on this matter of this compulsory acquisition at Orange Hill in St. James.

Now, the Government has sought refuge for its action in what is termed an improper acquisition. I do not intend to deal with that matter. There are some questions which must be asked and I intend to do so.

Mr. President, the problem of land slippage at the Scotland District did not start...

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I beg your indulgence. On a point of order, the Honourable Member is misstating the facts as far as the Government's position is concerned. Our rationale for acquiring this land is not to redress some imbalance or to seek to right some improper acquisition but rather for housing purposes like to resite the residents from White Hill.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, this matter which is before us this evening has certain loaded implications within it and I am requesting some explanations from Government Side.

As I was saying earlier the problem of land slippage in the Scotland District is nothing new to us. In the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party for 1994 under our housing policy and the proposals section we indicated that housing relocation in the Scotland District would be a part of our programme if re-elected to Government. The point I am making is this that prior to today it was common knowledge that the people of St. Andrew had to be relocated.

Now, on more than one occasion since I have been in this Senate, I am going to be very careful because I note that I cannot remind fellow Senators that I voted with the Government, I supported the Government on a previous Resolution because a Democratic Labour Party Government recognised that individuals in that area had to be relocated. Hence when on the first occasion we were told that

an acquisition was being done for the purpose of relocating residents at White Hill I, with great haste, Sir, supported that Resolution. Since that day we have returned to this House on another occasion and we have heard again that a later acquisition was done in order to relocate residents at White Hill in St. Andrew. Not only that, Sir, in addition we had to face, for me, the embarrassment of the return of some parcels of land acquired to relocate these residents to the original owners.

Now, the question I want to ask the Government is this. Can the Government of Barbados tell me today the number of families in White Hill for which it has to seek relocation? I think this is important because it seems to me this is going to be some piecemeal deal over time. If we are conscious and this Government says it is very good on planning, it has everything in place, why is it that we are coming to this Chamber off and on dealing with these acquisitions to relocate the residents of White Hill? It is not a matter of predicting nature. We know already that there is a problem with the slippage of the land at White Hill. If we know the number of families or houses located at White Hill we do not have to predict nature. What we have to do is work out the size of land which we need in order to relocate these people.

I must say, Sir, we must ask questions when we are coming here in a piecemeal manner, when this Government which is claiming to be such a Government of good planners is coming and on each occasion and it is saying all because of an act of nature we have to move 5 or 6 families. Sir, I cannot accept it. I just cannot.

Now, I am not going to be caught in the debate because contrary to what I have heard coming out from the excitement, I saw exuded by Members of the Government Side, I was beginning to wonder whether they were looking for this particular thing because in their minds, it was improperly acquired in the first instance.
7.55 p.m.

At the end of the day, though, how many other residents are there at White Hill that this Government must resite? That is an answer which I want from the Leader of Government Business. This is a very well organised and managed Government we are told and I need the information.

In addition, Sir, you know I don't like this "holier than thou, cleaner than all", attitude that is displayed on the Government's Side. But to date, no proper explanation has been given either to this Senate or the people of Barbados for the reason for the change of ownership of that land. Because in addition to acquiring and returning it, it was returned after the change of use and then the owner was able to have his land back to develop it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you are reflecting on a matter on which the Senate has previously taken a decision. I would ask you to stick with the Resolution that is before the Senate.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, matters such as the one before us today...

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I am not going to allow myself to be side-tracked, everybody should have their own conscience and I am going to speak under the influence of my conscience.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I only ask you, Senator, to stick to the Standing Orders.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, the Government of Barbados must answer these questions. We still need land for the people in White Hill, because we were told that there are still other residents in White Hill to be resited.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I do not want to be in the dark, Sir, and I am hoping that the Leader of Government Business can tell me by the end of the day, and if he cannot, within a very short space of time, how many other residents of White Hill must be resited and whether we have to acquire other lands. Do we have enough lands?

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I am hearing about Farmers. Okay, if we have Farmers, if Farmers is available for the relocation of residents at White Hill, why then do we have to do this acquisition now? If Farmers is there and available why is there a need to acquire this?

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Okay then, if there is not enough and in addition to Farmers we need this, then why did we have to return that land that we bought for this purpose in the first instance?

I do not want anybody to believe that my intelligence is here to be insulted. We need answers, Mr. President. I have accepted, Sir, that, whenever there are problems affecting the people, the state must respond, especially problems brought on by acts of nature such as flooding, land slippage and matters of that sort.

Therefore, I have no difficulty with this. The Government is doing what it has been voted to do. But I do not understand when a Government has to be questioned, because people are not clear in their minds about certain matters and raise concerns, the level of bombardment that one is exposed to as one seeks to get certain explanations on matters, Sir.

As Senator Boyce said earlier, the Opposition is not supporting this Resolution. We are not supporting it because we have not been given the facts clearly in order for us to make the proper decision on whether to support the Government on this matter or not. There are still too many things left hanging in this particular area and, as a result, I am not going to support this Resolution.

I represent and speak on behalf of the small man in Barbados, everybody knows that. But I am not going to allow my representation or my defense of the small man to be clouded by certain actions of a Government, which is stating that they are thinking in the interest of the small man when things are questionable, and that is how I feel, Sir, about this particular Resolution, which deals with this acquisition of land at Orange Hill in St. James, Sir.

I am not going to hold up the Senate much longer on this matter. I need the answers. The Government has power and the Opposition has power too and therefore nobody will stop me from asking my questions here today, Sir.

In addition, I think we make certain mistakes about some things. It is not fair to say that the concerns expressed here are the narrow views of Members of the Opposition. And no Government, be it D, B or N should allow citizens of this country to get the impression that certain state powers are being used against the citizens of the country.

I want to say to the Government of Barbados that this indulgence by certain Members on the Government side, in name calling and personal attacks gives the impression, from time to time, that land acquisitions are being used against the citizens of this country. We must not allow that impression to go around.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: That is the problem. Sometimes you are so commanded by power...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, please address the Chair.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: ... that you just cannot see or hear what the people are saying. I am saying to the Government of Barbados – I should not be telling you this because I represent the Opposition – I am saying to the Government of Barbados that it must get out there and

listen, because at this time there is a concern in certain sections of this country that the power of land acquisition is being used by the Government against certain citizens of this country.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I did not make up that, Sir, and for whatever it is worth, I think the Government should listen carefully.

I think it is about two months or so ago, many Barbadians and people around the Caribbean were shocked when they heard of a shooting somewhere in the Caribbean. Do you know what they said it was associated with? In the news they said, "a compulsory acquisition of land by the Government."

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: We must not fool ourselves about these things. Land ownership in this country is a very dear and basic thing to the people of Barbados and I agree that from time to time, the Government has to acquire land in order to carry out certain projects for the benefit of the state as a whole.

Of course too, sometimes it incurs the anger and disappointment of a particular citizen, but we must not fool ourselves about this, because sometimes the Government takes so long to compensate these individuals, for their property which it has compulsorily acquired that the cost to these individuals is great. Sometimes between the space of time when Government acquires this land and would have compensated owners for this land, those individuals could have, while waiting on Government, purchased another property somewhere else at a reasonably good price.
8.05 p.m.

We must not fool ourselves. We are Barbadians and we know how Barbadians feel about land ownership. I really am not keen on discussing the matters deemed infelicitous or whatever. I just want to say that whenever we are going to think of resiting residents for any reason, should it be the extension of a highway, or need for a new housing project or whatever, we have to go about it in a more systematic way, where all individuals concerned who own property within the area have a reasonably good idea, within a reasonably good time, that they have to give up ownership of their property to the State.

I do not believe that there would be that feeling that somebody, for some reason, is coming after me and especially when certain things are said: "Oh yes. I knew they wanted to get me from the start. Based on certain statements that are coming in now, it is clear that

they wanted to get me." I do not think that a Government should be caught in that kind of accusation made against it by the citizens of a country.

I hope that we will be able to put to rest, and I mean the Government of Barbados, acting on behalf of the people of Barbados, will be able to put to rest the matter of the relocation of the residents at White Hill in St. Andrew. I hope that we will not return to this Honourable Chamber and have to indulge in a further debate on another acquisition in order to accommodate the residents of White Hill in St. Andrew.

I hope that by now the Government of Barbados has a reasonably good idea about the enormity, because it seems to be a fairly large project, of the relocation of residents in the Scotland District.

Whenever we come to this House and we are talking about housing a lot is said about the record of the former Democratic Labour Party administration in housing. When we hear from some of our very young Members of Parliament that in 8 years the Democratic Labour Party built 8 houses; Mr. President, I want to quote from the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party of 1994 under the heading Achievements 1991-94.

They inquired into the performance of the National Housing Corporation which completed 44 relocations, 164 rental units, 38 houses through joint ventures, sale of 681 lots through the sites and services programme, the sale of 411 properties, developed 480 lots, provided rental accommodation for 482 families and 82 general workers' loans.

Mr. President, 1991 to 1994 has been recognised as one of the difficult periods in the economy of this country, and the very people who seek to represent others and want to start their political career off on a pretty level and stable footing, should be seised of certain facts in order that they would not find their reputation tarnished in future when evidence can be produced to the contrary.

Therefore, I gave that information so that we will not hear again ever, that only 8 houses were constructed in Barbados in 8 years. In addition, we were told that there was this money sitting and no money was used at all from the Housing Credit Fund. Mr. President, during the period 1991 to 1994 the Housing Credit Fund disbursed \$4.8 million.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, are you on a point of order? I am hearing your voice. I should not be hearing it unless you are on a point of order. Please allow the Senator to be heard in silence!

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I intend, Sir, to make the record clear on these matters. I sit here and I tend

not to indulge in the little volleys, the little back and forth and the ping-pong that happens in here from time to time on a Wednesday.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I object to that, Senator. I do not think there is any ping-pong in this Chamber. If you are referring to asides, asides have been a feature of all parliaments. Most of them are not heard by the Chair. When heard, I discourage them.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I have insisted, Sir, on not replying to the allegations made from time to time on this matter but it is now 3 years since the Members on the Government Side of this Senate continue to have placed in print in this country and on the electronic media, radio and television that the former Democratic Labour Party administration did nothing for housing and I want to put it now here for this Government, because the record is there; and I would not say it because it is unparliamentary to say that they set out to mislead the people of Barbados, so I am not going to say that, but the evidence is there. That Ministers of Government would continue to spout that kind of misinformation, week after week, influencing the other young ones on that side, I cannot allow that to go on.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order. I am the one who mentioned the poor record of housing and it was not misinformation. I cannot accept the Honourable Member's quotation. Not that I do not believe her, but they themselves do not believe in that document. They say there is no social contract, so I cannot believe what they say from that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, not only have I quoted from this document from time to time but I have also done so from the Development Plan set out for the year 2000 and also in that plan can be found this information and even in the document put out recently by the Government of Barbados on Housing, its White Paper, Blue Paper or whatever its colour. I went through that document and this same information which I am delivering to this Chamber today is embodied in that document. That you would continue to defy yourselves to have that information on housing. A Government, having done its research, would place that information in document form for the people of Barbados and then ...
8.15 p.m.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. President. It is always customary in this Chamber that whenever a Member is going to cite from a document they should give us the reference, page number, *et cetera* so one could check what that Honourable Member is saying. There is no use standing up and saying: "I have quoted from that document." We do not know what that document is, page number, nothing. I would be glad

if the Honourable Member could enlighten us as to the page of the particular document.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please proceed. You have two minutes.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I will not be trapped. I say it when I have to say it. I know when I am quoting and when I am quoting I refer to the document from which I am quoting. At this time, I am making passing reference. I know it is there and the Member who spoke just before me knows it is there.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You need only say you are quoting from memory.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I could not leave here this evening and not express my feelings on this matter. I hope the Government of Barbados would take my comments in the spirit in which they were made. I do not view Parliament as a place for unnecessary battles because I do not see politics as sports, a game of chance or anything like that. At the end of the day the future of thousands of Barbadians hang and rest in the hands of individuals who come to these two Houses and make decisions from time to time. When I speak, I speak not only with honesty but with sincerity.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise on the conclusion of debate of this Resolution. I have an obligation really to clarify one or two issues. First of all, the last Senator who spoke made reference from memory to the Green Paper on Housing. I will go one better than that. I will actually quote from page 13 going into 14 of the Green Paper on Housing just to clarify the point. This is the one which was laid before this body. It says, Mr. President, in relation to the decline in the construction of rental units:-

"The decline in construction of new rental units was attributed, for the most part, to the financial viability of the Corporation."

It went on to say:

"This funding was discontinued in the late 1980s and restarted in the 1990s as Government employed stringent fiscal measures particularly during the period of structural adjustment. The effect of all this was that between 1990 and 1995 only 52 rental units were completed at Church Village, St. Philip."

I hope that helps to jog the goodly Senator's memory from the document from which she quoted from memory.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I would permit you to raise a point of elucidation, if you so desire.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Sir, on a point of elucidation. The Government put out two papers on Housing that Senator Farley is such a genius to know from which one I am quoting. For that I should give him credit, but I know it is in one of those documents. I have it clearly highlighted.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I wanted to engage Senator Thompson on this point where she was making the assertion to the Senate that acquisitions of land are used to the disadvantage of citizens, and I want to set that in proper context.

It must be remembered that going way back in history, in fact ...

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Mr. President. I have never said acquisitions were used. I said the "impression".

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I am most grateful for that point of clarification. Senator Thompson said that the impression is given that acquisitions are used to the disadvantage of citizens and I thank her for that precise clarification.

The fact of the matter is, Sir, that Barbados although having the last era of settlement, that is, the British and African settlement because we know it was settled by the Arawaks and Caribs many thousands of years before that, but after that settlement in Holetown in 1627, the maps by 1700 indicated Barbados as being fully settled and owned by private hands with a description of a map around that period showing that there were some 10 or so of what they called large holdings and some 2 000 of what they called small holdings so even at that time there were no public lands to do anything.

In fact, the several reports which arose out of the investigations into the conditions which caused the Riots in 1937 such as the Moyne Report, 1939, the Housing Board Report, 1943 and the Stockdale Report of 1946 indicated that one of the most urgent and pressing needs was the provision of housing. In fact, they couched it in terms of access to land by the working class so it was as early as 1700 that all the land was privately owned.

The evidence as collected through the National Housing Corporation, for example, in terms of the numbers of persons applying to rent land, to rent houses, to buy land and so on, indicates that there is still a need for the State to intervene on behalf of the working-class persons of Barbados to enable them to have access to lands and housing in Barbados.

We would be failing as a Government if we were to renege from that responsibility to act in the interest of the working-class persons, such as myself, in the provision of housing. From this document again, Sir, if you were to look at what was said to be needed, it states:-

"(a) the need for land acquisition by the State for working-class housing

(b) the construction of rental units, and

(c) the establishment of loan schemes, subsidies, self-help housing and hire purchase schemes."

Those were the prescriptions which were given by those three reports in 1937.

Sir, the fact of the matter is that if the State is to fulfil its mandate on behalf of the working class of Barbados for the provision of housing and access to land, and the State does not itself, from as far back as 1700 have a residual of Crown lands that it over a period of time subdivide and grant to its working-class population, it has to acquire it from somewhere. So that therefore land acquisition by definition will some where along the line discomfort some individual citizen, if you want to couch it in those terms. At the end of the day when one has to exercise a choice and a judgement, you are guided by the greater good for the greater number and also for those who are the most vulnerable and in greater need of the help of the State. So that the poor persons who require these housing lots therefore must be considered as well. I am surprised to hear such a strong argument being advanced against the provision of additional housing.

8.25 p.m.

I just wanted to set acquisitions in general within that broad philosophical framework because it is important that we do not get too carried away on the specifics of one or two matters but that we understand what we are doing when we are dealing with involvement of the State and housing.

Reference was made as well to performance and I quote here from the 24th Annual Report of the National Housing Corporation for the period April 1, 1996 to March 30, 1997. During that year, for example, to look at Government's involvement in housing through the National Housing Corporation, an area of neglect has been corrected. For example, in the matter of providing maintenance and upgrading to the industrial estates, some \$4 million was spent during that financial year.

In terms of joint venture building programmes for houses, during that financial year some 75 low income joint venture houses were completed and another 47 was still in progress including the Cane Garden Project. In terms of sites and services, which is where, perhaps the greatest need

is exhibited amongst working-class Barbadians. Sites and Services provides an opportunity for working-class Barbadians to have an access to a district where they have electricity, water, good roads and where they are able to do their own construction because it allows them to be able to make some way of input by way of equity into the value of the homes for a smaller outlay of cash.

We, during that period, Sir, were able to set in train the development of some 1 000 sites of which some 321 were actually completed during that year and the others were in various stages of work up to March last year relating to the completion of road work with some applications to be completed by the Chief Town Planner and the like.

Continuing on again, not quoting from memory, but very specific reference is made to a document of this Honourable Chamber, the National Housing Corporation also relocated several houses which were subject to land slippage in St. Thomas, we did some relocation in Benn Hill, the Weston flood victims, Chalky Mount and Cleavers Hill and so. In addition, as if they were not busy enough, they were also able to embark on a number of housing projects. Fifteen terrace units at Maynards, the Pondsides Project was resurrected after eight years of being put on the back burners, six blocks comprising twenty four three-bedroom units. Twelve two-bedroom units. Another eight two-bedroom units. Eight one-bedroom units in addition to eight shops and a Day Nursery. There was also a new project for the construction, Sir, of twenty terrace units at Flat Rock in St. George.

Sir, the rental of houses. They were able to provide rental accommodation for an additional 100 families during that financial year alone. They were able to provide rental of spots as indicated earlier for several other persons. A number of properties were also sold. A number of houses were sold and seventy lots were actually conveyed and that was the final part of the sales. Housing lots were actually sold as well, some 279.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY Yes, in one year. Sir, this is no phantom, this is no figment of the imagination. These are the facts as has been laid on the table and it demonstrates quite clearly the Government's commitment founded in the responsibility recognised by those persons who investigated the conditions in 1937 and who recommended quite strongly that we use the power of the State for the betterment of the working class of this country.

We will not rest, Sir, until that mission is accomplished. We are satisfied that given the level of the demand as demonstrated from the applications to the

National Housing Corporation that we have to continue for some time to come in this particular regard.

Mr. President, with those few points of clarification which I felt constrained to make, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative the Senate dividing as follows:

Ayes: Senator the Honourable R. R. FARLEY, Senator the Honourable P. C. GODDARD, Senator the Honourable G. S. H. MURRAY, Senator Miss C. Y. FORDE, Senator T. E. BARKER, Senator the Hon. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS, Senator D. T. GILL, Senator Miss J. C. ODLE, Senator N. A. LYNCH, Senator N. P. WELCH,

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON, His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN, Senator Mrs. V. J. DAVIS. (13)

Noes: Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON (1)

Abstention: Senator C. K. LAURIE (1)

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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WELCH, Senator N. P.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY. IT IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

1. The first part of the report is a summary of the work done during the period.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed account of the work done during the period.

3. The third part of the report is a summary of the results of the work done during the period.

4. The fourth part of the report is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the period.

5. The fifth part of the report is a summary of the recommendations made as a result of the work done during the period.

6. The sixth part of the report is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the period.

7. The seventh part of the report is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the period.

8. The eighth part of the report is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the period.

9. The ninth part of the report is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the period.

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12. The twelfth part of the report is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the period.

13. The thirteenth part of the report is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the period.

14. The fourteenth part of the report is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the period.

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16. The sixteenth part of the report is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the period.

17. The seventeenth part of the report is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the period.

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THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, February 18, 1998

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on February 18, 1998, at 11.20 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Fred GOLLOP (President)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senator D. T. GILL

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator N. A. LYNCH

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator J. A. WORKMAN

Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN

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.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1997.
2. Customs (Warehousing of Goods) (Amendment) Notice, 1998.
3. Value Added Tax Order, 1998.
4. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 23) Order, 1997.
5. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 24) Order, 1997.
6. Annual Report and Statements of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1996.
7. Exchange Control (Travellers) (Amendment) Order, 1997.
8. Annual Report of the National Sports Council for financial year 1995/1996.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I would suggest that we amend the Standing Orders as soon as possible because it seems that we have to go around the Standing Order every time we sit. I wonder why the Standing Order is there if it is necessary to go around it every time. I am referring to Standing Order 45(2) which says that we are not giving enough notice.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your comment is noted. You may wish to bring a substantive Resolution on that under the Rules if you wish to bring about a change.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

1. The Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1998.
2. The Customs (Amendment) Bill, 1998.
3. The Public Enterprise Investment Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1998.
4. The Copyright Bill, 1998.

I also beg to move that the following Bills be read a first time:

1. The Public Enterprise Investment Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1998.
2. The Copyright Bill, 1998.
3. The Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1998.
4. The Customs (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

The question that the Bills be read a first time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF LANDS AT BAKERS, SAINT PETER

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Resolution before the Honourable Senate seeks the Senate's approval for the vesting of lands at Bakers, St. Peter in the National Housing Corporation for the purposes of housing development. The land in question, Sir, consists of two parcels, one parcel measuring 6,586.5 square metres and the other parcel measuring 22 603 square metres.

As Honourable Members would recall, this land was acquired by the Crown in an earlier sitting, for the purpose of housing development and this Resolution seeks to vest this land in the agency of the Government which is responsible for the execution of housing development policies and programmes, namely, the National Housing Corporation.

Again, Sir, this is for general housing development. The details have been discussed already in the earlier proposal for the acquisition.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, this Resolution is really, as the Honourable Senate Leader said, just a matter of vesting the lands already acquired in the National Housing Corporation for purposes of housing development. Sir, it is precisely because of that mandate of the National Housing Corporation that I feel inclined to make a few comments on this particular Resolution.

Sir, I believe that the Government of Barbados has got to do more by way of providing adequate housing for Barbadians. I think that a perusal of the Annual Reports of the National Housing Corporation would bring the Members of the Honourable Senators here to that very sober conclusion. That is, that the Government of Barbados is not, in reality, serving the purpose for which it has given a mandate by way of its agent, the National Housing Corporation. The number of applications for housing units continues to climb and year after year, we have Ministers, in public statements and whatever referring to the fact basically, that there has been little or no progress.

Sir, I think this is regrettable in an environment where the economy of the island has now been shown to be on much firmer ground and there are indications that the indices which normally give credence to growth in an economy are beginning to show some progress as it refers to the Barbados economy. It is time we start putting away the battle about who is responsible for getting the economy to the stage where it is at, or who does the most in respect of ensuring that the economic growth is sustainable and recognise that we are here today, February 1998 and still the problem of housing and housing for poor people in Barbados remains a major issue.

As we look at these Resolutions, I know that there are a number of them, I must ask myself, what is the exercise about? What is the exercise about, of coming here and vesting land in the National Housing Corporation and two months after, three months after, six months after, there is absolutely no movement in respect to finding homes

whether there are permanent homes or temporary homes for the people of Barbados. When you walk these constituencies and you look at some of the conditions which our people still live in, the question becomes even more burning.

Sir, I think that it is time that the Government of Barbados takes the National Housing Corporation to task and make sure that some progress, some real progress is made in reducing the number of requests for houses by the masses of Barbados. Whenever we have the unfortunate incident of a fire, you find politicians, you find members of the clergy, you find community holders running from pillar to post trying to make arrangements for the adequate temporary housing of these people. There is no provision by the National Housing Corporation of units which can be applied temporarily to cases like these.

We hear constant utterances which are no more than promises that something will be done. And to this day, as recently as three weeks ago, one is unable to move the organs of the Barbados Labour Party Administration to find a home for even one fire victim. So as we vest these lands in the National Housing Corporation the question must be asked what is ...

11.30 a.m.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order, I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member but I do so if only for his enlightenment. It is a stated fact and a policy that all Governments have always kept a few houses in every estate available for emergency cases. They are not enough but some are kept and when people are told that they are not available it is because Government, as a deliberate policy, keeps a few houses available for fire victims.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: The point I want to make is nothing to do with what Government's deliberate policy is. I am dealing with what happens out there on the street. The results of the enquiries for houses, even in cases of hardship, Sir, are for the most part negative and I am saying there is inadequate provision of even emergency housing and there have been suggestions as to the way in which these things can be done, the way in which units can be provided.

I am not one who is going to go and try to tell the technocrats what kind of unit they should look to construct by way of temporary housing. I would not want to go and tell the technocrats of the National Housing Corporation, the engineers, what type of unit they should build to be used as temporary, movable housing but the point is they are none available in most cases when enquiries are made. As I said these enquiries are not to do with politicians alone, it is to do with churches, it is to do with community

workers who cannot find places for people even in emergencies.

Sir, we have had national discussion about starter units being constructed. We have had national utterances by Ministers about temporary units being commissioned, contracts being issued to building contractors to have units prefabricated, but the point is the people of Barbados are not seeing the results of these kinds of utterances. So there is no contact between the policy as enunciated by the Government and the actual impact on the ground with our citizens and this is where I will divide with the members on that side. If they do not recognise the point I am trying to make that no matter what policy we might think there is in place unless we have got the manpower and indeed the will to ensure that all of the bases are adequately covered, you know, Sir, I am sure we will get the opportunity as the months roll on because the question of housing brings one directly to the question of land and the National Housing Corporation can only get land if there is land available for them to acquire or for the Government to acquire and then vest it in their name.

Now the point I want to make, Sir, is that we are seeing in Barbados an influx of upper and super class building taking place and I, this Senator am seeing minimalist, to borrow the term, or no activity in respect of housing for the ordinary man in the street. The point is that the National Housing Corporation has a mandate to see about this kind of arrangement and they even have today a situation, I read about it even before I came up, indicating that the National Housing Corporation indeed have now vacated their premises at Country Road. They are moving to temporary quarters at Roebuck Street and this is to facilitate their intention to build a \$12 million complex at Warrens.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am corrected, Sir, at Country Road.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wish to make another point. The specific Resolution relates to the vesting of land at Bakers, St. Peter and I am asking you to abide by the terms of the Resolution.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I want to urge, Sir, that when the National Housing Corporation finally has control of the lands at Bakers, as this Resolution seeks to give them, they will put as a priority action, the provision of temporary housing for an agreed number, be it 10 units or whatever for temporary housing and they will institute with the required will, because I know it will be extremely difficult to manage any situation like that but one has to bite the bullet sometimes and do things that are

difficult and put in place regulations which will have to apply in the event that the temporary housing is to be used.

Sir, I think the National Housing Corporation must be charged with the responsibility of providing temporary shelter for emergency cases. In respect, Sir, to the larger problem of providing housing units for Barbados this Bakers land is one way we can exercise that mandate. We have heard again, public discussion on the ability of Government or the inability of Government to carry out these building contracts themselves. I have certainly heard Ministers in this Administration state that as far as they are concerned some private sector companies have shown greater competence in respect of building small low income housing and they refer specifically to projects in St. George and also in Proute. Anyway the point is that there have been indications that the Government of Barbados believes that with private sector cooperation they can achieve greater efficiency in terms of building houses for poor people in places like Bakers.

Sir, it has been at least two years that I have heard these comments and there have been no results in this regard either. I am saying, Sir, there is a large vacuum between the utterances and the promises of this administration in respect to a housing policy and the actual policy that is in place on the ground, the policy that impacts on the residents and the citizens of Barbados and we are going to have a very serious situation on our hands if we do not look to redress that list of enquiries for house spots and indeed for land by citizens of Barbados. If we are constantly acquiring and vesting lands like in Bakers, and yet the list is getting bigger and bigger, well then we have a fundamental problem. Maybe we are not doing the right thing. We are not careful enough about the way in which we are distributing our scarce resource land. We have a contest between agriculture, we have a contest between tourism and we have a contest between the needs of the citizens of Barbados. And it is time the administration, that the persons put in positions of leadership in this country recognise that we have to have the fullest debate in this regard. I know, Sir, again from public discussion that there is such a discussion contemplated.

11.40 a.m.

We have had instances, where the Ministry of Health, if I recall correctly about a year ago now, because it was just around the time, Sir, when I joined this Honourable Chamber at the request of the Leader of the Opposition, the Ministry of Health was commissioning a study into the whole question of house building and land use in Barbados and it was felt then that we should be awaiting the results of this inquiry. This inquiry was going to be funded, I believe, by the United Nations or some such agency and, Sir, it was going to be to the tune of, I think,

US\$1.8 million and all kinds of technocrats were invited to attend. I remember Honourable Senators indeed indicated that they had been to the opening. Since the opening, Sir, I have heard nothing more on this Commission, so, I wonder if that has gone to bed too. And, of course, the ordinary folk of Barbados languish in need of houses. In need of land that they can afford.

When we are dealing with the Resolution like the Resolution to vest the land at Bakers in the National Housing Corporation, one wonders how quickly this is going to have, if any at all, an effect on the needs or the waiting list of persons in this country. Sir, the ordinary Barbadian is looking on at a stage which sees foreign investors coming to this country, Sir, and they are buying up land and houses at exorbitant prices. The last price I have heard quoted, for instance, for land on the west coast of Barbados is something like \$1 000 per square foot. That is the way it is going in some areas.

It is mind boggling even to contemplate, but are we not creating a time bomb in this country? People at Bakers will be able to sit, provided that they are given houses, because that is the only way the use of this land, provided that something is done for them to either purchase or rent or lease the land, and something is done to ensure that they can get mortgages within a range that will allow them to build a property on the land at Bakers, they will overlook the Hayman's factory and beyond and they will be able to see the kind of development that is taking place, right beneath their noses.

Sir, the Barbados Labour Party's Administration must be mindful of the fact that the difference between the poor and rich in this country is growing even larger. The gap is getting even larger. And no continual references, Sir, to the strength of the economy and the foreign reserves will remove that difference. Only a policy which contacts with the needs of our people will do anything to erode that vast gap that we are creating. I say "we", because we are the legislators of the day and we must take our responsibility away from the partisan position which, Senator Barker for instance, likes to take.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. President, I have not spoken in this debate and I do not know why the Honourable Senator is drawing me into it. I have not spoken.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think the Senator was making a general point. I am not adjudicating on whether it was a good point or not a good point, but he has a point. I do not think that your point of order is valid.

Please continue.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the point is that we have sometimes to sit back because all Governments are driven by the needs to see the economies grow to see the development. I really think the time has come in Barbados where we have to stop, press pause and look at what is going on. Because there are a number of inequalities taking place and I do not want to, unless I am nudged any further by Senator Goddard, I am not going to refer to any of them specifically. But, I have my information. I have the sources right here and I am prepared at anytime, Sir, that Senator Goddard wishes to talk about the kinds of investments or kinds of land movements that we are seeing in Barbados now, things, Sir, which border on the questionable. Let us leave it at that, Sir, unless Senator Goddard wants me to elaborate.

We need therefore, Sir, as we contemplate these Resolutions to ensure that the National Housing Corporation is made more aware of its mandate in respect to the provision of housing and lands for our ordinary Barbadians to use. And, Sir, I want to see the same energies applied to these Ministries in respect to providing benefits for ordinary Barbadians that is obviously applied daily to Ministries related to foreign investment and to finance and tourism.

I think there is evidence of astute growth, and I said so, not in here, but we seem in Barbados to have a feeling that some Ministries are super Ministries and others are not.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, you are out of order. Your presentation is replete with irrelevancies. I am asking you once again to return to the terms of the Resolution which is before the Senate.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I want to urge that the Ministry of Housing through its agent, National Housing Corporation treats the provision of housing at Bakers and in other words, having vested the land in the National Housing Corporation, I would like to see the movement to conveyances to ordinary Barbadians, expedited, Sir. And in the same way that we see what we call "fast-tracked" activities related to tourism and finance in this country. Sir, that is my humble and abiding plea that the relevant Ministry puts the necessary fast-track in place to allow ordinary Barbadians to benefit from the kinds of legislation which we are dealing with. The legislation like the one to vest the land at Bakers in the National Housing Corporation, and so that it does not remain merely on the books of the National Housing Corporation as a statistic.

As many as there are and if we look at the reports of the National Housing Corporation the evidence is there. Land is acquired and land is vested and nothing happens

after that. The list of enquiries grows and grows and grows and that is precisely the point, Sir, I want to make.

I am grateful to Your Honour.

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

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

**ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
SALE TO HORIZON RESORTS LIMITED OF
LAND AT VILLA NOVA, ST. JOHN, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF
THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING
AND DISPOSAL) ACT,
CAP. 225**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, approval of the Honourable Senate is being sought for the sale of land located at Villa Nova, St. John, to Horizon Resorts Limited. This approval is required in accordance with the terms of the relevant legislation, the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225.

This property in question is one of several disused public conveniences which the Government has over the last several years been in the process of disposing. As you will recall, Sir, the general approach to the disposal of these disused public conveniences has been to have public advertisement, of which there have been several in the Press, over time, and consideration in terms of the approval of applications to purchase preference is given to individuals and businesses which own properties adjacent. The activity which is proposed for use of the property would enhance the area.

This disused public convenience in this case is locked on three sides by the property which is part of Villa Nova Plantation house and grounds which has been proposed for development of a luxury hotel. The fourth side of that property is the public road so it is only natural that by way of disposal of this disused public convenience as has been the case with the many others which have been brought to the Honourable the Senate for approval of their sale that we should make the sale to the property owner which is adjacent to the convenience.

The area in question, Sir, some 137.5 square metres which is 1350 square feet roughly and the proposed price to be paid is some \$7 000. I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I want to start by saying that we do not have any difficulty with

the Resolution. The development proposed is in the parish of St. John but it is actually in the constituency of St. Joseph. We need to look at that too.

Sir, the Senate Leader was very careful to point out it is just a small piece of land, it is \$7 000 and it has a public convenience on it, but I think we need to talk a little more about the entire project. It is not an acquisition by itself but it is part of the plan for the development of Villa Nova into what they referred one time to as an eco-tourism resort or something of that nature. The plan being to build an inland hotel with certain amenities. Of course, we do not have the privilege of the details of that because that is not the substantive matter we are dealing with today.

As time evolves and certainly when other Senators on that side contribute, they might be in a position to elaborate to a much larger extent on the details of the entire project for the Villa Nova Resort. So to say that the acquisition abuts and abounds X, Y and Z and then a passing reference to Horizon Resorts would askew the whole debate. The discussion is about the acquisition by Horizon Resorts for the purposes of hotel development and obviously they have included this project. Certainly we want to support the development of this project. There are other projects in the area. There is a national park project which we have heard nothing more about in the same vicinity and we would like to hear from Government something more about this, Sir. We know their record on national parks is not a good one in respect of what they do with them so we would like to hear from them about the development for the national park in the same Villa Nova area.

The other important thing is as we contemplate tourism development and as Horizon Resorts go about this acquisition and the development of their project one of the major points will be the infrastructure and of course we know that there has been, I would almost say, deliberate neglect of the roads in this area and the Government of Barbados needs to bear in mind that as developers look at building their facilities the need for access has to transcend narrow political views. I would like to urge that the Foster Hall major road in the region be brought up to scratch.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, on a point of order. I am not criticising your ruling. I think we are taking this a bit too far.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have not ruled, Senator.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I am not criticising how you conduct the order of the House but we are dealing with the sale of a portion of land to a proposed purchaser. I have been in the House of Assembly from 1970 and I have never heard debate of this nature yet where on a Resolution for the sale of a piece of land we

talk about repairing roads somewhere else down the road. The Resolution itself does not even contain the word "road" that you can make that the basis of your divergence from what is before the Honourable Chamber.

I believe the Honourable Senator should learn by now that that is not the way to debate. The Honourable Senator has a problem. His problem arose from last week when he found himself outside the Central Bank and he is raising the problem that Dipper Barrow raised years ago and died with.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, you have made your point. Senator Boyce, I am sure you will accept some guidance from a very senior parliamentarian.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I take the ruling from you on these matters.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I said some guidance. I think one can always learn from others as well. I have already spoken to you about the question of bringing extraneous and irrelevant matter into debate and I have been observing with great interest how you are trying to expand the acquisition of 1350 square feet into Foster Hall and various parts of St. John which I know very well.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, if this acquisition were by one of the other surrounding landowners it would indeed be a very small issue but it is by Horizon Resorts Limited, the company responsible for the development of the Villa Nova Hotel property that we all know about. This is the only reason why my discussion might have ventured into the area of the Villa Nova development and related infrastructure.

I understand very well that we are dealing with a small piece of land but sometimes, as they say, the straw breaks the camel's back. Not to contemplate there is any back to be broken in this case because it is only a small parcel of land, the point being that Horizon Resorts Limited who are acquiring this piece of land, this disused bath, is going to include it in its major hotel project and indeed it is going to be among the projects for Barbados. We have not had this kind of inland tourism development for some time and we know how people are attracted to places like Nicholas Abbey, for instance, where a lot of the history of Barbados is being preserved by way of films, photographs and our ancestors who have kept these things.
12.00 noon.

We know how in the instance of Morgan Lewis we have seen this same kind of preservation being contemplated and being carried out by the private sector so I would hope that Horizon Resorts Ltd. might even contemplate preserving this bath or rebuilding it to

its former structure and using it as a landmark of Barbados. It is part of our heritage. It is part of our culture and although we do not like to contemplate it, I would hope that we do not have to go back to Horizon Resorts Ltd. and ask them for it again because we are selling it to them for \$7 000 but I know that by the time they are finished with it, we would not be able to acquire it that easily.

The point is, Sir, that the acquisition though not in itself a large issue, is part of a major development thrust in tourism in this country and as such we need to ponder on these things. I therefore find it impossible to discuss Horizon Resorts Ltd. acquisition of this bath without also discussing to some extent the entire project contemplated by Horizon Resorts Ltd.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not agree with you. I am asking you finally to stick to the terms of the Resolution.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Therefore, as I started by saying, Sir, we have no major difficulty with the acquisition. I trust that the Government will be paying its utmost attention to the entire project that is contemplated at Villa Nova in respect of the direction it takes and the provision of all the amenities and, indeed, any concessions that might be contemplated because these things impact very seriously on the entire economic spectrum of Barbados.

Sir, we need, therefore, to be sure that these kinds of developments are not allowed to go on like roller coasters and not the appropriate controls being put in place from time to time. We look forward to the inclusion of this area in the entire development. We would hope that all the normal controls that should attend such an investment will apply in this case.

Sir, I am grateful to you.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, I was almost looking forward to a debate. I thought that Senator Boyce was going to lead us down the line to a tourism or land use debate but he wandered off to Foster Hall and all kinds of places.

Sir, I think the acquisition of this land is very important for two points. One is from the whole concept of the tourism aspect and continued investment in lands outside of what we would consider to be traditional or normal tourism lands and tourism landscapes into places which we do not traditionally hold as tourism development areas.

The interesting thing about this is the confidence obviously that is coming into Barbados in terms of investment that we are diversifying our tourism product to

a state that we can have now tourism facilities being built in places where none existed before or did not exist to this level.

A hotel in St. John is certainly an interesting development because it speaks to the concept of the diversification of Barbados' tourism product, an aspect which no one in the Democratic Labour Party has any moral authority to speak on at all.

Sir, in Barbados, one of the things we were faced with was a concept of a lack of quality rooms and this particular hotel in St. John brings into the mix the kind of quality rooms that we need now.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, please bear in mind that this Resolution is not about tourism. It is about the acquisition of a very small parcel of land.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Only 30 000 square feet, Sir. I am very well aware.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. It is 1 300 square feet, we were told.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Sir, the concept here is this that for that piece of land to be running alongside a major development, one would obviously not want anyone to acquire it to do anything else. The concept of this being important to that particular project, which is a tourism project I think is worth developing. Now, I am not going against your ruling but it is important that we know that the quality pieces of land that we need in Barbados outside of the areas that abut and abound a major tourism project are important pieces of land that we need to speak about in tourism terms because we are moving out of the aspect of only sand, sea and surf and moving into places we need to get major development in.

Sir, I think it necessary also to talk about how important that land becomes in terms of price once you start to put tourism projects in the middle of areas which are not traditional areas because one of the important things which is going to happen is that I believe the price of land abutting and abounding to that land is obviously going to go up. I believe it is necessary for us to be very clear, and I know other people have spoken to this issue in other places, about how the cost of that land now is going to relate to the other land around it and whether we are not moving into a situation where some people may seemingly believe that they are being displaced in terms of ownership of these types of lands.

Sir, I am well aware that the land debate has become a very important public debate and I believe it is necessary for us to come back on track to be able to

guide Barbadians, even if nothing else but for the psychological welfare of our people, that it is important that they understand that the ownership of lands in certain places are not to their exclusion. I think it is important that in a debate like this that when you speak to pieces of land in which people are now building hotels in places where they have never built hotels, that we need a clear and distinct policy guiding us in terms of how these lands are both bought and sold.

Sir, as we said, if it is a tourism debate, or if it is not a tourism debate may not be important but the concept that Barbados' tourism product is now being diversified is that we can build hotels in areas which are not being built certainly speaks to the quality and importance that this Government places in diversifying our product outside what is normal because we are going to need it not only for our own existence but for our survival in the tourism industry in the future.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I must confess I was somewhat disappointed at the presentation of Senator Boyce, if only because I thought this would have been an excellent chance of further projecting his thesis and his party's thesis on the deprivation of a "small black man" for the benefit of "big landed white" interest or whatever he might call it. I am surprised that he missed this. This is a classic case of 137.5 square metres of land owned by one Anthony Bell which would have been agreed in 1989 should be sold to an Andrew Bell of Villa Nova who, from what I understand, is a "small black man". I am surprised that Senator Boyce, rather than ranging far and wide and irrelevant, did not seek to take up the case of the small black man. This is not a generalised issue. This is a specific case of what could be called a small black man being taken advantage of, being deprived of his land, for big interest.

12.10 p.m.

Sir, I said that maybe the reason is that while this is a small portion of land and while, according to his Party's thesis, would normally represent the disadvantageous use of land of a small black man, it is really symbolic of major development in St. John. I think that this is what he was afraid to really delve into, because while it is a small portion of land being sold to a major development, the development of itself to which it is connected, the development which is being undertaken by Horizon Resorts Limited, represents, Sir, a major development for St. John. Sir, it is perhaps one of the first real set of development that has come to St. John since the days of the Barbados Labour Party who had put in a lot of physical and social infrastructure in St. John.

The Honourable Member spoke of the deliberate policy of neglect in St. John. I believe that he was confessing on behalf of his Party, because the records will show that his Party represented St. John since 1958, many of which was by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and then by another Minister. So then that "deliberate neglect" could not have come about since 1994. So he is really indirectly chastising his Party, even though he might have been attacking the Barbados Labour Party as being part and parcel of that deliberate neglect.

He wants to know about the national plan for the area, but he never once mentioned that famous St. John Development Plan. I thought that he would have used this occasion to show that there would have been a linkage between the development being contemplated and undertaken by Horizon Resorts Limited and how that would fit into the overall scheme of development as part of the St. John Development Plan. Again, Sir, that was not to be and therefore that also contributed to my disappointment.

I welcome this development, Sir, because like I said, it represents a major step forward for St. John through the type of development that Senator Lynch particularly alluded to in detail, that will come to St. John. Because it would help to bring St. John into the mainstream of economic life in Barbados after many, many years of being on the periphery.

I must say, Sir, that I am not a resident of St. John but I have a particular feeling for St. John. I got to know it very well over the last two or three years because of Community Independence Celebrations and I have become very fond of St. John. After driving around St. John and travelling through St. John and associating with the good people of St. John, on behalf of those people I know and like so well in St. John, I welcome this development and I look forward to it being the forerunner of many more to come to the people of St. John so that St. John will never be again be regarded as the poorest parish in Barbados.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution and to recommend it to this Honourable Senate. I see the Villa Nova development as being a significant development for Barbados as Senator Boyce earlier said by moving tourism into that part of Barbados.

It is a project that has attracted the support of the people in the area, in Wilson Hill, Claybury and Venture and the surrounding areas. It is indeed an historical site that was built in 1834 by Edmund Haynes who was at that time living just to the West at a house called 'Belmont' and

he named the new house, his new home 'Villa Nova'. It is also remarkable to note that Mr. Edmund Haynes built Mount Tabor Church and contributed mightily to the education of people in St. John in the early part of the 19th century.

The historical linkages between the education of the disenfranchised and the children of slaves and Villa Nova is an important aspect of the historical past of Barbados. This site will be a site that will change the dynamics of the hospitality industry in this country. It will make the history of Barbados live, it will bring a new knowledge base dimension to the hospitality industry. It will bring new standards of quality and of service and it is entirely in keeping that this small piece of land be incorporated in this property so that it will make homogeneous and aesthetically pleasing appearance to those who not only come to stay at Villa Nova but for those residents that live in the area and who have developed one of the most outstanding small parks in the area at the base of Wilson Hill.

Mr. President, I think that this development in St. John will be the first of many as Senator Murray said. It is also noteworthy that it is one of the first projects that this Government approved when it came to office in 1994. It is pleasing to note that this Government's policy of giving the investors the confidence to stay the course over a very difficult gestation period.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution. Just very briefly to say that much has been said and much has not been said on the Resolution today. But I think, Sir, that arising out of all that is before us today, we need to ask the question, what is the Resolution really saying to us as a people?

I think, Sir, that as one would be driving past this piece of property, one would, on the outside say, this is just a misused bath. It is obvious that the owners of the adjoining property have seen some value in it and are incorporating it into their own development.

I think that it is this aspect of the Resolution that we need to get across to our people in Barbados, especially when we are going to talk about the poor black man and so forth. To let people understand that we need to be able to look beyond what seems to be derelict, like the artist or the sculptor and see that there is some use in what other people are throwing away.

This is what we as Barbadians need to understand, to look beyond the shell and to see the use that is behind it so that locals can also acquire some of these derelict properties and use them for good financial and economic use in the future.

I support the Resolution, Sir. I think this is what we, as Barbadians, need to understand, to look beyond the shell, see the use that is behind it, so locals can also acquire some of these derelict properties and use them for good financial economic use in the future. I support this Resolution, Sir.
12.20 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 THE
VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF PARCELS OF LAND AT
BUSH HALL MAIN ROAD, ST. MICHAEL
FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Senate is being sought for the vesting of this land some 3005.5 square metres at Bush Hall to the National Housing Corporation. Members will recall that this land was acquired previously for the purposes of housing and, as is required and as has been the practice, Sir, the approval of the Senate is required under Section 5(c) of the Crown Lands Vesting and Disposal Act, Cap. 225. Approval of the Senate is required if the land is to be sold, exchanged, granted, assigned, vested or any such matter by Parliament.

As indicated, Sir, it is for housing development as would have been indicated in the initial debate on the Resolution for acquisition and I beg to move that this Resolution for vesting in the National Housing Corporation do now pass.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I am very interested in this Resolution. It is generally recognised that all men and women are entitled to basic opportunities which give them dignity and make life worthwhile and one of these of course is housing.

I grew up in the Bank Hall/Bush Hall area. My grandparents lived in Bush Hall for some time, kept a shop there and I, like many of my contemporaries, used to go for walks all over Bank Hall and therefore as I said before I know the area well and I have been a bit put out in recent times to see that there are some houses which have deteriorated, some because they are owned by aged people who can no longer afford to maintain them and some by people who have died and this is a wonderful opportunity to improve the quality of housing in St. Michael Central and in St. Michael generally.

These buildings, I understand, that are going to be erected are going to be high-rise between 25 and 30, similar to what is at Kensington Lodge and as

Senator Murray reminded me, Pondsides where these units are progressing beautifully. Twenty will soon start at Flat Rock and 28 in St. James at Orange Hill. Part of Government's policy is to satisfy demands that really are very great.

I understand that Government has acquired land and this land will provide approximately 3 061 house spots over the next 2 years. Therefore it is with the greatest pleasure that I support this Resolution. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

**ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
VESTING OF LAND AT HOYTE'S VILLAGE,
ST. JAMES IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING
CORPORATION**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution for the vesting of land in the National Housing Corporation is in respect of land at Hoyte's Village, St. James, some 20 728 square metres of land for housing purposes and some 1 293 square metres of land to provide an access road to that particular development.

Again, Sir, the matters in relation to this property have been ventilated in the course of the presentation on the acquisition and I therefore just beg to move, Sir, that the Resolution for the vesting of this land in the National Housing Corporation do now pass.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, this area in Hoyte's Village is an area I know very well having lived myself for some time in the Holders Hill area and travelled from Holders Hill by the Farm up through Hoyte's Village on to Redman Village and I must note, Sir, the tremendous improvements taking place to the Hoyte's Village area in general. I know that the residents of that area are grateful.

Indeed I remember calling for the traffic lights at Redman's Village to be turned on. They are not on yet, Sir. Maybe that would also help the residents in this area who would be using these lands at Hoyte's Village when they travel out on mornings and in the evenings coming home so they can travel safely. Maybe the Government of Barbados, the Barbados Labour Party Administration, will seek to turn on the lights at Redman's Village to facilitate access to this land, Sir, by the residents who will be living at Hoyte's Village.

Sir, there are other attending problems in the Hoyte's Village area though, because it has been for a while a site for the disposal of solid material. I think at one stage we had an arrangement where metal was taken up to Hoyte's Village.

I read recently that this has been discontinued at least temporarily and really it is when we encounter these kinds of forces that we recognise too that the Government has to engage in a tremendous debate on environmental and solid waste management. Shirking the issue is not going to solve the problem and we need, Sir, to get down to the hard work of examining the costs and examining the options of an adequate solid waste management in this country.
12.30 p.m.

So the residents of Hoyte's Village, and of course the policy of the National Housing Corporation does not necessarily mean that only people who live in Hoyte's Village now will benefit from the Act. As a matter of fact they would not. There will be new residents, obviously, who will be taking advantage of the lands provided and we have all made our positions very clear in respect to the provision of these lands and I need not repeat my position earlier. The attending care to the access to these lands by the National Housing Corporation is extremely important. Maybe the Hoyte's Village development can be held up as a model in respect to the provision of sidewalks and the provision of good retaining walls in the case of some areas, Sir, like where near Senator Barker's house would be, for instance, does not need a retaining wall, but it looks to me like they have one too.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I object to this because the Honourable Senator is bringing my character and my reputation now at stake. He is saying that I do not need a retainer wall and I used my influence and whatever, to get a retaining wall. It is a serious sneer on me.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you have made your point. Senator Boyce, I think it would help if you would desist from these personal references.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I withdraw and I did not for any moment, intend to impute anything on Senator Barker. The point is we need that kind of organised development, Sir, in all of our villages, Sir, and I support the Resolution in terms of the vesting of the land at Hoyte's Village. It is an area which has become more popular by way of residents because it is well positioned in respect to access to Bridgetown, the capital of the country and a lot of people find living in St. James and that part of the St. Thomas area that abuts, much more convenient.

Indeed we are seeing a tremendous change in the entire character of that area and it is again to my mind showing us how in a small land mass like Barbados, can by action which does not appear immediately, precipitate activity which changes the entire character of that area. And the whole area stretching from Clairmont right on

to Redman's Village and including the abutting areas of Hoyte's Village and Holder's Hill, which has in itself now approaches a town and indeed some of the area is included in the definition of what they call now the Greater Bridgetown or the urban area of Barbados.

We have in our lifetime, Sir, been able to make this kind of transition in terms of land application. I wish the National Housing Corporation well in this venture, Sir. I trust again that it will seek, Sir, to implement the provision of housing and house spots and indeed whether they go to a situation of building high-rise or single units, is a debate which, again, we have to enter into Barbados because we have to engage the Barbadian population in this debate.

There are some Barbadians who hold strongly against the view, for instance, of high-rise living and we have only been able to venture as much as two stories in terms of high-rise living, if you can call that high-rise living so far. This has been a characteristic, Sir, of the major housing development areas.

We need to contemplate where we go from here in respect to providing good, adequate, well-designed and well-constructed housing for all Barbadians. I think it is obvious to everyone that if we contemplate issuing every Barbadian potential land holder with 5 000 square feet, we will soon run out of land, so even that is the reality. It is obvious that another solution must be sought. That solution can only be found if we bring everybody on board in the debate.

A lot of Barbadians do not like to hear it, but it is a fact that we have to look at a policy which incorporates some element of high-rise housing units along with the single units that we contemplate. This is something which we certainly in the Democratic Labour Party are dealing with in our housing policy and I would like to see the Government of the Barbados Labour Party take some initiative too, in bringing this debate to the public. They do it with other areas. They do it well in some area and they do not do it so well in some areas. I wish they will do it well with housing and let us get some of the public relations that are attached to the Barbados Labour Party's programme. Let us have some of that public relations brought to the Housing Programme of the Barbados Labour Party.

As the National Housing Corporation contemplates utilising Hoyte's Village, we, because of the information we gather in these public relation exercises, are in a better position to provide the answers, because we have to bring the Barbadian population to a position of acceptance in respect to what the answer is. We have to bring on board, any technocrats that might be required to inform the discussants in respect to the kinds of things which we should ponder in our debate. We need, Sir, to hasten this programme in respect to the National Housing Corporation.

We have no difficulty with the Resolution, Sir, and only again to put a plug in for the travelling public that the lights at Redman's Village be turned on. I urge that this be dealt with expeditiously.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, it is with deep regret that I have to stand to connect or to reply to this Senator. There are times in a man's political life that one should think about what you are about to say before you say it and one should contemplate your actions before you take them.

I think today is one day when Senator Boyce has shown quite clearly that his only intervention in these debates is simply to talk, because he does not know Hoyte's Village, what he is talking about and this Resolution. There should be a rule to deal with persons like Senator Boyce.

Mr. President, I have friends who I like in Hoyte's Village. I go to Hoyte's Village to every fair and every party they have because the National Housing Corporation sold out the lands in Hoyte's Village and there are certain open lands where the residents of Hoyte's Village put up tents for every Bank Holiday and invite their friends. But, the Senator does not know that there is one road into Hoyte's Village. The same road you go in, is the same road you will come back out and it goes over a bridge that is no more than about 12 feet wide.

When it rains the people in Hoyte's Village are locked in and my friends have been speaking to the Minister of Agriculture who is the representative for that area pointing out the difficulties when it rains, and the dangers, if anything should happen to that bridge, that the entire population of Hoyte's Village will be locked in and cannot get out. That is the reason for this access road in order to facilitate the people in Hoyte's Village when they can go in one road or come out the next road.

The Senator gets up and talks foolishness about light at Redman's Village, about part of the City Centre *et cetera*, because he only wants to talk. It is about time that the Senator understands what is debate. I think there should be a rule to stop, the Senator making what seems like mock sport of the Chambers, because that is all he is doing. He knows everything in this country. There is not a Resolution that ever comes before this Chamber that he does not know the area well.
12.40 p.m.

Certain remarks made by His Honour Senator C. L. Bolden were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. President.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I withdraw, but history will take a dim view of Senator Boyce.

I am dealing with the Resolution which is for an access road and the reason for the access road is to facilitate the people who live there. That little bit of road was developed by Trowel Plastics Company because it was the only thing in Hoyte's Village. Then the NHC took over the land and sold the spots and there was no other road in other than what was originally a cart road. The Honourable Senator has not dealt with the road. He knows everything else and fails to tell the truth when you want to debate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Again, I must ask you to withdraw that. You cannot accuse an Honourable Member of failing to speak the truth.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Failing to speak as to the Resolution, Mr. President – I withdraw the previous words – but casts smears on everybody else, Senator Barker, – about building a retaining wall and said that he did not need one but he has a retaining wall. It is about time we bring a little dignity into this.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. That I have already dealt with, Senator.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I want to apologise for that outburst just now. I should not have allowed the Honourable Senator to drag me to his low standard.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you are doing the same thing that you accuse the Senator of. I am asking you to withdraw that.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I withdraw the offending remarks. I live in Hoyte's Village and I have been living there since 1984, having bought a parcel of land and put up a modest house for myself and my family and I am proud of being from Hoyte's Village. The accusation that was made about my getting a retainer wall ignored the fact that I had an adequate fence there. The Government in order to improve the road and for which all the residents are grateful because it might well extend their lives given the very dangerous corners and winding roads, sought to take away my land for the public good. I have no problem with that, but were they supposed to take away my fence and leave me defenceless?

I have been in public life since 1991 and personally this is the first time that I have felt this sort of way. Because Sir, we come in here and we exchange sometimes harsh words but when we come to this personal nature it runs against all that is decent and all that we stand for in this Chamber.

I would like the Honourable Senator to know that we all in here, all 21 members, have a responsibility to raise the

standard of debate to a normal level. I want to talk about this Resolution and to note that Hoyte's Village is an area for which it makes sense to have these sorts of developments. It has an adequate playing field and recreational facilities which were acquired by the last BLP Government because we were not only thinking about putting up houses but of the other amenities which add to the actual psyche of the people. To have more developments of this sort in Hoyte's Village makes a large amount of sense and the Government ought to be commended for its farsightedness in these sorts of developments.

Sir, we also note that in this area the National Housing Corporation is about to put down starter homes and sites and services to the back of the playing field and, as the last speaker mentioned, the road to the other side of Hoyte's Village for which part of this land is to be put in use is so necessary. It shows that the last speaker, Senator Bolden, knows the area very well and took time not to go to mind people's business but he took time to research the area so that when he could speak in here he could speak with a certain amount of certainty and knowledge and I am grateful to him for his leadership in this respect.

I wish, Sir, that the Honourable Senator Boyce would take an example from the sort of thoroughness and research and raise his own level of debate...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, please deal with the substantive matter.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: So we know that there is something like 20 000 square metres which is approximately 5 acres of land and we know there is a crying need for housing in this country of ours.

I remember in the Other Place the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said that the people in St. John were not asking for jobs anymore because by his own admission the problem of jobs is being solved to a large measure, but they are looking for house spots. We, on this side, recognise that there is a crying need, a large demand especially for house spots, because the people of Barbados, as we know from our history, once they have access to land, in a short time they will have a house, as we like to say in two twos they will have the sort of house that they want.

It makes sense for Government to provide the land area, whether it is sites and services, so people can have access to land and look after their own house. The philosophy must be that we must help people to help themselves because the State cannot do everything but it has to provide the means in terms of land or loans to help people in fulfilling their own housing needs. This 20 000 square feet will go a long way towards fulfilling this important need.

It must be remembered that when this present Government came into office we found that our housing thrust was hindered by the fact that there was little or no land we could develop for housing purposes. So the first order of the day had to be to go out there and look for adequate land for housing. That is why in the last 3 years we have brought so many Resolutions to this Honourable Chamber because that was the critical area of need, to find land for housing purposes.

We realise there have been a lot of acquisitions in the St. James area and we have even gone so far as to facilitate the private sector, especially when it comes to the area of low-cost housing, and there have been certain land developers who work with government to provide low income housing because that was the area of the greatest need.

By and large, Sir, the middle and upper income can look after their own housing needs but the lower income people were the ones that Government had to find opportunities, so to speak, for this need to be met. That is why, Sir, in Apes Hill the Government made sure that there was land there for a developer who wanted to go into low income housing to use 20 something acres for low income housing because we note that there was a very successful project in Bourne Land where a private developer was able to provide some pretty decent low-cost housing and in two twos as the Barbadian likes to say the land has been snapped up because there was a great need for that sort of housing.

Between 1986 and 1994 the housing sector was almost a calamity. Nothing was done in the housing sector so it is only since 1994 that we have a lot of activity and it was manifested by the fact that these Resolutions, including the vesting of the land at Hoyte's Village, came to this Honourable Chamber for approval.

Sir, this is part of an ongoing process and the housing thrust has accelerated recently because we see that the Pondsides development has started and the one in St. George, I think, Maynards and so on. So having acquired the land we are now in a position to put up the necessary houses. Sir, within a couple years time we have gone a long way towards satisfying the urgent demand for housing especially low income housing in this country.

Sir, we will pass on and make sure that the working people of this country especially share in the development in a meaningful way, especially when it comes to the provision of adequate shelter.

12.50 p.m.

Sir, we will press on and make sure that especially the working people of this country share in the development in

a meaningful way especially when it comes to the provision of adequate shelter. This must be our goal as we go into the next millennium that all of our people must be properly housed because, to a large extent, we have been properly fed but now we have to go the next stage to make sure that all our people now are properly housed.

Sir, with those few words I want to commend this Resolution to this Honourable Chamber and note that it is just another step in Government's quest to provide adequate housing for the people of this country.

I thank you.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Sir, I just want to join this debate for the simple reason that many of us at times are not particularly satisfied with the performance or the delays that one encounters with the Town and Country Planning Department when getting permission to construct houses is being sought. I want to enter this debate here because this particular land at Hoyte's Village speaks to some of the problems that the National Housing Corporation and the Ministry of Housing have been encountering in fast-tracking the Government's housing programme.

Now, the National Housing Corporation went ahead at Hoyte's Village to get Town and Country Planning approval for housing development for starter houses at Hoyte's Village. One very significant point is that the Town & Country Planning Department rejected the original work done at Hoyte's Village because they thought there was not adequate provision for flood prevention in the area.

Aside.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: I am not saying there is anything wrong with it but it exemplifies the fact that this is a Government that is conscious of the fact that you just cannot get into a situation where you just think about acquiring a piece of land, fast-tracking it and putting houses there and two or three years down the road you get a repeat of what happened in Weston, St. James, or what happened in St. Patrick's. This is one of the significant problems that has delayed Government's housing programme in terms of getting the land that had been acquired passed on and vested in the National Housing Corporation to start the sort of housing programme that this Government wants to embark on.

I think this is significant because a Senator who spoke a while ago was saying that the public relations aspect of the National Housing Corporation needs to be brought to the front and I think that if he was aware and other people were aware of the sort of problems that the National Housing Corporation encounters in getting a simple piece of land for small people to be able to get a house spot

or be able to get a house that, perhaps, there would be more sympathy to the department.

I am very happy that the Town and Country Planning has done their homework and has made the necessary recommendations to the Ministry of Housing so they can put in the additional wells and drainage system so that when this starter project which I understand is about to start some time this month and would consist of some 33 starter homes in the Hoyte's Village area. When this project, a joint venture arrangement again with the private sector and the NHC gets going the housing needs of some Barbadians will be met. I am pleased to report that in addition to this and the activity at Pondsides that some of us seem to forget that some 143 houses were completed in another joint venture project at Cane Garden in St. Thomas.

Let us look at some of the other problems that Government has been having in acquiring sites and services for houses. As Senator Barker said before, there were no stocks of land available and Government had to do the acquisition, put in the works whether it was drainage, roads and everything else, we are now in a position where, with the \$50 million in the housing bond issued, I am sure that we will see a take-off in Government involvement, not only through the National Housing Corporation but through joint venture arrangements in a real massive housing programme in this country which would seek to reduce to some significant extent the drastic shortfall in housing in Barbados which has not, to any significant extent, been a problem that was created or generated by this Government but has been a problem which this Government is trying to correct as a result of eight years of neglect by the previous Administration.

It is with these few words, Sir, that I want to commend this Resolution to this Honourable Chamber.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I am rising to support the Resolution because I think there is none of us in this Chamber who would not want to support any Resolution which is being passed to give ownership of land to those who do not own land as yet in this country. As we look at the Resolution, Sir, I think we need to go back a little, and to use a Latin phrase here that you and I would have remembered "tempus erat quo". There was a time in Barbados when development took place near to where persons lived. In other words, developers were developing land, whether it was Government or private sector enterprise, close to where people were living; but today, Sir, as we have had improvement of roadworks by provision of adequate highways running throughout the length and breadth of the country, it is so easy for people from all parts of the island to move toward the physical land development wherever it is

taking place and, therefore, as we develop land now, we need to go back and look at the laws relating to housing development throughout the years.

I want to go back, Sir, first to the Security of Tenure of Small Holdings Act, 1955 which made very adequate provision for security of tenure in agricultural as well as residential development of land. In that Act, Sir, a house plot is defined as 2 400 square feet, 40'x60'. But as we develop land today, and as I interpret what the Government is trying to do at this time through the acquisition of land during the time we have been here in this Honourable Chamber and are now seeking to vest it in the appropriate authority for subdivision, sale and development of houses for starter homes and the like, we need to recognise that because people are coming from various parts of the island and, perhaps, some would come from those areas of Barbados where there has been slippage and where they are accustomed to having a certain amount of land around them, I think that as we develop we need to redefine in our minds and redefine as far as the law is concerned what is an adequate house plot so that people who are removed from one part of the island to another will continue to enjoy what I call an adequate economic unit for their day to day subsistence and for their family.

I think, therefore, Sir, that Government needs to look at the whole question of the size of the lots which are being developed so that each person who comes to make a purchase will really and truly become enfranchised through the ownership of adequate land in this country.

I think, Sir, that in this age, and as we move into the new century, it is not enough for a person to own just 2 400 square feet and to say this is where I live; rather each individual should enjoy the same comfortable existence which should be known not only by a few persons in this country but which should be enjoyed by all persons from all strata of our society.
1.00 p.m.

This has been achieved, Sir, under the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act in respect of the agricultural sector where many of those who were living on what was once the rab land in the back have now been able to acquire a very adequate portion of land to continue life.

Some of those spots are three quarters of an acre or half of an acre. I am not suggesting, Sir, that in housing developments that Government should seek to provide that size but that the size of 3 000 square feet in today's world, is not an adequate portion of land for proper enfranchisement of the people of Barbados for housing in this country.

Sir, I would ask Government to look at this aspect of it and to make spots larger than the normal spot

available for the poor of this country that they may have an adequate stake in the land of this country which is getting very scarce.

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.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.05 p.m. today.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Senate is resumed.

ORDER NO. 5 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING OF LAND AT LODGE PLANTATION, ST. MICHAEL IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to seek the Senate's approval of the vesting of land at Lodge Plantation in St. Michael, in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Crown Lands Vesting and Disposal Act, Cap. 225. This land is to be vested in the National Housing Corporation for the purpose of further development and as is required by the Act, in order for the Crown to vest land in even one of its own Corporations, the approval of the Honourable Senate is sought.

The area in question is some 11,496.4 square metres and it is proposed to develop some government offices in that particular area as part of the wider Warrens Complex.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, it is only by way of indicating that we have no difficulty with the Resolution in terms of the particular acquisition. I wish though that we had some more details about what the purpose of the vesting which the Honourable Senate Leader referred to very quickly. He said that it was just to build some offices for Government. A very broad comment which really leaves us no wiser. The Addendum to the particular Resolution states that the approval of Parliament is sought in vesting in the National Housing Corporation of the land described in the Schedule to the Resolution.

I would have thought, therefore, Sir, and I say this very seriously that without much information accompanying the Resolution itself, a passing reference to building offices for Government really is something which leaves me, on this side, baffled as to what is the real purpose of the vesting. Then again, does National Housing Corporation build for Government? That is the other question that is raised in my mind. Whether National Housing Corporation actually gets involved in building for Government.

However, I would wait and see if in the wrap up the Honourable Minister would like to give the Senate more information as to the particular purpose of the vesting. Or are we to assume that like all other vestings in the National Housing Corporation that it goes on the inventory of assets of the National Housing Corporation and sits there until somebody decides that it is useful while all of Barbados awaits adequate housing? So we would really appreciate receiving a lot more substance in terms of the plans for this particular parcel of land.

Sir, this is because we are constantly acquiring lots because we cannot vest these lands until Government acquires them and then vest it and in this case the same process would have been followed. It leaves the person from whom the land is acquired sometimes, I am not saying in all cases, but in some cases, very disgruntled. Even the satisfaction of being given a fair payment for the land is not necessarily sufficient and therefore one would hope that when Government acquires lands, they do so with very, very specific purposes in mind. I would urge that this procedure will be followed and that it would be useful if the Chamber were given more information in regard to the purpose for the particular acquisition.

I am grateful to you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, Sir, for the second time today, the Honourable Member has amazed me. He began by confessing that he did not know what the Resolution dealt with and then he proceeded to pontificate, admittedly in a speculative manner as to what it could entail and what it might entail *etcetera, etcetera*.

I think all that he had to do, having recognised that he knew nothing about the matter, that he should sit down. It is as simple as that. When I know that I know nothing about a subject, I do not get up and talk. I would have wished that this would have obtained in this instance.

This Resolution seeks to vest in the National Housing Corporation a certain parcel of land and as the Honourable Senator admitted, before you vest, you have to acquire. That therefore implies that previous to this meeting

there would have been a situation when a Resolution would have passed to acquire the land. If therefore he is deficient in his research or if he does not recall, or if he has not gotten his customary messages from downstairs, prompting him as to what to say, he should say so or just keep quiet. But do not therefore indulge in a lot of 'ramble scramble' talk just to take up the time of the Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: What is that word, Senator Murray?

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: 'Ramble Scramble'. It is an old English word that mean 'mumble jumble'. That kind of thing, Sir.

The Resolution talks about the land being for the proposed Warren Complex. I believe why the Honourable Leader of the Senate did not go into any details about the Warrens Complex is because there has been numerous instances where references have been made about Government's plans for the Warrens Complex and what it entails. They are going to build a new concentration of offices for Government. It is well known that Government need accommodation for offices. For one thing, apart from increasing the quantity of the accommodation, this Complex will also improve the quality of the accommodation for Government workers.

We are interested in improving the working conditions, improving the facilities for the public workers and this is all part of the process. This Complex is not therefore a case where you are acquiring land or vesting land and leaving it to lie down until some future date. This is a specific project. It is not going to be like Sherbourne where you made it up as you went along, where it started off as an examination centre and then a concert hall *etcetera, etcetera*.

From the outset it was clear that this Complex would accommodate Government offices. For example, where I work at Government Headquarters, that building holds most of two Ministries. At one time when Government Headquarters was built in 1956, when it was referred to by the Democratic Labour Party as Adams Castle, an extravagance, it held all the Ministries in Barbados but today, 42 years later, it hold barely a Ministry.

The Government has expanded numerically because the services it renders to the country have expanded in time. In the Colonial period, Government merely dealt with dispensing a few minor matters in a very narrow way. Now as an independent country, we have to take a much more complex range of services to the public and therefore government has expanded in terms of the number of

services it has to render to the community. So to say that the Government has expanded is not necessarily a put down. We have a better society because Government has expanded. The private sector expands for all kinds of reasons. Farmers expand for all kinds of reasons, because they think they have a need to fulfil in the community. Therefore, Government has expanded and the erection of this complex, Sir, is to cater to the expansion in services, like I said to improve the quality of the accommodation, for example. There is talk of a lot of services being rendered to public workers. One suggestion is that there might be day care centres on the premises so that people coming to work can have their children looked after in a proper atmosphere, with well trained people in good facilities. So this office complex, like I said, is to cater to Government's needs and the vesting of this land in the National Housing Corporation is one further step along the way to fulfilling this plan.

There has been a competition for a design for the complex. The plan, Sir, is fairly well advanced and I suspect that in the not too distant future actual construction, I do not recall exactly when it is supposed to start, will begin because there is a clear and express need for it, and this complex is to cater to demands being made on Government to provide accommodation for its public workers. I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I really did not plan to say anything on the Resolution because there are so many resolutions dealing with acquisitions but I think the last Minister who spoke has been very unreasonable in his treatment of the representative for the opposition, who quite correctly stated that this information given is inadequate. Government has, on this occasion been very deficient in this regard. There is no where in this document I have before me any information which in any way would lead me to recognise that the property for which there is some discussion going on is located at Warrens.

The addendum does not in any way state that. All it seeks to say is that there is vesting and then the Schedule which as usual identifies the individuals from whom the property is purchased. Therefore I think it is reasonable for the Opposition party to want to find out. Maybe the Government has more information.

I think, Mr. President, we have today in our own style and fashion, on either side of this Chamber, discussed acquisition and vesting but I think we should recognise as Members of Parliament what a serious challenge faces us as we prepare not only for our present generation which we are today doing but for future generations. I really eagerly await national dialogue on the proper use of our land in Barbados.

I think we by now have recognised the importance of reserving for future generations, some of our Barbados

but I see a situation arising in our country and it bothers me a bit. Those of us who today live and enjoy a reasonable standard of living, we could turn out to be the last generation of Barbadians capable of enjoying this quality of life, of course, because of our limited land mass. I want to appeal to the Government of Barbados, it is going to take courage and bravery and bold character on the part of the members of Parliament of this country to come to the people of Barbados and let us have proper national discussion on the housing of Barbadians. We have grown to expect certain types of homes and our people have certain expectations which, as a country of a limited 166 square miles, we cannot offer in future and the time has come when we discuss land. We have to talk about land for tourism, land for housing, for recreation, land for business and even as we debate this specific spot of land, we need to recognise that other spots of land in Barbados we must not only debate, but must come up with a proper national plan to reserve, because, would it be fair and this is where equity comes into place and that is why, as a present Parliament of Barbados we need to face this challenge that those of us who have been exposed to reasonable standards of education have been able to acquire comfortable homes. If we embark on Government's so called programme, and note I said Government's and not a Barbados Labour Party, I said Government's so called programme of the empowerment of our people, it means that we are going to be engaging in a proper, not only acquisition of wealth, but transfer of wealth. So the properties presently owned by families will be transferred, we believe, to their descendants.

What that means therefore is that only certain Barbadians, be they my children or the children of others in here, would be living in a certain type of housing in Barbados and future generations of Barbadians who have experienced the same level of education and who believe in and are entitled to the same quality of life would be forced to accept what they would consider to be a below standard quality of housing. That is why it is so important that we start to address this as a very serious national matter. And the Government should try to get the Opposition to discuss it with the Government, because the Opposition is the next Government of Barbados and since we are preparing for future generations of Barbadians it is very important that we deal with this issue.

It bothers me a lot. I think it can lead to great social unrest, unless we condition from now future generations to accept that as our population grows more and as we embark on business and investment projects in order to maintain a standard of living for one population that a future population is going to be, at some time, deprived of those qualities which the generation before enjoyed.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: That is common sense.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Therefore, Mr. President, I would like to appeal to the Government of Barbados to get on its agenda a national debate on housing for future generations of Barbadians and try to work on an attitudinal change in the minds of Barbadians.

It is true, especially of those who have grown up in the country, we do not believe in living in high-rise housing. As a matter of fact, Barbadians from rural Barbados believe rental of property is for town people. That is how rural Barbadians were raised. So, you never found people in the country renting houses. Then you lived in something as big as a match box, it was yours. Ask any Barbadian who is from the country. We have had to move away gradually from what had become a way of life for us. We will be asking future Barbadians to move away from the ownership of their house or their own little house lot, be it 3 000 or 4 000 square feet, to go and live in a house or in a building in which other families, not necessarily their own, live above and below them. We are asking people to make serious changes which can be traumatic for many. I would therefore like to make my appeal to the Government to give this very serious thought.

2.30 p.m.

But before I sit, I wish that the Leader of Government Business would, in his wrap up on this particular Resolution, Mr. President, give us a bit more information.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I have a little concern on the Resolution before us today, in that when I read the Resolution I myself believed that we were going to be dealing with a housing matter falling under the Housing Act, under which the National Housing Corporation takes its origin. Therefore the Resolution did not come with the customary indication as to what the land was being vested in the Corporation for and it was therefore necessary for all of us to assume that it was falling directly under the ambit of the Housing Act.

We are told today, Sir, that this land will be used for what seems to be office development and I am not comfortable within myself that the National Housing Corporation is the correct body in which it should be vested.

When I read, Sir, the law relating to the functions of the Corporation as found in the Housing Act, Chapter 226 at section 9, one of the functions of the Corporation is clearly stated "to acquire, hold and manage land and property of any kind whatsoever". It would appear, Sir,

on a first reading that building of offices is managing of land. But every law begins with a preamble which gives us a clear indication as to what the ambit and scope of the Act ought to be and the preamble to the Housing Act is "an Act to consolidate and revise the laws relating to housing and to provide for the establishment of a National Housing Corporation with responsibility for managing the development of areas designated as development area and for related purposes".

My understanding of that, Sir, although I am not the most brilliant of lawyers, is that the purposes for which the National Housing Corporation is established must be to deal with housing and development for housing purposes. Now, I could clearly understand, Sir, if the National Housing Corporation, instead of putting its \$12 million building in Country Road, were building its offices on this land, because that would be part of managing the land for the purposes of the housing development.

As it stands, Sir, for the National Housing Corporation to just build a block of offices on this land, or any other land, seems to me to be *ultra vires* the powers given to the Corporation under the law. That is just my view, Sir, and on those views I have difficulty, really, in voting with the Resolution. I would have to abstain because I am not quite clear, Sir.

I believe, Sir, that the time has come when the Resolutions must give us some early indication of what is intended so that we can have adequate time to do our research and come and make even more meaningful contributions to the debates in this Chamber, Sir.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, this is one time I may have to vary from the opinion of my learned colleague and friend.

I think one has got to look at the whole structure of Government and how it manages its properties. As I understand it, the reason for the acquisition of this land is to build a complex which would accommodate several government offices. Only last week I was having discussion with a senior civil servant in one of the offices who said that the Land Registry will eventually be moved to that building. I think the Corporate Registry, I understand, will be moved to that building and there are several of these departments of Government which would be linked by computers to be moved to that building.

In Government, I have always found this a bit strange, but for better reasons, the functionaries of Government think that some buildings are managed by the MTW, which is now called "Public Works". Now there is nothing wrong in the National Housing Corporation, which is really an

institution for the provision of housing and building, *et cetera*, to own a building of this nature, then manage it and lease back portions of it to the Government. So if the Government thought, in this particular instance, that it is better for this land to be transferred to the National Housing Corporation, who in turn will construct and manage the building, I think it will still fall within the parameters of the law and what National Housing Corporation is entitled to do.

I see, basically, nothing wrong with that. What I would very much like to know is that the building itself remains with the National Housing Corporation, because I believe we will get more direct attendance unto the needs of the building than we are getting from the Public Works Department. It seems to me that over the past ten to twelve years that Public Works has done little maintenance of buildings which fall under their care and one of the big things is the Supreme Court building. They waited until it has fallen apart now to start a serious rebuilding. Even now, the old Registry is still going through a refurbishing because of the sick syndrome that hit those building over the last two years.

One of the Assize Courts is now sitting in what is Court Six, because it was sitting in Court Five and people were complaining of the same pains and aches and illnesses which afflicted the people who worked in the Registry when the Registry was there, because that is one attached building. In Her Majesty's Courts, for instance, you have cried out over and over again about the floors, you have cried out about the roof and one day the Magistrates had to stop work because the ceiling fell in with the pigeon dung coming down. These all fell under the Public Works Department who did little or no repairs to Government buildings for over eight years. If this present Government thinks it worthy to put the land now in the hands of the National Housing Corporation whereby repairs *et cetera* can be done speedily, I will go with that.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 6 – TO MOVE THE FIRST READING OF THE PUBLIC ENTERPRISE INVESTMENT FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1998

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill, which seeks to amend the Public Enterprise Investment Fund Act.

Sir, the Fund was established in the early 1990s as a depository for the proceeds from the sale of a number

of Government assets which were disposed of during a period of deep recession arising out of the economic policies of the Democratic Labour Party in the early 1990s, starting from the late 1980s, actually. Basically, Sir, as a result of the fiscal difficulties in which the Government has found itself, a number of sales of assets were made primarily for the purpose of obtaining necessary foreign exchange in order to save Barbados from having to go into devaluation. In fact, while for our type of economies the best practice in respect of foreign exchange reserves is normally indicated somewhere in the region of 13 weeks of the foreign exchange equivalent of imports, we had at one point dipped as low as 3 weeks so that the decision to dispose of a number of assets, for example, the shares in Barbados External Telecommunications and BARTEL, Heywoods Hotel, the Arawak Cement Plant and several other assets were part of that programme.

2.40 p.m.

The decision was made to create this specific fund, the Public Enterprise Investment Fund, by Act of Parliament, to receive the proceeds from that particular activity. Over the years, therefore, the fund has accumulated some resources for which the fund at the time had established some specific purposes. The fund established by Act of Parliament, 1993, indicated that its purposes were to receive all monies representing the proceeds for the disposal of an enterprise or derived from the sale of shares or other interests in an enterprise owned by Government. That also represented any return on any investment undertaken by the Government out of the resource of the fund. Listed as well among the purposes of the fund were to defray the costs associated with the sale of an enterprise or any interest in an enterprise to finance specific investment projects, to finance the repayment of any public debt and to defray the cost incurred in the administration of the Act.

Basically, Sir, that description of the purposes of the fund has tended to make the application of the resources somewhat limited.

So far, Sir, some disbursements have been made from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund and I will speak to those later. One of those disbursements is the subject of this particular amendment which is being proposed to the Bill. Basically, the amendments which are being proposed to the Public Enterprise Investment Fund are to facilitate the transfer of funds from the Social Investment Fund which is to be created as well as to regularise the transfer of funds made from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund to the Rural Enterprise Fund which were made on August 26, 1997 and for which we were subsequently advised by the Government's attorneys did not meet the very narrow definition of the terms spelt out in terms of the functions of

the Act although they were very much in keeping with the intent and philosophy of the Act. That is, that the resources of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund should be used for the economic development of the country and certainly the transfer of funds from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund to the Rural Enterprise Fund was an attempt by the Government to fast track the availability of financing for the small man.

You will recall, Sir, that one of the purposes for which the Rural Development Corporation was established was the development of a comprehensive, harmonious and fully integrated approach to the development of rural communities where the development would ensure that within the framework of strong rural communities that we were able as well to provide opportunity for economic activity and economic empowerment within the rural community because we were concerned about the phenomenon which we had seen emerging of rural communities being decimated by the absence of economic opportunity at the community level and therefore creating some impetus for the movement of persons away from the rural communities into other communities which they perceived to offer them greater opportunity.

As part of the fulfillment of that mandate, the Rural Development Commission had established a Rural Enterprise Fund which will provide and which has been providing financing at the community level in a segment of the market which traditional financial institutions would tend to ignore.

Financial institutions in Barbados, particularly the commercial banks, tend not to understand how to treat a request from a man in Leadvale in rural Christ Church, for example. That is the eastern part of Christ Church. An application from a man in Leadvale, a nice, traditional, rural community approaches to economic empowerment when he wants to borrow some money to improve his pig pens. Commercial banks do not understand these things. They do not understand the dynamics of rearing pigs which is quite a legitimate economic activity. It allows a good, honest, decent, hardworking man from Leadvale to enhance his situation and play a more meaningful part in the community in which he lives rather than having to go somewhere else and do something else.

The Rural Enterprise Fund is in a better position to respond to that kind of request and the kind of disbursements which they have made so far approximately 100 of them is in relation to that kind of activity. I know persons have been able to obtain \$4 000 or \$5 000 which they might require for enhancing an agricultural project. I know of a young man in St. Joseph who was able to obtain \$1 500 to improve his display stand for his fruits and vegetables. He happens to live on one of the roads along which tourists pass going to the various points of interest.

He has been able to enhance substantially his economic potential by having a more attractive display of stands for his fruits and vegetables. He has been able to make a living in his community. He has no incentive to leave that community and is therefore able to build a strong community – as is all part of the mandate given to the Rural Development Commission – and finance out of that fast track disbursement from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund.

Sir, it was discovered that on strict examination of the specifics of the legislation, although transfer of funds to the Rural Development Commission met the philosophical conditions, it did not meet the very tight, specific, legal conditions; and to remove any shadow of doubt because, as you know, Sir, amongst legal practitioners, one could even have where law is not as clear, different interpretations, and to remove that element of doubt, it was decided to propose an amendment to the Public Enterprise Investment Fund which would allow Government to be able, in pursuance of economic development for the broad masses of people, to be able where situations warrant to utilise the funds lying there in the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for the advance of the broad masses of people.

2.50 p.m.

After all, Sir, we must not lose sight of the fact that the Government in owning the assets which were sold, unfortunately some of them at bargain basement prices, to put resources into this Public Enterprise Investment Fund, that these resources represent the common shareholding, the common interest of the broad masses of people.

It is therefore quite consistent, Sir, in fact, I would even say it is only fit, proper and just that if we are to utilise the resources lying in the Public Enterprise Investment Fund they should be used for purposes which will advance the interest of the broad masses of people on whose behalf the Government has owned and managed those assets in trust. What we are proposing, Sir, is very much in keeping with what has been presented there.

The other aspect of the investment, as I said, is the proposal for the creation of the Social Investment Fund. This Social Investment Fund which will derive its resources primarily from disbursements from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund which is part of what we are amending here, is really an effort to formalise aspects of the Government's Poverty Alleviation Programme. As you will recall, the Government started off a more structured approach to poverty alleviation when in the Estimates for 1997/98 an amount of \$10 million was made available to assist in the Poverty Alleviation Programme. Now, what has happened with that? Initially, Sir, some \$4 million was approved under the heading of what would have been called Subsidies. That was for the payment of the \$350 allowance

to those persons who were earning under \$170 per week or less. Six million dollars was to be used for Grants to Public Institutions and that was to provide for transfers to institutions involved in the poverty alleviation effort, for example, the National Assistance Board as well as other community-based organisations.

Initially, we started to use the data base in the National Insurance Department to compile a listing of the persons who were eligible. There were some flaws in that approach because there were a number of eligible persons who did not, in fact, have a National Insurance Number so that resulted in a delay in making some of the payments which delay has been thankfully addressed. As it turns out so far, some 12 000 cheques have been mailed out to eligible persons and, of course, we are constantly on the look-out to ensure that those persons who are eligible are able to benefit. In all, Sir, that allocation has been increased from the \$4 million originally to some \$6 million.

Now, in terms of the Grants to Public Institutions, the other \$6 million which is to be disbursed, Sir, it is at this level that the community base approach and helping those persons who are not entirely able to help themselves and also to deal with the empowerment issues take place. For example, during 1997 an additional \$1.2 million was channelled through the National Assistance Board for the provision of the repair of houses for the elderly and the disadvantaged. You must bear in mind, Sir, that this is an addition to the direct allocation of resources to the National Assistance Board under its Head in the Estimates so this would have been a special programme whereby those persons – and we see them particularly in one of the newspapers from time to time – whom we all know within various communities who have been born with disabilities in some cases who are part of other unfortunate circumstances, some persons who are elderly and without relatives or means of support, and persons whom we know to be genuinely disadvantaged and this \$1.2 million which was provided in 1997 went toward that effort.

In addition, Sir, as indicated at the start of this Poverty Alleviation Programme, it was not the Government's intention, neither has it been our practice, to create an alternative welfare fund. There is a Welfare Department and the Welfare Department disburses welfare in the traditional way. What there is is a recognition that there are a number of community groups consisting of well-meaning, outstanding citizens with good plans and good intentions but sometimes not the wherewithal to give effect to those plans. In fact, Sir, I am a firm supporter of the view that in many ways NGOs are in a very strong position, sometimes much stronger than Government, to effectively and efficaciously deliver services within the community.

Sir, the reality is that the approach a Government might use in terms of income distribution and distribution of resources through the collection of taxes and the payment for the provision of services, reaches a particular point where one reaches diminishing returns. There is a lot to be said for the argument where persons of like mind and like intentions can come together in community-based organisations with a specific focus and channel their energy and their interest in doing the things they love best, so that those persons who are into youth development and leadership are able to work with the young people to provide training and leadership. Those persons who are into the care of the elderly are able to do that. Those persons who are into sports are able to do that, and we can go on and on. Part of this \$6 million will be in response to initiatives coming out of the community that where, strong, well-organised, viable programmes are put up, that there will be considered and resources disbursed.

3.00 p.m.

What that also does, Sir, that approach also moves this very important aspect of our national development away from even the very appearance of political bias. Because as you know with these matters, there is always the accusation, Sir, of political bias. As a matter of fact, one of the Opposition had at the start of the programme said we were creating a slush fund and that we were going to use it to fund political purposes and so on.

Sir, if you look at the record, the records says something else.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, amongst one of the community based groups, which has been able to obtain some financing for one of their community based projects has been the Pinelands Creative Workshop. \$1.3 million is to be disbursed over a two year period for a number of specific programmes. Community empowerment – a community based organisation comes up with a programme, Government considers it and there you go.

I will make the point to other community groups that, in fact even to the same Pinelands Workshop that although they are happy to provide financing in support of these groups, they must recognise that the Government has an obligation to ensure that, as guardians of the public interest, in disbursement of the public's money, that we also need to ensure that those groups to which we disburse funds are held to the same high and strict standards that we are held, in disbursement of funds. And that as well-intentioned as a project may be, it will not get support because it is a good looking project only. That the appropriate controls, the appropriate structures must be in place. I will send that message out.

Good projects are welcomed but we cannot disburse the public's funds based on sentiment and gut feeling alone. That is important but we must make sure that they are able to give account and that the projects are sustainable. Of course, where we see that there are good projects but that element is lacking, we will provide the necessary support and development.

In fact, Sir, you will be quiet interested to know, for example, that in terms of strengthening the community to develop and sustain its own programmes that the youth commissioners and their department, the Department of Youth Affairs have organised a number of management training programmes for youth community leaders in the sporting groups, the youth groups and so on. Again, to ensure that where they are able to acquire resources, they are able to harness and manage them effectively for the development of the communities.

Recognising, of course, that in these matters the integrity of the organisation is something that they have to trade on and if you want to be able to raise additional resources in the long run then one needs to develop that kind of image whereby the public will not shy away from you immediately and therefore, the credibility of the group and the proposers of these projects and groups will become important.

Sir, in addition, part of that \$6 million has been allocated and there are a number of proposals from Parliamentarians for different aspects of work in their communities. There are proposals in from the church for aspects of work in their community and several other community based organisation. That will be the thrust of the Poverty Alleviation Programme in terms of the youth and the funds that are provided out of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund.

As indicated, Sir, the Social Investment Fund will seek to formalise that Poverty Alleviation structure and basically, the Social Investment Fund will receive funds transferred from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund and some \$10 million has been earmarked to capitalise that Fund. It will also receive any additional monies voted by Parliament for the fund, monies from other sources as may be appropriate and it will be used to finance projects and programmes that are designated to eradicate poverty particularly by the creation of enterprises. Of course, as is expected the fund will have to defray any costs incurred in administering its own affairs.

To give an example, Sir, of one of the types of projects, which is community based and which is very much part of the activities which the Social Investment Fund, using the resources of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund, would be only too happy to

become involved. We all know the Club Randall Dance Hall, as it used to be in Gall Hill.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Of course, this is Gall Hill in Christ Church and not Gall Hill, St. John.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I am reminded that this is opposite Aberdeen's shop where we used to go over the back wall at Foundation School to go and buy some bread from Aberdeen and you would refresh yourself while waiting for the Gall Hill bus on evenings.

Sir, at Club Randall, unfortunately, since its gloried day as a dancing house, as it used to be in those days. A dance hall is more for dub. A dancing house was for the traditional Barbadians, the 'oldie goldies' and pork chops and so on. Sir, that centre has become dis-used. In fact it has become more a problem to the community than an enhancement to the community.

We are pleased, Sir, that in response to the needs of the community, we were able to accept their recommendations to construct another facility there. We have already done some initial work. We have demolished the existing derelict structure and all the preliminary work has been done in terms of creating the new facility. The new facility, for example, is going to be one which is going to be very attractive and interesting. It will be a two-storey structure. On the ground floor for example, there are proposed to be some ten shops, some bathrooms, some office accommodation and other amenities for the community.

Those shops, for example, Sir, will allow small entrepreneurs in the surrounding communities to have production facilities and to be able to ply their trade. And amongst some of the community based persons who have expressed interest in the facility are hairdressers and persons involved in leather craft, some retailers involved in the boutique trade and so on and of course general market vendors.

3.10. p.m.

On the upper floor, Sir, there will be a multi-purpose hall and of course a multi-purpose hall could be used for your community meetings, for your town hall meetings, your educational sessions, it could be used for parties, and dances for general recreation and community business and of course the necessary changing rooms which are attendant and what not.

An important aspect, again responding to community needs, will be the fact that the design will include ramp access up to the first floor level as well because very often unfortunately even the Government which to my opinion should take the lead in the provision of facilities for the disabled and senior citizens, and making sure that its buildings where the public has to do business and the facilities that they provide should be easily accessible to all members of the community. Our government offices should be re-worked to ensure that certain public areas are accessible to the elderly, the disabled and so on. All too often architects and planners tend to get carried away with sheer beauty so whereas a winding staircase might be a very attractive feature to look at for an elderly person or even a youthful person such as you or I, Mr. President, who happens to have a sprained leg on one day or a broken leg, it becomes a challenge. You are not able to handle the steps.

So this facility which is being proposed to be constructed out of the resources of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund and through the amendments which we are proposing today, Sir, which would facilitate the transfer of those funds from that Public Enterprise Investment Fund to the Social Investment Fund will ensure that we lead the way at the community level in ensuring that all members of the community are able to fully participate in any community activities which are planned.

Of course like I said, Sir, this is very much consistent with the fact, Sir, that those assets which were disposed of were the assets of the broad mass of people held in trust and therefore it is only proper that the funds generated by the sale should also be very much in keeping with objectives which receive the general upliftment of the standard of living and particularly providing economic opportunity for the same broad mass of persons who were the owners previously.

So, Sir, what we are proposing today therefore in this Public Enterprise Investment Fund (Amendment) Bill is very simple, Sir. It seeks to give the authority for one of the purposes of the Act to include the transfer of funds from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for the creation of the social investment fund to establish the Social Investment Fund Act and as well as to regularize the transfer of funds from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund to the Rural Enterprise Fund.

I should add, Sir, that in terms of some of the other purposes for which the resources of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund have been used are the provision of some ... for the new Financial Institution for the provision of financing to small business, the Micro Enterprise Development Agency which as you know, Sir, provides an extremely important component which was missing in terms of the access by small entrepreneurs to available funds.

In fact, Sir, the short name or the promotional name of the fund, Sir, is fund access and it is really meant to provide what was missing, access. And given the level of interest so far several hundred enquiries so far in the space of less than 2 months of operation would indicate really the fact that this component, Sir, arises every day.

In the first two days of operation there were over 100 but, Mr. President, the Micro Enterprise Development Agency is using the resources out of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund to provide financing for those entrepreneurs. The typical needs and the typical profile of persons who may have been able to seek and assist out of those funds have been persons who require anything between \$5000 and \$20 000 but we have an upper limit of \$50 000 but persons who typically require this money for the acquisition of the tools of the trade. We have persons sometimes who work for companies, be it in construction, in beauty care industry, in providing services and so on who now require some tools and equipment of their own in order to start their own enterprises. There are persons who have existing small businesses but need assistance in acquiring additional stock in order to meet expansion. There are persons who have been able to find the money to invest in these same improvements, to invest in equipment but now need working capital which, as you would know, Mr. President, is really the life blood of a business. Whether large or small, when you are devoid of working capital that is it.

The final access, the Barbados Micro Enterprise Development Agency, has been able to use funds out of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for the empowerment of hundreds of Barbadians who would ordinarily not been able to have access to the funds. But through funds access they have been able to start and further develop their own businesses.

Of course when you say you have done "A" someone asks why have you not done "B". So this agency is not only about funding. But part of the agreement to provide the support is also the provision of training and advisory and development support services so that the idea is not one of simply throwing money at an entrepreneur and saying, go and live a happy life but helping him to meet the challenge which he will incur in moving from being an employee to being an employer or from being a self-employed person to one who now operates a company with a separate name and a separate legal structure and going into more formalised structures of operation and which will help to meet the challenge of moving from being a small business employing 5 persons for example where you know everyone on a first name basis and there is a lot of informality to employing 25 or 30 persons with its inherent requirement for more formalised structures and systems which are self-sustaining.

Additionally, Sir, funds out of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund have been provided for the capitalisation of the hotel and resorts project, Sir. There are other projects which were involved. Of course, a report, as is required by the Act is laid on the tables of Parliament on a quarterly basis.

3.20 p.m.

Sir, we are satisfied that the amendments which are being proposed today, will go a long way in making the Public Enterprise Investment Fund more meaningfully impacted on the lives of the ordinary people of Barbados. We are satisfied that through the creation of the Social Investment Fund, we would have put a more formalised structure in place for the necessary financial support in aid of a thrust to eradicate poverty through the empowerment of individuals. We are satisfied, Sir, that these amendments, therefore, should have no difficulty in meeting the approval of the Honourable the Senate.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I want to address some aspects of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund (Amendment) Act before us, Sir, and I want to start by saying that when I come in here, as I believe all Honourable Senators, to make contributions on pieces of legislation from time to time, I do so with a clear conscience and with all seriousness. The words that we utter today shall be recorded in Hansard for posterity, Sir, and they will return I am sure, to either redound to our benefit or haunt us in the years to come.

Sir, when the Public Enterprise Fund was introduced in an earlier Parliament, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party at the time sought to establish a fund based on monies accrued from the sale of certain assets which created extremely lively debate at the time. But, even then we recognised that we had to use some of the funds that would have accrued from these sales of assets and the assets contemplated at the time are actually attached in the original Act.

They included companies like the Arawak Cement Company Limited, Barbados Dairy Industries, Heywoods, the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, *et cetera*, some of which been divested and others which have not been divested as the economic changes took place. But it was part of a programme to bring about some correction to the direction in which the Barbados economy was going. Indeed, I think that it is agreed that the policies, not specifically in terms of the establishment of the Fund, but certainly surrounding that period, Sir, have brought about some results and we are today in a position where we can use some of the assets of that Fund.

However, Sir, we need to reflect on the mood of the country at the time and indeed there are some members here who would have been present during that last Parliament. Therefore for accuracy, I visited the records in this regard, Sir, and the Barbados Labour Party's spokespersons of the day were one in condemning the establishment of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund as nothing short of illegal.

Sir, in another place there were references to the establishment of a Fund which would then become the playground of a term which they frequently used, "a political pork barrel," in which politicians would give handouts to their friends. The fact that this Fund has survived today and as we could hear the Honourable Leader of the Senate state the uses to which the Fund has so far been put, and all the money intact, it would therefore appear to me that this lends the foresight to the accusations of then.

Sir, there was a contribution in a previous sitting of this Chamber where the establishment of a special court to deal with the Democratic Labour Party and those who proposed the establishment of these funds. I waited to hear how those persons who stood then, in firm criticism of the establishment, can today find themselves turned full circle to recommend the application of this Fund. I would have expected to hear them say that the Act would be abolished and it would be replaced by X, Y and Z or an Act which was more legal. There was mention, then, that you could not take assets derived from the sale of facilities like, they mentioned particularly Heywoods, which would have been developed on lands of the Barbados Tourism Authority and you could not take those assets and put them into any special fund. They had to be returned to the Consolidated Fund. Where is the consistency of the argument today? That is a question, Sir, which we have to have answered because we cannot have persons speaking for political convenience when the going is good. They will come out and criticise the Democratic Labour Party for establishing the fund, but today they will want to stand up and be counted among the heroes of the Fund, as they decide how this Fund is going to be allocated, who gets what and what investments will benefit from this Fund.

But the Democratic Labour Party is not fazed by these kinds of statements, Sir, because we stated clearly in the introduction in 1993 that the Fund will be made available particularly for small investment. So to hear today it is going to be used for small investments is no big thing as they say colloquially. It is nothing new. We could even venture to say it is our idea. I do not know how the members on that side would react to that if we say it is our idea they are stealing, our decision to establish this fund for the specific purpose of being able to lend to entrepreneurial activity.

3.30 p.m.

A feature of today's business too is that we are in actual fact backdating events which have already occurred, certainly by the admission of the Leader of the Senate. The funds have already been used in some cases. He spoke specifically to the sending of \$350 to minimum income earners and he indicated that that was part of the social fund which would have derived some of its funds from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund as it stands now.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Member has not quite understood and therefore he is misleading the House. The \$10 million approved in the Estimates for 1997-98 was the source of the \$350 bail out as well as the support for community programmes like the Pinelands Creative Workshop programme, not the Public Enterprise Fund and the Social Investment Fund.

The one aspect on which there has been a draw-down which relates to this matter is the subject of one of the amendments in relation to the transfer to the Rural Enterprise Fund. The Social Investment Fund is still proposed as a continuation of the first step in the Poverty Alleviation Programme.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sometimes when we draw certain matters into a debate and they are used differently as we might have intended we cannot always reclaim ground. When the Honourable Senate Leader speaks, he must aim to be as clear as he has been now and keep irrelevancies out. If the \$350 cheques are nothing to do with the fund why are we debating them at all?

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member, I think, is reflecting on your presiding in the Chair. You would not allow me to contravene the Standing Orders by introducing irrelevant items in the debate.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the amendment contemplated is also in part to regularise the transfer of funds to the Rural Enterprise Fund and this has been one of the funds which has been established in part of what Government has termed poverty alleviation on some occasions and poverty eradication on other occasions, depending upon the audience and the venue.

Sir, I want to start by saying that the question of poverty eradication or poverty alleviation is not one that can be addressed solely by dollars and cents or by the handing out of payments to people who are not fortunate enough to have a job, a comfortable home. Sir, we must seek first to understand very carefully what is the genesis of the scourge of poverty in this country. We must ensure that politicians and political parties move away from this tendency of handing out largesse because the people

who receive it do not have any greater respect at the end of the day for the donor. We need to build real opportunities for all Barbadians to participate in the economic activity of this country.

As a result, the establishment of what they term the access fund which will also derive some of its source from this Public Enterprise Investment Fund, the establishment of this body to lend to small business is one which is supported fully on this side. However, there has to be an accompanying will, an expressed will on the part of Government to ensure that small businesses can truly penetrate the established status quo in this country. And I have been consistent in saying this.

The economic cake in Barbados is of a relatively constant size and it is not going to become larger by merely introducing new entrepreneurs into the business world.

It is a fact that established big business resists entrepreneurial activity that challenges their *status quo*. Sir, I am living testimony to that and I am sure there are other members in here who would have been associated from time to time with organisations who have sought to challenge the *status quo*. Unless we have partnering legislation which gives these entrepreneurs certain concessions, and I say so without any hesitation, companion legislation, to give concessions to these small business entrepreneurs. Again, it has been mentioned in here by me that there is need for examining the possibility of assisting some small businesses by way of payment of their national insurance instead of dragging them over the coals and embarrassing them in our public papers because NIS payments in the case of small business is at least 9.75% derived from direct revenue. They are not totally, as sometimes the impression is given, derived from the workers' wages. Only a percentage.

The point is that Government must look for areas in which it can give assistance to small businesses in the same way that we are constantly looking for opportunities to assist larger businesses in our country. I recall the instance of the growth of the solar water heater industry. Concessions were granted to facilitate that business and the concessions were continued by successive governments. They were never stopped because it is recognised that this business could not compete on the same, as it is familiarly known as, "the level playing field". So unless access is accompanied by legislative power to bring about real assistance for the businesses they intend to fund, I am saying that the entrepreneur whom we create will be stillborn.

3.40 p.m.

We have to aim, Sir, at a sustainable kind of industrialist and we have to give them more than money. I often say that I am not a supporter of this level playing field

theory as I alluded because a level playing field with six fast bowlers coming at you you cannot deal with them. We need to have cracks in the playing field placed deliberately to assist small business. In some places it is termed "affirmative action". We need some of that in Barbados because, as I say, the economic cake is one which the big businesses will protect with all its venom. As I have indicated, Sir, I have direct experience in my business of this kind of operation by established businesses.

To this day, for instance, the Barbados Shipping and Trading Group which owns the distributorship of the supermarket chain of Super Centre refuses to carry Tiltman Beer on their shelves. We need therefore to establish a framework under which we bring along legislation that will see to it that fair trading does exist because, as we are all indeed aware, one is supposed to be able to trade freely in your goods. You cannot force a particular organisation to trade with you but, certainly, we in Barbados need to get more active in the pressures that are applied to some of these organisations or they will never bend because they are driven mainly by the urge for making profits.

Sir, the small entrepreneur, therefore, will not get any special treatment out there in the real world of business and the establishment of an agency. We see now the advertisement that if you are turned down by the bank you come down to Access or whatever. The point is, business growth is about the sale of the goods and if that is not taking place, we are not going to go anywhere.

Sir, the Senate Leader was able to point out that they were able, for instance, to put money into community projects and he mentioned the Pinelands specifically. But we are only too well aware of the kind of pressures that had to be applied for these funds to actually find their way into the organisation for which they were intended.

Sir, the members on that side need sometimes to reflect on these things because although the intention might be great, the amount of fall-out between the public relation aspect of the project to the actual effecting the money change can bring about a lot of discontent and I know, Sir, there were signs of growing discontent in respect to that particular project.

We had a situation, Sir, where the Barbados Labour Party has been moving around this country alleging to investigate the question of poverty in order to help them, as they say, to direct the funds which they were making available to the correct channels. My question, is, why is it that this programme was only directed at a certain grouping in our society? Where were the enquiries held? Are only the poor in Barbados then interested in poverty alleviation? So we get enquiries at Lawrence T. Gay School.

We get enquiries in Deacons. We get enquiries in the Pinelands. We get enquiries in Oistins and I believe in Speightstown.

Sir, the point I want to make is, at these enquiries there was not that cross section representation so I am submitting that the battle is not yet started. In other words, all strata of society are not represented at these enquiries so we are getting the benefits only of the view of those who are themselves sufferers in respect of poverty in this country. Those are the facts. The Barbados Labour Party can dwell on those facts as long as they feel they are worthy to be dwelt upon. They need, however, to my mind, to encourage debate at all levels of this society. To eradicate poverty, we must get the middle class and the upper class of this country to understand there are people in Barbados who are living below the poverty line. There are a number of Barbadians out there who still do not believe that and they like to get up and say that because a man from a particular village is wearing a brand name shirt or a brand name pants he is spending his money badly. He is living above his means and that kind of nonsense. It might be the only brand name shirt the guy has. There is a thin line in terms of the Barbadian heritage between our pride and the recognition of our financial status.

I want to see any establishment of a Social Investment Fund characterised by this kind of investigation, a recognition that poverty alleviation is not the creation of the Barbados Labour Party. We are in a decade which long ago the United Nations dubbed the decade for the eradication of poverty so to try to buy political mileage by this kind of propaganda, as I term it, is really no more than cheap politics. The world, I say has recognised that we have to remove the scourge of poverty from our country.

Another word of caution as we go down the road, Sir, of investigating methods of allocating our funds in order to have the greatest impact in respect to poverty alleviation is that we must be sure to send our investigative teams when they travel overseas to places where there is some relativity between the problem we have here in Barbados and the one in the country or the lands which they visit.

To go to South America and come back and tell me that Ecuador has poverty and you do not see anything yet is, to my mind, nonsense. To send our missions to this kind of investigation is not going to bring home the question to the Barbadian because our problem is a different problem to the one you will encounter in respect to poverty in Ecuador and a number of the South American countries.

There are different social problems to be dealt with. Barbados is a smaller community. It is a smaller land mass. There is a much stronger family bond and this is something, Sir, which we should probably spend some more time on in

respect of ensuring that the correct kind of research is embarked upon so that our programmes for the alleviation of poverty and our funding in respect to the creation of the Rural Enterprise Fund and the creation of the Social Investment Fund will benefit from this kind of empirical information. The problem in Barbados, the difficulty with respect to poverty in Barbados is uniquely Barbadian. We have got, in looking at developing this new business activity, to look at areas where we might have embraced international treaties in the past which now bind us.

3.50 p.m.

I have said before that our Government must not be afraid in the face of international pressure to say, we might have been signatories, for instance, to the World Trade Organisation or whatever but because of the special circumstances in Barbados today, this is the position that we are taking, we shall have certain preferential arrangements which would allow our businesses to survive.

What we are seeing today, is that we are moving into an area where we no longer have the opportunity for real industrial activity in Barbados. There is virtually none.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I do not know that that would be a backward step. I have heard many developing countries putting that existing position. As you know I am very clear here. I do not claim any empirical knowledge in these things because I read and research what is being done in different countries when I come in here. This is not something that I am saying because I have dreamt of it. This is what other countries have had to do.

When we embrace these international trading arrangements, sometimes we recognise many difficulties. There are instances even in so-called big business in Bridgetown today who are suffering because of the results of the same thing. Because the international owners, the international brand name owners for want of a better word, the Seagrams and the big duty free concessionaires out of Europe *etcetera*, are beginning to create havoc in terms of their ability to bring goods into the area at special prices.

We have got to really sit down and look and see where the sustainability of this opportunity for the Barbadian entrepreneur will come from. Where will it come from? It cannot come from embracing everything that is done in every other country. We have a unique opportunity indeed in a few months time in our distribution sector, Sir. In terms of being able to bring on board a new entity to deal with the new position in respect to the purchase and sale of oil and distribution of oil and oil derivatives in Barbados.

I listened to the Ministerial statements that have been made available so far in this regard and I await to see what is going to be said in this regard. If it is not said, rest assured that I will say it sooner or later. I will say what opportunities should be made available for Barbadians to participate in that particular business activity. We will have the opportunity to deal with the closure of Mobil and the new dispensation of oil distribution.

Sir, the amendment to the Public Enterprise Fund is one which we will watch very carefully. I would hope that the monies that have been put into projects like the GEMS of Barbados – this was mentioned by the Honourable Leader of the Senate – that we would see these funds turning over and being able to become beneficial and bring benefit to all of Barbados.

I am concerned myself about the way in which tourism is going and there will be opportunities, I am sure, in the very near future to discuss this at length in here and I will then make a few of the points which I think should be made in this regard. The GEMS of Barbados Project has taken indebted hotels and have provided funding for refurbishment and establishment of new management and we hope this will bring profitability to that new entity in Barbados. Because rest assured, the Democratic Labour Party is fully in support of a Barbados that is thriving.

We have said also, publicly, that since the economic situation in Barbados has now turned out as we predicted and things are looking better, we need to look at the possibility of giving some of the sacrifices of the period of restructuring to the people who made those sacrifices. I am very clear on that. We like to, as legislators, pass this Bill and that Bill for concessions here and there but I believe that just as we can give to other organisations and give back to other organisations, that the public servants who made that sacrifice in 1991, 1992 and 1993 should also be beneficiaries of the availability of funds like these now. It is time that the Government of Barbados today look at the possibility of repaying that 8% sacrifice which those public servants made.

There is absolutely nothing wrong or shameful about doing that. Because if the sacrifice can be made at a period of scarcity, we should be able to make it available in a period of boom. We hear talk about the economic boom and the results of the VAT. There is no reason why some of the Public Enterprise Fund cannot be used to pay some of the 8%. There is no reason why not.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I will not be distracted by those on that Side.

Sir, therefore, we find a situation where only five years ago, the gentlemen and ladies on that side would have been party of a group that accused the Democratic Labour Party of creating a 'pork barrel'. A 'pork barrel' for their political followers and today we are amazed to find that these are the ones who have opened the 'barrel' and are eating of the contents, and giving away the contents of that barrel. So we are going to do our bit on this side and ensure that the funds are not used... The Honourable Minister was careful to point out that he has information which tells him that the barrel has been equally shared between Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party supporters. I am grateful for that information and I am looking forward to support for that information when I go out there.

4.00 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order. I am always very reluctant to interrupt the Honourable Member when he is making what would appear to be a good point. But, Mr. President, I did not indicate in any part of my presentation that the Government was in any position to identify Barbados Labour Party supporters or Democratic Labour Party supporters in terms of the distribution of the benefits from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund, that was not indicated at all. What was clearly indicated was that the Government was very clear to be non partisan in its approach to the disbursement of funds and I would want the Honourable Member to desist from misleading the Senate in terms of suggesting things that I did not in fact say or suggest.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, one of the Democratic Labour Party spokespersons recently too made the point that even the location of the access fund as we have got to know it in Tudor Street is in itself sending a message and not necessarily the message we want to send.

I want to say now that these members on the Barbados Labour Party side were also the crescendo of criticism when the Democratic Labour Party purchased the banking facility for the Barbados National Bank on Broad Street. So I would be happy for any clarifications that might come from that side in this regard.

The point is that the location of access on Tudor Street has been suggested by one of the Democratic Labour Party spokesmen as being indeed an indication of limiting. If you play cricket on a small pitch on a twos and fours...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce I do not wish to interrupt you but I think you are drifting into irrelevancies again.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, the point I want to make before I go on quickly is that the access project is located on Tudor Street a venue which has

been traditionally associated with small entrepreneurial business and the point was made and I want to support the view that if we are looking towards that star in the sky, the unreachable limitless limit, the infinity that we are supposed to strive for, we must also consider sending that message by these symbols. That is the only point I want to make and that is the only association I seek to bring at this time.

Therefore, Sir, the intentions of the establishment of the Fund are before us. We shall be continuing to observe how the particular agencies that the funds are intended for, how they are constituted, their membership because, remember this is not new ground. There are countries all around the Caribbean where models can be seen who went through the same economic difficulties in the early 1990s that Barbados went through and who went ahead with certain programmes to deal with the threats or the continuing threat of poverty and the continuing lack of opportunity for our young business class.

So, Sir, we want in dealing with the Bill just to mention those few cautions, to note that the members on that side would be speaking, especially Senator Barker, would be speaking with forked tongue when they contribute.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker leave Senator Boyce. Senator Boyce you must know you cannot get away with that. Please withdraw that.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I withdraw the offending remarks but I would be surprised at how Senator Barker would defend his position.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker has not spoken. Please do not anticipate what he would say.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I will wait, Sir, to see how the members on that side make their contributions in respect to this particular Bill given the widespread criticism which they had for the establishment of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund in 1993. They did not support it then and the records will show that. So there is a terrible inconsistency awaiting us as they make their contributions this evening in this debate.

SENATOR THE HON P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, this is a most remarkable debate. The Public Enterprise Fund is being used in the area of poverty alleviation. Now we have heard, first of all, that the creation of new entrepreneurs will not add to the size of the economic pie. That is a ridiculous statement. It defies logic. Entrepreneurial activity and particularly those areas which

are export driven activity and those areas in knowledge based businesses which we are creating in this society day in and day out create wealth and expand the economic pie.

The experience of the past three years of this country has been dramatic growth in the economic pie and the results of that have been seen in the steady and consistent decline in unemployment.

The figures that we have today before us show 12.2% unemployment, a low in the last 20 years.
4.10 p.m.

Now, the success of this programme and the creation of entrepreneurial activity is clearly expanding the economic pie. We then go to the concept that we need special partnering legislation for small businesses. This is something that properly rests in the private sector. Deal making is a private sector activity. Partnering is a private sector activity and it depends on the culture of those two individuals or several individuals that come together and strike up a partnership. It is not understanding the business process.

There are many examples, Mr. President, of partnering in Barbados that go back several decades between large and small businesses, individuals and small businesses that have grown into large businesses. This activity takes place in a natural environment which facilitates business...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Senator is misleading the Chamber. I never talked about partnerships or the lack of partnerships. I indeed am fully aware of partnerships. I am a beneficiary of such a partnership in the private sector, Sir. I talked about "partnering legislation" and I corrected it later on to say, "companion legislation".

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I do not know if the Honourable Member is talking about a "fairy Godmothers legislation" or what legislation he is talking about, but I understood him to say that he wanted special legislation to facilitate "partnering" in Barbados. I do not understand where he was coming from. He kept on talking about protection for small businesses.

This administration has consistently put things in place to create special environments, special support and special funding for the creation of small businesses. I do not know what else the Honourable Senator would like us to do to support small businesses, other than to guarantee their profits when the day comes. The definition of entrepreneurial activity is that some people who go into business will fail. This is not a world in which we are removing failure and in this society we have to

understand that failure has quite often been an inhibitor for entrepreneurial activity.

In some parts of the world you are not considered to be a success if you have not first failed somewhere and that is particularly true in the new IT businesses in the Silicone Valley area. You have to take risks in business and if you do not take risks you will not have profit. So you have to put your ideas into action. You have to put your best foot forward, but you also have to recognise that there is going to be an element of risk and possible failure.

There are many well-established businesses in Barbados, Mr. President, who have had business failures over the years. I recall one firm had a soft drinks factory here, not a stone's throw away from these Honourable Chambers, in Marhill Street. They produced "Canada Dry" drinks and so forth and eventually they went out of business because they did not have the technical skills and the business acumen to make that particular business run. But that did not stop the entrepreneur. He went on into other businesses and was a very successful business person and part of a successful business operation for many years.

So, I do not think that the Honourable Senator truly understands what entrepreneurial activity is. There is tremendous angst made over the Barbados Labour Party's Poverty Alleviation Programme. I suspect that this angst derives from the fact that the Honourable Senator's party was responsible for creating more poverty in Barbados in the last ten years than we have ever witnessed before, and that this Government today, is doing something positive about it. On the one hand he said there is an absolute need to go out and do the research and to understand what poverty is about and I think he learnt that from earlier presentations that were made from this side. Then on the other hand he criticised the Government for going out and doing research into poverty. So, I do not know which it is that he meant.

We now come, Mr. President, to an area of activity that is extremely important for the economy of this country. He speaks about continuing protection for industrial activity in this country and the Honourable Senator seems to think that the changing environment has been brought about by our access to the WTO. He does not understand what the fundamental reasons for the changing world economy are, and I will try to explain it.

The fundamental reasons for the change in the world economy derive from scientific discovery and technological break-throughs. It is changing the environment, the way we communicate, the types of businesses that we do and the types of activities that will happen in the economic area of activity. You have to understand the cause of the dramatic change that is being wrought upon us whether we like it or not. We cannot put the genie back in the bottle.

Today, there is a tremendous change in the economy. The future economy of this world is knowledge-based. It is the creation of intellectual property, it is the development of software, it is the creation of art, it is a type of distribution of knowledge and so on, which is utilising the modern-day telecommunication environment and the computational powers that exist in the world today.

By the year 2010, fifty percent of the world's retail trade will be done on the Internet. This will have dramatic impact for the whole distributive system of the world, not just Barbados. This change is on the way today. We have to understand that the new businesses are the development of software, scientific research and the distribution of that knowledge. And this is happening here and now.

There are people from St. Thomas, St. Lucy, St. Andrew, St. John and in Christ Church involved in the development of state-of-the-art world class software products today in Barbados and those products are being sold in every nation on this world planet. We have to understand that this is the direction that the world trade is going in and we have to capitalise on that. It is symptomatic of the strategic thinking of the Opposition that they go right back to the past.
4.20 p.m.

Today the business community needs to utilise cutting-edge, state-of-the-art technology, to upgrade their business plans, to distribute their products and their ideas and to use them in the service industry of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I predict a time not too long from now where it will be absolutely necessary for hotels to have their own websites which can be viewed, where the rooms can be seen, where the public spaces can be seen and all the amenities shown on the web, without this, a hotel will not get a booking.

This is the new service area that we are moving into and it is the bright young Barbadians coming out of the Community College and the University of the West Indies that will create those systems for those people running those hotels or those restaurants or any other business activity taking place in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, it is not that we belong to the WIPO that we must change. It is because technology has changed. Scientific discovery has created the new environment and we have to respond to it in a positive, aggressive and proactive way.

This Poverty Alleviation Fund will maximise the potential of the intellectual capacity of many people who are very bright but, unfortunately, are under very difficult financial positions. This is the tremendous promise that

this programme brings: to change this society, to dramatically improve our economy and to thrust Barbados forward into the 21st century where there is no barrier because of class, there is no barrier because of wealth, there is no barrier because of sex and that we maximise the potential of the intellect of our people.

This, Mr. President, is truly a remarkable programme and what makes the difference between the use of these funds is the vision, the foresight and the superior management that is being brought to the application of the distribution of these funds. That, Mr. President, is the difference between how the Honourable Member on the other side saw the use of these funds and how we on this side see the use of these funds. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Dr. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I am responding to this Bill which would amend the Public Enterprise Investment Fund Act, 1993 and it says:

- (a) "facilitate the transfer of funds from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for the creation of a Social Investment Fund to be established by the Social Investment Fund Act, 1997 (Act 1997); and
- (b) regularise the transfer of funds from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund to the Rural Enterprise Fund".

Let me begin by saying that I support this. I support all the work that the Government has started doing in terms of the micro enterprise agencies, the loans. I have seen where the \$350 has been paid out, and the \$4.6 million.

I want to make several points in terms of the great faith which we do have in the technology of what is called the modern world and the magic of things like the Internet and the way in which communications have created one world. We talk about the World Trade Organisation and we talk about globalisation; but what I find very interesting, and I see it happening in terms of the world and in terms of Barbados, because what is actually happening is we are creating two worlds.

The world which my friend, Senator Goddard, spoke about, that fantastic world of technology, the world of the Internet, the world of trade, the world of entrepreneurship, that world that has created philosophies that we support here in terms of capitalism, is a world that has created a great divide between the rich and the poor.

I saw a very interesting thing, a piece of news recently and I think it fits in very nicely with what I want to say. Some bright young spark in French West Africa thought he

would open a cafe with Internet facilities, computers for people to come in and have coffee and use the Internet because they can surf and be in touch with the world. Interestingly enough, it lasted a few months. Why? Because the base, the mass of people did not even have a proper secondary education.

If we in Barbados and my real concern that I am talking about today has to do with women and children and I want to bring the thought down to a very basic level. We can sit here and I know there are quite a lot of bright sparks as the Senator said who are working with programmes, who are working with computers and the Internet, but I am really sorely concerned about the fact that out of a population of ¼ million we have 41 000 women in the working community who do not even go out to work.

When I look at the \$350 which is paid to the people working for under \$170 a week I wonder what happens to all those people who do not work. I am also wondering about what is happening to the children. We have, roughly speaking, if you look at the statistics up to 1997-98, 86 000 from the age of zero to 19. We have 62 000 between the ages of zero to 14. We have mothers out there with children in this country, especially in the rural areas, who have not got enough to eat.

Now the Leader of the Senate did mention that this \$350 for poverty alleviation did not interfere with the fact that we had a welfare system. What we consider a welfare system in this country and the money that is being handed out to mothers with children cannot support them. So what I want to stress today is there is funding for small enterprises, there is funding for people who work for less than \$170, but we seem not to be focussing on a large number of women - 40% as heads of households - with children in our society. I do not see that funding going to them. If we do not begin to see those children out there as our future resource, the people who are going to work to add taxes to this country, we are not going to get anywhere, despite our internet, how many students we produce at the Community College in terms of computer awareness and despite the fact that we talk about EduTech 2000, unless we are going to deal with the basic issue of taking care of those children and women in our society who cannot even eat a proper meal.

You know the education that we talk about cannot even take place on hungry bellies. The children we have out there who are not eating well cannot learn. This whole magical thing about Internet and computers and the World Trade Organisation and globalisation. Globalisation, I insist, is nothing new. We have had empires built and we know we are members of the Commonwealth where there was globalisation, trade all around the globe, where people were looking at trading partners, where people were looking

in terms of capital and profit, where it has produced in former colonial countries the great divide that we are talking about. So all that lovely exotic talk about communications, about the modern world about intellectual property, all these things are wonderful.

4.30 p.m.

All these things are wonderful. We must see in Barbados that we do not create the same divide which the World Trade Organisation and globalisation have caused in the world. The amount of people living in poverty in the world is much more than they were 20 years ago, alarmingly and the same thing I can see beginning to happen in a place like Barbados where you begin to superimpose on the society that was mainly a peasant society, mainly a society where people still live in rural areas, and that is why I am supporting any legislation that would say: Rural Enterprise, Rural Development. But it is the human being. It is the human person. It is the child in this society today whom we are going to have to make sure is fed, schooled and sheltered that we are going to be basing any progress that we are talking about in the 21st Century and all that.

I say it is wonderful. I hear this talk all the time about how we are into the intellectual age of computers. I say "Fine". Let us get all our children and our women out there, first make sure they can eat and treat them with the kind of dignity and respect they deserve because we also know that people are not going to the Welfare Department to get the few dollars. We know that. We have found out these situations. What are we seriously doing to bring into this new world that we want to create here in Barbados a people who are fed and ready to grasp the opportunities of what is now seen as modernism? Modernism is ancient really when you look at it in terms of who remains poor and who remains rich.

What I am saying today is that I support this but I think a lot of people are falling between the cracks in this society and they are mainly women and children. I want to see more of any fund, urban, rural, public enterprise, whatever the fund is named, directed to women and children in this society.

Thank you.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Mr. President, I rise to make a few comments on this Public Enterprise Investment Fund (Amendment) Bill. I must say that I was impressed with the Leader of Government Business in the manner in which he gave a comprehensive introduction on this Bill. He gave an example of a small man who wanted pig pens in Leadvale, Christ Church East to the Club Randall opposite Aberdeen Jones in Christ Church East. It now looks as though the Honourable Leader of Government Business has given up St. George and is focussing in Christ Church. I

cannot help but notice, Sir, that he even has a file marked "Christ Church East." It was funny for us to be sitting down here and looking at the Honourable Senator with his file with Christ Church East on the cover. You could show it to everyone.

Sir, this Public Enterprise Investment Fund, the Social Investment Fund, the Rural Enterprise Fund and the Micro Enterprise Development Agency, all of these funds were formed, as the Leader of Government Business explained, for various reasons. One of the things he did mention that made me stand to speak here this afternoon is that he was talking about the interest of the small man, the fast track for financing, that it was owned by the broad masses of the people and everything else.

I am just amazed to hear all of this sort of talk and stand here now and have to sadly state that the Barbados Development Bank has been abolished. I honestly feel that the Barbados Development Bank should not have been abolished and that all of these various funds should have been placed under various divisions of the Barbados Development Bank. That is my honest humble opinion.

Sir, in 1969 when the Barbados Development Bank was formed its initial purpose was to help small developing businesses and when the Honourable Leader of Government Business could talk about pig pens, pig farms and that sort of thing, the BDB helped members to open duck farms in this country, and there is nothing wrong with that.

The Barbados Development Bank helped the gentleman that just passed away at the Pebbles "Cus". The beautiful van that Cus had was financed by the Barbados Development Bank. The Barbados Development Bank not only gave reduced interest rates but it gave moratoriums to help the small man and that is important. But in the latter part of the 70s the Barbados Development Bank for one reason or another, I do not have the reasons, I could guess why, but it started to compete with commercial banks in this country and that is where I think the BDB fell down.

Aside.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: I would not call it, Sir, but I said in the latter part of 1970. He is a former Senator in here who was the Chairman. I am well briefed.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: For the information of those in this Chamber, from 1976 when Senator Seale was the Chairman, it is unfortunate that the Bank took a different role. It started to go down the line of competing with commercial banks. It lost its purpose and should not have been abolished.

Sir, what I am worried about is that these funding agencies want to help a lot of the small businesses, and I agree with that. When I say small business, I mean the small man. I mean people that want to buy their tools, equipment and various things. All of that I agree with. The question is, at the end of the day we do not want to go down the same path as the BDB where we are going to have a lot of bad debts. So you are caught in a Catch 22 situation where you want to help these small people but on the other hand you want to make sure that your loans are repaid over a period of time because there is not just an inexhaustible supply of funds that is going to go through the shoot.

In business, Sir, there are those who are going to succeed and there are those who are going to fail and that is a fact of life. What I am concerned about is that the advertising that is done in the Micro Enterprise Development Agency gives the feeling when we see it advertised that money is available, money is easy to access but one has to be very cautious and ask the question, what rate of interest are you charging these people?

Now, the Honourable Leader of Government Business talked about the level of interest of people. He spoke about the quantity of people who are interested in this micro development. The question I want to ask is, what interest the small businesses are being charged and what sort of securities are you demanding from them?

Now, the Public Enterprise Development Fund, this Poverty Alleviation Programme and all of that, sometimes when you are an Independent, you have no party line to tow. You just come in here and can talk from your conscience. I get people calling me and I am sure that they call other Senators too, saying that they want jobs. I employ a lot of people too so I suppose that is part of being an employer. Then there are other people calling me and wanting minibus permits, they want a house, they want this, they want that. I keep reminding them that I am an Independent and I have no access.
4.40 p.m.

Asides.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: I got a lot of calls recently from a number of people who tell me that they are earning less than \$170 a week and they did not get the \$350. All I can promise those people is that when the opportune time comes that I will stand up and say that publicly as I am doing right now.

Asides.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: It is a problem and I would just like to know what the criteria was besides being

employed at \$170 a week. What happens to those people, as Senator Davis said, who are not employed at all. What happens to those mothers and children. Welfare Department has to look at those things but now that we have big surpluses with VAT and what have you, I think that increases have to come to help these people.

I heard Senator Boyce talk about giving ease to businesses. The problem is that he recommended paying the National Insurance and so on but I think that you reach a point in business where handouts cannot be given to any and everybody. I have said so when I spoke in the Estimates before and I will make another call for it now that if you want to give concessions to small businesses, reduce Corporation Tax. I have said so over and over again in this Honourable Chamber and I hope that soon Corporation taxes will be reduced so that it will ease the cash flows in businesses. It is difficult to succeed in business this way.

The Honourable Leader of Government Business said that cash flows are vital. It is difficult after you have worked down to the very end and you have to pay taxes, and not only on profits but to pay on the previous year as well. So you are tying up cash flows in 1998 and in April or September you are going to be paying for your profits made in 1997. That is what ties up a lot of cash flows and people do not understand that.

Asides.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: If you are going to give concessions, that is where concessions should be given because that is what eases cash flows.

I agree with Senator Boyce that now that there is a surplus that the people who suffered the hardship during the structural adjustment time to put the economy on a proper footing, to give it 4% growth before they left office – the DLP, those government workers who have suffered should get back their 8%. What is wrong with that. I agree with that.

I would finally like to say that we have to be very careful about this financing of companies, whose Balance Sheets you would not even give 10 cents for. The GEMS of Barbados have to be very careful as to how they are spending money and how they are going to get back this money that they are spending. If they are not careful, it is going to backfire. I am saying that the Government has to be careful with GEMS of Barbados and how they are financing companies that are losing money.

I am saying to you that all of these funds, the Public Enterprise Investment Fund, the Social Investment Fund, the Rural Enterprise Fund, the Micro Enterprise Fund,

all of these funds should still be under the arm of the Barbados Development Bank. The Barbados Development Bank should be re-opened and all the debts they are trying to recoup, another window could be opened for that. There are a number of avenues that could be done but to close the Barbados Development Bank was a big mistake.

Thank you, Sir.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 5.05 p.m. today.

The question was put to the SENATE and agreed and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
4.50 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill before us, the Enterprise Investment Fund (Amendment) Bill and just to say a few words because something like this really speaks to my personal heart because back in the 1950s when my father was an entrepreneur, a small what would have to be called a black businessman of the day and a minority one at that, no such provision was in place to assist in any measure with the development of small businesses of the day.

I am especially happy today that I am in a position where I can vote on an amendment to a Bill which seeks to give opportunity to many small business persons who would want to make their mark on the economic landscape of Barbados.

I myself being a small business person too, very recently had what I would call a not so good experience in one of the commercial banks in Bridgetown and it was not necessarily the outcome, because I did not even wait for the outcome, but the manner in which an individual sought to deal with me as a small business person, and I was really distressed by it. I have been in business 21 years, and I have heard often times colleagues of mine and other small business persons talk about the manner in which they are treated like if they were coming cap in hand. Until recently I really did not get a full sense of what they were talking about because I had never been subjected to it.

Mr. President, I feel initiatives such as this one, the Enterprise Investment Fund is the sort of fund which will give access to persons not with any shilly-shally and

willy-nilly business concepts but the concepts which can redound to the benefit of themselves and to the economy at large in terms of providing employment and for many expanding businesses as they progress in the way that they best know how.

There are not all businesses that can be seen as perhaps frontliners but there are a lot of small businesses which make significant impact on the economy in terms of providing employment, in terms of keeping individuals under shelter, in terms of educating their children, and on and on it goes. So I am really happy that today I am in a position where I will vote resoundingly for this amendment so that generations to come will understand what it was like in the past and what it is like today.

Now one of the Senators who spoke earlier in this debate, I believe it was the last Senator, spoke of being careful how you dispense the funds and so on and so forth. I want to suggest that this administration to date has not done anything in a 'wishy-washy' manner if I could use that expression and to say that this, with all other ideas that we have come forward with or are amending or adding to has been done with a lot of thought before bringing it to this Honourable Chamber. So I would want to assure him that he need not worry on that front.

One of the other Senators also mentioned this talk about the BLP carrying out the poverty alleviation study. As far as I can recall it was the Government doing these studies. I should have risen at that point on a point of order but I did not do so, I just want to elucidate now that I am on my feet that it was certainly an initiative of this Barbados Labour Party Administration and not the Barbados Labour Party as a party who is doing these studies which certainly will redound to the benefit of Barbadians because when you look at this poverty alleviation programme and the funds which are being injected into it only good can come.

Mr. President, I would want to quote a little bit from the Financial and Budgetary Proposals 1996, page 2 where the Prime Minister states

"....to put the worst aspects of abject poverty in Barbados behind us once and for all; to truly empower those who have traditionally found themselves outside the mainstream of economic and social life in this country; and to truly build a strong, modern, resilient and competitive society whose economic performance mirror those of the emerging middle income countries."

"They challenge us, as well, Mr. Speaker, as never before, to create institutional arrangements and mechanisms to deploy resources in favour of the emergence and sustained development of a thriving small business entrepreneurial class of Barbadians."

Mr. President, this amendment speaks exactly to that. Senator Davis spoke in her presentation about the need to involve women and children as main-stream in some of the benefits to be had in an amendment such as this. I had made notes to specifically highlight this group. Usually in this Senate sometimes you put down notes and another Senator will get up and cover the material but I have no problem reiterating some of it. I would want to suggest that women entrepreneurs out there feel bold enough, feel brave enough, to take the opportunity to go forward to one of the investment funds, find one which is appropriate to you and put your case. In addition to which you can get assistance and advice for the development of your business. There are many small businesses that have survived over the years almost, and I am not going to say by hook or by crook, but who get through by the skin of their teeth and you know the battle can get long and tough. Sometimes you do not have a person of experience to turn to give advice as to how you can make that business go forward and really be sustained into the next generation.

To go back again, there are many businesses which started out in the days when my father started out and I do not think that any one of them is around any longer. I think N.E. Wilson was the last one to go down. I would really want to see as we go into the year 2000 and beyond that small businesses that have developed in the latter part of this century are able to go on into the next generation. Of course this is coupled with education in terms of business. They must encourage their children, draw them in and not encourage the children to move away from the mainstream of business and into other areas of academic study only. Commerce is an integral part of any economy, and the youth should take advantage of the various educational opportunities, take advantage themselves of the incentives which are being created today in this Parliament.

Women in particular who have these skills which I mentioned before which often times are very good but they do not know how to market themselves and so you will find too many of the sisters doing the same discipline and then it falls by the wayside. Then what happens, they become dependent once again on some other means of supporting self, family and children. So my urge today is to say congratulations on this Bill. I look forward to voting resoundingly in its favour and to urge the women out there who have a skill, do not say it is too small, go down to the Micro Development Fund or the Public Enterprise Fund or one of the funds which come under that. There is something there for you. Go and claim what this administration has put in place to ensure that as the years go forward and we move into the next century that you would also be a force to be reckoned with. Thank you, Mr. President.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN:
Mr. President, I rise to lend my voice to this debate but first

I must bring to this Chamber a bit of history which I believe should put paid to most of the things which Senator Boyce has been saying.

The Act today is a marvelous piece of legislation which reveals a lot in the history of Barbados and I have constantly said that as politicians we should try to research the history of politics in this country and we will know where we went, where we came from and where we are going.

Now Senator Boyce said he wanted to see how the Members on this side, so he did not include me because I am on this side, how they are going to speak in relation to this Fund because the Members of the Barbados Labour Party were against the fund. What I think Senator Boyce forgot was that the main thrust of the discontent and the reason why the Members of the Barbados Labour Party were against what was happening, not the fund, was that the Democratic Labour Party was disposing of valuable assets which were the people's assets. It was the people's assets. That I why I said I want to talk about some history.

Now, the Democratic Labour Party disposed of the assets in the cement plant. Now when we came to power in 1976 as Senator Bernstein said to me in an aside we talked about housing the nation by the year 2000 and because we could not get the cement in this country, we wanted it, the merchants in Bridgetown had the cement trade wrapped up. Senator Odle who just left here – you want to know the history of this country? I was Minister of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs and when we put out a tender for cement, all the other companies in Barbados quoted high prices for cement. It was the West Indian Trading Company which was owned by the Odles that brought in cement at the lowest price. 5.25 p.m.

We awarded the contract to them and then the banks said "don't lend them the money to bring the cement into this country." We then sat down with Tom Adams and he decided that the best thing to do was to try to set up a cement plant in Barbados. In a joint venture with Trinidad, the Arawak Cement Plant was set up so that we can always have cement and remove wooden houses from the face of Barbados. That is why it was set up at that time.

I know you are going to run outside because you cannot listen to this. You never stay and listen to this.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I imagine you are not referring to the Chair.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Not the Chair, Sir. I am talking about Senator Boyce. All right, give him a chance. Somebody is out there to him, let him go out there.

That is the reason why we set up the cement plant and this is why the Barbados Labour Party was opposed to getting rid of these enterprises and the result was that the Democratic Labour Party said they would put the money in a fund.

Point two, the Telephone Company and Cable and Wireless, at the time they were mercenaries operating around the world. The mercenaries went to the Far East and took over a country and the Barbados Labour Party at the time invited specialists and consultants here to advise us about our security. We were told that one of the things the Government had to do to secure itself is to own a substantial number of shares in its communications network. The Barbados Government then set out to buy shares in the Telephone Company and Cable and Wireless and placed Board Members there so that we could always be aware of what was happening.

The Democratic Labour Party, the first thing they did, and it was to offer back the shares. I was Minister and it was then that we realised that the Telephone Company and Cable and Wireless operated by what they called "A Gentleman's Agreement" that was made in a pub in London how they are giving up the returns of the telecommunication area in Barbados.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: That is why the Barbados Government at the time bought the shares and those shares were the people's shares. That is why the newspapers talk about selling off the family silvers and we were opposed to disposing of things that gave the people of Barbados a stake in their own society and security for what was happening.

We did the same thing with Light and Power. We bought shares in Light and Power to make sure the Government had a stake in the only electric company in Barbados so that we can be able to have some control of what is happening.

The Honourable Senator speaks about the fund and that the money went into the fund, but history is a strange thing. It shows how life works. Prior to 1976 the Democratic Labour Party was in power and they had a Minister of Trade and by the actions of that Minister of Trade at least 60% of the small shops and businesses in Barbados closed down.

It was such that in 1986 the late Errol Barrow went around to all the businesses in Bridgetown and told them,

"If you give me back the Government, that man will never get back in the Ministry of Trade."

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: They do act so. What the Barbados Labour Party is doing today is re-enfranchising those small people who lost their hold of this country during the reign of the Democratic Labour Party. That is all we are going, re-enfranchising the little man, so stop talking.

In 1974-1975 we had a Minister of Education who sent home 400 teachers and then turned around and sent home all of the children aged 14 and up. The first thing we did in 1976 was to reopen the schools and put those children back in and teach them skills, for example, to make post cards and those things, so do not talk.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Understand, that is the vision of the Barbados Labour Party. Over and again you hear everybody talking about having to create their own job, self employment, but nobody is going to remember that the business houses in this country adopted the American standard of downsizing.

I will go back further. We had the National Insurance Scheme and the Unemployment Benefit. You know what happened to business houses in Bridgetown? They laid off their top executives and then went and claimed severance pay. The severance paid them back 90 percent of what they paid them and then they re-employed them as consultants.

The Barbados Labour Party had to look at the Act and change it. So they provide for one lot and the little ones got nothing. What did the Democratic Labour Party do? They changed the Severance Payment Act. We used to get four weeks in every year, they changed it down to two now and who got sent home? He talked. He does not understand the history.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, I am expecting you to tell us about the Fund.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: All this is the Fund. This is what the Fund is doing, Sir. The Fund is re-enfranchising those people who were put out on the streets without jobs, education or anything and I am developing my point why these various funds are so necessary.

The Development bank was originally set up to help all developments in Barbados, but the bank became such an institution that nobody had any trust in it anymore. If you put a project in there one week, in the next week it has gone, sold.

The Honourable Senator spoke about the closure of the Barbados Development Bank, but he should tell the Chambers that it was under the Democratic Labour Party that they agreed with the IADB to close the Barbados Development Bank. When the Barbados Labour Party came to power in 1994, it was a *fait accompli* that it was hinged to certain conditions for loans and improvement of Barbados, if you close the Barbados Development Bank. That is what it was. It was hinged to provisions made by them.

The Barbados Labour Party has been caught in this several times, because when we came to power in 1976, it was the same way with Heywoods Development. They started building Heywoods, linked to the World Bank with certain conditions. When we came to office, we said, "we do not want Heywoods," because the provision for Heywoods was that it was a multifaceted hotel leased to Barbados, because Barbadians did not have stakes in the tourist industry.

We say, Barbadians do not like to lease anything, they like to own. They said, "we have an agreement signed, you have to carry it through."

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: We found ourselves saddled with conditions that the previous Government had made and the lending institutions say that a new Government cannot break arrangements which were entered into by a lawful Government and that we had to go through.

The Honourable Member talks about paying back the 8 percent to those persons who suffered the Structural Adjustment Programme and Senator Bernstein talks about this too. These are propaganda statements which have not been thoroughly thought through. They are just pure propaganda statements because, who are you going to pay? There were civil servants who remained on the job that lost 8%. The Court ruled that the Government of the day was entitled to reduce your salary by 8%. That is a ruling of the Court. How are you going to pay those civil servants who were sent home in total. How are you going to work it out for them?

5.35 p.m.

The next point is, are you going to look for those persons who lost their jobs in private enterprise at the relevant time? How are you going to determine that? Those are the factors. So they pick on the one factor they think will draw attention to talk about paying them but there are certain people who suffered during the incompetence of the Government of the day, but they are only picking out a

certain group to say they must get pay. So you must favour this group, and leave the others out there and say they are not in the group to get. You know the DLP is accustomed to doing that.

They had a restructuring of salaries just before this happened and they went in all the Ministries and handpicked the people who would get the increases and left a lot of the others not being increased. That is the philosophy that was always spoken about.

Mr. President, I support the Pine and let me say something. There are a number of young people out there who have brilliant ideas for projects. I call at this time because I think the Micro Enterprise Development Agency should have a specialised board for developing the ideas and projects of young entrepreneurs. The Board, in my view, must be specially selected and bonded. I would hate to see in this country another Board like the Barbados Development Bank Board that we had a few years ago.

The first leak or the first aspect of infidelity that is found, they should be put before a court and prosecuted. That is what I would like to see. I believe people with ideas for development projects should be able to put down their basic ideas on a piece of paper, walk into such an agency and say this is my project, develop it and tell me whether it will work or not work. There should be competent people to develop that project.

If it works, sign, hand it back and the Board finances it and they watch it as it develops. They should be able to step in at any time and give guidance to the person when they think they are going wrong. If there is a board of that nature, things will progress. As Senator Goddard said, with business there are failures and successes. I think that we in the Caribbean and in Third World Countries are in a position where we have to develop new methods and new principles that are specially provided for us and are different to other countries.

I do remember as a young barrister in England one of my first cases was to deal with a legal aid case called, Owen and the Macmillan Company. Before the war, a chap called Owen and a partner used to import the first rudimentary offset machines from Germany. When the war broke out, because of the Trading with the Enemy Act they could no longer deal with Germany and they then modified these machines until they got them to a certain sophisticated standard.

After the war, all persons who had modified machines from Germany were able to take out patent on them under the British Patents Act. They started to develop these little machines which were different from the old printing press where you used to fix leg and boxes *et cetera*. A director from the Macmillan Publishing Company went to India

and walking down a side street saw a man with this thing like a typewriter producing pretty prints and he came back, went to his company and said, "look we have to get that in. Otherwise it is going to ruin us with all our investment in these big presses."

They called the two gentlemen, invited them to take them over and they said yes and they said they would set up an offset division of the Macmillan Publishing Company. The story is that after a year the chap, Owens, who was the business man, was given an office, nicely carpeted *et cetera*. The other chap was put down in the Foundry working and he was contented.

Owen complained that they were not setting up an offset division. So what they did was this. They went out in Florida, bought a piece of land and put up a tin hut and told him Monday morning that the offset division was out there to go there. When he went out there and saw the tin hut he drove promptly back to Fleet Street and they fired him.

They came into court and said quite plainly this was a development we thought would ruin our own development with our investment unless we controlled it.

All I am saying is this. We have a number of young men out there. Computers and software, as Senator Goddard says, will rule the world within the next 5 years. I was involved in a computer company in Barbados, set up in Roebuck Street and we used to export computers into the United States. Although we had clearance from the IRS and the Customs we had...

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: First of all, the Americans challenged where could Barbados get the no-how to export this amount of computers from Barbados. I will tell you what happened. They broke my office. They broke that office and eventually the Customs put an embargo on machines shipped to the United States and shut down the business in Barbados.

I am saying that we have young men in Barbados who, in my view, have as much knowledge and the technical capability of producing their own hardware and software but we are going to need the finance and financial guidance, bring those persons into structured businesses if we must profit from them.

Besides these small amounts which you are giving, the \$20 000 to \$30 000 we have to be able to put the other structure around that. Look at Apple Computer. Steve Job was a man who left Walker University because they thought he could not know anything and Steve Job created the PC that we are using today which IBM copied.

Therefore we have a chance here and Senator Boyce would like to criticise because the Democratic Labour Party cannot hold up its hands and say what it has done for young people in this country at all. There is nothing you can look at to say what they have created. When they talk about free schools you are forgetting the Anglican churches around here, you are forgetting the ones that we built. The free school meals, do you forget the biscuits and milk? I went to school as a boy...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, please do not be distracted. Please return to the Resolution.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, all this Act is doing is taking the money from the enterprises which were sold out by the Democratic Labour party and utilising it for the people of Barbados who need it. Senator Boyce is against it. I do not know what they want to do. Put it in a fund and leave it there to grow moss? That is all they wanted to do.

The position is that the Barbados Labour Party, through its vision, through caring for its people and knowing that it has to create opportunities for young people in this country, are using that money just for that purpose. One thing I would like to say is that I think we will have to turn away now from the Swan Street and that crowd of people. Everybody seems to forget the middle class in this society, the ones that are under the most pressure. I think we have to look at that crowd of people and see where they are going and what can be done for them.

When we have completed that, we would have done what best we can. You cannot do everything you want to do in any 5-year period unless you are a magician. I think the Party is on the way of fulfilling its Manifesto pledges and in time to come they will satisfy the people of this nation. I thank you.
5.45 p.m.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I rise to support this amendment to the Public Enterprise Investment Fund. Sir, I have the privilege of being the only Member in this Honourable Chamber who was in Parliament at the time when this Bill came in December, 1993. I had strong words to say then about this Bill and I still have strong words to say about the Bill.

The fact that the Bill is being amended does not negate my objections four years ago. If anything, Sir, the fact that it is being amended proves that I may have been right in my strenuous opposition to that Bill. There was one thing that particularly annoyed me about that Bill because it said that one of the objectives of the Bill was to

finance the repayment of any public debt when we all know that public debt is a charge on the Consolidated Fund and there was absolutely no need to set up a separate fund to repay public debt. That was one of my objections. It was almost as though they were looking for reasons to set up the fund.

Do not forget, Sir, as the last speaker said, this fund came about as a result of the Democratic Labour Party selling the family silver, a garage sale. I am sure that the Minister responsible for telecommunications wished that he had those shares that the Government sold because he then would have been able to exert some measure of control over the activities of the two organisations which are strangling the business sector in this country.

Sir, I hear talk about "buy back" but the point remains that at that time the shares were sold under the market value. There was no attempt to offer the shares for sale so that the public, including myself, would have been in a position, if I wanted to, to go and purchase the shares. A lot of Barbadians both here and overseas would have been more than glad to have invested in those companies, but no. The Democratic Labour Party, true to form, sold back the shares to the multinational concerns and that irritated me. They were entering into agreements which meant that if we wanted to buy back the shares we would have to pay through our noses so they sold the shares in a sweetheart deal and wanted the country to buy back the shares at inflated prices. That is what had us who were then in the Opposition so violently opposed to this particular fund. Its very genesis went against all that we believed in.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Sir. I really would prefer not to interrupt the Honourable Senator in his speech but he is misleading the Chamber and imputing improper motives too on the Democratic Labour Party Administration when he talks about sweetheart deals. I think that is far from fair and those words should be taken from the record because they impute improper motives on the part of a previous administration.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Standing Order refers to improper motives to members of either Chamber. I would say to the extent that it can be taken as a reference to a member of either House, I would ask the Senator to rephrase his submission.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the agreement which was part of the sale indicated that the deal was not in the best interest of Barbados because part of the agreement was that for 20 years, that is until the year 2013 or thereabout, that company would have monopoly control of our telecommunications. That is the background, Sir, to that deal between the Government and Cable & Wireless, the

proceeds from which went to create the Public Enterprise Investment Fund. In that context, we were extremely right, if I may use that language, to oppose this Bill. Its genesis was seriously flawed and I regret nothing I said at that time.

For the first time, Sir, we had a situation where a fund was created where the people's representative, Parliament, did not have direct control over this fund. Under the laws, Parliament every year has to give approval to spending by the various Ministries. That Act specifically stated that the control and direction of that fund was not in Parliament anymore, that it rested in the Minister and, given the history of the Democratic Labour Party, we were quite right to sound a note of warning to the people that this fund could very well be used for purposes other than that which would have been sanctioned by Parliament.

Do not forget, Sir, that this fund came into being in December, 1993 and by September of the following year, the people of Barbados were not given the chance to use the fund because the people of Barbados in their wisdom removed them from power so that they never had the chance but our warnings were timely, given what was going on in this country. We saw squandermania gone mad. We saw money leaking at the St. Joseph Hospital. We saw Sherbourne. We saw all sorts of wastage in this country. It was in that context that I and the other members of the Opposition Barbados Labour Party were opposed to this Bill.

Sir, the fund was there. It was legally constituted because in spite of our objections, Parliament passed and approved the fund. What are we to do with the fund? The answer is simple. Heywood's Hotel was built by the taxpayers' funds. The shares at BET and BARTEL were basically the taxpayers' funds. The Arawak Cement Plant was also built from taxpayers' funds so why not then find a creative way to use this fund to help empower the very people whose blood, sweat, toil and tears gave rise to this fund?

This Administration then, Sir, said: "We have the money there. Let us use it in such a way that we can enfranchise and empower the people." One of the first things the Minister did was to take some of the money and put in the Rural Enterprise Fund. Sir, as it turned out the Solicitor General advised that we were not legally entitled to make such a move because the fund could not be used for that purpose. We are here now trying to seek redress for that unfortunate situation. The point is that \$1 million went to the Rural Enterprise Fund. I will back up a little bit and talk about the objectives of the Rural Enterprise Fund. 5.55 p.m.

Sir, Senator Davis made a very interested point although her data was incorrect but she made it very

interested. That is about the impact of unemployment on women, given the fact that almost 40% of our households are headed by women. Obviously, any unemployment amongst women would seriously impact on the children, who because of social and other reasons are not supported by men as they should be. That is a fact of life. It is not something that we are proud of, but it is a fact of life. It is something that we have to address that the society as a whole has to address but in the meantime we have to find ways of getting around that unfortunate situation.

The Rural Enterprise Fund can be used and will be used by women who prefer to remain at home. They would prefer if they could find a way to stay around home and still make a dollar. We know from our own experiences that in the past, women have raised children and send them to secondary school by just making and selling sugar cakes. It is a fact of life. Our women have been industrious from time immemorial. They make sweet bread, jams and preserves. They educate their children on the sale of these items. Some keep a few sheep in the backyard. Our women have been known to be industrious over the years.

This Rural Enterprise Fund is here to give those vulnerable women a little help now so that they can have a few thousand dollars to invest in an oven or whatever or in some machine, perhaps a sewing machine or a machine to make the preserves or whatever. A lot of them do not want \$10 000 or \$20 000. Just \$2 000 or \$3 000 can set them on the way to independence and self-sufficiency.

The Rural Enterprise Fund allows women to remain in the community and some of them if they have very young children can be at home, still making a dollar but being at home to look after and give the children the motherly 24-hours care that some of them might need at that type of age. Sir, we want people to remain in the community because our country has suffered by the 'urban drift'. Where a lot of our communities have lost a lot of people and are virtually stagnated.

The Rural Enterprise Fund is a constructive way to assist rural communities so that small industries, especially of the self-help variety, can strive within the rural communities and especially the vulnerable women can remain within the community and as I have said before, Sir, be self-sufficient.

This is a good way of using what is the people's money. Whether it be from Heywoods or from Arawak, this is a very good way of using the people's money. I am sure that all of us in here, except those who are blinded by their political allegiance, will support it. It is a way towards ensuring that everybody within the society benefit from the

growth that is so evident in the economy. It is alright to talk about the growth and GDP and so on but it must filter down so that every last citizen of the country can share in the wealth that is generated. Because in a large measure, they have contributed to the growth in the economy.

The creation of the Rural Enterprise Fund, the creation of the Urban Enterprise Fund, all of these are ways to revitalise our communities because when a community is strong, even the social problems that are so prevalent today can diminish and will diminish. Those of us who understand our sociology will understand these things. Some of us here only know about mathematics but when it comes to people we are hopefully deficient. A B.Sc. in Engineering do not necessarily mean that you know about people. They will know about making beer but when it come to understanding the needs of people, they can be woefully deficient.

Sir, all of us in here, except those with political axes would want to support this measure because this Government is creative because we recognise clearly that a society cannot exist with half rich and half poor. Where some people are struggling to survive and others are reaping the cream of the crop so to speak.

This is the first time that any Government in Barbados is putting this emphasis on eradicating poverty in this island. In the last Administration, their idea was to go to IMF and send home 4 000 people from the Public Service. That is their idea of empowering people. And now all of this talk about giving back the 8%. I wonder, Sir, what they are going to recommend for us to do to those people who they sent home. Those are the ones that really suffered during the structural adjustment.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: They had no programmes for them. In this same period when they were putting the money in the Public Enterprise Investment Fund, they were at the same time sending home thousands of people. I wonder, Sir, if they could not have been using the money in a creative way, to create opportunity for the same people who they put on the unemployment role.

Sir, they were very backwards in their economic thinking. They failed to realise that when you empower a man, you increase his spending power and that money goes through the economy and by the very fact that you empower that person, it itself contributes to the overall growth in the economy. He has more spending power and obviously he is going to demand more goods and services. This is how a lot of economies grow because they pay attention to the poor and by empowering them they increase their spending power and that permeates right through the economy.

Because, we know, Sir, that giving a dollar to the poor means that he is going to spend the whole dollar. Give a dollar to the rich, he will just put it in the bank because he would have satisfied most of his wants already. It makes economic sense to empower the poor because however you look at it, the benefits to the society are far greater.

People make all this sound and dance about the fact that you are only giving \$350 to low income workers. I want the Members on the opposite side to tell us one thing that they have done for the lower paid workers in this country. Sir, they cannot name one thing that they have done in a positive way. What we have done is that we said, look, at this time it is not possible to do much about wages so we are going to give you something to tie you over until the economy grows enough so that you will be in a better position.

We recognise that there are about 12 000 to 14 000 people out there who although they are working, the wages that they are being paid would not be enough to sustain them in the sort of manner that they would like to.

Sir, there is something called the 'working poor'. We are targeting this group in the first instance but our long term intention is to have wages at a level where there will be no more 'working poor'. But in the immediate future that is not so possible. We are basically introducing a 'stop gap' measure until things can be better, we are just making their lives a little bit better.

If we are going to be criticised for it, it is most unfortunate, but we must do what we must do because the money that we are paying them is money that is going to come from their own investments in the Public Enterprise Investment Fund because some of it, Sir, as we will see later, when we come to talk about it on the other Bill, is going to be transferred to the Social Investment Fund.

These are creative ways in which we can alleviate the high incidence of poverty in this country.
6.05 p.m.

So, Sir, before I sit down, I just want to comment on the BDB because some Senators were highlighting the fact that the BDB was closed. Two points here: The last Democratic Labour Party Administration were the ones that by their policies caused the BDB to be in a position where it had become virtually bankrupt. When we came into power in 1994 the BDB was virtually technically insolvent. That is a fact of life and the Chairman was not David Seale, the Chairman was a man who was sitting on this side in the last session. I am not going to call his name. He was the chairman of the Bank at that time, not David Seale. Sir,

when the bank was run into insolvency this party was not in Government but we found an insolvent bank.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There are other Senators other than the Senator who is on his feet, whose voices I am hearing. Please allow Senator Barker to be heard in silence. Senator Barker please continue.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: So, Sir, we found a bank that was insolvent. What were we supposed to have done? We said this is an intolerable situation which will have serious repercussions for the whole financial sector. Therefore let us cut our losses, see how we can recover and in the meantime set up enterprises so that the clientele of the bank who depend on the bank for their livelihood and also for their businesses will also be serviced. What has happened, Sir, is that yes, the bank was closed but in its place like a phoenix rising out of the ashes we have other enterprises coming to take and to provide the service that the people of this country so richly deserve in order for them to increase their entrepreneurial activities.

So the closure of the BDB while precipitated by the foolishness of the DLP Administration has not left a void because the Government has sought to fill the void so that the financing from the different funds or from the micro enterprise fund was such that anybody with a good idea can have access to funding for that particular idea in order to turn it from an idea into reality. So there is no gap but the drain that the BDB was putting on the financial sector had to be stopped otherwise it could cause serious problems in the financial sector. So the results will show that in our tenure from 1976 to 1986 the loans lent to small industries went from \$160 000 to \$12 million and I am quoting here from the Economic and Financial Statistics put out by the Central Bank. The loans to small industries went from \$160 000 in 1976 to \$12 million in 1986. The loans to small manufacturers went from \$115 000 to \$1.5 million. Thereafter, Sir, when the DLP took over, the money lent to small industries and the small man, declined.

So, when I talk about the small man their record is dismally poor. I understand, Sir, that Senator Bernstein has a position to defend and I appreciate that fact but the facts speak for themselves.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Mr. President, I have no position to defend. I think he is misleading the Chamber and I would like you to see that it is removed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, with those few words I want to support this amendment to the Act and commend it to this Honourable Chamber. I thank you very much.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I do not know why Senator Barker is ranting and raving about the Opposition and its lack of support...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I would prefer if you would choose other words.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON:...making a lot of noise about the Opposition and its lack of support for this Bill. I do not recall my Senate colleague stating in any way that the Opposition was not supporting the Bill for indeed had he done so he would have been betraying his own political party. The reason the Democratic Labour Party will not at this time refuse to support this Bill is because it is an addition to the identical legislation implemented under the Democratic Labour Party government. It is an amendment to the Act proclaimed under the careful watch of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. President, Sir, I sat and I listened in great amazement to the former senator, who unlike many of us here, was present for the debate when this particular Act was placed on the Statute Books of this country. I heard him say, Sir, that at the time he objected because we were dealing with the disposal of state assets and his main contention was the disposition of those assets at the time.

Now, I have read very carefully, Sir, his contribution to that Senate debate and with your permission, Sir, I seek to quote from the speech made by Senator Barker, a copy of the Hansard. Senator Tyrone Barker, opposition senator, Barbados Labour Party, page 1557: Page 1557 Sir, and he said, "Sir, I have a problem but how can this problem be solved?" That is the question.
6.15 p.m.

Now Sir, I am calling for the establishment of a court. It does not have to be a standing court. It could be an *ad hoc* court where the judges in Barbados can have in this regard, so that Members of the Senate and the Other Place can have from the constitutionally appointed guardians of the law, their views as regard this particular piece of legislation.

I do not believe that we in this Chamber should be doing anything which is against the constitution because we have pledged ourselves to uphold the constitution of Barbados. So I have extreme difficulty with this piece of legislation and I feel that if the courts of Barbados were called upon to pass judgement on this legislation, that we could be in a much better position on how to proceed.

Mr. President, I would want to make reference to this, because the Government has retained the legislation. The change that is being made to this legislation has not in any

way interfered with the main structure of this legislation. I thought that had the Government of today been, as it stated when in opposition, opposed to that legislation, the amendment which should have been brought to this particular piece of legislation should be an amendment calling for the replacement of that section which seeks to provide for the application of the resources of that fund to finance the repayment of a public debt. That particular section, the Rehabilitation of Enterprises and Public Sector, then the Government should have been in it, this particular area and take that part out which you find so offensive, using this money to repay public debt. That is one of the points that Senator Barker stated that has been retained.

Therefore, I wish that from time to time when we speak, we would remember that these records are kept for posterity and that in the Senate, and I do not believe we come here because we believe we can speak well, and for entertainment, but that we are putting our reputation and integrity on the line. Furthermore, Sir, because I heard Senator Bolden say that the main objection coming from the Barbados Labour Party's side was on the disposition of state assets.

Sir, with your permission I want to quote from the other House at that time when the Hon. Sir Harold St. John spoke on this particular piece of legislation. Page 4024 and he said, Sir,

"The creation of a public enterprise fund is the creature of, in our opinion, the desire of international institutions that now govern and make the financial policy of Barbados to a large extent. When one looks at the content of the legislation, one is immediately struck by the fact that we are here providing machinery for the Government to deal with public money in a manner which this House will no longer have any kind of control other than by parliamentary questions asked of a relevant Minister. That in itself, Sir, is an extremely dangerous Act, and it would be most irresponsible in this House for any Opposition to accede to that."

The point I am making, Sir, if this Government felt so strongly about this piece of legislation while in Opposition, why retain it on the Statute Books of this country and not only retain it, but make an amendment to facilitate what Government wants to do at this time. Further to make reference to a piece of legislation which is to come in future enabled by this particular piece of legislation, and which is identical in structure to the piece of legislation. That is highly contradictory and I really wish that we would desist from this.

So to stand and make believe now – the Honourable Senator said "Oh, it is all right. At that time the

criticism was necessary because we were in the hands of the Democratic Labour Party" and I caution again. There are acts on the part and speeches from time to time, made by the Members of the Government side which set out to give the impression to Barbadians, "when your monies are in the hands of the Democratic Labour Party, beware. But, Oh, entrust us, we are the great guardians and trustees of your funds and let us look after you." I state again, when politicians set out to discredit other politicians, I hope that when their turn comes, they do not seek to have others stand on their side and give them support and say that we are all politicians and must support each other, and for some that cannot work. We cannot at one time expect the public of Barbados to place confidence in the hands of politicians saying, "our system is so clean, it cannot be tampered with by politicians" and then in that same voice, say to those people, "oh, but there are other politicians who can tinker with your system."

It cannot work and if you really want to build confidence in the political system of Government, we have to stop speaking to our people in that way. We are wondering and constantly amazed about the disillusionment among the electorate. We seek to find all kinds of reasons why people do not want to go to the polls. We refuse to accept that politicians are responsible when they create in the minds of Barbadians when in Opposition that other politicians are crooks, dishonest and have access to their monies and can spend them as they please.

The time has come that we must insist...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on a point of order. I was the one, I think, Sir, that talked about the money and the Democratic Labour Party. I talked about squandermania and not dishonesty or crookery and there is a big difference. There is a vast difference between squandermania and stealing. I talked about squandermania at St. Joseph Hospital and other places, but I never, either by intonation or by word talked about stealing or whatever.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, the intervention does not in anyway interfere with my point which I will repeat. When politicians in this country want to get the public of this country to put trust in them when they are in Government, and to have confidence in our systems when they are in Government, but try that when they are in Opposition, to make believe that those same systems and structures have changed and can change overnight, how do we expect the electorate and the people of Barbados to retain confidence in our system of Government and our electoral system? We have to be careful about this.

The Democratic Labour Party, Sir, has no difficulty with the Public Enterprise Fund. Now, Poverty Alleviation, and you hear a lot of talk about whether or not the

Democratic Labour Party has addressed it. Let us be real. Let us be factual. Let us be honest with ourselves. This talk about poverty alleviation came on the agenda of countries world wide within the last ten years. But, let us admit that for many years administrations of this country, whether the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party have set out by way of their programmes to address the basic needs of Barbadians who are living in below reasonable conditions.

6.25 p.m.

It is therefore folly to stand and say the Democratic Labour Party has never addressed poverty. Sir, they say that if you give a man a fish, you feed him for one day, if you teach him to fish you feed him for a lifetime. Who can deny that the introduction of state sponsored education at all levels in this country has been responsible for the alleviation of poverty, the upliftment of many Barbadians from below the poverty line from the state of deprivation to the state where people like your humble servant who stands here today can become a Member of the Parliament of this country to represent other brothers and sisters who today live in similar conditions into which I was born and grew up?

Mr. President, the point I am making is that when the Democratic Labour Party decided in its 1961 Manifesto to make sure that State sponsored education was introduced across the board in Barbados – I am not talking about a sample school – that was a bold and serious attempt by the administration of that day.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker. You cannot shout across the Chamber. I will not permit it.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON:... To make sure that Barbadians who did not have a face, who could not be recognised, who were not known, could rise to become prominent citizens of this country and, as I look around even in this Chamber, I see examples of such. Therefore, we must not put ourselves down as Barbadians and because we hear now of some fancy slogan that is touted around the world called 'poverty alleviation' behave as the developed people think, that this little backyard country is hitching its wagon and following on. That is not true.

We have in Barbados over the years attempted by way of our programmes to deal with the problems of poverty. I must admit, as many other Barbadians who live here and understand the social structure and conditions of our country, that there are many pockets of poverty in this country and I therefore would not object to any programme that seeks to make sure that those individuals in this country who at present would have no face in terms of being able to cater to their basic needs that conditions can be improved for them.

As we discuss poverty alleviation, I wonder if we have really taken a careful look at the level of poverty in this country. I have not heard us yet identify for Barbadians what poverty in Barbados means. Poverty is graded. Poverty has different levels. It depends on the particular conditions of the particular state which we are discussing. As we look at Barbados today, therefore, we need to see in Barbados what is really poverty among our people as we address it.

There are many things which we are doing although we are talking about "alleviation" and I hate to hear alleviation interchanged with "eradication" because they are so different. One is only relief – alleviation, and the other is a total stamp out – eradication. We cannot use them interchangeably. What is the Government about now? About poverty alleviation or poverty eradication? Any programme therefore which seeks to alleviate poverty must first be able to identify all those areas of poverty in Barbados. Poverty is not only about pit toilets and chattel houses. The programme which seeks to alleviate poverty is a programme which targets the esteem of individuals.

We have to understand that having lived under these conditions for some time, these individuals, their mind, their whole demeanour, has taken on a particular shape. I therefore believe that as we discuss the alleviation of poverty in Barbados we must look at all those measures which we might put in place in order to make sure that individuals are really truly brought up to a certain level. So to give \$350 at one time, though good, is an abrupt and very short term measure.

To introduce skills and give access to funds is another way of going about it. What we have to aim to do is to be able to sustain whatever programme is put in place as we target poor people and try to relieve their burdens.

The Value Added Tax system is one of those systems responsible for poverty in many countries. I have only recently heard, Sir, the surpluses drawn in as a result of the Value Added Tax system in Barbados. The question we must ask ourselves is what further can we do to this Value Added Tax in order to make sure that individuals who can barely afford to eat, drink and wear clothes, who can barely afford to buy food, drink and clothing can get further relief from the burden of the Value Added Tax system. It is pervasive. It is not discriminatory in any way. Once you have to spend, you will be bitten by the VAT.

Therefore Sir, I would like to suggest to the Government that in its attempt to alleviate poverty it seriously address the Value Added Tax system, for not to do so, would be to give with one hand while extracting with the other and that places a burden, we must admit, on mothers, working mothers, single parents, women in the home with no

fathers to help provide for those children and they are on welfare and with that little money they have to spend, a lot of it has to go to the Value Added Tax. That is one area I believe if Government is serious about the alleviation of poverty it must address.

Even as we talk about enterprises and small business and the access fund we need to ask ourselves the question, how is trade liberalisation going to impact on these efforts.

Trade liberalisation, we are told, in itself has caused a number of people in many countries of the world to become impoverished. Businesses go. The competition wreaks havoc, especially in very small economies in which they cannot produce large scale and at the types of prices that they can target export markets. When the foreign goods come into your country your people clamour for the foreign goods and those businesses which are even providing for the domestic market find themselves in serious trouble.

Trade liberalisation is also going to contribute to poverty in Barbados and we cannot fool ourselves about these things. These are areas we have to look at carefully. Therefore, Mr. President, as we attempt to even address this matter of the alleviation of poverty these are the areas I believe we need to look at.

I listened to the Senate Leader talk about the Public Enterprise Investment Fund and the assistance to small businesses. Small business is one of my areas. I enjoy working in the creation of small businesses and in order to assure that they can remain alive, because I believe in family businesses in Barbados and I believe that these businesses should live beyond their owners. I have had a concern for a very long while that we have not managed. We have not been successful in making sure that small black businesses live beyond the lifetime of the founder of such businesses.

We cannot put such a large percentage of our population into business because we do not have the market for it. Let us be realistic. The suggestion I want to make is this. One of the areas which I believe the access fund and the other fund must look at is this, instead of having several individuals set up several small businesses, I hope that as a part of the counselling and advice given by the Fund that the pooling of resources is one of those areas. Instead of having five individuals set up five individual businesses, that we look to see those individuals who come to the fund who are targeting similar types of businesses and that we place a lot of emphasis on the cooperative effort to pool these individuals together because, let us face it, they come to the fund for the seed capital, that is, the money that is going to start the business.

6.35 p.m.

So I do not want to hear that it cannot happen overnight. We are a savings culture and we want to become an investment culture. It cannot happen overnight either. How can we quicken these things? What can we do in order to accelerate these things? By the process of education, by the process of constant enforcement and reinforcement of certain messages we can bring these changes about.

I am therefore saying, Mr. President, there is a lot of work that has to be done. I want to see more small businesses in this country. It would bless my heart. I have 10 small business clients in this country that I advise and have been advising on a regular basis. I am quite proud. I work with them to make sure that at least two of them can be located at Warrens with big glass doors with their names on them and making sure that all their children are a part of them. I look forward to the day when one of those clients can move onto Broad Street because I support Robert Browning in his belief that 'a man's reach should exceed his grasp' and that is what I say to my small business clients as I attempt to get them to move forward.

When I said that not everybody can be in business, we have to be realistic. We do not want to build a body of frustrated people in this country. At the end of the day it is all well and good to have access to the funds, to be able to go to an institution which does not put you through too much red tape, which does not ask you to bring your head and belly as is done in the commercial banks. But, on the other hand, we also want to make sure, Sir, that these businesses which we are attempting to create can live for some time.

Therefore, I am really hoping that in addition to the technical advice about bookkeeping and reconciliation of your statements and all these things, that support services be provided by these funds which seek to try and instil in the minds of Barbadians the importance of having businesses which can continue into the other generation.

The creation of wealth must be one of the goals of our people, for unless this happens, empowerment will be a mere dream. You cannot become economically empowered unless you own property, unless you own businesses and not only own them but unless you can transfer them by way of your will, by way of your trust, by way of whatever instruments you use to the next generation for, indeed, to have businesses which last for only a few years and for sons and daughters of the original owners of such businesses to have to start from scratch is, as the popular calypso goes, "One step forward and two steps backward."

Therefore, Mr. President, I have no difficulty really in supporting, as I stated earlier, the Public Enterprise Investment Fund and the particular amendment to this piece of legislation. As I say from time to time, my responsibility

in the Senate is to try to make sure that legislation is put in place and passes without hindrance, when such legislation seeks to target especially that special group of Barbadians who rest heavily on my heart, the working class of this country, who deserve their rightful place in this society, for they have been the labourers, the artisans, the maids, the sanitation workers for a very long time and they too deserve and are entitled to their piece of whatever cake there is.

My responsibility therefore is, Sir, and I have a commitment for which I will die, for which I will surrender my life. My commitment then, Sir, is to make sure that they are not deprived of what is their entitlement. From birth it was. For whatever reasons political, social or economic they have been deprived and therefore I set out by way of my membership and my contributions in this Parliament to uplift them, and not only to uplift them, but help give them a smooth path as they cross the threshold to success and to economic empowerment.

I thank you.
6.45 p.m.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I want to carry on from where the Honourable Senator closed to say that I am happy that it is in her view and not that of the past Administration of which she is a Member where she wants to see the artisans and the maids and others have an opportunity to be able to uplift themselves. Those are the major ones, almost over 3 000 persons whose money was cut and who went home with nothing to eat or to give their children at night.

Senator Boyce made mention of poverty in other countries and that it is different from ours. I agree to an extent that poverty in Guatemala and in Haiti may be different in some instances because we do not have any street children in Barbados that I am aware of and our people do not have to be around the swamps drinking water and using murky water for domestic purposes. We may not have shanty towns but in the UNDP's Report - "Faces of Poverty" done 1996, all the individuals, I think it was 64 of them made mention of poverty and how it impacts on them. It included a representative from Barbados, a Barbadian child and all the individuals identified similar experiences and concerns about poverty in their country.

Members in this Honourable Chamber are aware that there were studies and consultations in connection with the poverty approach that we are looking at in this Barbados Labour Party. It is something new when it comes to the consultation because the other Administration as far as I can remember and I am not very young has never ever been to communities sensitising people and soliciting

their ideas about poverty or education or crime prevention or anything. The people of Barbados had an opportunity to make their contribution. It is unlike the situation in the 1980s when a dump was put in St. Thomas and the neighbours did not even know. This Government sought to consult with Barbadians and solicit their ideas and to put the situation in such a way so that everybody becomes aware and plays his or her part.

Mr. President, I want to say that I lauded the efforts, not only of the Democratic Labour Party but the Barbados Labour Party in the role that it played in helping to ease the situation with parents and providing free education for its people. Certainly, Senator Bolden talked about the milk and biscuits. That was one way of helping to alleviate some of the problems way back in the 50s where the children came from homes where they had nothing to eat and that milk and biscuits served to give them a little something in the stomach. I am happy that other succeeding Governments followed on to ensure that our people got a proper meal.

I was not privileged, Sir, to get any of the free education. Certainly a large number of rural people did not because the concept then as far as I remember, was a lot to do with feeder schools. Most of the feeder schools were in the urban areas and a lot of the rural people suffered as a result. Thank God today, our people have got that opportunity as a result of the collective efforts of succeeding Governments to receive free education.

Mr. President, we in this Chamber are also aware of the Barbados Workers' Union motto where it says "Where there is no vision, the people perish". Lack of vision in the Democratic Labour Party between 1986 and 1994 created a lot of additional hardships for our poor people. It is not that I want to reiterate what was said before but I have to say it because it seems to be correct and proper at times for individuals to make mention of what their Party did and to boast of the free education and the Father of Independence but on the other hand it is unlike them to make mention of the things that the other Administration has done. When I have to praise the political parties for the roles they have played, I will praise them. When I have to criticise them, I will criticise them, Sir.

The draconian measures that came about during the structural adjustment in 1991/94, created even further hardships on our people, particularly our women and our children. We are aware of many of those things, the 8% cut, cut back in severance payments, massive lay offs and unemployment and things of that nature. The working class are the ones on whom there was great impact. I made mention of the School Meals workers and artisans and MTW and the maids at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Workers at the Transport Board. Many of them, Sir, did not have adequate food to eat or a proper shelter.

I am happy that this Administration has sought, through the Poverty Alleviation Fund to bring a measure of relief to those individuals on whom that structural adjustment would have heavily impacted. So many of them have not yet caught themselves because a lot of them are still unemployed and gradually employment is now coming their way but the sudden action then had impacted so heavily on those people and their children that it really left a serious vacuum. There were children who went to school with no text books during that period. There were children who had no money to buy food at lunch time. Thank God for the School Meals Department for providing our Barbadian children at the primary level with some food to maintain them.

There were other plans, Mr. President, as we are aware as well. Plans to raise the bus fare, to raise the house rents, to raise the water rates, devaluation of the dollar was being mooted and a number of other things were being put forward to the Barbadian public. As a matter of fact, that DLP Administration boasts a lot about the poor black people and that was a situation where the poor black people became more down-trodden and were carrying more hardships on their shoulders than they ever had in the history of Barbados.

I am happy to see that this Barbados Labour Party has started to look to using the vision that it has and the initiatives that will help Barbadians to get back on their feet and to create hope for them as the years go by.

I want to make mention, Sir, very briefly of some of these initiatives. The Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme where young people under 30 years old can get an opportunity to receive training and funds to help them to set up their own little business that they conceive. The Rural Development Commission that will help with the water-borne toilets and so on. The Youth Affairs Department, as one of its initiatives, will identify individuals who are impoverished, those who have difficulties in sending their children to schools, those who have problems with water or water bills or light bills or whatever. They point them to the various agencies that will assist them in helping to ease the problems.

I laud this Government for setting up these initiatives and for the vision that has been offered in connection with the Poverty Alleviation Project that we are looking at. I also want to encourage more community groups and more non-Governmental organisations to put together projects that would be able to help alleviate more of the problems that we see on a daily basis. I am sure that whatever projects they come up with, they will get the necessary guidance to have them properly crystalised so that Barbadians will benefit from these various projects.

Mr. President, the motto in this Barbados Labour Party is "A Better Life For Our People". We in the Barbados Labour Party will stand and speak with pride and we will continue to practise what we preach. Any funds in Barbados that have been raised through our taxes will be spent on our people whether it be through the Poverty Alleviation Fund, through health, through education, through the Police Force, wherever. It will be spent to upgrade the levels and the standards of our people.

For too long the people of Barbados were crying for help. The Democratic Labour Party Administration from 1991 to 1994 did not hear the pleadings of those people. This Barbados Labour Party Administration will continue to fulfill its mandate as indicated in the Manifesto of 1994 particularly on page 22 where it says "the new Barbados Labour Party will commit itself to determine the extent of this new poverty and the status of persons who have lost their jobs providing the means for their re-entry into the economy in a productive capacity". It reads on for other Honourable Members who wish to read a little more, they can find it on page 22.

Our Manifesto is a social contract and we will continue to work towards fulfilling our pledges in a tangible way to assist and upgrade the needs of our Barbadians. Whatever benefits are accrued, Mr. President, they will help to diminish some of the lawlessness and crime which wrecks havoc in this our society today. The projects, I am sure, will also help with the providing of self-esteem and hope for our people in Barbados.

I support this Government in this venture and I would like to lend my support to this amendment where the projects that will be identified to assist our poor people, I am sure will help to draw out the creativity and the commitment of the Barbadian people within their various organisations and communities to be able to serve this country as they have in the past so that our lives and those of others will be better. At the end of the day all the benefits will redound to a healthy and prosperous Barbados.
6.55 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I would just like to make a brief intervention because I would like to deal mostly with the historical significance of this amendment and this whole debate. I find it to be of more of than passing significance that this debate is taking place in 1998 when we are about to celebrate the centenary of Sir Grantley Herbert Adams, the man who started this whole effort. We are talking now about the modern buzz words of poverty eradication, the call of whether it should be eradication or alleviation, and we are splitting hairs about a lot of things. But let us not forget, Sir, the pioneering efforts of persons like Sir Grantley Herbert

Adams and the other founding fathers who began this whole process of enfranchisement, both political and economic, of social upliftment, of poverty alleviation and eradication, *et cetera*.

Sir, this brings me into the context of the Micro Enterprise Fund *et cetera*. One has to see this fund not whether Senator Barker criticised it in 1993 or not, but one has to see it in what it attempts to do. It attempts to further the process that was begun again by Grantley Adams way back between 1951 and 1961 when the Government of the Barbados Labour Party instituted such measures that sought to create enterprises and sought to create wealth and put opportunities in the hands of people through things like the Pioneer Industries Encouragement Act, the Development Board which then became the IDC and now the BIDC, the Tourist Board, the Hotels Aids Act, *et cetera*. These have to be seen as part of a pantheon of measures which have always been part of the philosophy and the programme of the Barbados Labour Party, and therefore we cannot see it in isolation as to whether Senator Barker criticised it. Because it is interesting that Senator Thompson, while supporting the amendment, was at the same time saying it was identical to the original Bill. I do not understand how you could amend something and it would still be identical to what is being amended.

There is a whole policy and system of continuity in Government where when you inherit certain situations, you live with them, you manage them, you make the best of them. For example, we would have inherited that totally unsatisfactory Mobil Agreement put in place by the last Government guaranteeing Mobil 12.5% after tax profit. We inherited that situation but we managed it. We did not try to pass a law or repeal the law or whatever. We did not challenge it in the law courts. We managed it to the point where now we are seeing that situation coming to an end and a new dawn is about to be born. That is how the Barbados Labour Party responds to these situations. In the same way that we have responded to making the best of Sherbourne. Sherbourne is no Lotto or Olympio. It is no source of wealth. It is no immediate cash cow that you can dip your hands into the pockets of Sherbourne, but we are making it try to pay some of its way. It is not completed. It is not even completely paid for but we are managing it as part of our responsibility in Government and part of the continuity of Government. Therefore, Sir, we have inherited the fund. We have inherited the original legislation but we have amended it to suit a different purpose. The original legislation meant that it would prove difficult for small operators and small business persons with ideas and ambitions to have access to those very same funds which were put there for reasons which we did not agree with, but they were there. There are funds left in a situation which we found we had inherited and what we are seeking to do now is to make those funds accessible to the small entrepreneur in a way that was not possible for them before.

We are therefore seeking to carry on the mandate that was initiated by Grantley Adams and the Barbados Labour Party since 1951 and nobody can challenge the right of a Barbadian to vote. What we are seeking to do now is to put in place an institution, a culture, a system, a way of life, an outlook where no one can challenge the right or the opportunity of a Barbadian to earn a living, to create a business, to have an idea, to try to see it to realisation, and that there would be opportunities presented for them to do that. That is all part of the broad mandate of the Barbados Labour Party and all part of the mandate of this Government and therefore I am happy to be able to support this measure and like I say, support it on the eve of the beginning of celebration of the centennial of Grantley Herbert Adams. I think this is a fitting tribute to his memory and his work. I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I had not intended speaking because so much has been said but like Senator Murray I must express my gratitude and my pleasure at being able to be a part of this administration in the sense that I can add my vote and support to this Bill.

I think what is important, which perhaps has not been said, is that this Government has struck a light whose flame shall not be extinguished in this land. It is not only providing money to help in the eradication and alleviation of poverty, it is also raising the consciousness of Barbadians to the part that they must play.

I have recently been appointed to the new National Advisory Council on Women of which I was a member when it was first set up by the Barbados Labour Party and already one of the programmes which we are looking at is the alleviation of poverty.

The Commission on Social Justice of which I have the honour to be Deputy Chairman is looking at the alleviation of poverty and what some organisations are doing about it and it has the blessing of the Government.

The Salvation Army on whose advisory board I sit has been long involved in the alleviation of poverty and they too have the support of this Government and an increase in their subvention which will also help in the alleviation of poverty and which will help to get many people out of what you might call the poverty trap.

I think too that we have to realise that there is emotional poverty as well as financial poverty and that one can lead to the other and both can be alleviated.

I also wanted to point out that poverty means different things to different people. In some countries the fact that somebody may not have the money to go to cricket or a

football game would be construed as poverty. Here in Barbados we would have to look at what constitutes poverty for us and identify it but that is why we have a rural and urban commission. Again we have to thank the Barbados Labour Party Government for this. Other NGOs are also looking at ways in which poverty can be alleviated. Therefore, I am confident that this is going to go a long way towards supporting the Government in its objective of eradicating poverty and with those few words, I wish again to say that I support this Bill wholeheartedly.

Thank you, Mr. President.

7.05 p.m.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called and passed.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move the adjournment and in so doing I would like to take the opportunity to inform Senators that supper is served downstairs.

Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, February 25, 1998 at 11.00 a.m.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, February 25, 1998 at 11.00 a.m. was put to the SENATE and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.

7.10 p.m.

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2. Customs (Warehousing of Goods) (Amendment) Notice, 1998.
3. Value Added Tax Order, 1998.
4. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 23) Order, 1997.
5. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 24) Order, 1997.
6. Annual Report and Statements of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1996.
7. Exchange Control (Travellers) (Amendment) Order, 1997.
8. Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the Financial Year 1995 - 96.

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