
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, July 15, 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. P. WELCH

Senator J. A. WORKMAN

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN

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) The Excise Tax Order, 1998.
- (2) Duties, Taxes & Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 11) Order, 1998.
- (3) Duties, Taxes & Other Payments (Exemption)(No. 12) Order, 1998.
- (4) Duties, Taxes & Other Payments (Exemption)(No. 13) Order, 1998.
- (5) Duties, Taxes & Other Payments (Exemption)(No. 14) Order, 1998.
- (6) Duties, Taxes & Other Payments (Exemption)(No. 15) Order, 1998.
- (7) Value Added Tax (No. 3) Order, 1998.
- (8) Annual Reports of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation for the years 1987 to 1996.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that the following Bill be read a first time:

The Reformatory & Industrial Schools (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

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

ORDER NO. 6 – TO MOVE THE SECOND READING
OF THE REFORMATORY & INDUSTRIAL
SCHOOLS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1998

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the matter before us is a Bill to amend the Reformatory & Industrial Schools Act. This legislation has its origin somewhere back in 1926 and has been amended by way of some improvements over a period of time, 1926, 1944, 1949, 1956, 1957, 1981 and 1994. Whilst we are in the process of making some broad changes in the way how our penal system probably defines functions, this will include considerations of the functioning of the Reformatory & Industrial School component.

It has been recognised that there is a need to strengthen the existing management and general guidance of the schools as they function presently. What is being proposed today is not by any stretch of the imagination the total extent of reform which will occur with respect to the care, guidance and reform of young offenders but certainly is a means by which the Government is seeking to do what needs to be done now pending that wider reform.

You will be aware, Mr. President that the National Advisory Committee on Penal Reform has been created. It has submitted a number of reports including the first one, Alternative Forms of Sentencing, alternatives to imprisonment and it is also looking at the whole matter of how do we treat young offenders. Recommendations concerning the cleansing of the records with respect to minor convictions of long standing have already been implemented and in fact it has been recognised that even in that particular regard there is need for some fine-tuning to ensure that it is more generally efficacious in the attainment of the objectives that have been set out. I am locating this amendment within the larger and wider context in that we recognise that there are other things to be done.

A total reform of the Government Industrial School, as it is called, is not to be undertaken outside of the context of

the wider reform within the penal system. What is being proposed today is to give some statutory effect to what used to operate since the 1950s as an advisory and generally volunteer Board where a visiting Board was established, where persons were appointed by the Governor functioning in executive committee, to largely function as an interface between the community and the Government Industrial Schools.

The Board of Visitors largely functioned in respect of providing some level of after-care and support and in fact over the years their involvement and intervention tended to be largely in response to the salutary occasions and generally the way how the Board has functioned over the years has not been as effective as it possibly could. What is being proposed is for an advisory Board to be given some statutory powers which would make it quite clear of their functions. Their functions, for example, would be to advise the Minister on all matters relating to welfare, education, discipline and safety of the children who are in these institutions as well as to advise the Principal of the institution, the management and supervision of the schools as well as the welfare and conduct of the staff and the education, training, recreation and discipline of the children.

The Rules which are attached to the legislation are largely the means by which this intention is given effect and the Rules set out the purpose and functions of the Board. The Board, for example, should have free access to the schools and to the children. They may speak to the children in their room and out of their rooms and so on. The Board can hear complaints by staff, by children, by their parents and the Board in considering the complaints, can make recommendations on the outcome of any investigation to the Minister.

In effect what the Board would be able to do, drawing on their standing in the community, on their experience and expertise in a number of areas would be not only to give advice and support to the Principal in the management and administration of the institution but also to provide an effective means by which any concerns which either staff or students may have concerning the general direction and the general operation of the institution, can also be addressed.
11.30 a.m.

The Board shall from time to time, inspect the diet of the children to ensure that it is satisfactory. The Board shall also advise the Principal on any improvement that they consider to be warranted and take steps generally to ensure that the business of the school is properly conducted.

We are satisfied, Sir, that pending the final report of the Committee on Penal Reform and pending the revision of the functions of the Reformatory and Industrial

Schools, which would take place within the wider context of the decisions on the treatment of offenders, whether they are young offenders or mature offenders responding to the issues, not only sentencing in respect of the mature offenders but custodial care in general, because persons in these institutions are not only offenders. I am not sure what the proportion of the population is, but there are persons who in some cases, parents have committed to custodial care out of a concern that they are not able to control and directly care for them.

Therefore, the approach that is taken has to be one that is driven by care, by rehabilitation, by ensuring that on emergence from any period of association with these institutions that they are able to take a full place and a productive place within the wider community. So that this measure today, Mr. President, is really just part of a set of interim actions to improve the situation pending the wider and greater solution to the matters which are of concern to us.

Mr. President, I commend this amendment to the Honourable the Senate and beg to move, Sir, that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I think that this Bill comes at a time in Barbadian history when we are seeing undoubtedly a rise in crime, Sir, not only in the number of crimes or the frequency of crimes, but the spectacular range of criminal activity that is being experienced in Barbados.

I think that all of us as legislators are concerned about what we can do or what we are doing to ensure some kind of remedial action and in preparation of a Barbados of which we can be proud. So the specific Bill deals with the Government Industrial School which is more familiarly known in Barbados as Dodds. I think the history of that institution is truly unfortunate in that the record will show that its role in terms of the ability to bring about reform in the individual who is at anytime committed to that institution, will show that the success rate is not good enough for a society like ours which boasts the kind of sophistication that we do.

Sir, I think that even recent examples of young persons who might have gotten into further trouble while being incarcerated at this institution, the further punishment that was delivered to these individuals indeed was committing them to Her Majesty's Prisons. I think we have got to truly grasp and create what kind of country we want to create. And the message that our Government sends from time to time is important in this regard, against a background of an almost urgency on the part of some regional countries to carry out the death penalty for instance, which of course is the ultimate punishment. Against this background, one wonders what kind of conflicting messages the wider community is getting. The Barbados Labour Party has

played its part in the debate in Barbados as far as the public's perception of how they see punishment and how they think punishment in Barbados should be administered.

We have been always careful on this side, Sir, to indicate that for instance, the debate on capital punishment should be one which is left to the individual. The individual and the legislator will give his position, but we know that it has been used unfortunately even in our political campaigns. I daresay that this blame must fall squarely at the feet of the Barbados Labour Party for any excessive politicisation of that question.

Sir, I would like us to look at and examine what we want to achieve at the Government Industrial Schools. We should be aiming and recognising that the individual who has unfortunately been condemned to this institution, a young person, one of our children, somebody's daughter, somebody's son in the case of this institution, Sir, is in need of help. We should be putting systems in place not to increase the intensity of punishment, but to increase the opportunity for actual and true reform, the opportunity to take these young people back into the wider community and for them to offer useful services. The Barbados Labour Party has promised much in this regard and indeed the Honourable Senate Leader in introducing the Bill referred to the number of publications which have been made since their taking office in 1994. The unfortunate reality, Sir, is that the actual implementation does not in any way match the mouthings of the Barbados Labour Party. And in the area of Penal Reform, which he referred to, Sir, we have talked and talked about this, yet to this day, although in possession of the report of the Committee which they set up, in the year of Our Lord 1998 they are unable to bring to this country any firm legislation in this regard.

Our magistrates are crying out for it and we have seen instances where they have had to resort to their own creativity, Sir, in order to establish some balance or some contact with what is being recognised as the way to go about punishment. Punishment no longer is about how large we can make the wale on a person's skin. That is not what punishment is about. Punishment is to be more about being able to take this person who is ill, either temporarily or more permanently and try to bring out some aspect of good in that individual.

When I am convinced that the Barbados Labour Party has adopted this as their maxim and in their quest to bring about a new sort of panacea for punishment in Barbados, then I will be convinced that we are getting somewhere. To look at the way in which they go about constituting the Board that we are creating by this Bill, Sir, and to state upfront that the Superintendent of Prisons, for instance, should be in charge of this Board, I think, Sir, that sends a message.

11.40 a.m.

But, unfortunately, it does not send the message I believe we should be sending to our people in 1998. It sends a message about backwardness. It sends a message about creating at the Government Industrial Schools no less a punitive institution than we have existing at Glendairy. It sends a message about extending Glendairy instead of aiming at a reduction of the occupancy of these institutions. We have to be careful when the message we send is not one in which we are in actual fact almost nurturing a Glendairy at the Government Industrial Schools.

There were times I recall when growing up, as a young man, we had school exhibitions and the work of the students at the Government Industrial Schools was always something we looked forward to. I visited the institution as a member of the Lions Club in Barbados on many occasions and we have had the opportunity to work with these young persons. This is serious business and I get the impression that things have deteriorated to the situation where we no longer have that creativity occurring and this is regretful.

The Barbados Labour Party administration is charged with the responsibility of turning that around and not of trying to enforce its rule. Of course, Sir, as I said, if we have a "brek-up and lock up" mentality and a hanging mentality I would not expect such creativity as I am suggesting to come out of their policies and I hope by persuasion...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member when he is on such a smooth flow. However, he is on a smooth flow of error and he is misleading the Honourable the Senate. The Honourable Member indicated in his presentation that the Superintendent of Prisons is in charge of this institution. The Bill before us says no such thing. It says in terms of the constitution of the Board that the Superintendent is on the Board. Further, the Honourable Member should know that at section (9) of Part II of the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Act that the Superintendent of Prisons is the only official visitor acknowledged under the law and that what is being done today is to involve other persons in the community. As it stands now he is the only official visitor. The visiting Board has no power. Contrary to what the Honourable Member is saying by way of misleading the House, the involvement of the Superintendent of Prisons is not being extended in this matter but is reduced.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, the Honourable Member had an opportunity to make his presentation, Sir, and he did his best then.

What I am saying, Sir, is that the Superintendent is the first person named as a member of this Board, the first person named under the Constitution and whether he refers to the 1926 regulation or whatever – I did not hear him clearly – it is not written in stone and he can change it. What I am saying is that in 1998 with all the information before us

today and all the modern trends in terms of punishment the Honourable Member should take note of my contribution. I am sure there are other Honourable Senators in here who stand ready to expand on the lead that I have taken in this regard because we have had no lead from the Honourable Member in these matters. When we have the opportunity to introduce Bills in this Honourable Chamber we should be trying to connect with what we are dealing with. Just regurgitating word after word and sentence after sentence does not make sense. I, this Honourable Member, will never do that. I will comment and pin my debate in the circumstances that are occurring out there in the Barbadian communities.

We have in Barbados a very serious situation in respect to our young people and we talk about it all the time. We sing about it because it is Cropover and some of us would have had the opportunity up to now to go to our tents and listen to our calypsonians. The tradition in the Caribbean is that the calypsonians are sometimes our greatest leaders as far as guiding us to how the pulse of the people is beating.

Sir, there is a calypsonian who is singing today and he is singing that no young man owns a fleet of Mercedes. No young man owns motorcycles. So I would like to see us start to deal with the larger problem of the erosion of our morals in society and this is what I would like to see the Barbados Labour Party, instead of engaging in triviality, start dealing with these issues, the real issues and demonstrating that they have a grasp of the kind of problems that the young people in this society are encountering, offering them alternatives in this regard instead of offering them further or more intense incarceration as is obviously contemplated here.

We have got to demonstrate a broadening of our thinking in this regard. We have to implement the things we talk so much about. The recommendations of the Steering Committee on Penal Reform, we have to implement those things. We have to give our magistrates the opportunity when young people come before them as first offenders to say to that young person, "I want to offer you an opportunity to come back into society so I am not going to send you to join the band of hardened criminals at Glendairy or I am not going to send you to the Government Industrial School but I am going to offer you to be guided by counsellors or the Probation Department or the Welfare Department." But then again, Sir, under an administration where these institutions are being systematically eroded they cannot offer it.

We have seen the social agencies in Barbados under continual attack by this administration and they have demonstrated no confidence in them but they have sought to set up instead their own institutions. We have been through a period when our children's homes have seen some of the worse incidents. We have seen young people taking administrators of the homes to...

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, On a point of order. I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member. I know he has not spoken in here a long time and has to make up some time. He made reference to the fact that this piece of legislation is seeking to intensify incarceration but if he re-reads – I will grant him the courtesy of believing that he read it at least one time – he will see that nowhere in this does it mention whatsoever about incarceration. It talks about the Board having access to the schools, to the children, deals with complaints of staff and the children. It talks about the Board advising the Minister and it talks about the Board advising the Principals. There is nowhere it deals with incarceration.

Now that I have refreshed your memory I think you would like to rephrase that. Thank you, Mr. President.
11.50 a.m.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: The point I want to make, Sir, is not so much about the incarceration. My point is about not seeing a statement and an attempt to inculcate or to include in this Bill a statement on a reduction in the application of that option. That is what I want to see. I want to see the recommendations of this Steering Committee coming into place. That is what I want to see so I do not care how many interruptions I get over there. I will preach the gospel according to the Democratic Labour Party with respect to this vexing question of punishment.

I do not pretend about these issues because I live, work, walk and talk in Barbados. I do not know where they live. They are not here very often, Sir, so they might not be in contact with the people as much as we are. They are always on their overseas travel so they might not even be aware of the intensity of the problem.

I want them to sit back and listen a little bit and try to gain something about how they can persuade the authorities to move quickly in that direction, the direction which will send the right message. Even if it does not send the right message to the young people, it might send the right message to the parents and they might feel that if, indeed, my son or my daughter would get into trouble – I admit it would be hurtful and regretful but you know there is promise. There is light at the end of the tunnel because of the programmes of the institution to which he may be in.

I am in personal contact with these issues so I do not have to pretend in here or anywhere that I speak, Sir, about these issues. We need urgently this kind of reform. Our young men and our young women are falling into the trap. It is almost like a magnet, the lure of drugs, the lure of crime and the society's values and that is at the core of it. If we have values and a culture which is materialistic, and if we turn too much toward these things our young people are going to grasp for them, so no matter how much we as

parents seek at home and attempt to inculcate different values, from the time we are forced to turn our backs for any reason and our children are exposed to the realities of the world outside there as it stands, if our children are exposed to the other young men and young women in the gap, it is irrelevant.

Let me hasten to add. It is irrelevant whether you are in the Heights and the Terraces or the Avenues. I want the Honourable Members to understand that it is all over this country, the advent of the actual occurrence of juvenile delinquency and because it is all over this country and because it is worldwide, that is why it is so urgent that this legislation should demonstrate some attempt to deal with that question.

I go through some small villages. I could take you there now, Sir. It is 11:56 by my timepiece. You would think that these young men would either be at school or be in gainful employment but they are sitting and gambling. These are not big men. These are the young boys.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: You know, Sir, whenever we get up as legislators in here, and I do not know how the Honourable Members over there treat their responsibility but I know how I treat mine. There are times when we deal with the political divide, *et cetera*, on certain issues. This is not a question about any political divide so the urgency is even greater when the schools are on holiday because there are more of them, so I would invite Senator Goddard to come with me at lunch time and let me show him exactly what I am talking about.

Sir, the point we must continue to make in this Chamber, and we must make whenever we have the opportunity to talk to the people of Barbados is that we have to bring about that change that is going to make some difference to these young people.

I would have wanted to see included in this kind of reformation things contemplated like the activities in which we can expect these children to be taking part. If it could not be included in the Bill, well maybe the Minister in introducing the Bill would have talked about it. Of course, other Honourable Members on that Side might very well, having now heard me, want to add their ideas which have not been demonstrated so far to what should be happening with respect to our dealing with crime and our application of punishment to our children.

Barbados should be moving towards an arrangement where these young people when they go into the Government Industrial School will have an opportunity to get involved in craft, get involved in learning the basics in

terms of English, Arithmetic and Writing. We should see that demonstrated more in the kind of product.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I know I am going to be interrupted, Sir, but I can deal with it and I know you will not let it get too far.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will deal with the interruptions, Senator.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, we have to get to a stage where our output, the product from the Government Industrial School tells us something about the process which is occurring in there. I think that is the best way in which I can encapsulate it for the benefit of Senator Murray because if you are making a product, and I know about processes, and you do not ensure the correct timing and concentration of particular additives, you are likely to come out with the incorrect product. So I am saying that we must demonstrate in our process of treatment, our process of implementation of punishment, some intention to include diversification, development and these kinds of things.

I look forward to the day when we can see young men and young women come out of these institutions who will turn into meaningful contributors, teachers, doctors and lawyers. It is not impossible. It happens all over the world where there is a future thinking administration.

I form the impression, Sir, that we are looking in this instance at an intensification of the bondings – by that I do not mean the creating of relationships, but the creating of cells and walls in dealing with these young offenders, exactly the opposite to where we should be heading. Young persons who have been condemned to these institutions should be looking forward to a future of freedom, recognising their wrongdoing.

12.00 noon

They should be able to look in the crystal ball or a window which shows them freedom tomorrow, which shows them re-entry like the astronaut in the Apollo spacecraft approaching earth, re-entry into this community and meaningful contribution. That should be the landmark of any policy in respect to punishment. The prisoner looking through the cell window should see a bright future. He or she should be told of things positive, of the ways in which they can change from a life of crime to one of meaningful contribution.

Lest people might get the wrong impression, I am not for one moment saying that there is not a place for the application of severest punishment because the fastest thing

that will happen is that somebody, especially over there, Sir, will get up and say that Senator Boyce said x and Senator Boyce said do not lock up anybody and open the prison doors so they can look out. That is not what I intend to say. I am saying that this picture must be created in their minds and that it is like any other teaching institution.

When Senator Murray first entered school as a young infant his impressions were formed by the person....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I would wish Senator Murray to speak for himself on such matter.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I am sure that Senator will develop that point. When I first entered school as a young boy I was impressed by the curriculum which was put before me. By what I was going to learn, what I was going to be taught, what opportunities would be opened to me. When you go to university or even before university you have the opportunity to go through your curriculum before you enter and decide where you are going and whether you are going that way. We might not be able to extend such wide-ranging options necessarily but surely there should be that curricula before the sentencing officers which says to them that this person will benefit from this type of activity or that type of activity or that type of programme. That is exactly what we should be aiming at, at this stage in the development of Barbados.

The Barbados Labour Party, to this point has demonstrated all the intentions in respect to setting up of the committees and in respect to the reporting of the committees and the publication of the documents. My bag is weighted down with a number of reports on this and that, to do with crime and sentencing and I have only been in here about a year and two months – the Green Paper, the Yellow Paper, the White Paper, all of that but in fact the delivery is like a fast bowler who has a very long approach and when he goes to deliver the ball it is nothing more than a medium pace or something like that. He expends so much, then to be disappointed by the flight and speed of the ball. This is exactly what is happening here.

We have been talking too much. Our young people need urgent attention and some of our old people too and these programmes need to be implemented urgently. I keep saying in here and I will not stop saying it, we can fast track anything else that we want to fast track on this earth. We can fast track items which we believe are of economic value. We can make it happen overnight. We can change laws and bring legislation to create playing fields, smooth playing fields, bumpy playing fields and all kinds of playing fields but we have a tremendous difficulty and we need to be advised by the Queen, the Queen's mother, committee after committee and this and that. Everybody has to be involved.

Sir, I withdraw that reference to Her Majesty. But we need to have these numerous advisory Bodies before we can act on matters of social importance and social urgency. Sir, the management of the Government Industrial Schools is such a matter, the young people who from time to time are unfortunately incarcerated there need to be able to look forward to meaningful programmes about reuniting with society. I think that this is what I would like to see as a matter of urgency form part of the agenda, not the agenda for discussion or the agenda for debate. The information is out there, we do not need any further committees to look into it. The information is out there and it is free and the Government needs now to implement and to stop talking and to act. They have demonstrated a willingness to do it in many other areas – in the area of tourism, in the area of economic development, in the area of international business. I am calling on them too to implement the programmes that have been recommended in the area of social programmes for Barbados. That includes most importantly a meaningful and substantive reform of the Government Industrial Schools programme and indeed a reform of all our penal institutions. Until that happens, they can rest assured that I will be like a bee in their proverbial bonnet, I will make sure the public of Barbados is aware that they have the tools, that they have the information before them and that they refuse to do anything about it.

It is time for action in this regard. It is time for implementation of these policies. Not these half-baked measures which do not constitute any meaningful goals for people who suffer these terrible consequences.

I respectfully submit that this is something which the Government of the Barbados Labour Party and the Attorney General must deal with expeditiously and transform this country by bringing it in line with modern thinking programmes in this regard. Sir, I will have time to deal with more issues like this, I am sure but I hope that the next time we get to talk about the matter of crime and punishment, we will be talking against a background of progress and a background of real facts which the Honourable Senate Leader will be able to point to, instead of just talking about reports and about legislations.
12.10 p.m.

Let us hear where the creation has occurred. Where has the birth taken place, Sir? That is the question before us. We need a new birth in this regard.

I respectfully submit, Sir.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Goddard, just before you speak, Senator Boyce promptly withdrew references to the Royal Family. I will go a bit further and ask the Clerk to see to it that such references are struck from the record. My

authority is Standing Order 34(7) and I will ask other Senators to bear that particular Standing Order in mind for the future.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill and to thank the Honourable Senator Boyce for the invitation to visit the villages of Barbados to observe the fact that school children who are on holiday are not in school.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: This offer has as much relevance as the value and relevance to the rest of his speech but this does not surprise me, Mr. President, because the Honourable Senator launched off in a derogatory about the escalation of crime in Barbados in a very eloquent manner and one which was quite persuasive.

Unfortunately, his bag has been weighted down with reports on crime, but either he has not read them or his memory is faulty, because over the last five years there has been a consistent reduction in the level of crime in Barbados. In 1997 there was a reduction of 4% over 1996 and in 1998 for the first six months of this year, there has been a reduction of 5% over the corresponding year in 1997. So these statistics are a matter of record. They have been published and they are part of the heavy bag that the good Senator carries around according to him.

So when we start from a false premise and we get onto irrelevant issues that are not contained in this Bill, it sort of sets the trend or the...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President, I do not recall any irrelevancies which I made during my presentation. I thought you would have drawn my attention to any such irrelevancies, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order. That is a judgment by Senator Goddard. It may or may not be correct.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, if the Honourable Member would recall his comment about more intense incarceration resulting from this Bill, you will see that it is an irrelevance so to speak. And, the object of this Bill is to improve the management of the Government Industrial School and to widen the area of management and the involvement of the community in the management of this school.

In this regard it is but one step in the many areas that we are going to have to address in the areas of Penal Reform. So we have to take these things one step at a time and we have to see them in the context of what is happening in our society. I will remind the Honourable Senator that this

reduction in crime has paralleled the increase in employment in this country and the massive job creation that has taken place over the last several years. And, these things go hand in glove. So the Honourable Senator is quite right when he said that there has been study groups and action groups and so on and so forth and we do have to see the society and the economy in its totality and all the interlinking things that make for the improvement in our quality of life in this society.

So, Mr. President, it is with great pleasure and a sense of accomplishment on this Side that I do support this Bill which I think will contribute significantly to the improvement of the management of the Government Industrial School. And, I look forward to other enlightening legislation that will come before this Honourable Chamber to enhance the Penal system in Barbados.

I thank you very much, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, the Attorney General with his usual dynamism and vision is setting up a Board with authority and as an educator of many years who has worked with Boards, I consider this a very important step.

Boards with authority can be helpful and its Members can bring a new dimension to matters at an institution. And in this instance, I think that that will be the case. The Board, as has already been suggested, proves that Government is aware that there is need for changes at these institutions and we could perhaps speak of it in the singular or look at it as Dodds and Summervale.

I hate even to have to mention anything which Senator Boyce mentioned but I think I should clarify some of the points which he made, especially when it came to a curriculum because there are other subjects taught. There is English, there is mathematics and there is a great deal of religious and moral education and the teachers are aware that their objective is rehabilitation.

However, Mr. President, rehabilitation encompasses a great deal and residential care procedures have changed very dramatically over the past two decades. Traditional methods are no longer effective since the type of child going into these institutions is a very different type of child from some years ago. They come from a different environment and therefore they need a different kind of treatment.

Therefore, it is recognised that they require professional and skilful intervention. So there is need for specialists staff who can diagnose the learning problems and quickly assess the child's educational and functional level. And the lives of these children do need a great deal of enrichment. The majority who go to Dodds and Summervale

have been living in deprived situations so their working days have to be filled and there are attempts to do that.

I have visited Dodds from time to time over the years, albeit not so recently and I know that there are attempts to provide amusement as well as to see that their educational and moral needs are met. However, I have to say that the curriculum probably needs to be changed so that the children engage in more successful experiences. For example, computer studies and other skills opportunities come to mind. I understand that although some 11 to 12 year olds are barely at infant levels academically that there are some who are quite intelligent and there have been successes. There are boys who have gone on to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic or attended Skills Training classes and others have gone into the Youth Service and even excelled. Some have taken the School Leaving Certificate with satisfactory results and others have become self-employed.

12.20 p.m.

The aim is clear-in a secure environment, not incarceration as has been implied by one speaker, and the focus is on changing the individual so that there should not be the trade for the trade's sake. The emphasis must be on the individual. You want to see them leave better than when they went in.

Mr. President, there are measures which should be adopted to help with rehabilitation and the approach to discipline. For instance, yes, it has been mentioned in the Dodds Committee Report and I think it is crucial that children be separated by age, the younger boys from the junior boys. In addition, those who need care and protection should be separated from the criminal element. I think too that a clinical psychologist is necessary and I mean a resident one, not one who is called in from time to time. It is important, too, that staff should also have training for the correctional field. According to a professor the nature of the leadership is seen as a major correlate of violence within schools and I am speaking generally now. I am not speaking of Dodds or Summervale in particular or specifically.

Harsh, disciplinary measures seem to characterise schools with high incidence of aggression. Therefore, there is the need to see that children are responsive and yet at the same time not over controlled.

There is another factor which I think that a Board could look at. Many of these children have not had resident fathers and therefore these fathers are financially, emotionally and physically absent and there would be real value in seeing that there is a house father and mother working amicably together. There is a house mistress and there is a principal who is responsible for both Dodds and Summervale but, of course, a principal's duties are so onerous in themselves

that he cannot be expected to fulfil both these roles. It would help to provide stability and it would help with the moral and socialising process. Therefore, that is something which I think should be strongly advocated. Those are not things that come about through legislation. These are things that Boards and internal management can look at.

Further, the public must be educated about the societal forces that perpetuate unacceptable rates of juvenile delinquency so that they can help to reduce them. I think it is important. I know from time to time in this Honourable Chamber we speak about the importance of public education and I think that this is one of the occasions when public education is necessary. I do not think except in an objective way or even statistically that the public pays as much attention to juvenile delinquency as it should or recognises that it can play an important role.

Therefore this legislation is important. It is progressive and I have the greatest pleasure in supporting it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Dr. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I would like to make my contribution to this Bill which would amend the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Act to make provision for the establishment of an advisory Board into matters relating thereto. I am very pleased to know that the Leader of the House says these are interim actions because at this moment I want to talk from the point of view of a visionary and the approaching millennium. The truth is that when we look at the whole question of reform and I think this is something that speakers have skirted around, the whole problem of reform. I have definitions like: radical change for the better, or to make people become better by removal or abandonment of imperfection. When we talk about reform, I think we have to start first with the reform of legislators, reform their thinking, reform of policy makers, reform of parents, parliamentarians because, indeed, what we have to start with is reform of the whole society.

I would like to begin by saying in this visionary position I am taking that every person in the society should pledge if they are working with young people who are experiencing difficulties to behold the divine and the divinity in each child and to respect the dignity of the human person.

You know, I was struck by the fact that industrial schools... and that is the whole concept that we are talking about. We are talking about a penal institution because the concept we are really dealing with is that "industrial schools" is a euphemism because if we talk about schools seriously and this is where my vision comes I really would not like to see the industrial schools under the heading of the Attorney General.

I would really prefer to see young people outside of that whole criminal ambience. This whole question of the

child as already judged as criminal in industrial schools under the Attorney General, I would really – and this is of course visionary and you never know when these visions are going to become reality – like to see at some future time that children, and these are children that we are talking about, move under the aegis of Education, Youth, Culture which means we are making a complete paradigm shift. We are saying that they are no longer punished and judged as criminals.

It seems to me ironic that we can in one sense talk about these children and reform, that is, that we want to change them, that like good leaders and good shepherds we want to take even that one lost sheep and change it and yet put that child and those children under the aegis of the Attorney General, the criminal justice system. So already we are dealing with a very paradoxical situation. When I see industrial schools and I look at it under the Attorney General I say to myself, are these the same children we have in our society?

12.30 p.m.

If we look at them as a continuum in this society, all we are going to find, actually, when we look at the children who are now in what we call the Industrial Schools, is that they are probably at the end of this continuum in terms of the way they behave. Why are they there? It is not because they are worse than other children in the continuum in terms of behaviour, and in terms of what we might call deviant, but because invariably, and the penal reform reports confirm this, they are the children of the poor and the dispossessed. They are the children whose parents have not had the ability either to give them moral, spiritual, economic, emotional support so that from the time I look at this Bill and I see Industrial Schools and I see them under there, I said however much we might fancy or use a little cosmetology, however much we might put this in pleasant words and lovely speeches for the society, for the child, for the parents, this is already a done deal. We have already made a judgment about that.

In my vision and in my thoughts about what the millennium should bring in terms of our children, I would wish one day that we remove the notion of children in industrial schools from under the Attorney General and the whole criminal justice system and put them back under Education, Youth Affairs & Culture because we do know already, we are actually shifting around and playing games with this notion because some of these children do go into the youth service. We say we move them there but what has happened?

I appreciate my dear colleague Senator Symmonds' notion where she raised the whole question of how we are going to improve the children's lot and all of that, but how

do we educate the society? How we could let them understand? This is not educating the society. The society understands these children are already branded criminally.

What is unfortunate is that a lot of these children, and I have been talking to people who are actually working with this situation, especially the girls, and they are there for care. They are there for protection against a society that – I would not say that exploits them but the whole question of sexual abuse and all that, that is criminal, but the children who are victims of all this are not the criminals.

I want as part of my vision (1) I would like to commend the Ministry of Education and the fact that they have made such a wonderful slogan, "Each child matters" and I am saying we cannot take the child who is a victim of this society and say when we put it there that it probably does not matter as much as the others. We cannot do that. What message do we give to our young people anyway?

There was a very brilliant linguist who talked about the medium is the message, McLuhan, but I think everything we do with our young people tells us something. The buildings, that is a message. The people we employ to deal with them.

I have found that the most sensitive young people, and I have actually had the good fortune of dealing not only with young people from the youth services but I have dealt with people who have been deprived, people in the lower end of this pecking order in this society. One of the things I have found about those young people is that no-one is as sensitive to the nuances of this society, to the injustices, to their economic pecking order as these children.

You know, if those buildings, if that physical plant out where those industrial schools are, looked like where the Ministry of Education is now, that is the former Queen's College, or the present Queen's College, that alone would give a message. We have to reform our own hearts and minds because if legislators, leaders, preachers, Senators and Parliamentarians do not change their own hearts and minds about those children, nothing we do will make any difference. I do not care how much education we educate parents, I do not care how much education we educate society, as long as the Industrial Schools come under the aegis of the Attorney General, we have already sent a message. It does not matter how we pretty it up. That is it.

I, out of curiosity – because I like to deal with the figures and the facts. I hear talk about they have a curriculum. They are doing this and that. I went back to the Estimates, 1997/98. I looked for Industrial Schools and I saw under Head 30, Attorney General, page 64, Item 212 – Operating Expenses. I checked to see what Operating Expenses meant. It said:

"This item includes provision for the vocational training and after-care of pupils. Also includes fees for the employment of part-time instructors/instructresses and the cost of uniforms to some categories of staff."

The total for that came up to \$94 856. We had travel. I do not know who are the people who get the travel because I have been looking at this. The travel for these Industrial Schools is \$31 000 that is just about a third to travel, and I know it was not the children. I do not know who were travelling. I saw for Library \$1 000. The whole thing was \$2 million

Now, I have spoken in this Senate Chamber time and time again about the distribution. Well, of course, as I said, these Industrial Schools come under the Attorney General so I suppose the Ministry of Education could not be blamed for this but if you follow my thesis, I have talked time and time again about the amount of money that is spent on our young people in education, about the millions and every time I look, and relook, and recheck I find this disproportionate, the sense that the children who are at the end of the continuum, whether we want to call them the criminal children, whether we want to call them the slow learners, whatever term you want to call them that set of people in this country by now I am beginning to think that it is assumed that they will keep quiet, that they will remain there and they will probably go away from us somewhere or the other.

I have said it time and time again. I do not make light of the fact and I do not think it is a joke whether it is holiday or not. I do not think it is something to be made fun of, that there are young people about this country doing nothing whether school is in or out and doing all kinds of things and then we come here and talk.

Frankly, I do not feel that I am part of anything that is making sense. That is frankly how I feel. I must confess because I am saying this now and I am saying it as a visionary thing, and I am hoping that somebody will hear, somebody in authority, somebody with power will eventually do something about this situation but, at the moment, I sometimes feel that I am just wasting my breath. I am just talking because I have to talk. I am talking for more than talking sake. I am talking because I feel that some time, some where, some seed of what I say will fall on fertile ground and people will listen. I am maintaining that those children who end up in the Government Industrial Schools in this country, by and large are probably no worse than the best of children in this country and we know the reasons why they are there.

12.40 p.m.

I have not actually found the statistics and I did not go into detail but I was thinking in terms of a comfortable sort of institution. I know that we have just set up a place for

drugs in this country, a nice organisation where corporate bodies are contributing monies and where Government contributes money for children obviously not of the type who end up in Dodds, to get them off drugs and to be kinder and gentler to the children of this society who are not as poor or as miserable as the children in Dodds to rehabilitate them. I think that it is a wonderful thing and I absolutely support anything that we talk about in terms of reform that will change people for the better. I have not done a serious research on it but I know the climate and the atmosphere in this country and I know, for example that the administrator of a newspaper in this country supports this thing and I know why. Those children out there in the Youth Service or in Dodds are not fooled. I have talked to them and they are not fooled by us coming here and sitting down and talking. Today we will say, we should have a psychologist, tomorrow we will say another thing. It is very clear that they think that this society does not care about them. We get here and we are talking these nice and fanciful things but we are not impressing those kids out there, we are not impressing any of those young people out there. They understand the score, totally understand the score.

My vision is that one day some Government in power will decide that Industrial Schools should not stay under the aegis of the Attorney General and that each child matters. I commend the Ministry of Education for this.

Asides.

SENATOR Dr. V. J. DAVIS: We know all the reasons why they are the way they are.

It is not impossible for them to be reformed, it is just a question of reforming our own hearts and minds. We cannot reform the children unless we reform ourselves. This society is not going to reform anybody unless it reforms itself and starts to think in a different way. Everytime I see a report about children breaking out of those institutions, I remember the famous female calypsonian who said, "dog does run away, cat does run away", why should anybody who has a human consciousness not run away from violence, from disrespect, from indignity, why would they stay there. If that place was really loving and healing, would they run away?

Asides.

SENATOR Dr. V. J. DAVIS: I say they should run away. If you are a nice human being you want to be treated with a certain kind of dignity. Even the worst criminals in Glendary if you treat them like human beings they will respond.

Asides.

SENATOR Dr. V. J. DAVIS: Of course, they will run away. We talk about reform and changing but some of these children move from a home that has no privacy and no comforts and are put into a place that is worst than where they come from. They are put in a situation of greater violence.

There is a story which some of you probably know. The girls, they say they watch them more closely because they are afraid that they will go out and get pregnant and if they get pregnant they will not keep them. The girls go out and get pregnant so that they would not keep them. That is to tell you how bad it is. The girls are prepared to go through that just not to be in there. That must tell you something. As I have said before, if we took as much care about the people we employed to deal with these young people as we took with the teachers we appoint at Harrison College or Queen's College we might have a better kind of person.

I started off by saying that I would make every one of those people, everyone who has to work with young people pledge that they would behold the divinity in each child and respect the dignity of the human person. I know that people are put there and instead of trying to encourage the children some of them will talk about where the children came from and what they did. So what are we sending those children into, what are we doing? Some times it is better to leave them to roam the streets. That is how bad the whole thing is.

I am going to end by saying this. We set out to say that we have a Board but in my vision we have to get a Board that is headed... Let me put it in the nicest possible way. According to my vision, we will not have a Board that will include the Superintendent of Prisons or his nominee. What I would like to see is that...

Asides.

SENATOR Dr. V. J. DAVIS: He could be there but my vision does not admit that these children must go under the judicial system. That is why my vision is saying that we should have a priest, we should have an educator, a psychologist and a counsellor. We should also have a parent of one of those children, a parent on the Board who has had a child who has been through that institution.

Asides.

SENATOR Dr. V. J. DAVIS: Of course there should be doctors and nurses but we must have a Board that should reflect a change of heart in us that we are really here to reform, that we are really here to change behaviour, that we are really here to say, each child in this country must have equal treatment and must be equal otherwise all that we are doing now is worse than cosmetic.

SUSPENSION

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

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support the Bill to amend the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Act and make provision for the establishment of an Advisory Board to advise on matters related thereto. I support this in the context of what the Leader of Government Business has said that it is part of an overall attempt in the areas of Penal Reform.

Mr. President, I would love to have seen the establishment of Community Centres and Attendance Centres for children ages 7 to 19 to complement these two reform schools, which I will go into detail a bit more. I am saying that I would have loved to see the Attendance Centres in that these schools contain a mixture of children who are there for different reasons. And, in my view quite a few of them would be better served at an Attendance Centre which is in the report of the Steering Committee on Penal Reform, page 27.

The objectives of such Attendance Centres would be the reduction of offences by young persons between 7 and 19 years and incarcerations, by diverting the young offender from the criminal justice system to rehabilitation. It was felt that since Attendance Centres had a community base, they were more likely to succeed than custodial institutions. Another objective is the enhancement or retention of family structures. Another one is discipline and responsibility to improve self-esteem and to modify anti-social behaviour. And, last but not least the cost effect of attendance centres versus prisons.

So in other words, Mr. President, the thinking on the right track is only to get some of these institutions established as soon as possible. For as you know, Mr. President, Dodds for boys and Summervale for girls started out as industrial schools. In particular Dodds where the children used to go into the cane fields and head canes *et cetera*. They have changed a little but not as much as we would like them to change over the years, to look after and care for children who for some reason have been led astray,

who have gone astray and who are in need of care and protection from the society.

Mr. President, they are children nevertheless, they are not adults. If we believe that education will improve and change behaviour, and I am saying this because I myself have held the post of Health Education Officer and I was told that I was to use education to change the behaviour and health habits of adults, and if we can attempt to change the behaviour of adults through education, I do not see why we cannot do the same to our very young people.

Mr. President, I have been informed that all is not well at both of these schools. I do not know if it is true but I was told that although they take school leaving certificates, they usually do not go on to take the CXC Certificate. I do not know if this is true or not true. I feel that it should be introduced and an attempt should be made for all of them to take the CXC Certificate.

Mr. President, I have also been told that the Institutions are over-crowded and that the quarters were designed for 20 boys and now there are about 40 or so. I also have been told that there is not a mixture between the girls at Summervale and the boys at Dodds and that there used to be co-education but it was stopped in the late 1980s. It is my view, Mr. President, that if we are trying to change the behaviour of these young people and prepare them to re-enter into a society where there are males and females and they have to adjust the different behaviours of males and females, that some attempt should be made to have some form of co-education, no matter how small, so that these people could learn the man-woman relationship, the woman-woman, or the boy-boy and the girl-girl or the girl-boy relationship. It should be more akin to society and what we are preparing them to enter into.

Mr. President, I also feel that in addition to the Attendance Centres whereby persons could attend these institutions, if these places can serve as halfway houses, they need to be some provision made to reintroduce these children back into society. I have been told that the families are not allowed to visit often. Therefore, the reintroduction of these children into society is not as good as it should be. I would like to see more frequent visiting hours at these institutions and also have qualified counsellors available, not only for the children but in particular for the relatives and significant others who are related to these children and to whom these children will be returned. I would also like to see an attempt made to assist the parents of these children with some parenting and some support group established in the community to assist those parents and these children to be reintroduced into society.

Mr. President, I am not sure under which Ministry these institutions should be. I am cognisant of the fact that a few children have committed serious crimes. If it is possible

for them to be under the Ministry of Education, so be it, it would even be better. If it is possible to have psychiatric nurses available and attached to these institutions in order to assist the children with behavioural problems I think it will go a very long way in helping these children come to terms with the different types of behaviour that society accepts.

2.05 p.m.

Mr. President, my biggest concern is to prevent children from reaching Dodds or Summervale. In order to do this, we need to present different images, and send different messages to our children. I get the impression, Mr. President, that the message we are sending to our children is that life is one big party. Life is not one big party. Massive sums are being spent to entertain the youth. I feel they should have playing fields and entertainment occasionally but the impression that I personally am getting is that there are unlimited amounts of money out there to entertain our children and everything is a freeness. This is not so, Mr. President. We have to start instilling and inculcating in our children from nursery school the need to work hard and save and all the different values of society, that everything is not free, you must work hard for what you have, you must save.

Mr. President, a lot of our young children are sent to nursery schools, either Government nursery schools or private nursery schools, and I do not see that when these children are sent to these schools, sometimes from the age of six weeks, why we cannot have the persons who are looking after these children also trained in these values in order to help pass them on to children. I know that parents have a responsibility. We have to instil in parents the responsibility to pass certain values onto our children but it seems as though everybody is caught up: everything is partying, everything is party, party, party. That is not what life is about.

For example, when Obadele Thompson was given some sort of recognition, what was he given it at? At a party. But he did not get there by partying. He had to work hard. Also Leah Martindale was recognised. She did not get there by partying. She got there by hard work. These are the things we have to hold up to our youth.

When you have to work hard, you do not have any time to get into trouble. You are so tired at night that you go to bed and sleep and then wake up and start all over again. These are the things that I would like to see instilled in our young people. Make them do their homework, let them play and do their homework and get tired and go to sleep and get up and get dressed and go to school! These are the values that each and every one of us must try and impart to children, whether they are our children or not. They are our responsibility or the whole society will suffer.

We have to go back to the years when the people in the villages if you did wrong, even though the two adults were not speaking, they would still go and tell on you and you would be reprimanded in some form or fashion because you were a child and a child must learn to understand.

Mr. President, I feel there is need for a lot of in-service education. I do not have any great ideas about the staff of the schools – it is all here in the Report of the Steering Committee on Penal Reform. They have recommended social workers, clinical psychologists. They have done the research. They have told us what is needed. I would like to see us try and implement these things. The only people they forgot, was psychiatric nurses. You just have to add those to the lists but it is all-written down here in this Report.

I would like to see us make an attempt to implement some of the recommendations on this Report in addition to having a Board. I sincerely hope the Board will be given enough funds so that they can implement some of these recommendations.

Mr. President, I do not feel they should just change the name for the sake of changing a name. The whole image, as Senator Davis has said, needs to be changed, proper home life facilities where there is more frequent visiting where people can help people to get on with each other, because some of us are forgetting how we must learn to get on with each other. I have seen it not only among children but in the nursing profession. Somebody is not speaking to somebody and all this nonsense even though you are professional people and you should be able to work with everybody and talk to everybody. You do not have to sit down and have dinner with them. These are the ideas that we have to get back into our society. We should be able to work with anybody, anywhere, anytime but socialising is something totally different. They tend to mix up professionalism with socialising over and over again and these are areas we need to get into.

I hope that the time will come when we do not have to pick up various papers and read about children running away from remand homes. Mr. President, I sincerely hope that the children will understand why they are there, what is being done for them and they assist and help plan their own rehabilitation. If things are not right in the home, they are going to run away. If people are very harsh with them, they are going to run away. If they want to do as they like, they are going to run away. We have to find ways and means of encouraging them to do what we consider the right thing and to help get them rehabilitated into society.

Mr. President, some of these children are there not only for truancy but for prostitution tendencies, family problems, petty crimes, dope pushing. These are the types of things that these children are remitted to Dodds and Summervale for. All of these are behavioural problems. Therefore just

locking them up and waking them up at 5 o'clock and getting breakfast at 8 o'clock is not going to help these children. These are children that need serious counselling for these behavioural problems and I sincerely hope that the Board reflects the type of problems we are dealing with and people who are in a position to advise about these various problems and how they can be handled.

2.15 p.m.

Mr. President, I took note that the Leader of Government Business said that the Members of the Board will have free access to the children and they can go into a room and listen to their complaints, *et cetera*. It is okay to say that, but children if they feel they will be penalised after they have, what people call, told tales on the people who are there to assist them, we are going to have the same problems that are there.

In effect, it is not so much of the Board having free access to the children and listening to the children's problems. It is the people who are employed there who should be properly qualified to deal with the children's problems. I am not saying that the Board should not have access. What I am saying is that we have to spend some money and employ knowledgeable persons to assist these children, people who are professionals and who are knowledgeable and know what they are doing. Therefore, you will have to offer them more money.

You have to employ people with experience who can assist these children to get back on to the right track in addition to allowing the Board to have access to the children. It is not only Dodds and Summervale that this is needed. This is needed in some of our Children's Homes as well where the people who are employed to look after the children are not people who are really trained to look after these children. If you hear the horror stories you would feel very sorry for those children. You are hearing horror stories from nursery schools right up to now, all because there is a lack of properly trained professional people to look after our children.

It is said, "Give me a child for the first seven years of its life and I will be able to guide that child and influence that child for the rest of its life." It is just like our parents teaching us to say prayers and up to now at my age I cannot go to bed without saying my prayers if not I do not sleep, or because it was instilled in me from the time I was a little girl that you must say your prayers at night. You might lie down in bed and say them and not kneel down but it is still instilled in you that you must say prayers before you go to bed. That is the sort of thing we have to do to our children. Guide them into the right way and it will always stay with them virtually.

Mr. President, I hope I have made a contribution to this Bill. There is another area I did not say anything about and

that is the area of research that is needed. We need people attached to these schools who can do research, who can review the trends of the problems in society so that people could be trained to look after them and to do the various research, not only with children in the school, but also among the population so that the programmes of the school could be geared towards the existing problems because the problems tend to change over time, and in-service education should be geared towards helping those workers to be trained in those areas to deal with those problems.

Mr. President, I support this Bill and I thank you.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, I rise to make a few comments on this and, of course, to give it my support. I want to begin, however, by clarifying a comment that was made by one of the former speakers who stated that many students who would have attended the Government Industrial Schools go on to Glendairy Prison. I would just like to clear that up. That is not accurate to say that many students go on to Glendairy Prison because, in fact, it is below 11% of the entire population of Glendairy Prison that can be recognised as former pupils of Dodds across its entire lifespan and we are talking from 1883. To say that many go on to Glendairy is really putting the institution in a very poor light. Say what you will about the Government Industrial Schools, that is not one of the things that can be said.

Mr. President, I am happy that this has come before us at this time because I have spoken on numerous occasions in this Senate about education reform and under very many different Heads but I am happy that today I can speak on it in its "rightful place."

There is no secret in this Senate. I have been associated in some small measure with the Government Industrial Schools, specifically, the Girls side for some time now so I have had what I call hands-on experience. I can only speak from my personal experience if I want to speak with conviction. All along the time I was concerned about the physical conditions and I am happy that we will have a Board in place now who will be able to address initially that major flaw in the establishment because, like one of the former speakers said, I believe it was Senator Davis, that you cannot put people in an institution, and I will refer to it as an institution at this point, which really and truly will not do anything to make them feel better about themselves or even to want to act differently.

I am not going to be lengthy on that particular item because it is in the document there. It has identified the needs that exist at the school in terms of the physical redevelopment and the whole question of staffing. I believe some mention is made also about training but that is an area that is of grave concern to me because it is an the area I deal

with. I am a cosmetologist by profession and for many years I have seen that more as a counselling role even more than one of beautification because the two go hand in hand because if you do not look good, and I have said this before so I do not want to regurgitate and bore Senators, but if you look good, you are going to feel better, and if you feel better, you are going to look better so it goes around and it goes around.

The occasions that I go there it is primarily to deal with the whole question of self-esteem and development of the young ladies in particular, and is difficult to do so in that particular setting. I had already raised that so I am happy that it is going to be addressed through the amendments to this particular Bill.

Mr. President, I would also want to suggest, and I do not think it would be out of order or out of place to say, and Senator Rickinson made mention of it already, that there is no point putting square pegs in round holes. There is no point putting people in institutions or indeed any profession or any business place to do a task that they are really not geared for, not suited to. When I say "suited to" I do not necessarily only mean qualified academically but that their persona, their whole personality does not lend itself to the particular discipline.

2.25 p.m.

In this particular area it is especially important that the persons nurturing, I would want to use the word nurturing because I feel in large measure that the role of the tutors, teachers, counsellors, principals, call them what you will, at the Industrial Schools must have a nurturing component as part of their daily curriculum. Senator Symmonds spoke about the English and Mathematics and all that is very well and good but it should not be against a background of abuse. I say abuse not to suggest for one moment that the staff may be abusing but we know some times that language has a way of carrying a message. The words are right but the language is wrong, the attitude is wrong and you lose the message because the messenger absolutely failed to deliver the message.

Mr. President, in truth and in fact the number of young persons that go to the Industrial Schools is a very small percentage. Many of them do come there in the first instance because, again, from my hands on experience, I had opportunity to work in a neighbourhood where a mother, I call her that because she gave birth to the child but what she was doing was certainly, in my view, not mothering and her exact words were, that she is not going to rest until her girl child ends up in Dodds. Poor soul she did not even know the difference between Dodds and Summervale and she is to be pitied. She is to be pitied and she is to be chastised on the one hand and so are many other parents of the day who

allow, by their poor parenting practices children to fall by the wayside. To fall into groups of individuals who appear at first instance to be nurturing. By experience, that is how it begins.

Then comes the drugs, the sexual favours and then finally the young person, male or female, finds that they can no longer tolerate it and runs from the scenario looking for solace elsewhere, and may be found on the street wandering. I believe that is the expression that is used and ultimately the individual ends up at the Industrial Schools for wandering. That is something that needs to be addressed and perhaps I will do that on another occasion when I do the appropriate background research, the whole question about wandering. Because if a young person cannot stay home because there is abuse in the home, where are they to go? Mention was made of perhaps of an institution of some sort, another level of bureaucracy perhaps but there needs to be some thing somewhere. I have thoughts on that but I am not going to share those today.

Mr. President, it is important that the parents of the day, the people who bring these children into the world do not get off scot free. They are taxpayers like all of us in here and it is not alright for them to sit back and do as they will, or do not do, usually that is the case when it comes to nurturing and bonding with those children and then leaving the burden completely on the taxpayers to manage the affairs of the children. There must be some sort of reprimand in my view for individuals who would want to go along that road.

Mr. President, I see the whole question of the appointment and setting up of a Board at the Industrial Schools as one that would make for direct contact. At the moment there are a lot of individuals who give of their time, a great majority give freely of their time, there may be some who receive payment but I do not know what percentage and if not for those citizens, where would the Industrial Schools be today? I see this as a formulation of some thing which can only redound to the benefit of the society at large because the students will benefit directly from the interaction of having a Board who would be drawn perhaps from individuals... Senator Rickinson spoke of perhaps a nurse, a guidance counsellor and various other persons, but persons who would be sensitive and understanding to the needs of the sort of problems that may occur in an environment such as that one. The physical plan I have already spoken of, I have spoken of the parental and I have spoken of the training.

Mr. President, it is common in Barbados to highlight a lot of the negatives of institutions, schools, hospitals, homes, districts and neighbourhoods. I am sorry that the Press is not here because they are the ones who usually carry the news and it is very remiss of them in my view to give a very unbalanced one-sided picture. Mr. President, very very

recently indeed to quote on the positive side from the Industrials School, they have a very vibrant sports programme and in a recent boxing championship held, three of the gold medals came to Barbados. Two of those gold medals were won by present students of the Industrial School.

Asides.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I am hearing in an aside that it is frustration and that perhaps that is the way they take it out. That is a very positive way on one hand because if they can turn that energy into something positive and bring positive results such as a gold medal, it may cause them to look deeper into themselves and say, if I channel this energy in a positive way, I wonder what results I could get? My first reaction was that boxing is a violent game and I myself do not like it because it is immediately on first thought something aggressive but it is a sport and it is a world recognised sport. If we can produce this even under the conditions that currently exist in terms of physical plant and in terms of individuals who are not as qualified as they could be in terms of nurturing and teaching the students at the Industrial Schools, I give kudos to those young men who brought home the bacon. Senator Davis says that young people do not care a hoot about what goes on in here but it is our responsibility if each one is going to matter for each one of us, to make sure that we reach one and that way there will be the trickle down effect. It may not come to fruition in our lives but it is not O.K. for us to sit back and say, they are not going to pay us any mind anyway. We have however a moral and civic responsibility when we leave in here and those of us who are not doing it now may want to refute. Everybody has a busy agenda and each of us here can make that difference with one whether it be the one child in your home that you may have brought into the world or the one outside. It comes as a labour of love when you see the benefits that that young person is able to make or to derive from the association however small the bit of caring.

The Bible tells you a little mustard seed is all it takes and it is the same thing, Mr. President with the question of nurturing and the whole question of discipline. You can flog with a small tamarind twig and give soothing words, it will sting like anything but the discipline can be coupled with the nurturing. In the long run, Mr. President, those who had the misfortune to end up in the Industrial Schools because of a number of reasons not withstanding the crime element because we would not for one moment believe that all of the students at the Industrial School are there for custodial care. They are some who are also there for reform and rehabilitation. It is not a Sunday school at the Industrial Schools. As a matter of fact when I went to Dodds I was pleasantly surprised by the open plan of the place and I thought to myself, how come more people do not run away from here.

Asides.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: One of the Senators is asking me what I was sent there for. I was sent there to give some love, to give some nurturing and to give some care. I would want you to join with me if you have not already done so one of these days.

Mr. President, with those few words I want to support this Bill and to urge all of those associated to remember that it is no Sunday School picnic at the Industrial Schools. Therefore discipline must be tempered but it must be present, the custodial care must be ongoing if indeed we are to ensure that those who fall into that particular institution through no fault of their own can still come out holding their heads high. Forget the tarnish because eventually that will pass away as well. I know because I have had contact with young ladies particularly the young ladies who are now going through life and doing well. The stigma one of these days, will be banished.

Mr. President, I commend the office of the Attorney General for bringing this Bill before us and look forward for the implementation of many of the policies.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I would like to make my small contribution to this discussion by first lauding the efforts of the Attorney General and officers of his Ministry. I do not have any training in the area, but certainly I have human feelings and I have concerns as a citizen of Barbados and therefore I would like to make my comments.
2.35 p.m.

Mr. President, I think we must first look at the background concerning the students at the Government Industrial Schools. And, we need to look at the kinds of individuals who are sent there and the reasons why they are admitted to that institution. Certainly we know of students who were wandering. They were picked up and sent there. Some are there for drugs, some are there for theft and for violent actions. Some display emotional problems such that things get out of hand and they end up there.

Mr. President, we must all be cognisant of the fact that for many years, certainly when I was a child, as soon as a child committed a small wrong deed that was the comment the children were told.

"You are going to Dodds. You are going to Summervale."

And, it seems to be something in the psyche of Barbadians that as soon as you commit one little error, Dodds or Summervale is where you should go. I think it is

very unfortunate the way some of the students at the schools are being treated, particularly from the point of view of parents. We must try to follow, as explained by Senator Davis earlier today, the fact that many Barbadians need education. And because many of our parents are not...I am not talking about education meaning booky-booky education, I am talking about parental education, education that can make parents aware as to the changes within the society and how these changes impact on the children that are developing in the society.

I think it is very important as well that the teachers be given special training in those areas because when the children at 12 or 13 years are put into the institution and are returned back into the school system, there has to be proper attention paid to these children and their needs. Therefore, we do not want the teachers to be pointing fingers saying that he was missing for two terms because he was in Dodds, or that you are going back to Dodds anyhow and the kinds of negative comments that I know are in existence in this society. I think that is what is helping to really make the situation even worse.

A visit to the Juvenile Court on Thursday mornings would really give Honourable Members in this Chamber an opportunity to really get a true picture as to what is happening in this Barbados. I speak with that kind of authority, Sir, because I have been there up to three Thursdays ago and I really felt hurt. I left with very, very emotional feelings inside because some of the activities of our very young children starting from as early as 10 and 11 years and to hear the kinds of felonies that they are alleged to have committed it really says that a lot of our parents are not as keen in guiding children or not as alert and sensitive as to what is happening within neighbourhoods and communities.

Mr. President, the Bill that we are reexamining here today addresses the need for reform. It addresses the need for changes as to the present situation where we know that there has been a Board of Visitors for many years and that the Board has assisted with the management of the school by making plans and programmes for the institution. But of course it has no statutory basis. The recommendation of the Board for the institution indicates that the Chairperson of that Board would, through the guidance and assistance of Members, be able to set up policies and programmes and plans for the upgrading of the facilities and for the selection of proper staff and things of that nature that would help to upgrade the institution.

I agree, Sir, that whatever new staff has to be selected for these institutions would comprise the psychologist and also guidance counsellors. To put individuals there who have run away from home because of a situation, and most of the time the running away from home is not only with girls.

There are many boys who run away from home as well. But most of the time, according to what I have learnt from many of the young people who have been there, it is to do with running away from a situation with a stepfather or brother or even a father or an uncle, things of that nature what I call a situation of incest. They are running because, "the teachers aren't hearing me." "The neighbour is not trying to do anything for me." "The nurse at the Clinic that I visit is not doing anything for me. I have all these problems, all this trauma, nobody cares about me." So they wander on and on the street and get involved, of course, in a number of other activities that are unwholesome.

I would like for the guidance counsellors to be included on the staff to counsel those students when they get there to help them to overcome some of the trauma that they have been experiencing. I also support the idea that there should be a separation of the students because the individual who may go in for wandering or go in for some kind of other activity other than being violent or drug use, may very well get caught up in that whole set of activities to do with individuals who are violent. We really would not like to send them in for one problem and they come out with a double situation at all. I agree that there should be a resident psychologist as well to really look after their needs, because we cannot assume that every child who goes in is doing it because he is worthless. Because that is what a lot of people say, "he is worthless, he doesn't have any mind" or "she is a little rat" and those are some of the comments that I hear every day on the streets when it comes to identifying the individuals.

There must be support systems within the communities. We are all aware of the kind of dedicated and committed work of numerous institutions, some governmental and some non-governmental, that give their support on a weekly basis in an effort to assist those young people in charting the course for a career, or to develop some kind of skill that would help them later on in life. I want to commend those organisations that do it on a weekly basis without asking for funding or anything, just the opportunity to go in and put the programmes in place to help those individuals.

I was very pleasantly pleased, Sir, a couple weeks ago when I attended the Anglican Young People Creative Competition to see some of the young ladies from the Girls' Industrial School participating in a dance. I felt that that was one of the best things that could happen to help them to develop self confidence and to lift their self esteem and that is as a result of attending the course. I was able to meet a young lady who is very, very upset and I agree that there must be, even if it does not come under the Ministry of Education, I think that there must be a closer link between the Government Industrial Schools and the Ministry of Education for purposes of curriculum development and implementation.

The students were concerned that some of them were at the stage of writing their CXC but the programme that is being offered there was not catering to their needs. Many of us believe that because a child is deviant that it is a slow learner, that is really not the case at all. Those young ladies were ready to write their CXCs but because they were placed in the institution they were not given that opportunity, even though they were still doing the Maths and the English but that would have been at a level lower than the stage that they would have been at. I think that we need to go that route and give them an opportunity. The prisoners have gotten their opportunity to write their CXCs and to upgrade their educational skills and I would want that to happen for the students who are in that institution.

During the month of early June I attended another function in St. Joseph to do with the launching of the Boxers Club and some of the students participated at that function. I was also very, very happy to see the kind of friendliness and camaraderie that came through from those young people and the support that they were giving one another from the Boys' Industrial School to help them to be successful with what they were doing.

I know that when we pull any group of individuals together, whether they are prisoners, students or teachers, whatever, I know that they pull together because they have similar interests and needs. I was really happy about that. I think that those are the kinds of things that the media should be highlighting every time, rather than harping on who ran away from Dodds and who ran away from Summervale.
2.45 p.m.

Those are the kinds of things that should be highlighted so that the other young people understand that you go there because you are there for rehabilitation purposes and you go there because it is a form of giving you an opportunity that you can sit back to understand why you are there and then work towards improving yourself. So that you would be able to get back out there and into society and make a contribution.

Personally, Mr. President, I have heard the Attorney General make mention of his childhood at Dodds and when he speaks, people make little jokes and say, "So you were a Dodds boy too?" It blesses my heart because there are times in walking on the street or being in his company that he says that some people talk a lot of rubbish in Barbados. "That gentleman who just passed was in Dodds as an inmate or a student, if you want to call it that, when I was growing up there and that man is now in a distinguished position in this society". So we need to give the young people hope: "You are here because you have committed some kind of crime or you have done something wrong that is not the norm in this society but at the end of the day you should not remain at the level where people are going to keep pointing their fingers at you. You are here to be disciplined. You are here so that

you can be well focussed on the things that are going to help you as an individual to make your contribution to the development of Barbados".

Many of them out there who have gone through the institutions have continued to be on the right path and I agree that religious and moral education should be paramount in the institution, that we need to let our young people understand there is a Supreme Being, because a lot of young people do not understand that. Their parents themselves have given up. Some of them say they have had too much Sunday school and too much church and they are not particularly bothered to let their children have it. I say that is nonsense. We need to let our young people get some kind of spiritual guidance, some kind of spiritual faith to point them as to the route that they should go and I support the idea that – I am not saying it is not happening because I do not know, but I trust that that continues to happen and on a more frequent basis that that spiritual base is being placed there to help those young people understand there is somebody who is in authority, there is someone who is out there to give you the encouragement, the health and the strength to be able to go on and to improve yourself.

Mr. President, I learnt that there have been repairs to the Dodds institution last year even though these repairs have not been enough to cover all of the needs of the upgrading of the institution. I am happy that that has happened because the place has been so run down for so many years. It is unfortunate that we talk a lot of flowery language at certain levels and then when it comes to getting down to the basics and doing the things that really matter in this society we pay a lot of lip service to it.

I think it is a real burning shame that for the last 30 years or so that institution has not been given any attention to upgrade the facilities so that those young people within could feel a sense of pride to know at least the bathroom has been upgraded, at least the roof has been changed. The same situation obtains at Summervale because our visit there in late May to see the same young lady clearly indicated that it is depressing to say the least, when you get to the entrance to see what those children have to put up with.

It is nothing that is conducive to having a good rest or learning anything or interfacing or interacting with anybody because of the drab situation that I recognised when we went there. I personally did not like the setting at all in which the young ladies were placed when visitors came. Nor did I like the manner of the person who greeted us at the door. It was this stern, crude, rough, harsh approach that startled me as well. Mr. President, I am a person who is not afraid of anything but I backed off a little because I thought if this is the approach that these children are going to get then we are hitting our heads against a mill wall if we expect these young people to improve the situation. I know for sure that their

parents at home do not speak to them in that way and do not treat them in that way.

Mr. President, I think that the whole environment within needs to be upgraded. It needs to be enhanced. The facilities need to be put on the compound to give them an opportunity for proper recreation. It is okay to run around the class for punishment or to do push-ups because they have not done something right but if the facilities are not adequate then we cannot expect to have the kind of satisfaction that is necessary for those young people to be able to say, "For my six weeks or year there or whatever I have learnt, I have recognised, I intend to make a change". That is lacking at this point in time.

I think that better recreational facilities should be put in place to accommodate those needs.

Mr. President, I am trying to be very balanced with what I have to say. I would not want to be pointing a finger and blaming anybody at this time. I wish that I would be given just a moment to conclude my remarks because I show you and the Honourable Senate very much respect in this Honourable Chamber. I would really like proper facilities for recreation and for living purposes to be upgraded to the satisfaction of all so that at least that can also lift the self-esteem of those individuals.

Mr. President, I am one of the persons who thinks that parents who do not carry out their responsibilities, parents who receive the stolen goods that their children bring home, parents who put drugs in their children's hands and tell them to go to school and sell them, parents who allow their children to come home with weapons that can maim or disfigure or even kill, I feel that when their children have to go to the juvenile courts and answer those charges that the parents should be carried along and be dealt with.

I am not going to make mention of what I learnt those three Thursdays ago, but it left me feeling as though we are a helpless race in this Barbados. Some of the things I saw or learnt of those children's doings and the parents are giggling. It had me feeling as though I were in the Bronx or somewhere else where there is a tremendous amount of difficulty between parents and children and you do not know how to resolve it or you do not want to lift a finger. I feel that those parents who support their children and in some instances encourage them to get into the ill, that they are involved in, are some of the ones who should be given a penalty. If we do not make an example of one or two of them we will not go anywhere. It is getting worst in the schools and in the communities where we live unless we make examples of some.

We have some of the biggest problems with drugs in this society. The fellow with the little spliff goes up and

spends his time or pays his fee and the ones who are distributing it in the various homes, little or nothing is happening and unless we get to make examples of some, I am afraid, we are not going to get anywhere. We have all the legislation there but we seem to be helpless in putting those systems in place.

Mr. President, I have learnt that the number of females is climbing. I think there is an average of about 26 females. This may not be quite right because there are so many bits and pieces of information I am trying to internalise that it has confused me. I think there is an average of 25 girls and about 35 boys. In the past we have known that the number of boys were far higher than that of the females and it says that we also need to look seriously at our females. This is not only to do with wandering. Most of the times I understand that the females are the ones who have been wandering.

I understand that a lot of our females are also getting involved in violent crime, incest and things of that nature and we really must see what is happening and why and see if we can address that problem as well. I am not happy with the boys' number being at 35 either, but all of us as a group of Barbadians must get together and see how best we can assist the institution in helping those young people to get back on the right path.

Many of us can invite them to our houses for lunch on a Sunday. Many of us can take them on a picnic somewhere. They need that kind of encouragement and I think it is time we decide among ourselves what can we as Senators, as teachers, as business people, as citizens, do to assist these young people who need that extra love, care, understanding and listening ear to be able to help them over the problems that they are now experiencing.

2.55 p.m.

I want to lend my support to the recommendations for the Board and the constitution of the same. I trust that the Board, even though it will replace the Board of Visitors who for many years played a very important role in working with the institution for no money, just for the love of being involved and being committed to the cause, that the Board will be given the kind of latitude. I know it will, and that it can put systems in place for the improvement and the proper development of the institution.

I know this is an interim measure from the point of view that we are looking at the title of the institutions, how it will negatively impact on Barbadians when you hear Government Industrial School or Reform School. While we appreciate concerns of Honourable Members and other Barbadians, it is an interim measure until we can get the real reform going. I think it is timely and necessary and unless we get that going where the Board can then make further

recommendations and put other systems in place for the upgrading of the facility. I think this will go a long way in helping ease the situation at those two institutions.

Mr. President, it is with those comments that I would like to give my full support to this Bill and I would wish again to encourage Honourable Members and others to join – Operation Giveback. That is the title I give to almost everything in this society where Honourable Members will give back something to the society.

I am not asking for beers to be offered to them but at least some kind of funding to buy a computer. I am not asking for anything elaborate but I know that giving some time to tell them stories, to tell them about our own experiences, to sing with them, to teach them the skills that Senator Odle spoke about in the area of cosmetology, to teach them to read, to teach them about appreciation and gratitude for things that are offered to them, I think that is quality time that will, in the end, redound to the benefit not only of those students but to the rest of Barbados as time goes on.

I want to thank you, Sir, and I trust that Honourable Members will lend their support to this particular Bill so that we will be able to, at least, start a forward looking process until we are able to put other systems in place for the upgrading and reform of the Government Industrial Schools. Thank you.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I rise to give support to the Bill before us today, not to say too much because much has been said, a lot of which I agree with, but I think that a time comes – I think there is a hymn which says: "Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide" and we in this country need to come to that moment, and I believe the moment is now. We talk so much about going into the new millennium, but before we go into the new millennium we have to stop and ask ourselves what are we going to carry into the millennium?

The Bill, Sir, talks about reform. We need to stop and think of the reforms that are necessary for us to take our Barbadian society as a whole, not in part, into the new millennium where everyone is able to enjoy a certain measure of comfortable living.

Those persons, Sir, who enter into these reform schools are there not by choice but by circumstances and circumstances which are not of their own making in most instances; for I believe that if we were to look at the very origin of all of the cases at these schools we will discover that the circumstances in which they began were not of the detained children's own origin. And so today, Sir, as we debate this Bill, there is need for us to have a common front.

We should not be divided in this matter by political points or any other kind of points.

We need to recognise that every bad apple in our society contaminates the best of us and therefore it is the responsibility of each one of us in society to see how best we can prevent other bad apples from falling into the crate which is carrying us into the new millennium, and also to see if there is any way in which we can excise the bad out of the existing bad apples.

What we are experiencing in society today has not just started. This has been a visitation of the sins of the fathers unto the third and fourth generation. Our parents and grandparents have made mistakes. We ourselves are making mistakes because we are presenting to our young people a false understanding of life.

Senator Rickinson has already referred to some of these things, and the old adage about working for something. I have said in here before, Sir, that we have become a mendicant society for when people have discovered that they cannot put out a hand and receive what they thought they were going to get in their hand they are looking for other avenues, and we have become now these big 'party animals'.

It is surprising, Sir, that in a society where we at this level continue to talk about the alleviation of poverty, we can see thousands not only entering in, but also being rejected from places of entertainment continuously at high prices which some of us who are working hard and diligently cannot even afford. Where is the money coming from? Those are the points we have to start to look at.

We need to look at the root cause of the deviant behaviour at all levels in our society. We need to look in high places like in Parliament, the Church, in the business community, in all of those places which we hold dear and, perhaps, even sacred in our community; we need to look and see what examples we are setting in our communities.

I am not talking about examples according to what we are talking. I am talking about how we are walking. What do the young people of our society see in us for real, not what we are pomposetting and saying we are when we are not. That is the problem in Barbados today and somebody has to be bold enough to say so, and to say that all of us together must join hands to do something about it.

It is wickedness. It is hypocrisy for us to stand in here with flowery speeches and say we are concerned about the poor of our society when we have not gone and put ourselves where they are to understand what is happening there. We cannot come and have proper reform unless we have gone where these people are and understand what society has done to them and what society is not doing for them.

It is not a question of coming and giving figures, whether accurate or inaccurate. It is not a question of whether the crime has been reduced by 'X' or 'Y' percent. It is how can we eradicate the crime. How can we bring preventative measures. The answer, Sir, lies in one thing and, that is, that everyone who is born of a woman is a human being and every human being needs L-O-V-E.
3.05 p.m.

Senator Odle said she was giving away some love at Summervale. When I am talking about love, I am not talking about giving some money and giving some food. It means letting every individual know that he or she is a human being born by God of a woman and that all are entitled to what we were speaking about at the lunch table that is, not only to know that there is a level playing-field, but to know that every one can come onto that level playing-field and have an opportunity in society. We need in this country to call a spade a spade and say that there is poor family life, that there is poor parenting and at times, no parenting. This is at all levels of our society. I want to make that clear for the media because at times some people believe that when you say these things you are just talking about who they call the poor class of society. A lot of the problems are at the higher echelons of society where there is poor parenting.

Asides.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: ...Where they can cover it up, as my sister here is saying. We fail to train a child in the way that child should grow. This does not mean carrying the child to Sunday School three times or to church three times a Sunday. It means understanding the personality that is in that frame called a boy or a girl and developing that personality according to the personality that is given by God. It is a serious responsibility and we, as the adults of society in Barbados today, must take full responsibility for what is happening to our young people. They do not know; they are trying their best when they are left alone struggling among themselves trying to work out something for themselves, and we are sitting idly by, too busy with every thing else and then we want to come at some stage and say that we are doing reform. Reform has to start with us because we are on a moral collision course in this Barbados.

Senator Boyce today was talking about preaching and talking about the gospel of John Boyce but the gospel that we need is the gospel of Christ which was propounded by St. Paul, "be not conformed to this world". We have become too worldly in our society. All of our standards are governed by things of the world. As my brother Senator Trotman said, "be he transformed by the renewal of your minds". That is the important thing. We must begin with a new attitude.

Our attitudes are incorrect in our society today. Crime begins with the mind. It does not begin with sexes; whether it be male or female crime it begins in the mind. Our

attitudinal problems and our deviant behaviour will be with us unless we raise our sights once more in this country and recognise that the material things which we yearn for so much and which we are giving so easily and so readily to our young people are not the end-all of life, are not the Alpha and Omega, because those things pass away and give us only temporary enjoyment. We need to learn again that the relationships which comfort the minds of individuals emerge when every boy and girl and every man and woman can know that together they are human beings, all with a common purpose and destiny, and having opportunity for achievement but not necessarily at the same level. Until that mind is settled, there will always be deviant behaviour, there will always be need for reform.

Sir, while I welcome the proposed appointment of the Advisory Board, it is necessary that those who are appointed to the Board have the correct vision. The Minister responsible for appointing this Board must appoint the correct persons. Not because you are a political lackey but because you are a person who has love, care and concern for human beings and who has the expertise. Not even because you have academic ability because many of us who have academic ability have not the love of God in our hearts for our fellow men and women.

The appointment of this Board is the most important part of this Amendment. The Board is the vehicle to bring about the reformation, to bring about the transformation. Unless those on the Board have the vision, the Board could as well have never been appointed.

St. Paul went on to say in that same verse, "that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable will of God". That good and acceptable will which is to be proved is that you are a human being, made by God and entitled to all that God has offered every human being in this world beginning with love, ending with love. That's where the Alpha and Omega is. Forever beginning what never shall end. We need to be reminded of this gospel in this country and somebody has to do it.

Our churches have removed themselves from society and they have to come back to society and recognise that it is no use teaching a man or a woman, or a boy or girl about salvation hereafter only but also that they can now experience abundant life here and now. That only comes when the necessities of life are offered. That only comes when we challenge the injustices of life which allow certain people to have and other people not to have. These diseases, Sir, we need to root out so that the various types of deviant behaviour which really and truly are the symptoms of the disease can be eradicated.

I hope, Sir, that this piece of legislation is truly a stepping stone to larger things to come, a stepping stone to

a larger life for those who have been the unfortunate of our society, who have been caught in the web of society and that we will also have other legislation which will be preventative legislation because, like Senator Forde, I feel that when our children and youth are charged before the Courts and adults come in the courts playing that they are crying blood, it is the adults who need sentencing and not the children. We have to send stern warnings to society that we are not now like Saul. We have to come like Saul and say to the Lord, "we have played the fool". We have done this for a long time in this country and we will carry those attitudes into the next millennium unless we seek to change. Now is the time that we have to build a framework.

3.15 p.m.

I give support to the legislation before us, Sir, and pray that all concerned, which is all of us here and all society, will join hands not only on this issue, but on many other issues in our society to stem the tide of ruthlessness and worthlessness and the waste of human life in this country.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I knew I had made a mistake today at two points. One was to allow Senator Davis to speak before I did and the second one was to have given way to Senator Workman. After Senator Davis spoke, I thought that she had said everything I wanted to say and in another place I would merely have said that I support what she has said and record my vote with her. But since I have to speak for an institution I thought I would find another approach, so I looked deep within myself, went back to my roots and to my pleasant surprise, Senator Workman used the very same parts of the Bible and took us to the mountain top and delivered my sermon.

Now, Sir, I suppose that I am in some kind of a problem unless I were to make the Altar call which he did not make. I wish to say at the outset, Sir, that I support the measure before this Honourable Chamber, but like other Honourable Senators I would wish to use the occasion to record what I would consider to be some of the thoughts which would govern not just me in my personal capacity, but which would govern the thoughts and the views of those organisations in whose name; I believe, I have the honour to speak when I stand here from time to time.

I take the point which was very beautifully made by Senator Workman but which I would seek to reduce to very basic everyday language that if we wait until we get to Heaven to have milk and honey, then we will have a serious problem of our stomachs not being able to accept that diet and we will have several problems of diarrhea and I do not think that we could afford to have that kind of difficulty when we should have a moment for rejoicing.

Asides.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Okay, now even that, so I withdraw that suggestion, then Father Workman, but the point I am making is one you take that one does not think of having to wait until we get on the other side, but that we have to concern ourselves with building society now and improving that society now in the here and now for all of us, rather than asking persons to wait until they get somewhere else to be able to benefit. And that it is at that contradiction in society that we find ourselves in a situation of a confrontation between those who have and who are able to enjoy now and those who are told that it does not matter for them to seek to have, they should wait and be patient.

We were very satisfied, Mr. President, to wait and to be patient and society allowed us to wait and to be patient because frankly we have the feeling that something would come our way. Many of us who are at the kinds of ages that are represented in this room, would know that when we were leaving school at whatever our ages were, the possibility appeared to be very real for us that we would be getting some sort of occupation and there were opportunities.

Today, when a child reaches age 12 or thereabout and begins to wonder or begins to be told by the teachers what he should do when he grows up, that child is forced to look at a bigger sister, a surrogate brother and to say that,

"Here are my friends and my brethren. They have been out of school so long and they have not yet had a job. What therefore is the point in my wanting to do well at school when it seems to me that the marginalised child that I know down the street who does not bother to come to school always seems to have money and always seems to have something going for him or going for her."

And so the temptation is very strong for persons at school age and after school age, to begin to look at outside of structured society for the means of upgrading themselves and finding a measure of living which they find much easier than that that comes by dint of hard work and perseverance along the straight and narrow way. Those of us who remember a Christian along the pilgrim's pathway would recall that in his movement to Zion he had significant difficulties because that narrow path that he was shown by evangelists was not an easy path and there were many who would tell him that there were much better and much easier pathways along which to travel, particularly pathways like the legality pathway and the morality pathway. And I use these, Mr. President, mainly as examples to suggest that we must not dismiss what is happening in society because in essence there are a number of contradictions that are taking place which, on the surface we as good moral beings might say ought not to misguide children, but which in the final analysis do misguide them because they hold for them alternatives which appear to be attractive.

But in other words, Sir, we have a problem in Barbados. The problem we have in Barbados is what we wish versus what we can have. The dichotomy if you like, Sir, of what is desirable versus what is affordable. All of us can very easily point to several things around us, the videos and the billboards and everything we can point around us and we could start believing that all these things are there and we should have them all. And, indeed how can we tell any person young or old that if something is within our society that it is not something that he or she should aim for. And yet the question has to be at the level of the parent and at the level of society, what is really the level at which we can afford it as a country, what is the level at which we can afford it as a district and what is the level at which we can afford it as a family?

People do not always wish to answer that question and it is in their failure to answer the question that we have so many of our young people who are misled from very early into misunderstanding the realities of life and therefore finding themselves marginalised and having to be put aside for some period of time. Sometimes we as leaders, misguide, Sir. I used to be a politician before I took temporary retirement and the emphasis has to be recognised as temporary...

Asides.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: And, I dreamt once that I was in a campaign, of course if it would happen I would not say it, but I dreamt that it happened, that while I was involved in campaigning to reach the hearts of people that my opponent was saying that I had very beautiful delivery and was able to speak beautiful words, but he the opponent had the money.

Although I am not referring to anything, Sir, and you know I would not dishonour this Chamber by referring to anything that has happened, had that happen when I was in Politics then it would be for me to make the point that it was the right objective but the wrong means. Because the constituents would have been led to believe, I am sure you know that they did not believe, that what they can do is to approach any politician anytime especially on a Wednesday afternoon, perhaps in Swan Street – I do not know – and an envelope would have been waiting for that person. And, if that is the kind of society that I dreamt about that we would have been building, then we would have been setting down the framework for a destruction of the values that you and I hold so dear.
3.25 p.m.

I do not refer to any kind of situation other than my beliefs, Sir, and if you choose to trust what I am saying, then that is totally within your privilege. I merely wish to make the point that society, as Senator Workman said, has built up

for itself certain contradictions. When I thought of making a contribution here some people thought I should do so but I did not really want to. I was thinking very seriously of the very splendid example we had just recently in the month of June in Geneva.

Several young children who were denied the opportunity to be free children to go to school and to enjoy what it is to have the freedom of childhood marched on Geneva on what was called the Global March of Children. Unfortunately, I understand it was not covered by the local press because we, perhaps, were not able to pull it down from other media; but it represented the movement of children from as far away as India and Pakistan and as close by as the Caribbean and Brazil who marched on Geneva to say to those of us who had the privilege to be grown delegates, "Help us to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. Why should we be made slaves because our parents owe somebody money? Why should we as young girls or boys, 11 or 12 years old, be sold into prostitution because our parents are poor?"

I had occasion to address all of those people who were speaking and I said that part of the problem with all this is that for a child to become a child prostitute there has to be an adult that is twice the prostitute and who corrupts the society and perverts the minds of these people, paying their parents or their owners for being given the opportunity to abuse the bodies of those children and eventually trying to abuse the minds of the same kids.

Wherever you go, people would speak very loudly to the need, in fact, to the spiritual or Christian ethic in there being an elimination of these worst forms of child labour. What I said to them on that occasion was that the problem the children have is in trying to come to grips with the contradiction there is in society. They are being abused. They are being touted about and then they are told that they should do what the seniors in society do. What is the thing that the seniors in society do? Is there not a contradiction in society where Senator Workman said we say one thing to the children but from early we learn that for children an untruth is bad but for adults an untruth is just a way to win an argument. Don't we say that in our children it is wrong to be dishonest but for an adult it is wrong to be caught in dishonesty. Is there not a significant contradiction? Therefore we try to tell those little kids from young what they should do and what they should not do. Are they not seeing us as people who are not giving them the kind of example that is required?

Mr. President, I know there are several real examples spoken about by many of the honourable persons in here, many quite serious examples of what will cause deviations in society. I subscribe to the view of others that much of what is going wrong in this society does not start with the

child. After all, unless we believe that within the genetics of the child there lies the evil or there lies the genius, then we would have to take the other view and that is that it is within the environment in which the child is brought up that there lies a possibility for the genius to develop or for the evil to come forth.

Though I accept that there would be some level of genetics in everyone of us I am a very strong believer that it is in the environment that the problems of society lie. Therefore from the very earliest beginnings of a child's existence there has to be that urgency about upbringing, about transformation and about guidance, that there must not be a contradiction between the word that is spoken and the action that is undertaken by the adults.

Society is full of those examples of contradiction. It is also full of contradictions of punishment systems which confuse the minds of the adults furthermore the mind of the child. I have had reason before to point to the law and to say in my humble opinion the law is an ass. I do not say that of honourable persons who practise before the Bar or who used to but I mean the law itself. I would never refer to lawyers in that way as I almost became one but, then, I knew the difference between what was desirable and what was affordable. So I realised it was not affordable at the time but I am glad if I may digress, Sir, that I was able at two levels, one as a teacher and one as a trade union leader to be able to put my efforts in an area where I hope I may have made a contribution.

I made the confession before about the law and I have had reason in Another Place somewhat like this, Sir, to express concern that a young person for selling nuts without a licence was committed to two weeks in Glendairy in this Barbados, not in the recent past, but then somebody else for being involved with drugs was given a reprimand and discharged, not even a conviction, reprimand and discharge. It was within the village – after all, I represented people in poor areas so I had to know – the question naturally arose. What is there about society that allows for one child to be treated this way and another to get rapped on the fingers and get reprimanded and discharged? Or what allows one child in this same Barbados at school for a relatively minor offence, to be sent to the industrial school and another child – this happened – who tries to force the head of another child through a glass window at a school and thereby cut the neck off that child, gets treatment for himself at the hospital when he gets cut and nobody at the school touches him because of the connection of the child?

What is there within our society that makes us believe that we can reform children in those kinds of contradictions?

I taught for some time as you know, Sir, and I remember that when I first took a class in those days –

Senator Symmonds would not have done it herself – but in those days they took the newest recruits, the raw, young kids from schools, ourselves still children, and they put us with the most backward and the most difficult to learn and they said you are now a teacher. They gave me a class where some guy much bigger than I was, not that there is much to do to get bigger than I am, but they gave me a class and said, "Don't trouble that one there because his brother killed a man with an iron ball." Because I was young and perhaps less cautious then than I am now I treated him like everybody else but what made the difference was that in every case I sought to have a reason for any punishment and I sought to be impartial in the way that I imposed that punishment and out of that I learnt for life that people do not mind a person who is strict, people do not mind discipline. They mind when you are strict and you apply discipline in a manner which is prejudicial which emphasises favouritism and which does not allow them to feel that they know what will happen as a result of what they have done.

I would wish that in our efforts to address this subject we ourselves understand that we are the bigger problem than the children are the problem.

I think, Sir, that in the kinds of dichotomy that I have spoken about that there has to be recognised that there are differences in society and always there will continue to be differences and we have to treat those differences. There is, for example, in my view a fundamental difference between the hard ears and the hardened – I will come back to it – between the lonely and the loner. What do I mean by this, Mr. President? I am saying that the lonely is a kind of person that Senator Davis and everybody spoke to who wants to have the feeling that there is love although I do not want her or anybody else to believe that everybody in society has got this. There are some who may have the mark of the beast.
3.35 p.m.

We have to be able to make a separation between those who do wrong because they want attention, and those who do wrong because they do not care about attention. They have already reached so far that we have to save them from themselves and save society from them. We have to make that distinction and there is no point in our believing that everybody out there has the mark of Christ on their forehead and all we need to do is to apply the blood and it is going to be all right. We have to be able to understand that.

There is a difference in those lonely ones who need support and help, and those ones who are loathers who want to grab as much as they can get because that is what has been inculcated within them in their view of society and nothing we can do is going to change it. Naturally we will have to find the wherewithal to make the difference. I am hoping that within this legislation, and within the framework of the institution on the bodies that are set to manage the

institution, that we would be able to accomplish this, perhaps, with a further adjustment of one or two Ministers who might be able to help in that exercise.

Then, of course, there is the question of those who are hard ears and hypersensitive. They have problems in behaviour. They have been misguided by their parents or they have been brought up by children who naturally mothered and fathered them but who are really their big brothers and their big sisters and who, therefore, need to have parenting before they can themselves apply any kinds of parenting, ideals or guidance. Those kids are hard ears. But there is a different child who is hardened, who has passed through it all and who no longer will be able to respond to anything that there is.

I heard, Sir, of stories where teachers seeing children who are sleeping during the course of the morning in the classroom and who had felt that, perhaps, it resulted from the child or children being hungry and have offered, in one case, to help the child by saying "Well, are you hungry? Can we get you a snack?" And having that child less than 10 years old become very angry and to reply: "I do not wish any offering of kindness," my words, "that you are giving me. I have more money than you can ever have." Because a child is caught up in that position of being hardened, he begins to boast a little bit and to show how he makes money at night when we would expect that he is at home doing his homework and he is able to help the hardened criminals avoid the police dragnets. It is part of the harshness in a society around us and we must recognise that there is no means of reaching that child by himself. We have to reach the entire society.

Senator Workman was correct that we cannot be reformed. We have to transform ourselves, and he put it very beautifully "by the renewing of our spirit."

I think, Sir, that one of the big questions which can never be answered here and which will always be controversial is the question of who goes to Dodds. Senator Davis spoke at some length about... I think I understood her to be saying, and I think what we have to guard ourselves against is a situation where one kind of family miscreant does wrong, misbehaves and that miscreant is sent up to public ridicule to the correction centre at the school while another miscreant, of the same age, from a different socioeconomic background, performs the same or worst kind of misdemeanor and that is covered up by whoever. It does not have to do with whether it is the Democratic Labour Party, or the Barbados Labour Party, or the National Democratic Party, or I heard a new party is being formed by the Senator at my right, who shall remain nameless, when he gave the possibility for starting his own party. But whichever party, it does not have to do with which is the Government. It has, in fact, to do with the way that society structures itself

and we have to guard very much against those kinds of contradictions.

One has to be careful to take note that efforts have been made over the years and efforts continue to be made at the level of school to address some of these problems. I thought that the Acting Minister of Education...

Aside.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: The former Acting Minister of Education might have made reference to an initiative which is being taken in the Ministry of Education to deal with difficult situations in the school system where they are trying to find a way outside the Industrial School to deal with those problems of school kids who are not following the curriculum, and who are not subjecting themselves to the discipline of schools, and I thought it might be useful if we had some idea of exactly what the eventual arrangement would be for them because if we were able to hear how far the Ministry of Education has got in that plan to take those kids out of the formal school system for a short period and to endeavour, not through the Government Industrial School, but through some form of remedial assistance and counselling to bring them back into the mainstream, it may have helped to enrich this debate because it would offer an alternative to many of those arrangements which we see as arrangements which lead people to go to Dodds, as we call it, or to Summervale.

What, in fact, we need to be able to recognise is that whatever we do in our current system Dodds is going to continue to have an unpleasant taste in the mouth of people. It is like asking somebody who has a psychological problem to go down to Black Rock to Jenkins. What I think has been done over some time now is that successive administrations have been trying to treat persons at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital so that they do not have to be subjected to the trauma and the stigma of having to go down to the green gates for what is not a chronic case, or a very difficult case of illness.

I think, Sir, that in the circumstances which we describe, the circumstance of the contradictions between what we wish and what we can have, that we must recognise that there are limits to how much of the things which were said before can, in fact, be given. The question, therefore, that Senator Davis raised is a question which will have to be looked at, but I do not know whether simply the change of moving the school from under the responsibility of the Minister of Home Affairs to the Minister of Education, whether that by itself will do anything at this stage.

I see it as a movement where it is under the Ministry of Home Affairs more so than under the Ministry of the Attorney General. It just happens that in our system of governance that the Attorney General and the Minister of

Home Affairs just happen to be the one and the same person. It is part of the whole business of securing civic society and being able to safeguard the welfare not only of the miscreants, but safeguarding the welfare of the society at large, and that is a Home Affairs issue.

Now, is it better treated at the level of education? Frankly, I leave that to the educators to express a view on more so than I can. The main point I wish to make is that that by itself will not make a change. The change will have much more fundamentally to do with how society begins to understand how our problem of society ordering is being conducted and that ordering of society must not be done in such a way that the group of better-offs are made to be seen in such a way that they become the envy of those who are not so well off.

I venture to say, Mr. President, that having that correction made is going to be almost as difficult as parting the Red Sea. I am not sure myself how it is going to be accomplished.
3.45 p.m.

I make bold to say to you, Sir, that there may be people like Senator Workman and yourself, religious persons that you are, might have to get together with the rest of us and we will have to pray and fast about that one.

Asides.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: I said that people should come together with people like myself and pray and fast on that.

I merely wish to say in conclusion that the values which govern our society have been subjected to very serious threats. Those values are no longer what they used to be. Once upon a time we took very seriously the welfare of our neighbour and we lived in a community where everyone would share. Nowadays the new ethos is to keep what you have and grab what you can. That is the new approach which governs our society and you know, Sir, that it is an awful thing.

The commandments that govern us before no longer apply and although I cannot rise to the eminence of Senator Workman, I believe that we have to recognise that again we have to go back, not to the ten commandments but to the latter two of loving our Lord with all our hearts but also loving our neighbours as ourselves. Apparently it is not so difficult for Barbadians to love the Lord with all our hearts. You have to forgive me if I appear to be a little hypocritical here.

On Sundays we dress so very beautifully and we walk as though eggs would not be crushed under our feet and we express to God how good we are and that we are better than

the Publican over there who has done so much wrong and we tell the Lord how we are good enough to be at this right hand because we love him with all our hearts and all our minds. We tell him that Barbados is so great that that is why storms do not even come here. We love the Lord with all our hearts but the minute that we leave church, we do not even offer a lift in our motor car to the person who sat down next to us and shared the hymn and prayer book with us. These contradictions in society start even at that very early point and the minute that the preacher is over and the sister passes down then we do all kinds of critical analyses and complicated analyses of that sister or indeed that brother and we have just come from being before the altar of the Lord.

Our children, who are there in church, when they dare to look back at the other brother or the other sister and make a comment, we spank them in church because they are doing wrong, not that they are in disrespect to the Lord but they are embarrassing us. Those same children stand up next to us when we destroy the character of a brother or sister right after the church service. Then we tell the society that this society is so bad that we have to do great things for them while we ourselves pay a lot of lip service to what has to be done and do nothing about what we can do to make it better.

Sir, the movement I speak for will continue to make whatever efforts we can and I am sure we can all do more. I believe as persons have said that we have to make sure that when we do these things people do not believe that we are trying to impress the media. We must be careful that we work out a programme which does not appear to be individualist, which is transparent and known to all so that people will know, including these same children that we speak about, that they will know that there is a deliberate effort being made to accomplish change and that it is being done in a certain transparent manner. Then they might be able to respond to it.

I am afraid that if we work differently, they may become resentful. They may think that we are being patronising and we may do more harm than the good which we intend.

SENATOR D.T. GILL: Mr. President, I rise to speak to this Bill on reform. Whenever debates like these are debated inside the Chamber or outside a lot of emotive language is used and we go back to the bible and the various principles and postulates but these problems which face us are peculiar to all Western societies.

Only two or three months ago the Tony Blair administration went to Parliament seeking permission to pump millions of pounds into a programme which would address and save several of the young males throughout Britain because they had identified a certain type of deviant behaviour which is more than just the usual run-of-the-mill talk.

Sir, these problems are, as I have said, peculiar not only to Barbados but to the wider world.

Before I get into the main meat of my contribution I would just like to correct Senator Boyce when he spoke of the Children's Homes. I will just give him a little touch up here, Sir, if you will pardon the language. Sir, Senator Boyce must remember the exponential drop or fall off or cut which the reform homes and the various Children's homes and institutions were subjected to between 1990 and 1994. Year after year there was that rapid fall off but within the past few years and prior to that it was restored to what it was pre 1990.

Sir, we know how it is when the sociologist and the psychologist and the philanthropist speak, what a field day they had in the 70s and the early 80s as each and every person seemed to have come up with a new theory, a new principle as to how this deviant behaviour should be treated. There were those who conformed and those who did not. There were those who went down the line of the psychiatric or surgical procedures even lobotomy and as I have said, it was field day. They talked at length about single parenting and behaviorism and conditioning. The Freudians had their time, the Watsonians had their time, the Pavlovians had theirs and those who followed Piaget had their time as well. 3.55 p.m.

Sir, what we should stop and ask ourselves is, have these developed countries which have at their disposal all the theories, principles and the reams of paper which would go around the world several times, are they any better off or has the deviant behaviour outstripped the social sciences? I am not in a position to say aye or nay, but I am a bit doubtful, Sir, that they have really achieved what they have set out to.

Let us just look, Sir, at the recent state of heinous crime in the United States. Crime which makes front page stories for weeks. Crimes, as the story breaks relegate all other news to last position. Sir, this is the type of news which we have to contend with. And then there are the psychologists to deal with the crime. There is the psychologist to deal with the family structure. Then, you get the psychologists to deal with weapons and then you get the psychologists to deal with grief. And again the question goes up, do they really understand where the problem begins and ends?

My feeling, Sir, is that there are the leaps and bounds which science and technology have made in the very recent past which have created societies. Sir, societies which think in a disposable light. You dispose of everything graphically. You dispose of diapers, soft ware, furniture, you dispose of partnerships, relationships. You have no time, Sir, you are disrespectful of opinions you are disrespectful of properties and you are disrespectful of bodies.

Sir, these are the problems which the societies have to deal with and no mere talking of just love and no mere talking of whether you should go and spend a week with these children or an evening and read stories, because lots of these children are much more clever than the people who counsel them, or who think they are counselling them.

Sir, I am a firm believer in if your parents cannot rule you, the State should rule you. I have no hangups about that. We must go back and blend some of the old first principles with the modern techniques. We heard a lot from the preachers in this Chamber today and they were all firm. Speaking to, things like being respectful to your teachers and your adults. Whether you follow the laws of the Koran, the Old Testament or the New Testament, whatever, Sir, but at least aligning yourself to some religious faith and belief that you set aside a day for reflecting and family gathering and discussion, that you set aside a period of the year where you take a little stock and you refrain from or abstain from certain habits. So these are the practises to which we have to conform.

Sir, I am not suggesting that what I have just said would be the panacea of the woes and the problems and the deviant behaviour, but certainly, if you blend a bit of the past, with a bit of our heritage with the recent, then success should not be too far off. Nonetheless, Sir, I do not think we should throw our hands into the air in despair because all is certainly not lost. When we look at the figures, I have heard them being quoted, speaker after speaker, of 25 girls to 35 boys in our society. I think that with the reform as outlined in this Bill and with people as professional as we know we have at our disposal and going back to some of the basic rudiments of our religious faiths that deviant behaviour and some of the behaviour to which we are unaccustomed could certainly be overcome and conquered.

Mr. President, Sir, I am most grateful to your kindness.

Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I sat for this whole day and listened to a number of contributions on a Bill which seeks to amend the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Act, which sets out mainly to have assigned to that school an Advisory Board established in law:

The history of that school tells us that over the years such duties were performed by individuals who visited the school. It is a wise thing to make sure that this school like any other school in Barbados has assigned to it, individuals with full responsibility for their day to day management and general maintenance of the institution.

I want to first start, Sir, by placing on record a few concerns. My first concern deals mainly with the constitution

of the Board. I am one of those individuals who believe that neither the superintendent of prisons nor his nominee should be a member of the Board of the Government Industrial School. I do not see the Government Industrial School as a penal institution. I see the Government Industrial School as an institution to which we send our young children who have been troubled who have problems and who are presenting serious challenges to the regular school system.

I believe the children who go to the Government Industrial School are sent there because for whatever reason the regular school system cannot address their problems on a day to day basis within the established curriculum of the school. That is why I believe they go there. I have tried to find out who are these children who attend this institution. Now, Dodds is not any place new. There was always a Dodds for as long as I have been in Barbados. I have known of boys who have grown up with me who have gone to Dodds. There is one thing that I can say that Dodds has always been an institution to which a lot of poor people went. I want to say that. I am not saying that it was established for poor people, but I think that as we attempt to address social problems, we need to get to the root of such problems. It is all right for individuals in society who are well off, or who might have been poor but who now have access to all the niceties of life, who can afford themselves all kinds of comfort to stand from high and mighty towers and speak as though we have never walked these paths.

Now, I stand here today, testimony to the fact that were it not for good grandparenting and the grace of God that I could have been in Summervale. Therefore, ...

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: ...What is the problem? What is the problem? Legislators who do not understand? When we attempt to discuss these matters, we are too remote. We look from a distance. The only way we can come up with solutions to some of our problems is when we either empathise or reflect, and for some of us, it is just down the road, contrary to what many of us would want to admit.

So let us today in this exercise, as we attempt to deal with what we consider to be a serious problem in our society, either reflect if we are honest and we care to and if we do not have the capacity to reflect, let us empathise. Let us ask ourselves the question, had I been placed in a position that the regular school system could not cater to me under what conditions would I prefer to live? Instead of coming up with what we consider to be solutions, answers to the problems of those people, let us see how best we can address a problem that might have been our own problem. That is the point at which I think we need to start.

4.05 p.m.

I ask the question, what is new? I have gone through the Report on criminal risk factors and a number of these risk factors identified here are not new. What's new? We have always had teenage mothers. I am the daughter of a teenage mother. We have always had single parents. I am the daughter of a single parent. We have always had homes in which there were women only for we should not forget that there were times in Barbados when the man had to go off to another country either to Curacao, Aruba, Trinidad or Cuba to earn a living in order to maintain his family at home. What's new? When I sit and I hear references made to such situations as though they have been created in Barbados overnight I marvel and wonder are we in the same Barbados? What's new? If these things existed before, yet our problems were not as great. Then I believe that we need to look to see what are the influences in society which now impact on those situations and which have caused lives to change so much to make life difficult for everybody.

I am going to say that we need to look seriously at the level of materialism that exists in the society. We need to look at what could be considered concession because I have to ask the question, do we in our day to day living and on a regular basis relate to that little girl in the village who has no shoes, who went to school today and had no lunch who has been straying all hours in the evening? You see them on the streets. Have you ever stopped and tried to find out what is responsible?

Do we when we go to the supermarket and pack our car trunks with all of the bounties and the best and we drive along and see little boys and girls hanging around looking as though they have not eaten for the day, do we stop to find out if they are doing all right? Do we as we drive through some neighbourhoods in which there are schools, after hours, 9.30, 10 o'clock, see children straying along, do we stop to find out what is responsible, why are they not in school, how can I help? Do we? You see, at the end of the day, it sounds good. Talk is pretty and very cheap but what are we doing on a daily basis to reach out and help these very unfortunate young people who are looking out on life and they are seeing scores of people, large numbers of us, living a lifestyle that makes them wonder is this the same Barbados or, if it is, how is it possible that this Barbados can be so divided, that some could be so well off and we are so destitute? These are some of the facts that confront us in this society that we have to examine.

It is now summer holidays and how many of us have pledged that we will go and look for summer camps around Barbados and spend at least one hour, two days a week, in those summer camps, not trying to say to children how great we are, how well we have done, how successful we are but trying to show that we, having drawn from this society, could have been other types of people but having drawn

from the society we believe we have a social and moral responsibility to give something back and that is why we are here?

I believe that on too many occasions we choose the wrong people to do the right things. I am saying this because I have concerns about the composition of this Board. We have a habit in this country that we believe that the only people in Barbados who are equipped to fill certain positions are individuals of a certain social class, the ones we call the decent people. I would like to suggest to the Government that in putting this Board together that we try to put some individuals here who can readily relate to people who go to a reform institution.

We must accept that the reason they are there for reform is because society has said that they did not conform and, therefore, if we put before these young people these same individuals against whom some of them have rebelled in the first instance we cannot hope, we should not hope, to expect change in their behaviour.

It is a strange thing. Let me talk from experience. I like to use my own life because I am very proud of the person that I am, knowing how far, the road that I have travelled. My mother is a minister of religion in the United States of America and one of her special projects is this. She goes to the reform schools in the States and she accepts responsibility for some of those children there. She gets their background. She tries to find out why they are there, why they have been committed and whether the institution would allow them to come out and be a part of the family that is willing to help. Based on the background – I am going to say that, because I want to touch on this school to try to find out what percentage of the operation caters to reform, reform in a sense that it is setting out to ensure that these children can fit back in and become regular members of the society.

In December 1976, I spent Christmas with my relatives in New York and had at our home a young man whose mother died when he was quite young who was of a Barbadian family, who was in the company of his grandmother, got involved in drugs and was committed to this institution. I have said it in here before that it is one of the most touching experiences of my life. My mother has taken responsibility for him. He comes there. The psychologist who is responsible for him – he has been assigned a psychologist – understands his own peculiar problems. He has not been lumped in an institution as one big lump and nobody is there to target his individual needs. He has a psychologist who is aware of his peculiar problems and who is responding accordingly. She makes sure that he is placed in the hands of a responsible adult. He is already 18 years old but he cannot leave unless somebody is there to take him.

When he reaches our house or when he has left there a call has to be placed at the school to say that he is there. He is allowed to go to town. He is allowed to go shopping, to do all these things but somebody has to sign in as responsible for him. He is allowed to function within our family. He is there on the computer with my brothers and sisters. He goes to church with my mother. My mother does not force religion on him. He is allowed to participate in that church in whatever way he wants to.

When I was there we took him to the cinema. He went to the cinema to see one of the most popular movies being shown at the time that all the other young people his age were enjoying. He was allowed to go to a football match with my nephew who is his age but my sister, my nephew's mother, accompanied them. Now, I consider that reform. I consider that a real attempt to take a young person who has gone astray and try to show him we have not written you off. 4.15 p.m.

We are not saying that you are no good for society or that society does not want you back. Now, he has an opportunity to come back out into society, or if he does not believe that he is as comfortable about himself as he wants to believe, he can ask to allow him to stay on for a while longer and continue to get assistance.

I want to ask the question, whether we have reached that stage? This legislation dates back to 1926, eleven years before we rioted in this country. There was some kind of amendment in 1944. We tinkered with it again in 1949. We picked at it again in 1956. We picked at it again in 1967. We picked at it again in 1981 and as recent as 1994 we went back to it again, and today we are hearing yet that this is only an intermediate step, that we have a number of other things to do.

I believe that legislation such as this Bill we are dealing with today, takes its shape against the background of its environment. I wonder whether we have recognised the number of foreign influences which are now, I can say, very much responsible for the behavioural changes we are seeing in our young people. Now, Dodds was there for young people in the past, but the young person who is going to Dodds today, is he the same type of young man who went to Dodds in 1967? I say no, because the fellows who went to Dodds then, they used to go to Dodds for stealing mangoes. In 1967 those guys were not watching television. There were no videos. There were not these sophisticated forms of technology which now, though good, are in some way working in a negative way against societies such as our.

We should ask ourselves a question. What do we need to do in order to make this institution respond to the needs of a modern Barbados? I am saying when we put this Advisory Board in place, let us put some creative people on it. I want

to see people who represent the arts. For me, the most clear thinking, forward looking, creative people are individuals who represent the arts. That is what life has taught me.

I want to see on this Board, not necessarily school teachers because they have come out of school and they have gone to Dodds because Dodds cater to children up to age 18. I want to see individuals on this Board who – we mentioned qualities like caring, genuine love and concern, but I do not want individuals who believe that their role is to sit there and point fingers and say you cannot be no better because your father was so and so, and you cannot be no better because your mother was so and so. I want individuals on that Board who would recognise that they have a responsibility to society. So let us look for some people in this country who have had a hard time, who have weathered the difficulties of this society, who are proud citizens, proud of their past, and who want to make sure that they can continue to help build Barbados.

I do not usually use many systems or many practices in North America as models but what I found very interesting is that you would have a drug addict, someone who has gone through a system and has gone through a process of detoxification and cleansing, who has recognised that he has been a scourge on society, but who has now come back and is carrying on one of the biggest programmes for taking young people off the streets in that American society.

We must accept that people cannot change. When we continue to look in the society for those people we consider to be the pure, the holy, unscathed, untouched and put them in charge of these institutions we are sending the message that people do not change. Let us look in this society for some individuals who at some time went astray, who have gone through reform and who can make a contribution to society.

I know there are some people who are not going to agree with me but I have seen these things work and we need to do that. A lot of what we do in this society centres on class and when I say class, I say we ignore one class and we focus a whole lot on the other class, but there is room in this society for individuals who have pulled themselves up from the lower so-called echelons of this society and who should be held high as genuine models of this society. They should be held high as the genuine models of this society. I think that the only way we can go about reform is if we recognise that we have people who have contributions to make.

4.25 p.m.

There is a lot of talk about dysfunctional families and the nuclear families because we walk around and we borrow a lot of terms that we see a lot of so-called first world countries using that do not fit us. I do not subscribe to those terms. We talk a lot about dysfunctional families and we try to give the impression that the only families that are real

families in Barbados are families in which there is a husband and wife and two children and that kind of thing. We know that that is not the Barbados that we have lived in. Yes, we have had families in Barbados, husband and wife and children but we have had so many families who were not made up like that. We would not want to make those children in our society who are not the offspring of such families feel that they are not readily accepted in society because they are not the offspring of such families. We have to be careful what signals we send to our children. Children do not wake up and decide that they want to wander, they do not wake up and decide that they want to be anti-social. Their experiences in the homes, the schools and the wider environment help them make up their minds how they want to be. Some of the things that really disturb me a lot is that there is a need for a lot of support out there for our families. I know there is talk about poverty alleviation but we really need to strengthen our social structures in society. We need to really put our resources behind supporting our families.

We need to make sure that we can identify in those homes in which there are young children living in conditions that are less than human conditions and try to see how best we can improve their lot. There was a time in Barbados when so many of us looked like each other, so many of us lived the same kind of life that it did not make a big difference. We have to recognise that we have introduced education at all levels and we have put individuals in a position that they can enhance their quality of life and a large percentage have gone ahead but we still have, in our society, a large percentage of our population still trailing. I think the State has to target such individuals and respond to their basic needs. I am not saying that we should give things because Joe Brown has it because I recognise the importance of basic values but I think we need not have them think that they are the scourge and the outcast of the society. We should try as much as possible to help.

When I studied this document one of the things that I identified is that a number of our young people are no longer members of community groups. A very large percentage of those young people go to Dodds. It says that a quarter of the population in the Prisons, those young people enter prison between the ages of 16 and 18. This means that they would have experienced it either at Dodds or at Summervale. Many of them said that they were not members of community groups and that they did not have any interest in being members of community groups.

The question is: what are we doing? If the community group is that place to which they should gravitate, what is modern that we can use to attract our young people to assist in building this strong basic value necessary for their development. We have accepted that technology and all the changes which accompany technology is upon us and we look to see if they prefer to respond to the electronic medium and what can we do by way of the electronic medium to help

aid our young people? If they are not reading enough but we believe that the messages that we want to communicate can assist in strengthening their character. If we believe that these messages are found in books, in tales of old and the modern writings of Caribbean and other writers, how can we get our young people through the medium which they enjoy, to be exposed to these things which will contribute to the positive lifestyle?

Mr. President, I believe that the Amendment, although it focuses mainly on establishing this Board and it sets out how it should function within the system that presently exist, I think that there are a number of matters which need to be addressed in this modern Barbados if we are to help our young people. I had some very bad news within the last two weeks when I was told that a youngster from my school which I cherished so much, at the age of 14 was hustle off to Dodds. When I asked some questions and tried to find out some of the factors contributing to that decision which had to be made by the magistrate, one thing that I discovered for sure was that there was a parent he wanted to hurt. It really did not have anything to do with being disadvantaged because he got everything he wanted in the home. He was well-clothed and well-fed but he believed that he was cast aside by one of his parents and that was his way of sending a message saying, I can hurt you, let me show you how I can hurt you. He said that he hoped the parent would not visit him as he spent his time in Dodds. We get right back to our parenting.

We have to make some serious appeals to our parents in society and recognise that whether you decided you wanted to be a parent or not that the moment you have a child, you have a serious responsibility to your society and that you should carry that responsibility with all that you have within you and make sure that you give the best to the society.

I know my time is up and there will be other occasions when I will be able to lend my contribution. In supporting a decision to amend the Bill I would like to state that I am still not in favour of the Superintendent of Prisons or his nominee being a member of this Board.

SENATOR THE HON. G.S.H. MURRAY: Sir, I have the honour to wind up this debate and in doing so I would like to make a few observations myself.

First of all, I would like to say that I think that it was generally quite an interesting and an enlightening debate. All in all, I think I enjoyed it and I think I speak for other Members when I say they would have enjoyed the presentations made by the other Members over the last several hours.

It seems to me that the major criticism, if it can be termed as such, has to do with a certain disquiet regarding

the composition of the Board. This Board, first of all, is identical to the Board which has been given to the Prisons. It is purely an advisory Board. I think I need to put that up front.

4.35 p.m.

Secondly, the Membership of the Superintendent of Prisons or his nominee is mandatory by another act of legislation. So it is not that we are taking a backward step, but a previous Act mandates that the Superintendent of Prisons or his nominee, be on this Board. So that is the reason for his presence there.

I am sure the Attorney General, who himself is a very humane man, and a criminologist by training, therefore has an innate feel for what he is doing. He is not a hard and fast law and order man who is intent on passing legislation and locking up people, *et cetera*. I think his track record shows that he is a humane man, but he has tempered his humanity when necessary, with his strength of character in seeking to execute those who have been lawfully condemned to die. He has not been softened to that extent. It is just that he has not succeeded or that the law has not succeeded in executing those whom it had mandated should be executed, it is no fault of the Attorney General. It is as a result of the persons involved seeking to exploit to the fullest all that latitude they need to preserve their lives. Seeking to live is man's most basic instinct and anybody who seeks to use whatever device, legal or otherwise to live, is merely fulfilling one of the imperatives of nature.

The attempt by the Attorney General comes after a long hiatus in Barbados where we know that there were certain highly placed officials who did not believe in the death penalty and did nothing to bring it about. But I just want to set the records straight and deal with the political elements before I go any further. So I have dealt with the composition of the Board, Sir.

What I was very pleased about regarding this debate, was that there were no real bleeding hearts around the table who were seeking to be soft and refused to face the reality that there are certain things in human nature that we have to accept. Basically the debate then was more on the side of nurture rather than nature. In the field of criminology and human behaviour, I think that Senator Gill alluded to it, there is this long debate between nature versus nurture, whereby people say that a criminal is born a criminal or you are born an athlete or you are born a scientist or you are born a genius. And there are others who said that your environment, your upbringing and your socialisation which are nurtured, dictate your personality. So that is a basic method and Senator Gill made some reference to people like Piaget and others. I see Senator Thompson nodding in agreement. I also could see that she is familiar with these concepts by the way she spoke. But the whole question of humanity is one which

has informed the whole approach of the Attorney General and all the numerous measures that he has put in place.

This debate, while it was centered on the Government Industrial School, there was an attempt since people obviously seized the opportunity, Sir, to deal with the whole question of Penal Reform. And I am glad they did because the history and the record of the Attorney General in Penal Reform far outstrips that of his predecessor. As a matter of fact, where Penal Reform is concerned, it is very difficult to remember who the other activist was before the present Attorney General.

He has repaired police stations, he has got new vehicles, he has increased the staff at the prisons, he has trained the prison officers when they were not being trained, they are now taking examinations. There was a time when people at the prisons were just recruited. You were recruited today and tomorrow you would go to work as a prison officer. Now there is an examination and there is a period of training and preparation for work. So the reform movement is afoot and this is but one part of it.

This Bill does not mean to say that this will be the policy and what it is going to be. It is an advisory body and it will advise the Minister and the Principal. If one reads the details one will advise the Minister on all matters related to the welfare, the education, the discipline and the safety of the children and advise the principal and the management and the supervisor of the school, of the welfare and conduct, the staff on the education, training, recreation, discipline and welfare of the children.

So it is an advisory function, Sir, and I think it is well placed to do the job that I expect of it. I understand persons want to be sure that the right kind of persons would populate this Board and I am sure the Attorney General will cast the net far and wide to select the most humane and the most suited and qualified persons as he puts this Board into action, Sir.

I think it is fair to say that I think that Members recognise, Sir, that there are different reasons for deviance. Some people indulge in it for different reasons. I think that all and all there is a general acceptance that there must be a change in attitude and behaviour both by the adult and the socialising society in order to impress on the younger ones on the values that they should adhere to.

But let me warn that values are never static. Societies are dynamic institutions in themselves and they are never static. They are always changing and they are always evolving. Just as there is always a change in the economy or in agriculture or whatever, things are always happening and sometimes what happens, is that there is a time lag between what are the advances made in one area and what is happening in the other area. There is a time lag which means

then that the society very often has to catch up and because of that, it is very difficult to expect that Barbados could have enjoyed the social, the economic and the political advancement and growth and development and progress that it has made and at the same time we would still have the values of the 17th century, the 18th century or even the early 20th century. These change as the society changes and there are the various influences both internally and externally.

Therefore, I know there is talk about the community, but the community we used to have in the 50s and 40s and 30s will never again from my reading of it, ever come back to Barbados, because progress destroys the kind of ties and bonds that would exist among people in a village where they all grew up together, were born about the same time and went to school together. It is different when people come from different parts of Barbados and the world and go into different neighbourhoods. It takes long periods and several years before they themselves build up their own neighbourhoods and their own community feelings.

People who live in the heights and the terraces and the gardens as they are referred to, their children who were born there and grow up there, will develop their own sense of community mindedness. But the parents do not because they are not familiar with the others in the neighbourhood. Therefore, it is fanciful, it is romanticising and it is nostalgic, to wish to see that come again. But I believe I will not see it again in my lifetime.

All in all, Sir, I think it was an interesting debate. I think that this sets the schools well on their way and these will be followed by a number of substantive Acts to give them the resources that will be needed. For one thing, one of the first things done at that Institution, Sir, would be the provision of new trained staff. Some of the present senior members of staff are not exactly equipped for the needs of the society today, and the demands of the institutions. Because I am sure that while numbers have been bandying about that there are now 25 girls and 35 boys at Summervale and Dodds, there was a time when there was even talk, I think it was in the 70s, of closing down the girls school because there were three or four people there. And, they felt it was not worthwhile then to finance such a major institution for three or four people. But that has now changed because of other changes in the society. So there will be new and better trained staff who will come on stream. I think the Principal probably has another year or so to go before he retires and I think the opportunity will be taken to recruit more highly qualified and better trained people, along with the supporting staff, to give the institution the kind of expertise, and the kind of feelings and regards for personnel, that clearly do not exist there in the quantity and to the extent that we would have wished.

It is recognised that the building of the schools themselves have deteriorated. They are in drab condition.

They are deplorable. They seem to depress the people who live there. So therefore even the construction work, the colours of the wall of a room in which people live, can have an effect on their psychological outlook and therefore their behaviour. The opportunity will therefore be taken to upgrade the building physically, provide the kind of facilities which are now required in a modern building and give the institution the chance to fulfill the 21st century role that is expected of it.

Sir, with those words I beg to move that the Bill be read the second time.

4.45 p.m.

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 to 4 were called and passed.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to. On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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 that the Sitting be suspended until 5:05 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF LAND AT MOUNT BREVITOR PLANTATION, SAINT PETER

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President the Resolution before us seeks the Senate's approval for

vesting 4.692 hectares of land at Mount Brevitor, St. Peter, in the National Housing Corporation. You would recall Mr. President, that earlier in this session of the Senate approval was granted for the acquisition of this land by the Crown. The purpose which was identified at the time was for housing development. You would also know that the housing development on behalf of the Government is executed through the National Housing Corporation. So usually in these matters there is a set process by which the Crown acquires the land and then vesting is done in the National Housing Corporation so that the NHC can do the necessary development which would involve the installation of roads, water, electricity, subdivision, sale, rent, lease or whatever means of disposal might be used and this is one of those particular matters. Subsequent to the acquisition, Town Planning's approval was granted for the subdivision of the site into some 56 lots for housing and these are to be sold to persons in the lower income group since there is a high demand for land by persons in that particular group and the effort therefore is to facilitate land and subsequently home ownership by those persons.

At present, the agency is taking action to ensure that the necessary infrastructure by way of roads and water are put in place and therefore the approval of the Senate is being sought in accordance with section 5 of the Crown Lands Vesting and Disposal Act, Cap. 225 for the vesting of this particular parcel of land.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I cannot miss an opportunity to discuss housing in the village of Mount Brevitor especially since it is less than a stone's throw away from where I was born at Mile and a Quarter in St. Peter right at the junction where Highway 2A joins the Mile and a Quarter Road which comes from Speightstown.

Sir, Mount Brevitor is located, too, in terms of a section of the population who are characterised by their contribution especially to the agricultural development and the agricultural growth of this country and we need to record these kinds of facts. It is a beautiful area. It is not on a mountain as the name might suggest but it is not on flat land either. Remember, in Barbados we have a tendency to talk about mountains and when we travel elsewhere and people ask us to describe these mountains it is a relative mountain only.

5.20 p.m.

Sir, St. Peter too is very much in the news today, a lot to do with the kind of development that is taking place. I do not think it is any secret that there is a feeling in other areas of Barbados that more attention is being paid to St. Peter, or there is skewed attention being paid to development in

St. Peter, and I do not for one moment want to be included in any group who begrudge the people of St. Peter or anywhere in Barbados of any improvements as far as the provision of housing or, indeed, development goes.

I want to, certainly, address also the need to include in our consideration of development all of the social services and amenities which are required in the kind of housing developments contemplated.

The Honourable Minister was at pains in his presentation to indicate that this Resolution is merely one of vesting the lands in the National Housing Corporation because, as he said, the National Housing Corporation is the executing agency, especially in terms of the provision of housing for the lower income elements of this country. Of course, I do not know why the Honourable Senator believes that is so obvious because I recall discussion in this country very recently where lands that had been provided to the National Housing Corporation were abandoned subsequently, and I am talking about public discussion. I have heard many commentators address this kind of situation, so we need to be careful and recognise that although we might come in here and commit ourselves by way of Resolution after Resolution to certain paths of progress, and I think we have spoken about this before, we have to go back outside subsequently and examine where these paths that we have contemplated are actually making contact in reality.

Since last we discussed this matter, there has been no improvement in respect to the provision of housing for the vast majority of Barbadian people in the lower income brackets.

The Barbados Labour Party Administration likes to walk around this country, Sir, and bandy about that between 1990 and 1994, or whatever, X number of houses were built, or were not built, but they themselves have no record on which to stand in respect to housing in this country and they must be told that in no uncertain terms.

On the contrary, the Democratic Labour Party has a record of which to be proud and we will continue to rattle it in their ears until they surrender to the facts that as far as the provision of housing for the lower income groups in Barbados is concerned, the Democratic Labour Party stands proud.

To this day, this present administration can point only to the completion of 24 units at Maynards in St. Peter and the commencement of some units now at Pondsides. We have to wait, Sir, and see how the allocations go and what kind of criteria are applied to these allocations. So we are not afraid to stand up in this Chamber, or any platform in Barbados and indicate to Barbadians the facts in respect of the record of the Democratic Labour Party in the provision of housing.

Sir, when we consider a location for housing development, there are certain questions which come into focus and the first objectors invariably are the agriculturalists who will say: "Well, why is this land going to be used for housing when it is arguably very good agricultural land?"

I do not believe that we can promise anyone as we go around this country looking for places to place our housing stock that we will be able at all times to avoid using nice fertile land, but we have to move forward with a policy which ensures that we allow an adequate amount of arable land for agricultural development so as to provide the requirements in terms of food in this country, and this must be the premise.

It is not that we are going to be always able to avoid using land which might be useful as agricultural land, but we must have in our minds a plan below which we do not fall in order that we can guarantee that that amount of land remains for useful agricultural production.

Indeed, we have to urge the agriculturalists to move towards the direction of increased productivity so that in a situation where the reality is that land is scarce, we go to a direction of crops, or we implement programmes of agriculture with higher productivity. We do it in industry or we talk about it certainly as a principle we want to apply to industry. We want to improve productivity in our public sector. Again, we talk about it so we want to engage the debate also in the productivity of the agricultural sector and, not least of all, we need to engage the question of productivity in the housing sector.

I note with extreme concern the resistance recently to the discussion about placing elevators in the units being built at Pondsides. It was as if the commentators who managed the programme felt that any member of the public who wants to suggest that we must look to place elevators in these units for the people who we contemplate to use them was burdening the Government with an unnecessary expense and causing the cost of the units to increase to an unmanageable extent.

Sir, the reality is that in Barbados the politicians and the policy makers have to start discussing the question of high-rise housing. I accept that without any qualms whatsoever and if you are going to discuss high-rise housing, whether it be four storeys, six storeys or whatever, we have to supply properly maintained elevators for the persons to use. I am very familiar with the construction at Pondsides. I know for a fact that it could well do, even at this stage, with the powers that make the decisions at the National Housing Corporation to consider some kind of easement in respect to the provision of a lift, and if you are not going to allow it on your call-in programmes, I know you will allow me to say it in here.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have no call-in programme.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: No, Sir. Not your call-in programme. On the call-in programmes that we hear. In here I would like to record the position that I think that rather than restrict people to selecting only the ground floor as Senator Murray believes should happen, we should allow that choice to remain so that they can select any one of the four levels of housing that will be provided at Pondside anyhow.

The plans I have seen of Pondside have provision for the ground floor to be occupied by shops anyway, so it would be interesting what solution the policy makers will come up with eventually especially after they have heard the input from Senator Murray.

Sir, the housing units at Mount Brevitor are no different. They will have to be constructed with the same kind of considerations that go into the decision making that allow us to build the units at Pondside or anywhere else.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: On a point of order, Mr. President. I just want to help the Senator by pointing out that he has unwittingly misled the Chamber because, as the Leader of the Senate said, these are going to be 56 lots, no housing units, plots of land for sale or rent. There are lots. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, it is never too late in this life to learn and to be prepared to change a decision. I have seen in this Administration decisions on housing changed overnight so if the present arrangement is to subdivide Mount Brevitor into 56 lots, as I quite understand to be the arrangement, it might not be too late to consider whether we cannot more adequately provide more units. You see, Sir, the Ministers in this Honourable Chamber, the time will come. It is not far away. They refuse to listen to anything whether we are talking about housing, reform in the penal system...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please. I will help you Senator Boyce. The Addendum to the Resolution which is before the Senate refers to the land described in the Schedule for the purpose of housing development. On that basis you may proceed.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I am grateful for your intervention too, Sir, but merely just to indicate that we can make changes, but I am moving on.
5.30 p.m.

I am aware that Mount Brevitor is also lacking in social amenities. When I say social amenities I talk about areas of recreation, I talk about playing fields and I talk about hard courts. If I recall I do not think there has been any recent changes because the students from Mount Brevitor would have to go to All Saints Boys' or All Saints Girls' School

which is not too far away, as the crow flies but I am afraid that the route which the crow takes is not necessarily a route that we as humans can utilise.

We have to consider that we must also put in place improvements for access to the existing schools and the Honourable Senators should also recognise that to get to Mount Brevitor through Benn Hill to go to school at either All Saints Boys' or All Saints Girls' School is not a practical arrangement. Maybe at some later stage I can go into detail about that with the Honourable Senator.

Sir, the provision of social amenities, we talk about this all the time. We cannot develop villages, we cannot develop housing areas in isolation. We have to integrate all those social activities, the churches, the schools and the recreational facilities. We have too, Sir, to move forward in recognising that we cannot continue to have low income housing being created in certain areas and be almost mandated to stay there.

I want to see a Barbados which integrates its society to the extent that the same kinds of areas that we feel should belong to the heights and terraces, they must also be occupied by the low income houses. We must also provide the terrace units in them to bring about an equity in terms of the social class in this country. We must strive towards that. It lends itself to a balanced development which allows, for instance, the workers who might indeed find employment with the more affluent residence, it allows them to have better access to their homes and to their families. It allows for an integration and sharing of ideas and it allows for upward mobility if that is what we are after.

We can work towards these things by recognising that we must integrate in the real sense. We must not continue with this mindset which says that Atlantic Shores is for a certain sector of people only or that anywhere is for a certain sector of this society only. We must look toward providing for a fuller developmental integration in this Barbados. That is a view which I hold very dearly.

Sir, I have been promised that there will be a housing unit placed at the same Atlantic Shores. I was promised that very early by one of the Honourable Ministers and we look forward to that development. If there is anything to provide more housing for Barbadian people, I am in it. I am in it with heart and soul. If there is anything to reduce the queues which I now see even closer to where I work, I am in it. If there is anything to reduce the amount of mothers who have to drag themselves and their children with them for meeting after meeting with NHC officers in Roebuck Street, I am in it. I want to be part of it.

We need to commit ourselves, not only by words but by demonstration, by action. Let me see some buildings. Let me see some housing units being built, let us stop talking

about it. We have gone through this before. Let us stop talking about these, 'about to start', and let me go and see them. Invite me somewhere where I can see where the Barbados Labour Party is building houses. Let me hear what they are talking about. Where is the Paradise and the Husbands, where is the Wotton and the Kingsland.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: They are not short of money. They tell you so. Where is the record in housing to match the kind of boast that we are hearing – \$175 million extra in VAT. Who has it? Now we hear no gravy train. What does that mean?

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I have had a couple of interpretations but that is not for this debate. There is no better word than what you hear on the streets of Barbados, that is where the information comes from, that is where the pulse of the people is.

The Honourable Senator who introduced this Bill, his record in housing is the record in Fairy Valley as the 1998 model, that is what his record is. He has no other record in respect to housing in Barbados. I want to hear from him what his plans are to house these people that need it most.

Sir, we have got to ensure that in the provision of these houses at Mount Brevitor that these needs are being met.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I have made it clear in my speech that there are no houses and that there are housing lots. The Barbados Labour Party cannot boast of any houses. They can boast of a lot of lots and a lot of this and a lot of talk about this and that. They talk about repairing police stations. These are face lifts and that is all it is. Visit Central Police Station and see.

Mr. President, in St. Peter which is a highly agricultural parish, certainly up to now, and again we are seeing that there is this move in Heywoods not only with the provision of the Almond Beach Hotel but of course, there is the Port St. Charles Resorts. One of the quarrels I have is the tremendous concessions that can be made to these kinds of development and the numerous concessions that I am sure will apply to those who apply to buy these housing lots in Mount Brevitor. Sir, we have got to come to terms with the realities of Barbados.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sometimes my Party has been responsible too. I am at pains to tell people that the

Democratic Labour Party has been in Government for a longer period than the Barbados Labour Party has, up until now since Independence and there is no question about that. We have had our policies but that does not mean that I have to agree with all of them. That is the reality.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am saying Sir, you have an arrangement in place where, for instance, VAT does not apply to anybody at Port St. Charles but does it apply to the people who contemplate building at Mount Brevitor? As a matter of fact even in the case where there was supposed to be provision of VAT relief for persons who are building homes my last information is that this arrangement has not even been tidied up as yet.

This is serious business we are talking about. The pressures on the local Barbadian to own a home and to own land in this country are severe too. The cost of living is high. The cost of owning property in Barbados is high. The \$30 and \$40 units provided by the National Housing Corporation are premiums. A lot of our people need them, require them and must have them.
5.40 p.m.

And we have to recognise that this is a social responsibility which demonstrated by the Barbados Labour Party is not being fulfilled. It is not being paid sufficient attention. I have said in here again that the provision of these kinds of lots, is this the real answer to our housing needs? Where is the other part of the mixture? That is my question.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: It cannot be Pondsides, Sir, that is too far away from Mount Brevitor. What progress have they made in respect to the ownership of the terrace units? All I am hearing, what are the difficulties of conveyance. What are these difficulties? Nobody is prepared to set their minds to it. There are many examples all over the world where people own terrace units. We do not have to go far. So this dragging of the feet in respect to moving forward in these areas and I say it all the time and I will continue to say it.

The refusal to fast track the social requirements of this country compared with the fast track that is applied to the so-called industrial programme and the so-called tourism programme and what is the sustainability? The people who are going to contemplate purchasing Mount Brevitor are not going anywhere. They are going to live in Mount Brevitor. They are not visitors and they are going to contribute to this economy by working and paying their taxes including the Value Added Tax, Sir, at 15%. They will do that, Sir.

Sir, the tourist only has to hear about one incident, it does not even have to be in Barbados. The financial investor does not even have to hear about a lease. He only has to find a more attractive location and he is gone like the wind and we are finding that now. I want Senator Farley to get up and support that position because I know it is true. The financial investor is here today and gone tomorrow. These people are going to be here all the time, they are going to work for Barbados in Barbados and pay taxes here. We need to create more for them. We need to make it easier for them. We need to give them relief in whatever form so that they can make it too and so that it can become more viable.

During all that happened in 1991 to 1994 and the Democratic Labour Party has never ran away from the reality of 1991 to 1994, Sir. What is demonstrated clearly is that we Barbadians do not have that flexibility with spending power and I would like the Honourable Senators on that Side to remember that. The average working Barbadian does not have that flexibility of spending power to sustain mortgages of this kind and size, to pay insurance policies and drive motor cars. It cannot work.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: They do not have enough money, Sir, and in an environment where the salary increases have been marked not necessarily by reflection of the cost of living increase, but more by a policy of cooperation and restraint and that has characterised the last couple of years and negotiations in Barbados.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: We have to examine that too. Do our people have the spending power to, first of all exercise this restraint in wage demands and then to aspire to owning lots like these to pay for the house, to pay the land tax, to pay the mortgage, to pay the insurance premium, to pay legal fees and then to pay for a motor car? Because you cannot depend on the public transport, Sir. You can get it on Sunday evenings to go for the ride around the country and to look out on Bathsheba, *et cetera*. That is there. Fifteen dollars and you are gone. But that reliable public transport which, when you came out of your village or your home and walk say, 50 yards to the bus pole in Mount Brevitor and you were guaranteed a bus. It is not true anymore. I have begged in here for somebody to tell me why they cannot be a regular bus service in St. Christopher or in Enterprise.

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Resolution is about neither of the areas you mentioned.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: The same thing applies to Mount Brevitor, Sir, the bus service for these lots contemplated. We are going to put lots in there and we are

going to ask Barbadians to live there and ask most of them to work in Bridgetown. How are they going to get there?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I hate to interrupt you, but the Resolution is about vesting land in the National Housing Corporation. It does not extend to public transport, *et cetera*. I think that you are extending the terms in the resolution.

SENATOR J.D.E. BOYCE: Sir, I will abide strictly with your ruling. I think I have made the point anyhow, in respect to what we should expect in terms of our plans for housing development. There are a number of other resolutions which I am sure will allow expansion in any special areas that I have not been able to deal with here, Sir.

But, I certainly want to note the general development in St. Peter. I want to note the intent of this resolution in the provision of 56 housing lots at Mount Brevitor as stated by the Minister, low income houses for the small man, Sir. I will be watching that particular criteria very closely and seeing how it develops. I want to certainly urge upon the Government that need to fast track the housing programme in Barbados. Please, Sir, I do not know what you are allowed to do to make your point any stronger in this Chamber, Sir, but I am prepared to contemplate it. How does one tell the Leader of the House that there is an urgent crying need for our people to be housed? How does one tell it other than by saying it again and again? I say it louder and they say "don't shout." I do not know, Sir, how does one say it.

Asides.

SENATOR J.D.E. BOYCE: Sir, I support any resolution which provides for the housing of this nation Barbados.

I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I rise to support this resolution, but I have a few comments to make. Number one, I feel the time has come to have a master plan, decide what lands you are acquiring, put them in a block and then let us come and debate it and have these lots. Because every time we come to the Senate, it is just one and two and three and four bits of land around the place to acquire which leads to a bit of confusion.

Mr. President, I am supporting this because I know that people cannot afford to buy land and I have always maintained that the Government needs to purchase land and then re-sell it even at a loss to less fortunate people and low income earners. What I would like to know is who is making the decision about who will get this land and what is the minimum amount of salary that the person must work for in order to buy this land. In other words, what criteria would be set up for allocating these 56 lots to the various people. Are

they for the people living within the Mount Brevitor area or can people in St. Lucy or different areas purchase these lots? In other words, what type of criteria?

Mr. President, after deciding what type of criteria will be made for the allocation of these lots, I would like to put in a plea for at least four lots out of the 56 to be allocated to nurses. This is done in other countries because nurses are not paid properly and when they build housing areas what they do, they give about two or four houses to be allocated to nurses. It is done in Jamaica and in some of our Caribbean territories. So I do not see why it cannot be done in Barbados. I am speaking on behalf of nurses. Those others who are speaking can speak on behalf of other persons. I am speaking on behalf of nurses and other low income persons making a specific request.
5.50 p.m.

Mr. President, as far as elevators are concerned in these areas, although it is a wonderful idea I do not know about that because they cannot even maintain the ones that are at the hospital, furthermore the ones that they are going to put in housing areas. One has to think twice about putting something known as an elevator in these housing areas because obviously it is very expensive to maintain if we cannot get elevators working at the hospital.

Mr. President, I know that putting in roads, water and electricity and subdivision itself is going to cost Government funds. No problem. What I would like to see is these lots advertised so that persons who are eligible to apply will know that they are available and apply for these lots and not let it be by word of mouth so that one or two people say there are lots up there for sale, you go and ask and you will get one.

I would like to see it very transparent indeed and I fully support this venture and I would like us to get some more housing lots for some more low income people.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I just want to make a small contribution to this matter before us today. It is really a concern and my concern has become stronger as I, over the last couple of days have been looking at Government's White Paper on Housing. I have been asking for some time about low income housing in Barbados. Government in this White Paper on Housing has admitted on page 23 on land development standards, costs and affordability that "the cost of fully developed land is around \$4.00 per sq. ft. multiplied by the average size of a house spot, which is generally 4,500-5,000 sq.ft." and the cost of the land can be \$20 000. It says,

"Therefore, it must be determined if land and indeed housing costs in general, are affordable to the average low income earner."

Government has made that statement in its White Paper on Housing. That is an admission that to continue down the path which we have travelled over the years in order to provide low income housing in Barbados we are going to go nowhere. I have to assume therefore that we are stuck on this low income housing and in order to really see physical low-income structures going up in Barbados some change in policy must be taken.

I also wanted to understand clearly how the General Workers' Housing Fund works, who are these individuals who qualify for low-income housing, and I discovered that such individuals are earning up to \$502 a week. Now any individual in Barbados who earns \$502 a week on the regular mortgage market, can qualify for a maximum sum of \$78 000 three times the annual earnings yet under the General Workers definition such individuals qualify for a maximum sum of \$40 000.

I think there is need for some correlation. Government must now look at the General Workers' Fund, the maximum sum for which individuals who qualify as general workers can qualify, look at the regular market in terms of the cost of housing and try to make an adjustment if such individuals are to qualify to own these low-income houses.

The Government has also recognised that if the land is going to cost \$20 000, a timber house under the General Workers' qualification is part-chattel, part wall is in the vicinity of \$55 000 we have heard in recent times. So they are looking for a loan of at least \$60 000 to \$70 000 and the ceiling we have put on workers who qualify as general workers such ceiling qualifies those individuals for mortgages in that sum and maybe Government is not paying enough attention to these finer details which I believe can push things on in terms of home ownership.

Another thing I note is that there is a maximum period for repayment of 15 years. Maybe that is so because under the General Workers' definition it states that the type of property can be either part chattel, part wall or you can convert chattel into wall or whatever and maybe they are taking into account that as a chattel house the life expectancy is probably not beyond 15 years. I think that we need to rethink our position on that and extend that period of repayment from 15 years since individuals can qualify between ages 18 and 60. We should work at extending that maximum period from 15 years to at least 20 years. The Barbados Mortgage Finance is probably the only financial institution from which you can get 25 years mortgage.

The criteria which Government has set out here for the General Worker and Government's acknowledgment that the

cost of low income housing has increased significantly rings a bell and says something to me that Government is not doing its homework properly in that area.

One question I want to ask because we have done a number of acquisitions and we have done a number of vestings. I am not sure that I feel comfortable with the Housing Planning Unit and that it is at this time functioning at full speed. As I read about this planning unit it is responsible for the provision of advice on all aspects of housing policy and I am yet to see information which says that this Unit is showing Government how it can fast track. Yes, I agree with Senator Boyce. Government must devise a way of fast tracking the construction of housing in this country. We should not say that it cannot be done because we have shown that we know how to fast track areas of legislation to enhance other areas of business in Barbados.

This Planning Unit I have been told from this document is responsible for the Glebe project in St. George, the Venezuela/Barbados project, Husbands, St. James and Cane Garden and the National low income housing project. Is this Housing Planning Unit still functioning and if it is can we hear something about its recent successes in this area? What advice? What has Government done in housing since this Government has been in office, that is dealing with this term that we can say has been a result of the work of the Housing Planning Unit?
6.00 p.m.

Low income housing is a serious area of concern among Barbadians. I know as we talk about deviants and as we talk about anti-social behaviour, we need to recognise that lack of access in a society in which individuals can see gross and significant improvements in the standards of living of many, when too many believe that they have been left out and feel disadvantaged, we leave room for all forms of anti-social and rebellious behaviour. I would like to think that we would not allow this sore issue of housing for individuals in the lower income groups in Barbados to contribute to the breakdown in the social fabric of this society. It is becoming one of those very burdensome problems which we face today.

Mr. President, I hope that the Shadow Minister who sits in this Chamber will draw to the attention of the Ministry of Housing those areas which, I believe, are areas which we can work on to improve the housing lots in Barbados. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, before we bring this debate to an end, I just want to say that I was almost touched by the expression of interest, concern, zeal and jealousy for the affairs in St. Peter and the care, interest and zeal for its development, until I suddenly realised that this is a new-found approach from

the Democratic Labour Party toward St. Peter, especially where housing is concerned. But I had to remember and I had to tell myself, "do not get carried away by this sentimental reaction," because one has to remember the past attitude of the Democratic Labour Party towards St. Peter, which was encapsulated in the immortal phrase by their late revered leader, "Boscobel is behind the map, and Black Bess is behind God's back." Thank God, the same does not apply to St. Peter any longer and I know the residents in St. Peter are very glad that it does not apply to St. Peter any more. I look forward to the day when this same care and concern will be expressed for the people of St. John who have been long-suffering for over 40 years.

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. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF PARCELS
OF LAND FROM SEARLES, CHRIST CHURCH
TO SIX ROADS, ST. PHILIP FOR ROAD
MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Senate's approval is sought for the acquisition of some 200 parcels of land stretching between Six Roads in St. Philip and Searles in Christ Church for the purpose of the construction of a road.

The road as you know, Sir, between Searles and Six Roads constitutes one of the major arteries into the St. Philip area and, with the continued rapid expansion of St. Philip, a number of road works has been done over the years to improve the access to that particular part of the island. For example, the work on Highway 5 from Mapp Hill up to Six Roads was done several years ago and that provides a smooth easy ride up to Six Roads.

It was recognised that there was also a need to provide for another linkage between the ABC Highway and Six Roads, but particularly emphasizing the need to link Six Roads with the southern part of Christ Church. So this particular road improvement will lead to a greater connection between Oistins and Six Roads.

The road starts as one would turn off the ABC Highway at the Newton Roundabout, also known as the Henry Forde Roundabout, and continues past Rising Sun, through Searles, Fairview, Lowthers Hill, St. Patricks, Woodbourne and those wonderful areas in the eastern part of Christ Church, a place which is very near and dear to me.

In fact, I was very pleased to note, Mr. President, as I walked through the area yesterday, as I set my foot on the road as it goes through Lowthers Hill and Fairview, not only yesterday, Sir, but on Saturday as well, and I spoke to the residents there, they were quite pleased with the expansion that was being done.

The acquisitions, Sir, which are the subject of this Resolution, relate to the parcels of land which are needed for expansion of the existing roadwork in most places, but in some cases where major realignment is required in order to improve safety and generally provide for improved safety on the road. For example, the provision of a roundabout at St. Patrick's in Christ Church is a notable feature. That St. Patrick's junction in the eastern part of Christ Church has been the scene of many, many accidents over the years. In fact, as you would know, Mr. President, when one tries to emerge from the Yorkshire side of the St. Patrick's junction trying to make a right turn, the wall around which the road currently turns prevents one from being able to see traffic coming from the Lowthers Hill side of that junction and that particular blind junction has been the scene of many tragedies. That will be a thing of the past.

Sir, the opportunity has been taken with this roadwork to make a number of improvements in the area, particularly as far as the installation of new water mains in that area and, in fact, all along that stretch of road I have witnessed myself the installation of new large water mains as well as pressure control devices and other bits of equipment to ensure that there is an adequacy of water supply in the area as well as the fact that the opportunity has been taken to do the much needed upgrade of mains and so on in the area.

Sir, these 200 parcels of land are not all unoccupied lots of land so that a number of things are being done. Naturally, the process of paying compensation for this land is one which has been accorded high priority with us. In fact, compensation can only be paid after the acquisition process so this is part of the effort to speed that process up. The persons who have been affected by the move, in particular the most severe of cases would be 12 persons in the St. Patrick's/Woodbourne/Fairview area, who would have had to be relocated as a result of the roadworks, a number of things has been done.
6.10 p.m.

Additionally, a number of persons who require only minor realignment of their existing property have also had new houses constructed. In fact, only about three Saturdays ago I was able to visit a lady in Fairview who has been affected by this project and live in a traditional Barbadian home – it could do with some repairs and so on – and I was enquiring whether she was affected by the road and whether she was one of the persons that had to move. She indicated that she was one of the persons who will be required to move

but that she will move further onto her own land. When I enquired exactly what she meant she was able to point no more than 25 yards away, a step back from where the new road line would be, there will be a new house to replace her existing house.

The care had been taken in the execution of the project to ensure that there was not that element of displacement as unfortunately occurs in these cases. She was able to be in her own home, have her new home constructed not far away, also on her property and to be able to make her move over in her new facility when the painting, the tiling, the installation of utilities and those comforts which one would associate with the new home had been completed. Similarly, that has been the experience of the other persons along that stretch of road. The progress which has been made on this road so far has largely been in those uninhabited areas and where there are houses that have to be removed, care has been taken to ensure that we have done the appropriate construction in those areas.

Sir, during the construction of that road it has been necessary to divert some traffic. Traffic has been diverted from around the Searles area, through the Searles factory yard, through Lead Vale, through Fairview and back onto the main road in the St. Patricks area. That road has not been accustomed to such usage over the years and it is beginning to show some signs of wear and tear. That road will certainly be resurfaced as soon as the main road is completed because it is not possible at this point in time to block that road to resurface it whilst the main road is blocked. We have been able, in discussions with colleagues in the Ministry of Public Works, to get them to pay particular attention to some maintenance activity which would at least ensure that no potholes will develop on that road whilst it is used for that temporary purpose.

Sir, this project which requires the acquisition of these 200 parcels of land will result therefore with not only improvement to the road transportation linkages between the southern part of the island and the eastern part but the opportunity has been taken to effect some real improvements in the areas through which this road passes and I am pleased to report to this Honourable Senate that that is very much in hand.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, the road conditions of Barbados, I submit, Sir, are at the lowest standard they have ever been. Any attempt to maintain and rehabilitate roads in this country must be welcomed by the people of this country. We are not going to go into the question of priority and which road should be done first or whatever because that debate would last for ever. We have

to start somewhere and we have to improve the situation with roads in Barbados. The calypso which was sung some years ago about a road with the potholes up by me is now more real than ever because we have now been encountering a degree of mismanagement of our roads that has never been seen before. There is no road that I can think of off the cuff which can sustain more than a hundred yards run without reducing itself to some kind of tributary as the water trickles through the openings in the roads.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: That is the experience that I have had, Sir, and that is the experience of the people out there who use their own vehicles to travel around this country.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: As I am aware, St. John is part of Barbados but we are not dealing with St. John today. We are dealing with the road between Searles in Christ Church and Six Roads.

I have a number of concerns, concerns which have been debated to some extent. One of my main concerns is the length of time, for instance, that is being taken to carry out road works in this country. We have now become aware of the fact that there is no finishing material in Barbados because the Honourable Member has closed the refinery at Mobil. There was no contemplation, obviously, of adequate replacement of the materials that we require to surface our roads. Contractors are now crying out that they are not in possession of adequate materials to carry out the roadworks that they have planned.

6.20 p.m.

I want this Honourable Chamber to listen to the debate in this country in respect to the provision of materials and see how it works itself out and see who will be the ultimate beneficiaries. We want to have the products available for this kind of completion to complete these roads at an economically viable price. When it happened the first time that we got rid of our barbergreen plant, I was not necessarily in favour of it.

I believe the Ministry of Transport and Works has a substantial role to play, if it is well managed, in terms of maintaining equitable development and maintenance of our roadworks in Barbados. A lot of these projects can be adequately handled by that Ministry, Sir. The situation at Six Roads has long required attention. The residents of Six Roads, however, will tell you that they are truly upset at the amount of disruption and the length of the disruption. I want to urge upon the appropriate Minister to try to inject some urgency into this project in order to bring it to completion at

the nearest possible date. There has been more than adequate time given the amount of work contemplated and I think, Sir, we should do all in our power to ensure the completion.

I have another concern too, Sir. We have been noticing in Barbados roadworks being carried out and along this stretch too, with I think less than adequate regard to the traffic management. Because we still have people travelling from Six Roads through Lead Vale and all those areas which the Honourable Minister spoke about as they go about their businesses in Barbados. And, I am appalled at the way in which some of the contractors are managing the operation because when you drive along these roads, you are suddenly confronted without signs or any kind of precaution with some backhoe, or bobcat that spins in front of you, offloads a truck and you have to wait without adequate signage.

I think the appropriate Minister has got to put their foot down and ensure that the safety of our people during these constructions is maintained. It is manifest even now as I speak, I am sure on the Enterprise Main Road where the National Petroleum Corporation is carrying out pipe work, Sir. We have got to pay attention to our safety. There was a time, I remember as a school boy we used to have fun. We used to enjoy opening the construction sign as they had that stop/go sign. There would have been arguments and debates in this country as to whether the person turning that sign was adequately or not adequately employed. Today we have reached the stage in this country where one man stands up with a red flag and you do not know what he is doing. You approach these road works, Sir, with an amount of trepidation, Sir, that has never been present before.

So if there is one thing we have to do is that we have to pay attention to the way the roadworks is being carried out in this area and in all areas of Barbados and caution the contractors that they must pay adequate attention to our safety. The fact that someone has not died as a result, yet, and I have no way of being sure about that, we must ensure that it does not happen and we must put in place the preventive measures now that we are approaching the roadworks. Now that we are into the roadworks let us put the preventive measures in place so that we can travel the remaining roads safely and let us ensure that alternative routing *et cetera* is put in place in a professional way so that the business of Barbados can continue.

I am sure that that position at least must be echoed by all members of this Chamber, Sir, in respect of the reality of what is happening in terms of the way the contractors are going about road construction in Barbados. There is less than adequate attention to safety.

Sir, the Honourable Minister was at pains to take us through his journey through Lead Vale to ensure that he gave as much detail as possible and indeed listened to the story of the lady in Lead Vale with extreme satisfaction. I

however, am not one to take an isolated case and make it the panacea of what happens, because if the Minister can tell me that everybody he encountered was enjoying that kind of minimal disruption, then I would be a very satisfied man this evening. In truth and in fact that is not the case, so I do not think he should necessarily take that isolated incident and caress his mind with it, Sir, and believe that this is what is happening to everyone out there. I have been at meetings where these kinds of projects have been taking place and it is not like that. People are always crying out about the way their lands have been taken up and some of the people are in this exhausted list of these 200 parcels of land, who talk about the manner in which we go about taking their lands. He referred in passing to the fact that certainly immediately subsequent to the legislation being cleared, he will ensure that these people were compensated.

I trust, Sir, that applies to all of us and all of these and all the outstanding ones, because it cannot be fair to take up a person's land and then have them languishing for payment for long periods of time.

So the Honourable Minister must not believe that as the saying goes,

"One swallow makes a summer."

But certainly we must rejoice in the satisfaction of this particular lady but the reality is that hers is an isolated case and we should be aiming at a much higher level of satisfaction among our people when we do our national projects. That is not always the case and as I said, I have been at meetings which have been characterised by certain actions which upset the residents. Sometimes not as much as a week's notice is given. Sometimes there is no notice at all, especially under this newfangled Urban Development Commission, but that is not what we are talking about today. But that has rules of its own and as we know that is created as a separate entity and operates as such. The management of that authority have certain mandates which they are going about. And we have discussed them before and I am sure we are going to have the opportunity as we go on to discuss them some more.

So, Sir, we have got to pay much more attention to dealing with the matter of the human element in respect to these acquisitions and in respect to cutting into people's lands. We must deal with them much more carefully and we must be able to say at the end of our project that out of the 200 persons, 199 are satisfied and there is only one person who unfortunately because of extenuating circumstances we could not necessarily satisfy all their desires. Instead of saying there is one happy person in Lead Vale whom I have encountered and not able to say the same about all other persons whom we are using their property as we might have to do in these improvements.

I mentioned the question of the prioritisation of these roads and the Honourable Minister was also at pains to indicate that there are limitations and we know that there are limitations. Roads do not roll off any kind of a cloud and you put them down. You have to build them. The price of building roads is very expensive. So when we build and repair our roads, we have to treat them with the kind of prioritisation that they deserve. Let us ensure that they serve the most occupied areas and let us be sure that this development that is taking place is actually of enough economic value and enough social value to justify its work.

Certainly the case of Six Roads, I have no difficulty whatsoever. Certainly the case of St. Patricks and certain areas, I have no difficulty whatsoever, but I am certainly not going to stand here at anytime whatsoever and support rehabilitation of roads that do not require rehabilitation. We have to set our priorities in a country of so minimal resources unless of course the Barbados Labour Party has unlimited resources. I do not know. We are not privy. 6.30 p.m.

We have some ideas as to whether there is a lot of money. Today we hear there is a lot of money, the Treasury is bursting. Tomorrow we hear another story. Today, we hear we are going to build roads and we are going to have this road and that road built. Tomorrow, we hear we cannot pay the nurses. I do not understand it, Sir.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. The figures relating to Government's revenue and Government's expenditure are not hidden. They are available for the whole world to see. If the Honourable Member would just look at the public publication all the figures relating to Government's expenditure and revenue are contained therein.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, sometimes we hear the doctors cannot be paid. We have scarce resources. I am not going to get distracted. I am talking about road rehabilitation and I am talking about road rehabilitation at Six Roads and Searles in that area that I know very well. I use that area often, up in Woodbourne. We have heavy trucks there which have to bring our oil from Woodbourne to our storage facilities. What are the new arrangements? Is the pipeline being made at the same time? The answer is no. What kind of coordination is going on? Is the oil pipeline being laid at the same time so that we can look at a reduction of these heavy trucks between Woodbourne and any site contemplated for storage of oil in this country now that MOBIL is closed? The answer is no. No planning.

That same administration that walked around this country and tried to give the impression that the Democratic

Labour Party did not know about planning, what are they demonstrating now? I do not hear any answers, Sir. They are demonstrating a complete disregard for planning because they will come in a few months time and dig up the same road and say they have now decided to place a storage station at Warrens. Warrens is the most economically viable storage station and we are going to encourage private sector participation – all the key words that they use these days. They are going to have a building arrangement and you would not have to do this and that and yet they are going to dig up the same road and put in the oil main, a road which Senator Farley and I would have spent so much time endearing to the people of Christ Church and demonstrated to them how valuable it is only to see another Ministry two weeks later come and disrupt that peaceful life.

If there is work like that to be carried out, if there are gas mains to be put down let us put them down now on the same road while it is dug up. That has been a position of this country...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber. The gas mains were relaid prior to the road being built. The Honourable Member must check his facts before he gets in here and tries to cast aspersions on the Government's planning ability.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, if you can remain relevant then you would avoid the charge of misleading the Senate. I would suggest that you stick to the Resolution which is before the Senate.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I will contain my urge to respond directly to the intervention and continue with my focus and I am in Woodbourne and we are talking about roads that will be heavily used by heavy vehicles and have to be used subsequently not only by normal residents who have their Tercels or Daihatsu Charades and things like that but by tourists because we have feature areas in that area in Foursquare itself. We have a little rum refinery, one of the most modern in the world and we have Pappas Playground, I believe that is the name that we can invite our tourists and Barbadians to enjoy themselves. So we have a multi-purpose road to construct and we have examples in this country of bad planning because now that...

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am not going to digress to St. Andrew, Sir. We will get to St. Andrew in good time because the monies that we have to spend on Maynards Bridge in St. Andrew is another matter. Sir, we have therefore to ensure that as we do our development the common man can walk the streets and say... I listen to them, you know. I do not listen to Ministers and necessarily parliamentary secretaries telling me what is going on in this

country. I hear the fellows and when they say, "Man, this is bare foolishness." I know they are talking the truth. I know that I hear the gospel when I hear "Man, this is nonsense, can you imagine that yesterday this road was done and today they are digging it up again?"

Sir, you go in an area which has adequate room and this is happening in this same development, that you have adequate room for sidewalks, a little two inches of concrete, and you know they would not put it down, Sir? They leave the people to balance on the kerbs.

As a matter of fact, when I was growing up and I used to walk to Mile and a Quarter to All Saints Boys' School we had to walk on these kerbs which were called sidewalks but we know they were only four inches wide. This is the kind of thing we should be going against now. Once we go into an area which has the room we should put the sidewalks in one time so that the residents of the area can enjoy a casual stroll to the supermarket, to the bars, to the places of recreation in the area. Let us take the opportunity to do a comprehensive development instead of what appears to be a chop and change kind of development.

I would like to see the rest of this project if it is not too late for the Honourable Senator to implement that he accompanies this kind of total planning, if you want to borrow a term.

Then we move from Woodbourne to Foursquare and then on to that road which would take us to Six Roads. Yes, we have spoken about Six Roads already. It is in a constituency which has graced the Democratic Labour Party with its confidence for a long time and all indicators are that in increased measure that will happen whenever in November the Prime Minister calls the election.

Sir, we come to the Six Roads junction and we all know that this was a catastrophe. All I hope and pray is that the Minister of Transport and Works does not decide to extend the jam buster up Six Roads too because I cannot contemplate the kind of fall-out if when we get to this new roundabout we get six double lanes of traffic doing the jam buster. I think that the Minister should think about it a little bit. You only have to encourage Barbadians to do something one place and again we can say what we like but if you allow the jam buster implementation at Six Roads you are looking for trouble. The fact that nobody has been reported injured or having an accident so far is not necessarily a recognition of what is happening in reality.

The point is that we cannot introduce these kinds of things willy-nilly without actually having the indicators and the lanes developed. We cannot have an arrangement where you will tell people go into particular lanes and you draw the lanes on a board. I hope they are not contemplating that for

Six Roads. I hope that they will allow the traffic at Six Roads to behave in the manner we are accustomed and if they are going to introduce international practices at the Six Roads roundabout they actually divide the lanes within the roundabout in a way that the traffic users can easily recognise what is the correct thing to do because that is the problem.

6.40 p.m.

Six Roads too has been characterised by at least one failed major industrial venture, maybe two, Sir, because in some regards the industrial park at Six Roads has not itself been a roaring success. The Minister of Industry might want to elaborate on that when he winds up.

Mr. PRESIDENT: This is not an appropriate debate to discuss the matter.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: What I am saying, is, the road improvement now I think would give rise to the opportunity for these two commercial ventures to have a second spring, as we know. I look forward to that kind of development in Barbados.

As you are aware, Sir, our business in here is about seeing things done for Barbados which we can look back on and be proud. I want to reiterate that I have no difficulty whatsoever with the improvements contemplated in this Resolution. I trust that all the measures of caution which I have been at pains to introduce have been taken for what they are worth and that there will be some attempt to improve the safety of the operation because that is paramount in my mind. I am sure that the Honourable Member uses that road too very often. He has to be on it and I think these are measures which we have to pay some attention to. There are other areas in Barbados where that can also apply.

I trust, Sir, that the traffic management that will be applied at Six Roads will be one that will ensure the safety of the drivers, the traffic users, the pedestrians indeed, and that we will move away from the practice of placing pedestrian crossings right at the beginning of the roundabouts. It is a dangerous practice.

In any event, this Barbados Labour Party Administration refuses to maintain the signage anyhow. You cannot even see them and so when drivers screech on pedestrians it is not because they are lovers of blood or they are trying to create havoc in this country. The reality is, and any of us in here who use a vehicle know that the road signs have been allowed to degenerate and to be obliterated and never replaced, and this Administration is particularly guilty of very poor road signage maintenance.

Do not talk about lights, and I do not know if any lights are contemplated in this development, but this is a new feature of Barbados where the utterances of the Minister are that it is better to work without the lights so that persons travelling on certain roads in Barbados now would depend solely on the graciousness of the other traffic users for their access. This is unfair and we need to ensure that a level of maintenance is applied to these roadworks and this rehabilitation in order to ensure a sustained measure of control and management, because if we let people loose in an arrangement where there are no controls, if there is no order, we will have chaos. We need to ensure that kind of maintenance is written into, etched in concrete, not in asphalt, Sir, because there is no asphalt so you cannot etch it in the asphalt, in this particular development. I am serious about that, Sir.

We have seen a level of disregard for road signage, street lights and traffic lights that is extremely worrying. We have pedestrian crossings. We have chaos in Broad Street.

Sir, I support the Resolution and I beg the Honourable Members on that Side who have the ear of the persons in authority at this time, to ensure that these kinds of assurances are met and that the people of Barbados can look forward to a continued safe road network and a controlled network at the same time.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I just want to lend my support to this Resolution which seeks to compulsorily acquire a number of parcels of land for road improvement and road maintenance on that stretch of road between the Newton Roundabout and Six Roads. Now, that is a very important area because, as we all know, the oil fields which are vital to our economic development are in that area, and also the tourism attraction Heritage Park is also on that road.

Six Roads itself is becoming a very important centre. This road will link up Oistins with Six Roads. It will make it easier to get from Oistins, just come up Oistins Hill, go up Lodge Road and it will facilitate easy travel between Oistins which is a very important area as well as Six Roads. It is a very important road.

I want to tell Honourable Members, Sir, that this road was planned for quite a long time. Under the Democratic Labour Party this road was planned and the funding for it. I think this is a World Bank funding road and the funding for it, all the negotiations started even before we came into office. The last Administration saw the wisdom of having this particular road so when I hear references in some quarters about the fact that we are building a road for the Heritage Park, that is a bundle of nonsense because even

before that park was contemplated the Government in power saw the need to improve this important roadway.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber. I want to disassociate myself with any implication that the road is being built for Heritage Park. I did not say it in my speech.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You did not say it and Senator Barker did not say that you said it. No point of order.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Mr. President. There are certain concerns, of course, which must be well taken, that is, that in improving the road the contractor should pay enough attention to the residents who are going to be discommoded because we know, and it is quite relevant to road construction, that you cannot make an omelet unless you break eggs but still, even although you break eggs you do not want to break eggs and leave a messy kitchen. You would want to break eggs in a manner which would still show some semblance of order. That point, Sir, is well taken that as we seek to improve the road that we must take the rights and concerns of the residents always into consideration although the people understand the need for the road and will abide with the minor inconveniences knowing that it is only for a time.

Sir, this Government must be commended for the attention it is paying to roads of which this is just another example. It is not only the main arterial roads that are being upgraded but in every little village all across Barbados. Even near the same Six Roads I think the road near Ebenezer all these are roads this Government is paying a lot of attention to.

Sir, the amount of roadworks that is going on is unprecedented in Barbados' history, never before. I am not making a political point because it is there for all of us to see that the amount of activity that is going on is stretching the human resources and the capital resources of this country because there is an urgent need for Government to pay attention to the roads because the last Administration – and this is not a political point, this is a matter of fact – paid little attention to the roads in Barbados. That is a fact. I do not know what the reason is but they paid little attention to the roads so what we have found is that the Government has to be doing more and more in order to keep up with the increase of traffic on the roads because there has been a phenomenal increase in the amount of cars and other vehicles on our roads.

It means, Sir, as time goes on, whichever Government is in power has to look for more and more funds in order to carry out very important road maintenance and road expansion. We are not only maintaining them but we have to look for ways of expanding roadways, creating new roads

and so on in order to meet the present as well as the expected increase in the number of cars on the roads especially certain parts of the island. This is just another example of Governments, and in this case, Sir, both Governments were involved in this process, seeking to satisfy a legitimate need of the people.

6.50 p.m.

As you well know, Sir, the increase in activity has meant that we are from time to time facing minor shortages in some building material. Government, Sir, is working assiduously to make sure that no shortage will occur.

I think the last speaker was not correct when he said that there was no asphalt in the island. That is not true. The Honourable Member, being an engineer, and being a man of truth, should check. But he certainly did not check because he got carried away by his desire to score a point. He wanted to score a point so he gets up and talk things which on reflection, he knows that he should not have said. He, Sir, like all of us in here should not be caught up in the heat of the moment because we should be saying things after studied research. I myself may have been guilty at some time, maybe on the odd occasion. The point is that before we get up and make statements we should check the truth value of the statements to ensure that we do not mislead the Chamber either unwittingly or not.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is trying to impute that I speak anything but the truth. I would like to have that struck from the record.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think he put it quite like that. He talked about truth level and I am not sure what he meant. Senator Barker you must be careful not to reflect on the truthfulness of the Honourable Senator.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I apologise to the Honourable Member through yourself. As I have said, it is just a momentary lapse on the Honourable Member's part. He did not mean to mislead us but he did in fact mislead us. The intention was not there but it was just as a result that he mislead the Chamber.

Sir, with those few words I want to support this Resolution, knowing Sir, that the Government, all over Barbados from St. Andrew to St. Peter, St. Lucy, all around we see Government showing its concern for the plight of the travelling public which includes every one of us because all of us, whether we use buses or whatever, use the roads of Barbados. Whether we are pedestrians or not, all of us use it and the safety and improvement of the roads is a major concern of this Government.

Sir, I want to support this Resolution.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Sir, I just want to make a small contribution on this matter.

Asides.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: A small truthfulness. Sir, this road has come at a particular interesting time in the development of this country. If I can go on from where Senator Barker left off. If you really examine the area from the Newton roundabout to Six Roads, a lot of persons who do not have the opportunity on a regular basis to visit this area would be surprised at the amount of development that has occurred along that road. There is Chickmont, a rendering plant, Slumberfoam, Baygon, Coles Engineering at the southern end, the Miniature Golf Course, Heritage Park, the Rum Factory, the Oil Company, St. Patrick School and there is a kindergarten. The point I am making Sir, is that it is an important road at this point in our development.

I remember a couple of months ago when the South Coast Sewage was at its height of construction certain noises were being made by certain people in the Chamber. One of the interesting things about the dislocation that have been mentioned in this Chamber about the Searles to Six Roads project is that I have not heard of a single dissenting voice neither have I heard of a single accident. I do not know which aspect of the Six Roads to Newton Road the Honourable Member has been using but certainly he has not been using the one that I use daily.

I want to develop these points for a particular reason. We hear a lot of talk about Government not planning and nothing can be further from the truth when you examine what is going on with this road. Gas mains are being laid at this time all along the road from Six Roads to the Newton area. When you get at the junction that takes you to Yorkshire the gas mains go around there by St. Patrick School right across to Waldronds. Any politician who at least listen to the news would have heard repetition after repetition from the Barbados Water Authority that the new mains on the same road were going to be connected on Monday.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber by trying to indicate that I talked about gas. I have talked about oil and the need that will occur very soon to put oil mains down. I understand the position with water and gas. That is public knowledge, Sir. I think the Honourable Member is trying to mislead the Chamber by imputing that I spoke about gas mains not being laid, Sir.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: I am sure that I heard reference being made to gas. I am making the point that it was just not gas that Government has made provision for but they took the opportunity to replace the old, tired water

mains with new water mains along that road. That is the point that I am making.

I must go back to what Senator Barker said. If my good friend and engineer John Boyce had done his research...

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have to refer to him as Senator Boyce.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: With all due respect, Sir. If Senator Boyce had done his research, he would have known that this is not the first time that any major pipe line had been run from Woodbourne. The gas line from Woodbourne terminates at the Belle and there was no big dislocation because you run them along the Private Road network in the oilfield and through the cane fields all the way down to the Belle so there is no major dislocation. I do not know what is the point that he is making. The other amazing thing about it is that the trucks that take the oil from Woodbourne to the refinery hardly ever use Six Roads. They enter through a network of roads in the fields at Windsor or at the bottom of Lower Grey and proceed down the road to the refinery. You cannot get in here and make statements for political gain that are not absolutely truthful. That is the point that I wanted to make.

I think, Sir, that at this particular point in time that with the development of this road we will see more interesting development coming to the area. As I speak now there is an interesting linkage at the back of Yorkshire around the junction of Lowthers where there is a nice housing development going in there. I believe as these facilities are put in place that we will see not only industry and housing but we will see other developments occurring along this road.

Sir, I know quite well that there has been a lot of dislocation involved in this area. For those people who live in the area, people like myself, this is a very important road. It is also important for people who live on Highway 7 and who may need to get to Six Roads. A man living in the heart of St. Philip and coming to Six Roads have the choice of going along Brereton Village all the way down to Bussa to avoid the dislocation at the Six Roads to Searles junction. He can go as far down as the same Yorkshire roundabout and take the Yorkshire crossroads, he can bear left to St. Patrick School and travel across to Highway 7. There are a number of alternative roads. He can also come through the network of roads at Lead Vale and find himself back at the four cross at Searles onto the Newton roundabout.

One of the aspects that I am particular happy about is that Government will take the opportunity when this road is finished to pay some attention to the roads at Searles and Lead Vale and Fairview Hill area which have suffered some

deterioration as a result of the increase of traffic that have been on these roads for the last couple of months.

I am thankful for this because at times I have to use this road and I tell you, it is not in the best of conditions, although Government has tried at times to do some temporary work but because of the amount of traffic that use the road now it is not possible to bring it up to scratch at this time. I am particularly please that something will be done about this road in the very near future.

It is with this small contribution, Sir, that I would encourage Senators in here to support this measure.

Thank you.

7.00 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution for the road maintenance and rehabilitation and note that it is necessary and essential for any economic development and growth to have very good roads. Although it is expensive, it is an expense that we cannot ignore.

I would like to congratulate the Government for making this possible and repairing these roads from Searles going right up to Six Roads, but I would also like to see them carrying it a bit further around to Coles Road and Merricks, because they have some big pot holes there and it is virtually impossible to use your car in those areas.

One other note that I need to make, Mr. President, is that Government after Government spend a lot of time and money repairing the roads and they must. But there is something that prevents these roads from lasting. No sooner as they are repaired and used within five years, they need to be resurfaced, the pot holes start and then they get into very bad condition. There are some roads quite near to me that a lot of money has been spent and time and energy repairing these roads and some of them seem as though there are sinking. I do not know if it is the material. I do not know if it is the foundation that is laid, I do not understand what it is. When one lives overseas and you drive on the roads year after year, and they seem to last, but the ones here, I do not know if it is the tropics, in Barbados seem to last for about four to five years. After that time, pot holes appear and you have to start the process all over again.

I wonder if we cannot get some advice from those persons who build roads that lasts to see what we can do. Another thing is it does not matter if you have new tires or old tires the roads are slippery. I have been informed that in some countries they grind the bottles and grind the glass and put it within the asphalt to prevent that sort of sliding from occurring. Because it is very very dangerous. You feel you must change your car tires but when you change your car

tires and put on four new tires, the roads are still slippery as soon as the rain falls. I hope that someone could look into that type of technology to see if it is in fact true that if you add ground glass to the asphalt if it would stop the skidding of the car. But I wholeheartedly support this. I know it is going to cost money but it is needed for our development.

Another thing is that they mentioned about natural gas in these areas. I hope it goes go to Lead Vale which is around that area where they are laying natural gas. There are some residents in that area who have been writing in the newspaper, I have read it, requesting that it be done.

I support the Resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, this is one of the projects funded through the World Bank and conceptualised under the administration of the Democratic Labour Party. I feel pleased that the new Government did not abandon this project, but has proceeded with it.

I recently attended a few sessions in St. Philip with some young people and older folk and I know one of their concerns is that when we have completed this roundabout after whom are we going to name this roundabout? An appeal was made within the last two weeks during two different sessions, where members of that parish who were assembled at these sessions expressed the wish that this roundabout at Six Roads be called the Reynold Weekes Roundabout. And the case they put is this: That Reynold Weekes served in this country, he served under the Vestry System, he served under the system of local Government, he served as a double member constituency and he served as the Parliamentary Representative for the constituency of St. Philip South. So he had over the years devoted many years of his life and started a savings society in that constituency. As a shopkeeper in the adjoining neighbourhood, many a school boy and girl has been able to complete a day at school as a result of his kindness. And there we want to see since we have decided that we would name our roundabouts after outstanding Barbadians, they would want to be assured that the Government of Barbados would so name the roundabout at Six Roads and I want to put that case for them.

I have a concern, now that that roundabout is near completion, it looks so dangerous and it is dangerous as you approach the roundabout. I am not sure that all the drivers feel comfortable using that roundabout. There are so many roads that converge at that point and unlike other roundabouts in Barbados, when you have two cars actually moving in the same direction, at the same time as you, there is something about that Six Roads roundabout that is a bit frightening and scary for me. I think that maybe the Ministry should consider some experiment now at this stage for the use of that roundabout. Some experiment that would get drivers in the habit of using this new roundabout at Six

Roads. I watched an almost fatal accident there the other evening and it left me trembling on my way to St. Michael. So I would like to appeal, I heard Senator Boyce talked about jambuster, I never digged it.

There is some kind of experiment that I would like to see put in place here at Six Roads that I feel comfortable that we would know how to use this roundabout without causing any accidents at all if we can avoid it. I agree with Senator Rickinson that our roads are deteriorating too soon. Part of it seems to be a drainage problem because as soon as there is a serious heavy down pour of rain you note that a lot of grits wash all around the roundabouts in Barbados.

As a matter of fact on the ABC highway, I wonder why we still have roads to drive on, because after heavy rainfall we can actually see tons of grits all around these roundabouts. I did not even realise that we had so many grits actually made into our road construction. Something is wrong with the formula that we seem to be using in our road construction. And I think that for a country that has such limited resources, maybe it is not a bad thing if we reserve some of our resources for a careful study of the best types of material necessary to give us the kind of life expectancy we deserve on our roads in Barbados. That is a major concern to me.

Without further ado, Sir, I support this Resolution.
7.10 p.m.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, I share the concern of the last Senator in addition to what Senator Boyce said. For the first time in this session I would agree with any part of his speech.

I think the problem at the core of our degeneration of the roads in such a short time, not speaking as an engineer, Sir, but I think common sense would guide you, is the fact that our stone structure, the strata of Barbados, is predominantly limestone. It is a very porous kind of structure and it is natural for the flow of water in any direction and as a result you will get movement of part or the majority of the structure.

I would like to see therefore more concrete being used in our road structure and the composition of concrete is much similar in nature to the natural strata in our rock structure and therefore you would get a better binding than when you have asphalt which is virtually dissimilar. It is only part of the aggregate in the asphalt that may bind and after a heavy downpour or even the growth of grass, the moment that happens, it renders the structure susceptible to decay.

The side of the roads, I think the time has come that we could check to see what the research and development is like with the use of other materials because you would see that

you have just laid a road and then a matter of months after the main surface separates from the side. At other times you get a scraping of the top surface and then the asphalt is laid. One would think that over the years where those roads were used predominantly you could excavate to a certain depth then pack it with boulders even if we have to import some of the volcanic rock that you get in the neighbouring countries, St. Vincent and St. Lucia which would lend further support to the actual substrata of the road.

Sir, it was early this year that the connection from upper Roebuck Street to the Belle where they started work and in a month's time there were burst mains – Sir, this has no political shade when you address it. It is the taxpayers' money – and you would see shortly after surfaces begin to sink and then they come and put foreign material. It is not now coming back and using the same type of material that it was done in originally. You come and add foreign material and within a matter of days because of the heavy traffic one big cavity arises.

The side roads, Sir, I think the time has come that you can actually put down individual pavers and you lay them and remove them as the need arises to do the laying of whatever main pipes, be it gas or water. That maintenance cost, I think, would be a lot cheaper.

The other thing, Sir, is the post construction maintenance. You would see that several times the grass has actually started to grow in and no one comes to remove the grass. There is no programme on a regular basis. If you go through Pine Hill – this is a classic example – on either side of the road you have had encroachment by grass and the actual driving width without grass is no more than about three feet.

So, Sir, there is a combination of factors which I feel is responsible for the rapid degeneration of our road surface. With that short contribution, I lend my support to this Resolution.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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