
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, September 16, 1998

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, September 16, 1998 at 10.25 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Fred GOLLOP (President)

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

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

Senator the Hon. 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 Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON

Senator J. D. E. BOYCE

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

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

Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Prayers were led by Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L. SPRINGER, G.C.M.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Honourable Senate be suspended for 15 minutes.

The question 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 MARINE GARDENS, CHRIST CHURCH

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Honourable the Senate is sought for the vesting of some 3.46 acres of land, 1.402 hectares of land at Marine Gardens in Christ Church in the National Housing Corporation. This land which is presently owned by the Crown is a location which has been earmarked for the construction of common premises on behalf of the United Nations Agencies in Barbados. This land lies generally between the area of the former Marine House on the lower level and existing United Nations offices housing the United Nations Development Programme and one or two other agencies on the Dayrells Road side of it, which is to the Northern end.

It was agreed that the Government of Barbados would, in association with the United Nations, attempt to provide them with the opportunity to harmonise and

streamline their operations which are currently spread over the area of Dayrells Road. There are some premises in Jemmotts Lane and one or two other locations.

On examination of the matter it was decided that the property would be vested in the National Housing Corporation which would in turn dispose of it by way of sale to the National Insurance Department which will in fact be the entity which will construct the common premises to be rented as a commercial endeavour in such a manner as would enable it to obtain an adequate rate of return after all costs, maintenance and so on included are factored in. So it is a commercial investment on their part but it is also part of the effort on the part of the Government of Barbados to ensure that such facilities and such facilitation generally are provided to our international organisations, for example, the United Nations as would encourage them to use Barbados particularly as the base for their regional operations. This activity was undertaken after much discussion and common planning with the United Nations.

Basically, Mr. President, the Crown proposes by way of the approval of the Honourable the Senate, to vest this land in the National Housing Corporation for its subsequent disposal to the National Insurance Department. Proceeds of that sale would be used by the National Housing Corporation in support of its general housing programme in Barbados.

So, Mr. President, in accordance with section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225, I ask the Senate's approval for the vesting of this 1.402 hectares of land at Marine Gardens in Christ Church in the National Housing Corporation. I beg to move, Sir, 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 LAND AT
TRENTS, ORANGE HILL, GREENWICH
AND LANCASTER, ST. JAMES
FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Senate's approval is sought for this acquisition of land some 64 parcels of land in the Trents/Orange Hill, Greenwich and Lancaster, St. James area which is required for a major road improvement project. In this connection the relevant provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 have been invoked.

The project, Mr. President, with respect to road improvement is one of the several projects which are necessary with respect to removing a number of dangerous bends and widening a number of key roads particularly in

that area of the island which once upon a time were minor tributaries into the main arteries but they themselves are now major parts of the road network. I can think, Sir, of this particular road going in both directions, that is a portion going from Highway 2A down to the coast as well, Sir, as the portion continuing on from Highway 2A going inland towards St. Andrew.

Mr. President, this is all part of the continuing work by the Ministry of Public Works to ensure that travelling on the roads of Barbados is not only easier but also much more safe. I am sure you would be familiar, Mr. President, with the work that is on-going with respect to the widening of roads between the St. James Secondary School and Highway 2A and there are one or two other connecting roads between Highway 2A and Highway 1 which will be widened over the process of time in order to ensure that the maximum benefit out of the construction of the Highway 2A can be derived. So that for persons going to various locations along Highway 1, rather than in previous years of proceeding along Eagle Hall, Black Rock, Paynes Bay and having a major backlog of traffic with Highway 2A on stream, one would be able to travel along Highway 2A and make strategic connections to Highway 1 at Holders Hill, at Holetown, at Speightstown and at various points along the way and thereby ensure that the investment which was made in Highway 2A would really be as meaningful as it should be. So this, Mr. President, is really part of that plan.

Additionally, I should of course give examples of road works on the coastal side of Highway 2A if one is going towards St. Lucy but additionally in order to speed access into the inner parts of the island, road works have also commenced and others are planned to ensure that the flow of traffic off the highway continues as well.

So, Mr. President, these 64 parcels of land are largely in the nature of the frontage of a number of properties which abut and abound the existing road. In other areas a bit larger portion is required where some straightening of the road is also being done.

Mr. President, I urge the Senate's support of this Resolution for the acquisition of these parcels of land for road improvement.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I listened very carefully to the presentation of the Honourable Senate Leader and especially at this time in Barbados any debate on road improvements, whether it be on Highway 2A or any of the tributaries as he put it, Sir, is extremely important. I think, Sir, one of the things that we have said on this Side

about the works programme of Government was that there is obviously an over concentration in some areas and we saw the result of that only recently when at a time of heavy rains a lot of the openings, especially in the South coast, caused good road to be exposed and of course destroyed. I think that this should have sent a signal to Government in respect to its road improvement programme that there should certainly be more planning accompanying this road improvement programme.

10.50 a.m.

This Highway 2A and the widening of the adjoining roads is one which will continue to be an area of great discussion. The Barbados Labour Party when it was returned to Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition a couple of years ago would have found every reason to oppose even the method of the construction of Highway 2A itself and ever since then there have been numerous comments on that Side about the way in which that road has been built.

I think, Sir, however it is a testimony to the engineering abilities of the smallest Barbadian businesses in providing the opportunity for the appropriate challenge. I think we have to recognise that challenges in businesses and the development of competition is critical and crucial if we are going to have an even out of the benefits and share of the economic development in this country.

Sir, the actual areas which have been named are all very familiar to me having been a frequent user of that road when it was a very, very small road, when it was subsequently improved and even now it is referred to as a Highway and has become an extremely busy section of the Barbados road network. It joins what is now known as the ABC Highway and it certainly helps to develop that very requirement. At a time when in Barbados we are seeing a larger and larger amount of vehicles on the road this kind of improvement is absolutely essential. And, in a lot of ways the Government might even be too late in some of its road improvement programmes and it needs certainly to pay more attention to this.

Sir, as an example, we have heard only too recently of the postponement of what was going to be termed the circular road around Bridgetown and those of you travelling into Bridgetown know of the difficulties that you encounter, even now. That is not part of this Resolution but it is all to do with the question of road improvement and it is a recognition nationally that we need to do a lot in terms of our road improvements. Especially too when we think about the development that has been going on on the West Coast of the Island, although there would be different arguments about the development in terms of its emphasis and who participate, the point is that the bulk of this development if we are going to service these various developments, and indeed if we are going to service Barbadian communities

better we have to go about these improvements. And, from time to time they will be necessary.

I would like to repeat that I think that the road management in Barbados has reached a new low in terms of the way the complete almost non-operation of our street lights, the complete lack of attention to pedestrian crosses and I think that it is something which, again the Ministry of Public Works must pay urgent attention to. Someone is going to be injured or hurt badly, God forbid, but if we do not pay serious attention to these small things, we can bring about disasters or tragedies which we should try and avoid. I want to call again on the appropriate Minister to pay some more attention to the way in which the traffic management of this country is going.

If we look at the question of our roundabouts and no doubt some of these improvements might include the placing of roundabouts. What is this Government's approach to the road traffic management within our roundabouts?

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: It is not a technical question, Sir. It is a policy question and I think that the Honourable Senators on that Side need to understand that international traffic regulations are exactly that, they are international. Wherever you go in this world you are expected to follow a certain order. If you go into countries where you drive on the left, like Barbados you behave in a certain way. If you go to countries like the United States where you drive on the right or in Europe, Sir, you behave in another way.

But you cannot have a situation as we have in Barbados now, Sir, where one rule operates for one roundabout, you travel two miles down the road and it is another operation altogether. I condemn that as traffic madness...

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: ...and if we are not very careful it is going to bring about a terrible accident or an increase of accidents on our roads.

I do not want to speak about Collymore Rock specifically, but we have to remember that that has now taken on a new dimension altogether. If the other arrangements were varying, the one at Collymore Rock is even more different, if that makes the point better and I certainly have encountered 'near misses', at that new Collymore Rock arrangement.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I have said enough and it seems that the other Senators on the Government's Side do not want to listen to a straightforward position.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order please.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: We are developing as a tourist destination therefore our need for attention to standardisation cannot be underscored by this administration and the Democratic Labour Party is not going to stand as Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in this Chamber or nowhere else and allow that kind of activity to continue unchallenged.

The Government, Sir, as it forges its policies in terms of economic development attracted larger and larger tourist interests and hotel interests. And as it forges its policies in terms of attracting international business cannot have that as its standard or its ambition on the one hand and then have arbitrary road rules and traffic management arrangements that do not apply to any kind of standard whatsoever.

I think, Sir, that it is time the Barbados Labour Party administration understands its mandate in respect to providing not only road improvements by way of widening, by way of provision of curbs, not only the much needed, and I did not even deal with that matter yet, but the much needed improvement by the way of drainage, and I hope that in dealing with this improvement, adequate attention is paid to drainage. Again, we only see it in times of disaster or near disaster. But we had it only last week a situation where we had a downpour of rain and look at the condition of our roads. In 'two twos', as they say in Barbados the place was flood away.

In Trents, Sir, throughout Barbados and all over the West Coast which actually gets a lot of the flooding that occurs on Highway 1 down in Holetown is as a result of water coming down from Trents. So we need to look at that. As a matter of fact, Sir, we had a situation in Goodland in Christ Church and it is just to show how these things occur...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let us go back to Trents, Orange Hill, Greenwich and Lancaster and I will accept the West Coast.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, if we are going to go about these improvements therefore, we must be mindful as we forge our direction in terms of economic development and attracting international business, we must be mindful

that we have to pay serious attention to the standardisation of the road traffic management. And, there is a new style in the Barbados Labour Party where they talk about their Ministers do not micromanage anything. That is an excuse for not getting involved in policy change. I heard it only last week that a Minister was saying he does not micromanage, but two days later, the Right Honourable Prime Minister micromanaged it for him – or macromanaged.

I am suggesting that the Barbados Labour Party Ministers recognise that in formulating policy they have to get out there on the ground, like we do on this Side, Sir, and talk to the people who interact and who work in this country to provide the services so that they can better understand and they can better regulate the policies that are required. This is precisely the need in Public Works, precisely the requirements in road improvements, some major attention to what is effective and what is best for the area involved.

Therefore, Sir, although this might appear on the surface to be a straightforward acquisition in terms of the quantum and the intention, sometimes when you start to delve into these things you recognise that history will teach us so much. Past habits will direct us as to what direction and what way we should go and certainly in the case of road improvements, there are numerous examples of where the Ministry needs to pay more attention to recognise that you are not only providing a wide road or a 16 ft. or 18 ft. wide road with a 4 ft. reserve or curve or whatever, but that you are providing something which can take care of not only heavy rain, but indeed that the surface and the kinds of materials used are suitable to even deal sometimes with the heat. Because in Barbados we can move from extremes of rain and heavy water to situations of very, very high road surface temperatures. We have not heard from the Senator responsible, but I want to certainly wait to hear what is going to happen in terms of the availability of bitumen now that the Mobil Refinery has been closed. What are the arrangements for the regular availability of bitumen indeed that these kinds of road improvements can be completed, because there are a number of road services in Barbados which are awaiting the arrival of this bitumen.

I want to suggest that there has obviously been a miscalculation in respect to the requirements of bitumen and the Minister responsible is duty bound to explain to Barbados what his plans are in respect to the regular supply of bitumen. Who will handle this supply of bitumen? What business opportunities will open for whom? How the cost of this bitumen – the new bitumen to be used on our road surfaces, that will be used eventually at Trents and all of these other road improvements in Barbados, what it is going to cost, how it is going to be supplied, who we are going to buy it from and how does it compare with the

situation that applied before? Because, remember, Sir, even in moving towards the closure of Mobil the Barbados Labour Party has been unrelenting in attempting to blame the Democratic Labour Party for all aspects of the Mobil arrangement, Sir.

It is to my mind an ungracious approach to Government because it is all about continuity, it is all about what situations apply when. And sometimes when you are in a particular position, you have to make decisions based on them. And there are certain conditions which applied at the original time of the agreement and to an extent they still apply. And the question will be asked too, how much of a benefit are we getting and how much more benefit we should be getting in respect to bitumen prices and indeed oil prices with these new arrangements?

Sir, I look forward to the intervention of Senator Barker and to hear about these things because we cannot get anything out of him in public. We want to hear about how much we can expect to pay for bitumen and the related material. What quality there will be in terms of reaching the standards that we are accustomed to and how they will be able to add and to ensure adequate completion of these kinds of road improvements.

If we recognise road improvement as being a priority in Barbados, if we recognise that road improvement should include the careful and planned attention to traffic management then we should move towards a regime of standardisation as much as possible. We recognise that there has been in the recent past attention drawn to the shortage of bitumen in Barbados to carry out these road improvements and that it is time that the Government of today tells Barbadians how we will be getting our bitumen in the future. What is it going to cost us and how in terms of quality, is it going to compare with what we are accustomed to and what benefits are there in it for Barbados and Barbadians?

I thank you, Sir.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, this is a Resolution for the acquisition of certain parcels of land in the North of the country, but it seems that the Honourable Senator has moved it from pure acquisition into several areas and will now leave the Chamber because he will not wait for the replies. He never does.

Mr. President, I would like to say that with the development and improvement of these ancillary roads off the 2A Highway and in several other roads in the country, I would wish that the Ministry of Transport and Works lay down certain standards for themselves and for the contractors who are providing these works.

Now they have been doing work on the junction of Orange Hill and Greenwich. And several persons... my car has suffered damage to the rims by dropping into holes which were left unfinished by whomever was fixing the roads. Over a week ago there was a photograph in the newspapers of three persons who had damaged the rims of their cars in holes which were left opened or without adequate lighting in the night. I hope that the Ministry would make certain that any unfinished work is properly lighted along our highways.

The next point is that at these road junctions particularly the road junctions stretching out in the country districts, I would beg to suggest that we have street lamps on every road junction even on the ABC Highway when you come to certain junctions, particularly the one going into Wotton, you just cannot see the junction. And, it is even worse when it rains and therefore there should be a street light placed on every junction so as to assist motorists in negotiating those junctions, as I said, especially when it rains.

Now, another point is the edges of the roads. I have noticed Barber Green being placed on the road and the edges are left rather raw and unfinished. This is also causing damage to the tyres of motorists and while I know we can claim against MTW it takes a very long time before you even get a reply from there. I will deal with that in another matter when the appropriate business comes before the Chamber. 11.10 a.m.

Sir, I put all of these down to standards which are set out for the reconstruction of our roads and the development of our highways and I would wish that something be done, that attention be paid to what I have mentioned.

I also want to look at the same Highway 2A and I have spoken about this before. If one drives along Highway 2A from the ABC junction to the Mile and a Quarter junction, there are the strangest road markings I have ever seen on any road because there is a solid line from the ABC highway until you get to Mile and a Quarter. Now there is something going on in this country today which I am extremely worried about.

The Ministry of Transport and Works has a team of road markers who go about on weekends and mark the roads unknown to the police and the police only discover the new marking on a Monday morning when they start back their duties. The ones paying the penalty are the motorists in this country. There must be coordination between the Ministry of Transport and Works and the police.

How can you tell me that you can drive from the junction of the ABC Highway by Simpsons Roundabout to

Mile and a Quarter without overtaking anybody? That is what a solid line means, that you must not overtake. At the same time, you allow learner drivers to be on that same road who will drive at five miles an hour, a tractor will go along the road at 10 miles an hour and then a bus will stop on the corner at the side of the road and you cannot pass and a solid line is down the centre. What is to happen then?

You see, we have some strange people in this country. One of our big problems is that we bring a lot of consultants from abroad in this country who do not understand Barbados and most of them masquerade as experts and they do not know half as much as people in Barbados. It is time that the Caribbean countries use their own nationals who have grown up in their countries, who know the whims and fancies of the country and know everything about the country, and let them run according to the system we know. Highway 2A has been marked in a most inappropriate manner and it is time that somebody looked at it...

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I have been trying to get a copy of the Road Traffic Regulations but they never seem to have a copy in Parliament. If anybody reads the law carefully they would understand what difficulties we are in. I have said openly that the first day there is an accident around the roundabouts and somebody comes to me I am going to join the Government as third party in the action. You cannot have conflicting regulations. You cannot have conflicting laws. Somebody has to tell somebody so. Somebody has to bring it to the light of – I nearly said sensible persons – but that would be inappropriate so I will not say that.

Mr. President, I talk about the consultants we have and most of our loans are obtained from international agencies and those agencies set up certain standards. And that is why I kept calling on local consultants and I will tell you something. When the Barbados Labour Party Government was developing Heywoods Hotel, the international agency was insisting that the road which was called the Salt Pond in that area must be dealt with in a certain manner. The then Chief Technical Director, Harold Griffith, insisted that what they were asking for was not appropriate to Barbados and the circumstances of the Salt Pond. We fought this to the bitter end until we succeeded.

Now we have consultants from all of these agencies who come to Barbados and they lay down terms and conditions suitable to the countries from whence they come but totally inappropriate for Barbados. Now have a look at what is happening to our roads in Barbados and unfortunately some of our local technicians who are attached to them swallow everything they say and they never

stand on their own two feet and put forward their own knowledge and independence.

We are constructing roads where we are supposed to be making roads better, but you check and see there are two sidewalks on each side of these roads and the two sidewalks together take up the same width as the road and these double sidewalks are placed in areas where the pedestrian traffic is nil. If you take Redmans Village junction or take from the same ABC Highway through Redmans Village junction you have a highway on both sides of the road and I can bet anybody in here you will not find three people walking on one side of the road at any one time but you have two sidewalks occupying space that you could have given to traffic and therefore avoid the collisions that occur because the main road is too narrow.

They are doing the road now from the Norman Niles Roundabout going towards the Bulkeley area and they are putting two sidewalks on the side of the road and you scarcely have people walking down there. Most of our people travel in cars or buses or even bicycles. So the sidewalks will become useless appendages to the main road and will be there only because international organisations say you must have sidewalks at the side of a road. That is because they do not understand Barbados and what is happening in Barbados.

It is time we say to them we know our country, we know what is happening from day-to-day and therefore we will do what we consider appropriate at the given time. That is what I want us to do. Most of these sidewalks are in areas where there are no houses and therefore there are no people to come out of a house to walk on a sidewalk. So where are they going to come from? If you are building for the future by the next 50 years how many accidents would have occurred in these areas or how many vehicles would have been deprived of the usage of these roads while you are building for the future, 100 years down the road?

The Honourable Senator Boyce said Government is too late in its road improvement programme. I do not know what is too late. This Government has been in power for about four years and the amount of work that has been carried out in those four years surpasses by one million percent the work that has been carried out by the Democratic Labour Party over the last nine years. So I ask what is too late? If four years is too late what then is nine years in office? The Senator should remember these things but the Senator has a method of saying he does not consider what happened before he came so he does not accept any of the performances of the Democratic Labour Party at the time when he was not in the Senate. He is only concerned as of now. As you say, he might be very much embarrassed by it.

11.20 a.m.

Now he goes further, Mr. President, and he wants to know what are the benefits and all the other things he talked about with the Mobil Refinery. He wants to know. The Minister must tell the public something. He wants to know in particular whether the quality of the bitumen will be the same as we have been accustomed to.

Now, I think the Honourable Senator should never have used those words because as I have said, he always disclaims any attachment to the work done by the Democratic Labour Party before he was in this Senate. Mr. President, let me tell the Honourable Senator something. I was Minister of Transport and Works from 1978-1981 and road building and repairs fall under that Ministry and I had a habit of reading every file that came before me. There was one time I was reading a file and I saw a note in the file, one of the functionaries wrote, "be careful what you write. This Minister reads everything in the file from top to bottom". It is a good thing I did that because I found a note in the file from the previous Minister, Mr. F. G. Smith, Sir Frederick Smith, which said that Mobil had changed the quality of bitumen that we were using on the roads and you now run for shelter every time the rain sets up. It was changed to a water based formula. If you miss and put it down and the rain fell it would wash down the side of the road. Go out there and look at it and see. That is the quality you are asking for?

Sir, I drew this to the attention of the then Prime Minister, the late J. M. G. M. (Tom) Adams, the Government of Barbados held consultation with the Government of Trinidad and the late Dr. Eric Williams promised us he would supply us with pitch from the pitch lake for our roads because he was very much opposed to Mobil. I called a meeting of my technical officers and Mobil Refinery. The Manager sat down and listened to me for about three quarters of an hour and then turned around and said, you can check the file, the same file that has in how Sleepy said it runs for shelter when the rain set up.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, I am a little bit concerned about references to persons in official capacities and as you well know quite often the presiding officer should be advised in advance of any intention to use such names.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I accept your ruling, Sir, but I will not call any further names, Sir. But then we were told by Mobil that we could talk whatever we felt like we could not import one pound of pitch from Trinidad because they had an exclusive licence which run up to the year 1991 and if we brought any into Barbados they would have taken us to court.

Now if the Senator wants us to get the same quality of what they were giving us I would say this Government would be totally out of its senses to shut down Mobil to produce the same sort of thing because our roads have deteriorated considerably from the time the regular bitumen was changed to a water based solution. It was not only the bitumen that was changed, they changed the fuel formula as well and you can ask any of the people who ran boilers in Barbados what happened to them. So the Senator does not understand what he is talking about. He has an interest to defend so therefore he would say that. So he has got to understand what is happening.

Mr. President, what we have to say is, and I keep saying, there will always be the necessity of Government to acquire land in Barbados, whether it is for road improvement, whether it is for housing, but Government will have to do that. A country does not stand still, we are not in a static society. We must keep improving our situation. The population will demand improvement. One of the things we have in Barbados is a good communications system including the television, the radio and the telephone and as long as those are functional, as long as people can see what other countries look like they will have aspirations and any Government which thinks about the people must respond to the demand of the populace. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rickinson, before you begin I would just like to make a brief observation in reference to Senator Boyce. I have noticed Senator that at the conclusion of your presentations in this Chamber you quite often leave before the next Senator has spoken. Now in some Parliaments this is regarded as a discourtesy. Now I am sure that may not have been your intention. In fact you returned before Senator Bolden concluded his speech. I thought I might mention for the benefit of Honourable Members in this Senate what precedent suggests in a matter of this kind. I will quote a brief passage from the 8th Edition of Odger's Australian Senate Practice as follows: "It is considered discourteous for a Senator to leave the Chamber immediately after finishing a speech in that the next speaker may comment on the Senator's speech as part of the exchange of debate and it is proper for Senators to hear each other's views."

I thought I would bring that to the attention of the Senate for future reference.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I would like, Sir, with your permission to respond. I left this Chamber just now and went and I had a word with the Chaplain because I needed to leave, Sir. I only leave this Chamber, Sir, if I need to leave. I take very well your comment but there is certainly

no intention on this Senator's part to be discourteous to anybody. As you pointed out, Sir, I was back in here even before the Senator had finished. At a private time, Sir, I can indicate to you exactly why I left. Sir, it is absolutely no intention to demonstrate any discourtesy to any contribution of the Honourable Senator, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I accept your point.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I really, Sir, am amazed, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It has happened before and that is why I was minded to make the statement. The matter is at an end. Please take your seat. Senator Rickinson.

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

Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution to approve the acquisition of land at Trents, Orange Hill, Greenwich, Lancaster, St. James for road improvement and especially since the Leader of Government Business mentioned that there were some dangerous road bends that needed correcting to make the road much more safe.

Mr. President, I only hope that it could be extended, in the near future, to Batts Rock where there is one of the most dangerous road bends in Barbados that cause quite a lot of accidents.

Mr. President, in addition to acquiring the land I would like the Ministry of Public Works to ensure that when they acquire the frontage of homes and therefore change the line marks to people's properties to make sure that they put back some form of mark or indication where the line mark should be so that people would know, especially if they are not in the country when the road is improved and the line marks are moved so that people will know exactly where to locate these line marks. I am speaking from personal experience. This is very important and I am very glad that they are coming to the House to acquire the land without just taking up the land and improving the road like that.
11.30 a.m.

Mr. President, the improvement, hopefully, will help to reduce road accidents, but in addition to that I would like to see some form of action taken with regard to the moving of very heavy equipment. In some countries this is done at night so that people will be able to use the road freely during the day, so that the traffic will not be competing with some of the heavy equipment that has to be imported into the island because of improving commercial activity, improved building, *et cetera et cetera*. But it would be good if we could bring some sort of resolution in order to control the

movement of that type of equipment to certain hours, either late in the evening or as I said, at night.

After the roads have been improved, I would also like to make sure that people are not allowed to place bill boards to ruin the scenic beauty of our country. They seem to be appearing *ad lib* virtually everywhere and are very distracting when one is driving and it is not good. Barbados is a unique place in that it has not been spoiled by all of these huge bill boards that advertise different commodities and products of different kinds. And I sincerely hope we will be able to keep it that way even though I know that one could get permission from the Town and Country Planning to erect such bill boards, but they are very unsightly.

In connection with the two lanes in some areas where it is not necessary, Mr. President, I would like to see bicycle lanes on one side of the road, especially where we are doing road improvements, because we are becoming a health conscious society. Many people are walking, people are going to buy more bicycles and riding is going to become more popular. It is very difficult for the bicycles to negotiate with the other traffic. In some countries when they do road improvements, they have a special lane for bicycles where the people with bicycles could ride freely. Indeed we could be thinking in terms of making one of these side-walks a bicycle lane.

In addition to improving the roads, last but not least is the perennial question of seat belts. I think that we need to try hard and at least bring some legislation for the compulsory wearing of seat belts since it has been demonstrated that they do reduce the severity of damage of quite a lot of accidents. Because as we all know these people end up in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and put a strain on the nurses. So it will reduce that as well. So, it is a well worthy cause to try to see if we can introduce seat belts.

With no more ado, I support this Resolution and congratulate the Government on trying to improve the roads but as we know we cannot enjoy economic prosperity unless we have very good roads upon which to use.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I hope that I did not detect in Senator Bolden's speech an indication that we could do away with the sidewalks.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order. With all due respects, I never said that. I said our problem is that we have sidewalks on two sides of the road, especially in areas where there is no pedestrian traffic. And I said that if we would use local consultants who know Barbados and know what happens, we will not follow the international consultants, who because they come from a

country that has two sidewalks, will want to have two sidewalks on the sides of the road. And, that the land taken up for sidewalks could be better used for roads to avoid the accidents we have.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I said, 'I hope' that I did not understand the Honourable Senator as saying this. I did not accuse him, Sir.

But, I want to say that for me, sidewalks are not only for pedestrians. I, from time to time have to pull out of traffic to answer my car phone or make a call somewhere and many people have break downs on the highway, they need to be able to pull over. So, I am saying that you cannot associate it with pedestrians. There are all kinds of reasons for sidewalks.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. President. I would not think the goodly Priest, would really be talking about sidewalks. There is something called verges and lay-bys. Sidewalks are always at least six inches higher than the road, so I would like to know how he is going to pull up there.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, no point of order, please.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Thank you, Sir. I do not disagree with a number of the points that have been made for the improvement of highways, particularly the Highway 2A. The problem seems to me is that Governments have not been in the habit of acquiring enough land when they are building roads. Because, I could never understand why you would go out into the wide-open country and build a fast highway and not have adequate space to provide, for example, for a passing lane.

You must at some points and that is the problem with the Highway 2A going between Warrens and Mile and a Quarter. There is no area wide enough for persons to pass and to pass quickly. Again, a flaw in the construction of that road is that the descents in the road were not filled up, so that you cannot see traffic coming ahead. They appear, Sir, to be coming out of the earth, suddenly appearing because of the descents in that Highway. I have been on that Highway quite a lot in recent times and quite a lot of accidents have been occurring because persons who cannot see still persist in, as it were, coming out of the earth and overtaking people. And I think that a provision can still be made now to acquire the adequate amount of land to correct – we are talking about road improvements, the errors that exist there.

And, Sir, where the roundabouts are concerned, I am happy that there are no roundabouts at all, as far as I can

recall, on Highway 2A. Because we have this perennial problem of how they function at the moment which I think was quite well alluded to by Senator Boyce in what he had to say about roundabouts. But what I note, Sir, as a problem and I hope that this will be corrected in future construction of roundabouts, if there is any intention of doing that in these new areas, to make sure that when one comes out of a two-lane roundabout that you are able to merge into two lanes before merging into one.

You cannot have a situation where you are driving around a roundabout in two lanes, suddenly you are merging into one lane and two vehicles are vieing for that space. Now, to my mind, Sir, the acquisition of more space can deal with that. Even at this point the existing roundabouts can be corrected in this way. I just thought that I would mention these because these are some things that affect all of us in here as we drive. And, there were some serious accidents on both of the highways, the ABC Highway and Highway 2A that could have been avoided if there was at the point an additional lane so that the person who was overtaking could have manoeuvred out of danger. Serious accidents have taken place and I warn that the Government should made sure that in the future all these acquisitions for road improvements provide enough space for what is necessary.

Thank you, Sir.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF LAND AT OISTINS, CHRIST CHURCH, MARTINDALES ROAD AND HAGGATT HALL, ST. MICHAEL, ST. CHRISTOPHER AND BOURNE'S LAND, CHRIST CHURCH AND WINDSOR TENANTRY, ST. GEORGE

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Resolution before the Honourable Senate seeks the approval of the vesting of a number of parcels of land in the National Housing Corporation. These lands in the locations as mentioned in the Schedule provide lots on which houses are located.

The lots are rented by some 98 tenants. These are small lots located in Barnett Land, Oistins, Haggatt Hall, Martindales Road, St. Christopher, Bourne's Land and Windsor Tenantry. Many of these parcels of land have been rented by the tenants for several years. In most cases they were portions of larger pieces that were acquired for road

expansion and in some cases, for relocation of tenants, for example, in the case of the expansion of the playing field at St. Christopher School where a number of residents were moved and they are living elsewhere in Bourne's Land.

It is now really proposed, Mr. President, to provide for the opportunity to accede to the requests of a number of these tenants to purchase the lots on which they currently reside. In some cases there are one or two additional vacant lots that are available. But by and large the proposal is for the vesting of this land in the National Housing Corporation so that they will be able to sell to the 98 tenants who currently pay rent for these lands. The National Housing Corporation will in turn be able to use the proceeds from the sale of those lots to put into their general housing programme.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I want to speak on this Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of parcels of land described in the Schedule attached. The Honourable Leader of the Senate said, in Oistins, Christ Church, Martindales Road and Haggatt Hall in St. Michael, St. Christopher and Bourne's Land in Christ Church and Windsor Tenantry in the parish of St. George.

Sir, I want to use the opportunity too, to speak to the whole question of the policy of the Government *vis-a-vis* housing. And I want to ask in particular on this occasion and ask of the Government's Side who continually, to my mind, to put their feet in their mouths in respect to this whole question of housing policy. Because on the one hand they would like the public of Barbados to believe that the Democratic Labour Party built no houses and provided no areas for ordinary people to live during their period 1986 to 1994. On the other hand they said they left a land bank in 1986, which when they came back in 1994 was gone.

So if they left a land bank in the National Housing Corporation in 1986, came back in 1994 and the land bank was gone and they had to build it back up again as their argument for the acquisition, it stands to reason, Sir, that that land bank would have been used by the Democratic Labour Party administration for precisely the provision of housing for small income owners in Barbados. And, the facts are there.

The White Paper on Housing says that the Democratic Labour Party's record in terms of housing is unsurpassed of the achievement of some 70 to 80 percent of the housing requirements in Barbados. And, the facts are, notwithstanding the Resolution before us, the pending opening of the housing units at Pondsides which are now optimistically

timed for December which is the end of the year. But we know how these things go. There is still a tree growing in the famous building. The Honourable Senate Leader likes to refer to, on Boarded Hall. There is still that tree growing and that is about a year and a half ago they promised to move it.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Senate. There is no longer any tree growing in any part of the Boarded Hall Police Station so the Honourable Member must check his facts before he attempts to speak to the Honourable Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce the tree at Boarded Hall is totally irrelevant to what we are discussing. Please proceed.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: The point is that the Barbados Labour Party administration has tried to defend its policy on housing by saying that it is acquiring a land bank.

Sir, the point must be made that while this land bank is being provided we need at the same time to allow as we constantly say in here, the withdrawals. And, I must note with interest that having watched and listened to the Budgetary Proposals and Financial Statement about two weeks ago that many of the Democratic Labour Party's policies – which is now in Opposition has taken on housing, have been implemented by the Barbados Labour Party administration.

Sir, it means that there is a point now of takeoff in respect to the housing policy that this Government will pursue, because they are following the lead of the Democratic Labour Party who have demonstrated very clearly how we can approach the problem of providing low income housing. In actual fact, the records will show that. We have heard commentators on the Barbados Labour Party side indicate how the Housing Credit Fund needed to be increased to meet the new cost of housing. And, my colleague, Senator Thompson has been absolutely clear in demonstrating, using the same White Paper on Housing, the document which they claim to be theirs, which demonstrates that the existing policy was inadequate. And we made that point from this Side and we are happy to note that at least on this occasion they may be listening.

11.50 a.m.

I am particularly interested, of course, in the fact that this is a move towards ownership with respect to the small holders of these lands, persons who have been renting, and I think the present administration is also tardy in the moves that are being made in respect to ownership of the terrace units and I think the excuse that is being given to me about

there being cultural problems to overcome is not sufficient. Precisely because we understand that there are these cultural problems let us demonstrate that we are tackling them.

I am not satisfied that there is any concerted effort on the part of the Barbados Labour Party administration to make a move towards the divesting of the terrace units and I continue to be appalled at the state in which they allow these units to deteriorate in areas like Sayes Court, like Silver Hill, all areas very close to some of these areas in Oistins and St. Christopher, in Bourne's Land. The Bourne's Land acquisition is just next door to Sayes Court. We know that they can do better because we saw demonstrated in 1996 in the space of a four-week election campaign an entire housing stock of about 300 units between the Farm and Ferniehurst and Rosemont was repainted by this administration in a quest for votes. Only for that reason. But they have not found the opportunity to pay any attention to the residents of the Sayes Court units which are in a dilapidated state and I think they should be ashamed of that record.

So to get up here and present the Resolution for the vesting of the land at Bourne's Land in the National Housing Corporation so that they can divest it themselves is all well and good, but it is only one side of the story. Less than 100 yards away in Sayes Court the testimony to this administration is an absolute disgrace. I think the Minister and the National Housing Corporation must be urged to pay some urgent attention to the question of the condition of the units in Sayes Court and bringing them under proper repair. Not to mention, of course, Sir, the perennial problem with the asbestos roofs which need to be attended to.

So the underlying policy of selling the lots to the tenants of these areas is not one that is opposed by the Democratic Labour Party. It is a policy which we support totally and we want to encourage it. It allows a degree of independence and it allows the home owners instead of paying rent – and we had a lot to say in the Budget debate about our treatment of tenants generally and our treatment of rents and rent arrears and that matter will be discussed and debated as we continue. So the Barbados Labour Party can sit back and ponder whether their housing programme, coming at this time, is not as we have stated very clearly, has been inadequate for the four years that they have been the government in a period of time when this country has enjoyed some of its best years in terms of economic growth. That is the indictment of the Barbados Labour Party. They know full well that their performance in respect of the provisions of housing for ordinary Barbadians has been inadequate against the nature of other economic developments in Barbados. That has been our point and if they have begun to listen now I am glad for the Barbadians.

It is only because of our pressuring but I say they should have done a lot more. We will be able to take that

matter to the appropriate council when the time is ripe. So the question of allowing tenants to buy the land is one which we have certainly encouraged during our term. It gives the homeowner the collateral to go into the bank system and borrow against their properties. They can then look at using their properties for further investment either by way of home improvement or by way of other economic activity. So it is a policy which the Democratic Labour Party supports, has encouraged during its term when it has been the Government of this country and will continue to push when next called upon to administer the affairs of this country.

I want to add that it is time that that land bank which the Barbados Labour Party Government is boasting about be divested among the Barbadians and that we see demonstrated real development for the ordinary householders in terms of more terrace units, in terms of provision instead of just talking about the acquisition and the vesting. Let us see instances of the actual purchase by ordinary Barbadians and we would never stand in the way of that kind of policy. It is a policy which we support and which we have developed in many ways. We have no difficulty with that.

Therefore in dealing with this Resolution I want to congratulate the residents of Oistins and Bourne's Land in particular, not because I do not want to congratulate the others because they have a special place for me personally. I want to hope that they can grasp this opportunity and indeed move into this new regime of enfranchisement with the figure which would allow us to see a continued development of the entire Barbadian development, an equitable opportunity for all of Barbados to develop. That, Sir, is my contribution and I beg to leave while I take a short break and return.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, it is very strange that the Honourable Senator will seek leave at this time. I do recall, Sir, a statement which says if you repeat something numerous times though it is wrong the public soon gets to believe it and tells you it is right. I think that is the Senator's method of dealing with politics.

Mr. President, what the Government is doing is a continuation of the policy of the Barbados Labour Party of enfranchising the lower echelons of society and especially allowing these people to acquire their own homes and be no longer tenants. That is what the Government is doing. Senator Boyce has either not read the history of his political party or the history of this country and continues to make these outlandish statements which are in conflict with what each party has done up to this day.

You must remember, Sir, that there are those of us who have been around for a long time and know the history

of Barbados and the political parties. When we brought in the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, his then leader, Mr. Errol Barrow, said openly they were not going to support it in the House of Assembly. The Barbados Labour Party had to bring back every member it had in Parliament in order to pass by a two-third majority because he rode through St. George with Colonel Drax and said he was going to put the Government in court for acquiring the white man's land.

Sir, now Senator Boyce is saying he is glad to see this because it gives the homeowner collateral. He can use his property for further investment. Their policy was that the people should not buy the land because they would now have to pay taxes when they could pay rent all the time. Our answer was that they would be house owners and could use their property as collateral.

What the Barbados Labour Party did was to put a large sum of money in the Barbados National Bank to assist those persons who did not have money to purchase the land. We wanted to enfranchise these people but he and his leader now come up with a new philosophy that if they ever get back to power in Barbados they will write-off all the back rent of the people living in Government estates.

12.00 noon

Now, they have not thought it out. That is why I am saying if you repeat something many, many times people will believe it to be true. But I will ask them to recall that during the 1970s they were the persons who sued the people in Government housing, took them to court, got judgement and got two bailiffs everyday going and pulling the people's furniture out of their houses and carrying down in the court yard and selling them out. They have got to remember that.

Another point, Sir, they have got to remember that the current occupancy of Government houses in these estates create a fundamental problem as to who live in the houses and whether or not they deserve writing off the arrears in rent. I can say I know several persons living in Government houses that have big massive bungalows out there rented out and they refuse to move out of the Government houses they are in. You cannot get them out. You have to ask yourselves, are you going to write-off rents for everybody when the poor single parent with her two or three children, who cannot really afford to pay the rent, gets the same benefit as the man who has his business and houses rented out, out there under the same condition. How can you be fair? He has used his position of not paying rent to accumulate wealth and you are going to treat him the same way as you treat the deserving tenant. So they have to spell out their policies well because I think this is what they would call a vote catching exercise but the people in the housing areas are already saying that they do not know what they are talking about. One lady told me, "I would be very annoyed to think that he is there living and I know he has two houses down the road

rented out and he gets the same benefits that I am getting." People in the housing areas are already saying these things so it is not as vote catching as they may think it is.

Now, Sir, let us talk to the question of housing. They built a set of terrace houses in Church Village and had them shut up for years because the rents that were fixed for those houses, nobody dared touch them. I had to use some underhand tactics to get the first person into one of those units in Church Village and it was a police officer, a young woman police officer who was put out of a house in Wotton and had nowhere to live and I had to go around in circles. She was the first person to occupy one of those at exorbitant rent. So they cannot talk about taking care of the needy in this country.

Sir, I want to raise a very difficult point here, this question of asbestos roofs. Now we tend to follow the Americans in all their ups and downs and their financial manoeuvres without investigating the facts. I subscribe to a magazine called "Old House Journal". Now I was refurbishing a house and the architects in Barbados all tell me I have to take off the whole roof because it is asbestos and one night I came across an article which says it is a fallacy that the only evidence of people who suffer from the disease pneumoconiosis are those persons who worked in asbestos mines and who work on it daily where you find dust particles and that it was less dangerous to leave an asbestos roof or slates on than to remove it. They said, and this is an American magazine too. It said the people have gone crazy over asbestos and the medical association in the United States are now saying that it is not worth the while to remove them, they do not cause the damage that people used to say they cause. People in Barbados because they read some American magazines talk about stripping asbestos roofs and all they require is a good coat of paint. I am saying to the Government, carry out your own investigation and save money because asbestos roofs do not leak for a long time. I am saying, carry out your own investigations and do not let people like Senator Boyce force you into foolish expenditure. The Honourable Senator should do a little bit more research because it is not worth the while.

Now terrace houses. Mr. President, early in 1988 a lady from Wilkey came to me and she was complaining about a leak in the roof of one of the terrace houses and she said if she could buy her terrace unit she would be able to fix her house. I wrote to the Government of the day with a suggestion, and I am going to throw the same suggestion out. That is why I am saying Senator Boyce does not know the history of his political party or he does not know the history of his country. He does not know the history of Government. I suggested that they should take each terrace unit and form it into a condominium under the Condominium Act with the National Housing Corporation

being the management of the condominiums that are now on Government estates. The Manager would therefore be responsible for roofs and exterior walls and the owners of the condominiums would be responsible for interior walls. Now it was in the day of the Democratic Labour Party. What have they done? Absolutely nothing. You were in power 9 years, 4 from 9 leaves 5. You have done nothing in 9 years and every day you get up in here talking about the Government has done nothing, the Government has done nothing. For 4 years the Barbados Labour Party has been in power and have done more work than the Democratic Labour Party has done in the 9 years it was in office or the other 10 years before that when it was in office.

When it comes to housing, when it comes to repairing Government buildings, this Government is saddled with the expenditure of repairing Government buildings, providing houses, providing lots, and do you know what beats me, in this very Chamber I have heard Senator Boyce and others condemn this Government for acquiring lots of land to put houses for the small and the depressed man and then when the tide is turned and the public out ...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President, I have never condemned the Government. The Honourable Senator is misleading the Chamber. I have never condemned the Government for acquiring land for small owners. I have condemned the Government for not disposing of it to these small owners, Sir. I think that has been precisely my point consistently.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Now the public outside is saying that the Government is doing a good job and the Government must acquire these lands, there is a different story coming through now. But, Sir, any good Government would take time to formulate its policies and, Sir, with leave of you, Mr. President, I keep hearing stories about give back 8% to civil servants but I ask a question, what happen to the 4000 that went home? You are going to give back some to some and the 4000 that went home get nothing.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, please.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I withdraw that, Sir. I move past that, Sir. I only used that as an example. Any good Government must sit down and work out what it has to do so that at the end of the day when any policy is announced, it is as clear as possible. The Senator must try to remember his history and he must not make statements today which conflict with the policy of his political party. Otherwise it seems to me that he has one thought while his political party has another thought. He must not try to fool the public that what he is saying today is the truth when in fact, it is not the truth and is so far from the policies of the Democratic Labour Party and he must not

distort history. As somebody said that different historians determine the events of the day in different ways. But, if he wants to do that it is up to him. Nobody can control how he wants to interpret it, but it is time that while being in the Senate, the records of these Chambers will live long past any one of us in here and we should try to be as clear and honest as we can be in these debates.

12.10 p.m.

Mr. President, I support the Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator RICKINSON.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I support the Resolution, but I just want to say a few words in connection with Martindales Road which is opposite the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I am not talking about nurses, Mr. President, on this matter. But, while they are acquiring land, I am wondering if they could make that road there 'a silent zone' or look at it and see if they can divert the traffic because it is very noisy and the patients are complaining bitterly about it. So while they are acquiring that land, see what they can do with the traffic to make the patient's stay more comfortable.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I join this debate to give support to the measure, but also to try to put some of the comments that Senator Boyce made into accurate historical perspective where the Government's housing policy is concerned.

I would like to make it clear, Sir, that if one reads the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto, 1994 on pages 26 and 27 which deal extensively with housing, it would give light to the accusation, or the impression being given by the Honourable Senator that Government's takeoff of housing is only coming as a result of the prodding, urging or protestations of his party.

The Barbados Labour Party Manifesto has two pages on housing and they cover virtually every aspect of housing, including restoration of the income tax concession, or mortgage interest which his Government had taken away, *et cetera*. But, Sir, I want to dwell particularly on the latest gimmick from his party saying that they would write-off back logs of rent if they came to power.

Sir, it is in keeping with his party's philosophy and style of wherever possible appealing to the lowest common denominator and to man's most basic instincts. They want to give people the idea that they are in for a free ride, that you can get a free lunch, that life consists of handouts and

'a freeness', as against this Government's policies. Where while it acknowledges on page 26,

"A BLP Government will resume the building of terrace units for rent to those who cannot provide for their own housing."

Because we recognise that there are some persons who will not be able to afford to buy those houses, we on the other hand are seeking to implement a policy. In fact, we have already begun to implement it, that whereby we want to establish Barbadians beyond any shadow of doubt, Barbados, which has a historical reputation and record for being one of the highest, per capita, highest house owning country in the world. Barbadians believe in owning their own properties, even if it is 14' x 9' and not renting *ad infinitum* in perpetuity. And therefore we are saying that while we will acknowledge the special needs of this segment of the population, we also are helping and putting everything possible as the Right Honourable Prime Minister indicated with his generous and imaginative initiatives in his last Budget that to create a truly property owning democracy which is at the bedrock of our policy on housing, where we do not want people to feel that they were born renting, grew up renting, matured renting and die renting. We want to say, 'yes' we want to make sure that you can own a piece of rock in this regard.

Therefore, Sir, it gives me great pleasure to give this measure my fullest support and to ask my Honourable colleagues to do the same.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I want to make a brief contribution on this matter. I do not believe anyone would dispute that in this country, the approach by the Government of Barbados, be it a Democratic Labour Party Government or a Barbados Labour Party Government has been to assure that Barbadians can continue along that cultural path of home ownership because it has to become part of the culture.

I believe what is in debate at this time is, where should we place our emphasis in housing in Barbados? And I believe that it has been acknowledged in our quarters and accepted as the evidence has shown in the recent Financial Statements and Budgetary Proposals of the Right Honourable Prime Minister that the Government of Barbados, in keeping with the views of many members of the public and the emphasis of the Democratic Labour Party has been low income housing. I do not think at this point we need to try to score points on each other on this matter. What my major concern has been over the past four years that I have been here is what type of housing we would develop for low income housing in Barbados. I recognise now that there seems to be a low income package presented by the Government and I would want at this stage to make

input on one or two areas which need to be tidied up in that particular package in order to make sure that it can truly facilitate those individuals for whom it is being implemented. So, let me at this stage say that I, as a true representative of the smaller individuals in this country, am pleased that we are going to pay some attention to low income housing.

The proposals as outlined by the Right Honourable Prime Minister offered an extension in the amortisation period for mortgage repayment. That extension is welcomed. What I hope the Government of Barbados through the National Housing Corporation would do, is to offer proper financial counsel to individuals who would want to take up the offer of an extension in mortgage repayments. It is for this reason that I am making this suggestion. The longer the period of repayment, the smaller the size of repayment, but at the same time the longer the period of repayment the larger the sum you will repay. And we could find that individuals in the last trimester of mortgage repayment, will be repaying a mortgage for a property which does not carry a market value to match the sum which they will undertake over that period.

What I am hoping the National Housing Corporation will do is to try, by way of financial counsel, to show individuals that once they are in a position to make a larger sized repayment than the one required under a 40-year mortgage to attempt to do so for their own benefit. And, for the benefit of the value of the property which they would transfer to their dependents or survivors and in order to make sure that they can repay the mortgage sooner.

The other matter which I would want to deal within that package, and I am not sure that the Right Honourable Prime Minister made any announcement and I hope I will be corrected, on the actual formula used for determining the size mortgage for which you qualify. And although we have increased the quantum or size under the Housing Credit Fund, unless the income qualification is dealt with, there are still very large numbers of persons who would not qualify. Three times the annual income retains some people in that small bracket of \$40,000 to \$50 000. So that in order for these individuals to really qualify to own that home within that price range, then we need to increase it from three to four or 4.5 times for that to be the realistic objective of getting the \$25,000 mortgage.

I believe there is also a need for some other input by Government, because I would not want to think that the cost of the land is still going to take up a significant portion of the sum of money available for the total home. I know that under the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act, regardless to which Government put it in place, it is there, this acquisition of ten cents per square foot on what the value of the land is, or the cost is, I wonder how much the

Government plans to pass on to the low income housing owner. Because if land is going to be sold at \$3.50 or \$4.00 per square foot in this whole package, there are still some problems there, when you consider that the cost of construction is still one of the most significant costs in the acquisition and construction of a home. So I would want to think that the Government, by way of absorbing some of the cost of this land would make sure that these individuals can really, in addition to acquiring this land have their properties constructed on it. That is one area.

I am really dealing with the whole housing policy as it relates to our low income housing, but I am going to deal with Windsor in St. George, but I would like to see also included in this policy that it be mandatory that the Barbados Mortgage Finance insist that home owners gaining financing under the Mortgage Finance, or that the National Housing Corporation insists that those individuals who qualify for their mortgages have these mortgages covered by life insurance.

It is a social responsibility that a Government must display recognising that if wealth is to be properly transferred there must be something to inherit. And if we do not encourage these individuals to have these mortgages covered by life insurance that in the event of their premature death that these mortgages can be repaid, I think that we would not have completed our whole package. This is something that I want to see made mandatory. In the commercial sector you must have your mortgage covered by life insurance, but they do that to protect themselves. The Government must do it now as a social responsibility to these low income people in order to make sure that their descendants can really inherit the property.

This particular Resolution has to do with Windsor in St. George. This is an area that I roamed for many of my younger years and, Mr. President, I have a very heavy burden on my heart for Windsor. This is an area in Barbados that we have not yet managed to deal with. There is still a serious problem in Windsor Hill and around that general area. I remember a conversation, prior to 1990, with one of our Ministers of Government, he was suggesting whether we should move those people out altogether and put them in another area.

Now, we have a problem with country people, and those of us who come from the country know that we do not like to move. If that is a problem, because at a time when we were owning land only wealthy people owned land, so when a poor person had a piece of land he held onto it for dear life. But I believe that there is something which can be done. I am not qualified in construction, engineering and any of these areas, to really facilitate the residents, not too far away from this area we are debating in this Resolution at Windsor in St. George. When it rains in that area,

individuals are actually shut off, from time to time, from having any contact with the remaining districts in that parish and it could really do with some assistance. I am glad that they are now being put in a position to own their piece of land. Home ownership and the owning land in Barbados are as common to us as drinking water, I believe and I am pleased that this is happening.

Therefore, Mr. President, I hope that the one or two of the areas I have touched on in the new housing package the Government would consider and we can really see tangible improvement in the area of local home ownership.

Whenever I am in this Chamber and debates shift from party to party, I am compelled...

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I have no choice but to respond on the performance of the Democratic Labour Party Government in the area of housing. And, this Government having been an honest one over its years of service recognised and placed it in print...

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order please.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: ...that between 1991 and 1994 the sector experienced some decline. So we accepted that we had slowed down in the area of housing in Barbados, so we do not need the Barbados Labour Party to tell us. We recognised it and to show our recognition of that fact, we placed it in print.

However, Sir, we also placed in print that with the return of growth the economy which we have acknowledged starting since 1994 and with the decline in mortgage interest rates, we committed to substantial renewed growth in the housing sector. And further, Sir, we went on to state in that same document the following:

To facilitate this, a Democratic Labour Party Government will: encourage, facilitate and increase the private sector in housing by encouraging the introduction of extended mortgages; rationalising the economic rental system at the NHC to ensure its viability and a more equitable system of allocation among lower income groups; completing all those projects, which are currently on stream including regularising tenancies for persons squatting on lands at Thyme Bottom and Parish Land and consolidating the National Low Income Housing Project. So the Democratic Labour Party, Mr. President, as our record shows, we recognise the importance...

12.30 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order. Sir, I would just like to remind the Honourable Member that her Party had said that they do not put any faith in their manifesto because it is not a social contract. Neither do we.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I respond that the pie is really in the eating and one can say it looks good but one tastes it then to comment on its quality.

Even if we had stated that, our record has shown how much our manifesto means to us. We do not have to get up and "poimpasett" and jump and shout every day and call it any particular type of document. Our record shows that in 1961 and today that we understand what a manifesto and the implementation of proposals in a manifesto are. I do not really intend to engage in little political games when I am dealing with serious matters and therefore as we debate this matter of housing, I would hope that more serious attention would be made.

Therefore, I want to admit that I am pleased that we are going to be getting somewhere in this area and I want to encourage the Government of Barbados to fulfil that mandate given to it in September, 1994 recognising that the responsibility of any government which has gained office by the popular vote must therefore respond to the popular choice of the people and the emphasis in Barbados at this stage is low income housing. Therefore you do not congratulate the Government, you say I am glad you woke up. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I want to add my support to this Resolution and, of course, to note that this is another attempt by this progressive Government of which all of us in here are extremely proud to solve the most pressing needs of this country which is, as we all know, to have affordable and adequate housing for all the citizens of this country. This is our mandate and while we feel good about it we are just doing what is expected of us and we do not expect any kudos from the Opposition. We are just doing what the people have elected us to do and we are fortified by the fact that the people of Barbados are showing in their numbers that they are reposing additional confidence in our Government because they realise that we are the only Party which is wont to come to grips with the issues facing this country.

It is important that we put housing in context because we have to realise that in the budgetary proposals which I quote from with your permission, Sir. The Prime Minister in presenting his Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals to the nation in the Other Place put it in context when he said and I am going to quote:

"There is little debate, Sir, that the most serious social problem confronting Barbadians is that of inadequate housing conditions, coupled with poor access to the housing market."

Sir, that statement summarises the housing conditions facing this country, inadequate housing conditions and poor access to the housing market.

In that regard, the National Housing Corporation is a most critical institution. Do not forget it was a BLP administration in the 50s, that pioneer administration, that set the tone for housing activity by the State in this country. You must remember in the 50s was the first time that we had self-government and in that period the National Housing Corporation which was called the Housing Authority at that time went across the length and breadth of this country creating adequate housing for the people of this country who were then emerging from the ravages of the effects of the war and deprivation.

Sir, from Colleton, St. John to St. Lucy, below Coach Hill right down to St. Lucy, all across the country, Gall Hill, St. John and other places, the Barbados Labour Party ensured that adequate housing was provided for the people of this country and this Resolution that we are discussing today 40 years later shows that this Party is continuing in its progressive march towards the fulfilment of the needs of the people of this country. Sir, the Prime Minister spent a lot of time in his budgetary presentation outlining the new approach to solving the housing needs of this country. The last Senator not fully understanding or not reading what the Prime Minister – I have to assume that she did not read it because she is an intelligent person and she would understand so I can only assume that she has not read it and she is confirming by saying that she has not got her copy as yet. Sir, the newspaper carried the speech verbatim so the Honourable Senator has no excuse for not reading it.

The point is, Sir, that access to the housing market was improved especially for low income workers by one important factor: the reduction of the interest rates of 9% to 6% is significant because it means that there is a tremendous decline in the monthly payment and when the monthly payments decline obviously the qualification would be so affected. The person who could not afford to pay \$500 a month may be able to pay \$350 or \$400.

In any case, that Party has nothing to talk because they built houses in Church Village, St. Philip, the only one they built, and they put the rent out of the reach of low income workers because they charged \$98 a week. How could a maid working for \$150 a week or less be able to afford a house at \$98 a week? When the last speaker talked about she represents the poor, her Party's record is abysmally poor

because the only house they built in this country they are charging \$98 a week for poor people.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I hate to interrupt Senator Barker since he is so smooth today, not a stammer, but I think I need to make clear to him the point I was making. It has nothing to do with the size of the payment as much as the amount to which you are qualified.

If your income is \$250 a week you are earning \$13 000 a year and the qualification is three times your annual then you still cannot get past a mortgage of \$39 000. The point I am making is that we need to change that base rate from three times annual to four or five times annual in order that more individuals can qualify. The Honourable Member does not understand what I am saying because the amount you can borrow is based on your ability to repay. I am not talking about a mortgage at Barclays or CIBC. I am talking about the General Workers Fund which is the vehicle through which the lower income people get their homes. So obviously if you reduce the interest rate you are going to reduce the monthly repayment and as a consequence anybody would know that obviously you would be able to borrow more.
12.40 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, on a point of elucidation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: On a point of elucidation depends very much on whether the Senator on his feet wishes to give way.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I will give way.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I do not think Senator Barker is getting the point.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You can only elucidate something in your speech.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: The reduction in interest rate granted facilitates a smaller repayment but at the same time the smaller repayment has not in any way improved your income standard.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you are making a speech. That is not a point of elucidation, neither is it a point of order.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, her futile attempt is not taken because the fact is that in the General Workers Scheme the amount you are lent depends on your ability to repay so common sense will indicate that if you are going to pay less per month that you can borrow more. It is strictly

common sense. In any case, Sir, the lower paid workers are flocking *en masse* to the NHC because in 8 years the Democratic Labour Party did nothing to relieve the valve so to speak so there is a pent up demand for housing.

Sir, do not forget that in 1981 this progressive DLP Government, our predecessors in 1981 went to USAID and got about US\$20 million to put in the Housing Credit Fund for on lending for housing purposes and in the 8 years that they were in office the money stayed there just collecting interest. The people want housing, the money is there and they claim they are for the poor man. So when I hear them talking, Sir, it rankles me because, Sir, it is like the voice of Esau and the hands of Jacob. Their deeds do not match their words. It is as simple as that. Sir, the revolutionary approach by the Minister is quite appropriate for dealing with the issue that we face. The issue that we face is that the middle income workers can access the traditional mortgage institutions but the lower paid workers are having extreme difficulties for two reasons.

Sir, when the DLP Government left office, they left almost a quarter of our work force out of work and it stands to reason that if you are out of work then you cannot go to any institution to borrow money because nobody will lend money to an unemployed man without prospects, without hope, so we could only now have this thrust because we have taken immediate steps to significantly reduce the rate of unemployment in this island from 27% it is now down to 12%. It is still too high but we are on the way to getting it down to single figures.

As a result of the improvements in the economy which is reflected in the fact that the level of unemployment has taken a serious nose dive means that we now have to cater to an emerging work force because the record will show that over 20 000 more people are employed now than were employed a few years ago. That is what the records are showing. Sir, they are not working for bus fare and lunch money as the last Minister of Finance wanted to impose upon them, but they are working for decent wages and they are getting proper training and hence the demand for housing is increasing. Sir, this Government has significantly helped their plight by doing 2 things as contained in the budgetary proposals.

Firstly with regards to the General Workers Housing Fund the maximum loan has been increased to \$75 000. It was \$60 000 previously and we carried it to \$75 000. The current rate of interest has been reduced from 9% to 6%. The age limit has been increased to 65 years and also the maximum repayment period shall be extended from 25 years to 40 years. Listen to this, Sir, this is the icing on the cake so to speak, Sir, 100% mortgages will be made available for all purchases of house spots, terrace units and housing from the National Housing Corporation under the General

Workers Loan Scheme. This is the result of a Government which is conscious of its mandate to the people. A Government that cares and a Prime Minister and a Cabinet who are using their grey matter so to speak in order to find workable solutions to the pressing issues facing this public.

Sir, this Resolution is timely. The Government has got to make sure that land is put there for the people to build houses and we want to encourage people to use some of the traditional and cultural methods that were used in the past in order to get houses. We know from our own knowledge and our own experiences that Barbadians have been very inventive in finding ways to solving their own housing needs. As long as they get a piece of land we know they will use all sorts of methods to ensure that. Sir they start with wood and they do not like composting toilets. They are out. They start with a wall back and in two twos as we say, Sir, we see a lovely house as it were growing up as though it is a plant, starting from the roots and then the branches come out and finally you have a lovely structure.

Sir, do not forget that this revolutionary approach to housing is only surpassed by one other revolutionary method that is in the 1982-83 Freehold Tenantry Act which according to people who understand housing laid the foundation for the significant improvement in the housing stock in urban Barbados.

Sir, in our approach we are doing a singular thing for urban tenancies where through the National Housing Corporation the Government is committed to ensure that tenants in urban areas only pay \$2.50 per square foot for the land that they are on.

Sir, we are not given credit for what we are doing but these things will revolutionise housing activity in urban Barbados and the National Housing Corporation is at the forefront of these important changes. So, Sir, in the 4 years and one week that we were in Government our record is nothing short of impressive.

I know, Sir, that in the next year the DEMS will seek to use every method at their disposal to denigrate our record in housing but the people, Sir, know. They do not have to be told by any party where their interest lies, they know it. That is why we are confident that the truth is being told that the people of this country will recognise the difference between 86 to 94 and 94 to 99. They will know and appreciate the difference and they will respond accordingly. On one hand the Democratic Labour Party were building low income houses through the NHC, building low income houses for middle income wages. If you charge \$100 a week that is a mortgage so I do not understand.
12.50 p.m.

Sir, with those few words I want to commend this Resolution to this Honourable Chamber and I want us to affirm this Resolution. And by affirming this Resolution, we are to thank the National Housing Corporation and the Government for an impressive record in housing and for a revolutionary approach to solving the housing needs of this country.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SUSPENSION

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

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2.00 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
12.53 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF LAND AT CHARNOCKS, CHRIST CHURCH, BAGATELLE, ST. JAMES, SPRING GARDEN, BRIDGE ROAD, LAKES FOLLY, WARRENS, ST. MICHAEL, VAUGHAN'S ROAD, ST. JOSEPH AND WARNERS, CHRIST CHURCH

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks the approval for the vesting of a number of small parcels of land in various locations in the National Housing Corporation.

The quantities in question are some 282 square metres in Charnocks, 551.9 square metres at Bagatelle, 5 076 in Spring Garden – that is one of the larger ones, 480.5 square metres at Bridge Road, 238 at Vaughan's Road in Horse Hill, St. Joseph, 586.6 in Lakes Folly and one of the larger ones again, 2 571 at Warrens in St. Michael and 1 162 again at Warners in Christ Church another 1 504 also at Warners.

These areas, Mr. President, constitute areas which would have been acquired by the Government mainly for road works in the areas and are now superfluous to the original need. For example, the land at Charnocks in

Christ Church is a small portion just about 2 900 square feet to the ABC Highway on one side and the Charnocks old road on the other which would have been the road from Pilgrim Road into Charnocks and it is proposed to allow the National Housing Corporation to dispose of these lands and to use the proceeds in support of the housing programme.

What it will also do, Mr. President, is to allow for a more rational approach to the use of Government lands, as well as to make better use of the lands as they stand now. These small portions of land which you will see are adjacent to a road here and a road there would have been part of larger parcels which would have been acquired for good, fit and proper public purposes, that purpose having been concluded, like the ABC Highway, which was conceived and developed by the late Tom Adams as the industrial highway to link the Bridgetown Port and the Airport as well as open up land for industrial use on the inner parts of the country through Christ Church, St. Michael, and to provide for the movement of containerised cargo and the like.

But, in developing major projects like that where properties would have been acquired there are places now where areas like this 2 900 square feet at Charnocks in Christ Church will be there. The options, of course, are that the Crown will continue to hold it and then have the trouble of keeping it clean, avoiding illegal dumping on it, making sure it does not become overrun by vines, bush, and so on and in which case it would not be serving any real public purpose. We know that the effort sometimes by Governments to manage these numerous pieces of properties around the island is not always totally successful. Instead we have opted to use the opportunity to provide opportunities for persons to purchase these lots for housing and similar purposes. This piece, for example, in Charnocks is part and parcel of the existing neighbourhood and I am sure would be able to accommodate some persons of need there.

Similarly, Mr. President, the area at Bagatelle in St. James which is adjacent to Highway 2A, Spring Garden was part of the area abutting Spring Garden Highway and the West Indian Rum Refinery at Bridge Road. The lands there are adjacent to the bus stop. That area would have been used as part of the construction of a layby and by a bus stop just 50 or 75 yards before one reaches the Welches Road junction, when coming from the Bridge Road side. The examples are quite similar.

So, Mr. President, this action by the Government in vesting these properties in the National Housing Corporation would facilitate their disposal by way of sales and provide an opportunity for Barbadians to own these properties and to use them especially for housing purposes. It would also ensure that, rather than a situation in which the Crown maintains these lands which are additional to

what the original purpose to which they have been acquired and then have the issue of maintenance and cleanliness to deal with, that they would be put to beneficial use for the broad masses of the public of Barbados.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, in dealing with this Resolution, Sir, I would like to pay some attention to probably two or three items. As the Honourable Leader spoke, he used the word 'superfluous' and I felt that was a point which I could use to begin to deal with the question which bothers me.

The point I want to make, Sir, is that it is clear if the Government acquires land for a particular purpose and then finds itself, in this case I would give you the example of Charnocks of land having been acquired for the development of the now the ABC Highway. It is unfortunate that we get into a situation where we acquire more land than is really necessary and I think it points to a question of planning. And, it is required that the Government pays very special attention to the accuracy of the amount of land required, because in most occasions, especially for housing purposes, the land that we are acquiring is from small land owners and whether we like it or not, the surrendering of one's land and one's birth right, so to speak, is a painful exercise.

I have given examples in here, Sir, and elsewhere before of persons who have suffered, almost, at the hands of these kinds of acquisitions and I think it is a point of concern where we find situations where the Government acquires more land than is necessary. That is all I want to say at this stage.

Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Senate should explain to the Chamber, in more detail exactly what these lands that are being acquired now are about and the purposes of them. Because he did say, again that all the other areas being referred to are specifically about the same purpose and can be utilised for housing, extra housing or for creation of facilities for the adjacent area.

Sir, certainly in looking at some of the acquisitions one questions the suitability, looking at a place like the Spring Garden area which is prone to flooding, for the generalisation which the Honourable Senator seeks to make. Therefore, we need to pay some attention to this kind of detail in as far as it informs the Honourable Members as to what is really going on.

Sir, constantly too, in this debate about vesting land in the National Housing Corporation, Members on that Side

want to cast blame on the Democratic Labour Party about the Freehold Tenancies Act. They have it within their power to change anything that they find uncomfortable. So, I think that it is about time we dismiss that argument as being non-acceptable and if the Barbados Labour Party has any problem with the Freehold Tenancies Act, like all the other things that they have changed and like many of the things that they have not changed, they can go and change it and stop trying to use it as a shelter.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir. I wonder if the Honourable Senator could exactly identify what he is talking about because there is nothing that I know called the Freehold Tenancies Act. I do not know who created that Act and if he knows he should please tell the Chamber, so that I can reply to him in due course.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, I think you know that is not a point of order.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the point being only is that we need to recognise that we cannot continue as an administration, four and a half years, or four years and one week, as an Honourable Senator said earlier, into Government and try to blame what has happened on an administration so long gone.

They tried to blame the Democratic Labour Party on the condition of the police stations. They tried to blame the Democratic Labour Party on the condition of housing after four years of plenty in this country. So that is what I would like those Honourable Gentlemen on that Side to recognise and to fully accept the responsibilities of Government and do not use it as a convenient arrangement, where when it is suitable they grasp it and say 'yes' we are the Barbados Labour Party, we did this and we did that.

But, four years into their administration and they are still complaining about the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act and I am challenging on this Floor today...

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir. I have never heard anybody in the Barbados Labour Party complaining about the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act. I have never heard it, tell us when and who did.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, whatever is required I charge the Honourable Members on that Side to seek to have it changed so that it is more suited to their purposes and stop trying to blame the Democratic Labour Party for their mismanagement, or their inability to achieve the objectives which they walked around this country in Barbados in 1994 trying to persuade the people that they are the alternative Government. When they were doing that, they were not complaining, so do not complain now and that

is my point. So if it requires changing, I want Senator Murray and the other Members on that Side to have it changed. They have it within their power and desist from that excuse.

Sir, in summation, as it is my normal style, the acquisition of land in excessive amounts as deducible from what the Honourable Senate Leader said, he talked about superfluous lands for the building of the Highway, is something which we need to pay attention to bearing in mind the way that we Barbadians are accustomed to treasuring our land and our rights. And, secondly on the question of housing, I charge that if there are any difficulties with the existing legislation, the Honourable Members on that Side need to get up and change it and stop trying to blame the Democratic Labour Party for not achieving their targets that they put for the people. We did not put them, Sir, they did.

I thank you, Sir.
2.20 p.m.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, it grieves me to rise in this Chamber time after time to bring a little bit of knowledge to the Senator who speaks only to have himself heard in this Chamber. When the Honourable Senator speaks on this question of over acquisition of land he does not understand the question of acquisitions and development. I keep saying...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order. I hate to interrupt the Honourable Senator but he is misleading the Chamber. It was not I who spoke first about superfluous acquisition. It was the Honourable Leader of the Senate. I merely followed on to make my point. So to be accurate he should deal with the Honourable Leader of the Senate.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Member who rose on a point of order is misleading the Senate. I did not speak on superfluous acquisitions. I spoke of lands which were now superfluous to the good and fit public purposes to which they were acquired. Two entirely different concepts, Mr. President.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I hope...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden if you will ignore the semantics, can we move on with the Resolution.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Sir, Senator Boyce must recognise one thing. He does not understand the legal intricacies of acquisition and therefore he should not get up in here and talk foolishness time after time.

For the benefit of the Chamber, when Government has a project the consultants advise what areas of land are to be acquired in order to complete the project. Now, Sir, when Government seeks to acquire land and leaves a small portion, the law is quite clear. You cannot acquire land and leave a small portion of land to the landowner. You have to acquire the entire property whether you use the whole or not. That is the law.

I ran the estate of C. A. Dowding for years. They first acquired a portion for the highway before they decided to put a roundabout. When they decided to put a roundabout they came back to acquire more and we said to them you cannot leave us with a wedge shaped portion in between here, which is Barbados Hardware on one side and the highway on the next. They had to acquire the whole over the other side. The result is on the southern side of the roundabout they ended up with lots to put four houses which the National Housing Corporation built.

On the other side they ended up with a wedge shaped piece which is supposed to be a playing field but not big enough. You could not leave that in the landowner's hand as it is no use to him. The law is quite clear, particularly if you have to cross a road to get to the remaining junction, the law says you must acquire the whole lot. So at some time in the future the Government has to dispose of those pieces of land rather than keep them sitting down.

Over and above that, let us take the Spring Garden Highway. You had to acquire a substantial amount of land in order to complete the Spring Garden Highway. At the end of the exercise there were lands on both sides which remained in Government hands. We came here and we invited the persons whose lands adjoined the highway to take up those pieces for several reasons. Economically, it meant the Government would not have to pay to keep those areas clean and socially it increased the lands to the adjoining neighbours who felt better in getting a larger piece of land. If you look at the pieces which are involved they are literally small pieces of land remaining off as a result of acquiring larger parcels and what was used has been used for roads.

One thing I would like to raise here particularly on the ABC Highway. There are persons who now find themselves landlocked on the ABC Highway because according to the Town and Country Planning you are not supposed to make an exit onto the highway. Now it raises a difficult question in that when that road was conceptualised it was called the industrial access road. Subsequently it was changed to a highway and I think because here again we follow concepts of North America where you have highways that there are no entrances or exits onto the highway but for long journeys, it does not mean that Barbados has to accept those same principles.

In North America you have unlimited speeds on those highways. Therefore people would drive along at 90 to 100 miles an hour so you did not want vehicles exiting onto the highway. In Barbados our speed limit is 80 kilometres maximum. In a small country like this you must not leave people who had access to a road being landlocked. I think we have to look at the land in that Christ Church area because a lot of people have been restricted from developing their land due to a potential report about the radar system for the airport. These areas of land are owned by small persons in the area who want to get on with their lives too. They want to know what to do.

Senator Boyce is worried about something which he called all kinds of names. It is the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. As far as I know the Barbados Labour Party has no problem with it at all. It has achieved exactly what the Party wanted it to achieve. It has been a thorn in the side of the Democratic Labour Party from the day it was talked about. It is still a thorn in Senator Boyce's arm and he must not say that we must change the law. As far as I know the Barbados Labour Party does not want to change the law. Therefore Senator Boyce must not harp upon it. If it is a problem to him when his Party was in power they should have done something about it.

I go further, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party is so committed to people who have suffered, who have given their life blood to the development of the plantation system in this country that after the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act was passed the Barbados Labour Party made a commitment to the people in St. Joseph who had bought land at higher prices that they would refund to them the difference in prices between what the people in the tenancies paid and what those in tenancies in St. Joseph paid and they made the same promise again this time. Where they have to acquire lands from persons and the selling price is over and above what the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act price would be they would make up the difference. There is no problem with the Barbados Labour Party and the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. The problem really lies with Senator Boyce because he is the only person I hear talking about it. I don't hear anybody else of his political party talking about it.

Mr. President, I join in supporting this Resolution because, as I said, this is cosmetic, tidying up something so that the law would be easily understood and that we relieve Government of these little bits and pieces of land for administrative purposes. I thank you.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
VESTING IN BARBADOS TOURISM
INVESTMENT INCORPORATED
OF LAND AT BAY STREET,
ST. MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, approval is being sought to vest some 2 833 square metres of land at the location which formerly housed the Harbour Police Station on Bay Street in the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated. It was agreed that as part of the Bridgetown Redevelopment Project which is a major effort on the part of Government to redevelop Bridgetown first of all to enhance the aesthetics of Bridgetown in order to provide enhanced economic opportunities for business in Bridgetown and this is to be done primarily to increase the number and quality of tourism attractions in and around Bridgetown.

It was also recognised that there were a number of areas which were currently not in use some of which were owned by the Government which could be developed to expand this range of activity. In particular it was recognised that an opportunity existed to make this development in such a way as to provide opportunities for those persons in the business sector who were not now in position to have opportunities within Bridgetown.

2.30 p.m.

So that, for example, the small business people of Barbados, in particular persons who were the vendors, the persons who were into craft, persons who were into other areas of business but wanted to diversify into the duty free sector, for example, some of the entrepreneurs in the restaurant business who would like to get into a tourism oriented facility would be provided the opportunity, within the new developments, which they currently do not have in the existing facilities around the island.

So that the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated was formed and it is proposed and it is the intention of Government to vest a number of its properties which it owns around the Bridgetown area in this company to facilitate the use, either directly by Government or within joint venture arrangements with private individuals and companies and in some cases associations, to implement these projects.

These projects would be generally implemented within the framework of a Bridgetown redevelopment plan for which some consensual preliminary work has been done. In fact between late 1996 and the present, a number of public meetings have been held. I remember there were some sessions in the Queen's Park Steel Shed where the proposals were unveiled, where the consultants' views on what type of development could reasonably occur, what were some of the artistic and architectural concepts which they were proposing to be used in the redevelopment of old areas of

Bridgetown and the development of new areas and basically allowing the whole range of persons doing business in and around Bridgetown to have an idea of the direction in which Government may want to go.

The properties in question for example which would go into this Barbados Tourism Development Incorporated would be the former Town Hall, opposite St. Mary's Church, which unfortunately has been allowed over many, many years to fall into a state of disrepair, the Cheapside area next to the Town Hall which is currently used as a bus stand and which it is proposed for that area, the Town Hall and Cheapside area, including the market on the one hand and the Lower Green on the other, would be redeveloped to become a thing of beauty in terms of having a real green in the Lower Green, as well as, Mr. President, a new area of economic opportunity, particularly for the small business people, several of whom already operate in that region.

Additionally the former Spirit Bond which again over the last 25 years has not been in use is proposed to be redeveloped and used as the location for craft persons and so on. In fact, discussions are going on between the Small Business Association and the Ministry of Tourism with respect to the development of the former spirit bond which is in a prime location in Bridgetown, as the location for craft and small business activity.

The property, Mr. President, on the corner of Wellington Street will also be vested in the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated which is the area where the Government Electrical Engineering Department is currently located, as will the former Child Care Building on Bay Street.

In terms of the former Harbour Police Station, Mr. President, there have been proposals which have been submitted and they are being considered by the Town Planner, by a group of local investors who were successful in various fields of business but who are entering into the tourism and related areas generally for the first time. It really is an opportunity for some economic empowerment and enfranchisement and economic diversification for some indigenous entrepreneurs.

Mr. President, what is proposed is that that location which really lies on one of the most beautiful beaches in Barbados at present, that beach running, Mr. President, from Upper Bay Street in the region of Pebbles right down to the Careenage, because all behind Manning Wilkinson and Challenor and all these companies is really the loveliest beach in Barbados at present. So the whole Carlisle area really contains one of the loveliest beaches. In fact, Sir, it reminds me, now that I mention Carlisle Bay, it reminds me of the fact that as far back as 1986 when the Barbados Labour Party was in office we had a Carlisle Bay Development Project.

Mr. President, in 1986 there was a Carlisle Bay Development Project conceived of by this Barbados Labour Party administration and I should tell you, Mr. President, the scope of that project within which this former Harbour Police Station would have fallen was as far down as Brighton Beach and as far up as the Hilton Hotel with a heavy concentration on the area in and around Bridgetown. When you check the activities that were done to develop Bridgetown under the Barbados Labour Party, the sewerage of Bridgetown in order to enhance the quality of the near shore waters, that has had a positive impact on the safety of swimmers and other persons using that area.

I am sure you remember, Mr. President, Cowell Street which was a regular and popular illegal dump for various types of waste and sewerage. Results today, Sir, show that some shell fish life has returned to rocks in that Carlisle Bay area, Mr. President where they could not live before. The reclamation of the land, Mr. President, behind Marshal Hall, the construction of the Bridgetown Fishing Complex, all of these were done and the other elements of the Carlisle Bay Development Project, including the expansion of housing for regular ordinary Barbadians, Mr. President, working-class Barbadians in the City was part of that development project. All of those things, Mr. President, every one was placed on the freezer, not the back burner, Mr. President, because on the back burner they would have at least been kept warm. They were put off the stove and into the freezer by the Democratic Labour Party, so that Bridgetown was relegated to the status of a nonentity during the period of their administration, Mr. President. It remained for us to return to office in 1994, to go into the freezer, to take out our Carlisle Bay Development plan and to do some additional work on it to enhance it.

2.40 p.m.

So that you will see, Mr. President, within the life of this administration not only this Harbour Police Station site being used to provide enhanced opportunities for tourism, for local business people and for entrepreneurs who are anxious to diversify and get an opportunity into the tourism stake in this island. You will see the entire area, particularly along the Carlisle Bay area transformed and there are a number of private sector landowners in the area. For example, the owners of property in the region of the Pierhead where there are proposals which have already been announced in the media by that company where the Barbados Shipping & Trading has already unveiled their plans for a major tourism project in the Pierhead area and there are a number of projects.

The Government, Mr. President, will be embarking on work to strengthen and reinforce the Careenage area. We know that the piles would have been driven there many, many years ago and that some work needs to be done on ensuring that the Wharf Road remains safe and secure to

ensure that the bridges which cross the road are in tip-top shape. And generally, the Bridgetown that would have been in hibernation, the Bridgetown that would have been experiencing the chill and frost engendered by lack of attention from the Democratic Labour Party will be a Bridgetown that will be bright, alive and vibrant and one that is able to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike and one which will provide the opportunities which I mentioned.

So, Mr. President, the vesting of this property in the The Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated is just one step along the path which has been chartered for the development of our capital city, Bridgetown. Just one step and as I said, we will all have the opportunity to do the kinds of things which people take for granted that one normally does in a city. Bridgetown, unfortunately is one of the few cities in the world where after office hours the city seems to go dead, where the beaches adjacent to the city are not utilised for that purpose. They are still the location of warehouses and so on. Everyone has their backs turned to the ocean, and we are basically providing the opportunity for the fullest commercial use of Bridgetown to really become a reality.

Mr. President, it is a fact as well, that whilst we may speak of a number of the larger developments, this project for example is a large project, the Pierhead project and other projects, the fact of the matter is that these projects will provide tremendous benefit to small entrepreneurs in Barbados as well.

Small entrepreneurs are best able to benefit when one is able to create a situation in which large numbers of persons are directed into the area in which they do their business. Having a Bridgetown that is vibrant, having a Bridgetown that can be promoted as a place to go for shopping, for relaxation and so on by Barbadians and visitors alike, provides an opportunity for everyone from the sno-cone vendor to the person selling fruits or crafts, offering barbering services, the running of snackettes to restaurants, selling clothing – as part as what is known as the suitcase trade, but the small vendors who are able to purchase their stuff and sell again. A wide range of substantial economic opportunity will be provided for persons in Bridgetown, as a result of this upliftment and enhancement of Bridgetown. Conversely, if we do nothing, as nothing had been done before and if the average person, whether someone who works outside of Bridgetown, a resident who lives other than in Bridgetown or visitor has no encouragement to come to our capital city, then where are the opportunities for the small business person that will be depending on the volume of traffic and on impulse buying?

The reality is that much buying occurs on the basis of impulse. You may come to town to buy one item, but if you

are provided with the opportunities or exposure to others you may buy others. Similarly, you may come to town, not to shop at all, you may come to a place of entertainment, or you may come to pay a bill or for whatever other reason and if the opportunity is provided by way of the product being on display, or by way of the product being offered, then one is likely to make that purchase and that is really what we are attempting to do with this Bridgetown Redevelopment Project.

So, Mr. President, this land will be vested, as I said, in the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated and will be used in joint venture arrangements with some local private partners to develop this particular project. The matter is now before the Town Planner for his approval of the concept. But, the Senate's approval is being sought under Section 5 of the Crown Lands Vesting and Disposal Act, Cap. 225 for the vesting of this property, the site of the former Harbour Police Station in Bridgetown in the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the last time I saw the Honourable Senator in Bridgetown, he was falling off of a tractor and obviously the way he has been describing this particular Resolution reminded me immediately of that almost accident where he had to grab quickly on one of the railings to prevent himself falling.

Sir, he struggled through his presentation.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order. For the accuracy of the record the Honourable Member is misleading the House. We do not want the record to reflect 100 years from now that this Honourable Member was losing his feet or losing his seat or an indication of any other form of falling.

I know that I was on a tractor recently and I disembarked as any fit person would disembark. There was no possibility of falling, accident or otherwise and I would ask for accuracy, Mr. President, that that reference to my good self falling or almost falling be struck from the record.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, what I saw appeared in my opinion, seemed to be falling.

Sir, the development of Bridgetown is of course something which successive administrations have got to grapple with. It is an exercise which sometimes the significance is not appreciated because the returns in terms of money to the Treasury for investment are not always obvious. As a matter of fact, so serious is it that when the Democratic Labour Party contemplated and executed that

beautiful project which we now admire so often as we enter this Honourable Chamber...

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the Members on that Side used the occasion of beautification and development to pillory the then Right Honourable Prime Minister and this noble party. That is a matter of record and it will do the Members on that Side well to read their contributions and the contributions made in this Chamber and in other places and indeed on the public platforms when the Democratic Labour Party attempted and succeeded – that is the difference, Sir – in creating a monument to Barbadians in terms of the beautification of that area.

We cannot even remember how it used to look, Sir, and I recall, not too long ago, watching Senator Forde herself in glee as she demonstrated the complete ambiance to one of her visitors, obviously someone relating to international education. It is something I admired quietly – the way she was proudly demonstrating what Barbados is capable of.

I believe, Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Senate is attempting to indicate that it is the intention of the Barbados Labour Party to carry on this tradition and that is where I separate from him, because we have heard this before. As a matter of fact, almost verbatim I have heard the Honourable Senator before indicate what the intentions are in respect to this building, the old rum refinery, the old building between Collins, Sir. All these have been talked about, the difference is there is absolutely no delivery and I believe it is this consciousness of non-delivery that caused the Honourable Senator to stumble so much as he presented this Resolution. Because, he knew within himself that he had said all this before, but in truth and in fact, the entrepreneurial opportunity which he talked about and referred to again today, was the one which he spoke of before in respect to the Collins building and today there has not been a scrap of movement in that area.

There has been absolutely no movement by the Barbados Labour Party in respect to development in that area and all kinds of promises were made about how beautiful the interior was, how the stairway was still intact and he envisaged a courtyard where people sold flowers, decorations and crafts and there would be business places on the other levels.

We wait patiently, Sir, for this pregnancy to come to fruition, but people only have that amount of patience and at some time patience runs short. Because in terms of entrepreneurial opportunity, as I recall the only achievement under this Barbados Labour Party administration in respect to Bridgetown has been that Rockers Alley has been

returned to business, but not this time, the Rasta Community selling their ware, but people of their choosing. And remember, when they unleash the police and the dogs on those businessmen the refrain then was that that street had to be clear. I ask the Barbados Labour Party now if that street no longer has to be clear, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I do not hate to interrupt the Honourable Senator. I enjoy it because I have to educate him in correcting some of his discrepancies.

It is unfair and untrue to say that dogs were unleashed on a person when they were moved to clear the street. There were no dogs. The police carried out their lawful duty to clear the street.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That I think is a valid point.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I unreservedly withdraw. The point is that the records will show. Anybody can refer to the newspapers of the day and see or any other articles on it. It is a part of Barbadian history that Senator Murray or none of us can erase. We cannot erase it and it is interesting that he should pick up on this point, because this is one of the areas which the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party always divide. We always divide on matters like this and they would like to pretend they do not understand when we go out there in public why we divide so emphatically.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of elucidation. I intervene not to erase or to amplify or to clarify any intellectual or philosophical divide between the Barbados Labour Party and Democratic Labour Party. I am merely setting the record straight and asking the Honourable Senator not to continue to mislead the Chamber.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Subsequent to that, Sir, the other interesting development in Bridgetown in terms of entrepreneurial activity has been the Vendors Mall at Palmetto Square and we all know that has been built by the Democratic Labour Party. It is as simple as that and now we are looking forward to a continuation of the programme in terms of the entire redevelopment of Swan Street *et cetera*.

This Resolution deals with a similar type of activity in that we are taking what was formerly the premises of the Harbour Police Station and of course there is a very strong view in Barbados that some of these buildings like the old Harbour Police Station should be preserved rather than demolished. I hold the view certainly that 'yes' while that is true there are times when they are not structurally capable of carrying on real business anymore.

In that regard, Sir, it was interesting to note that it was the intention of renaming the Ponside area after the name of the gentleman, London Bourne. And that in a way would help to redress some of the objection which occurred when the original building was demolished. It will erase some, not all and this is something that as we continue our development, especially in a city with a history like Bridgetown that we will have these questions and these kinds of contradictions or these kinds of objections to deal with. 3.00 p.m.

When the Harbour Police Station was demolished, because it is no longer standing, again we had some people who objected. The Honourable Senate Leader spoke about the Child Care Board. There is a strong lobby to rebuild the Child Care Board in that building. These are the kinds of forces which the administration will have to deal with and will have to listen to the music of the people that matter. Not only the music of the organisation who stand to benefit but those people who have a navel string in terms of the history of the area.

While the business sector might want to take up every piece of land they see suitable for their activity, I think that we recognise that there has to be a capping in this regard and some of our facilities, even if they are converting to business activity, the conversion must occur in a way that does not disturb the tradition of the environment which they are in.

Only yesterday, we saw the work of the Ombudsman in respect of the south coast but that is not part of this Resolution although if you stretch the south coast far enough you would come to this point but he is going to come down that way anyhow. It is his intention, Sir, to do the entire coast so we should hear from him more and more.

Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Senate spoke too about the whole question of the redevelopment of Bridgetown and this is important and of concern to me not only because of the kinds of delays and the kind of talk we are getting. We are hearing about these programmes but we are not seeing anything happening that would indicate to us that the redevelopment of Bridgetown is going anywhere. I refer to other special development areas like the St. Lawrence area. Again, one has to listen to the music of the people who live in the area. We have to listen to the music of the people who use the facilities like the Dover cricket field.

We have to ensure that any plans that we have for these facilities are balanced between the need to move forward or what is referred to as forward with respect to beautification and provision of entrepreneurial opportunity and that it is

balanced with the traditional usage and the traditional connection which the people in those areas have with the facility.

Indeed the challenge in an area like St. Lawrence would be greater than it is in Bridgetown because as the Honourable Senator did point out Bridgetown is largely a business city where no one resides except for the Fairchild Street corner. As a result you do not have that restraint. You have the restraint of architectural significance but you certainly do not have that amount of restraint in respect of the voice of the people.

Sir, while we talk about the entire development of Bridgetown we are immediately drawn into this discussion about the provision of facilities for commuters in Bridgetown. Certainly there is need for facilities for private and public sector transport vehicles of this country and commuters, because a lot of people in this debate are only seeing mini-buses and Transport Board buses but they are not seeing the thousands and thousands of people who have to travel safely on them. We need to look at providing a large enough facility strategically placed so that the commuters from the south and the east of the country who come in around the Fairchild Street area and the commuters from the north and the west who come in around the President Kennedy Drive, harbour area can be adequately housed. This is something which was in place many years ago. I do not know why we have the difficulty now with coming to the same conclusion.

There were facilities and the Honourable Senate Leader referred to the Lower Green. There was a time when the Lower Green facility was adequate. It is not now adequate. They moved to the Princess Alice Highway and as we are in the midst of this discussion today, Sir, we are still seeing the non-appreciation by the Government that we need to move to a large facility that can adequately accommodate all the commuters and all the transport vehicles that are involved in our public transport. This is a very urgent matter but we will get back to it later on.

Therefore, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party's position is that we stand very firmly on the plank that there needs to be development in the Bridgetown and similar areas. We need however to recognise the constraints under which we operate and we need to ensure that the opportunities are given to all Barbadians in respect of being able to benefit from these facilities.

As I said, Sir, the facilities that are promised by the Honourable Leader of the Senate who happens also to be the Minister of Business Development in the country are not forthcoming so far. This should not be so. We spoke about them long enough. We spoke about that facility between

Collins building – the name eludes me now, Sir. Not a tractor has moved in there. Absolutely no development has occurred. I think again this demonstrates the barometer of how the Barbados Labour Party is operating with a view as regards the small person in Barbados. It is clear, whatever the rhetoric they want to attach to what is happening, the indications are that they are not looking enough at providing that opportunity for the real small businessman. They need to look at this and to do something about going beyond the talk and go into action in this regard.

Remember too, Sir, we have to be absolutely careful about how we concentrate our projects. Barbados is a small market and we are catering to the same clientele. Just as the sale of shoes or the sale of clothing there is a limit to how much will be bought or required, so too, with the provision of facilities. If we create bar after bar, club after club and sports bar after sports bar there are only a certain number of people who will go to these events and we might find ourselves going into business opportunities that are not necessarily there. That is the decision of the business persons.

Government's job however, is to guide and to provide opportunity by way of facilities or in this case by granting of the land which the business group that the Honourable Leader of the Senate referred to will take up and run with. We know that on that strip there are already many attractions and not far away there is a similar attraction in a lot of ways which now has no activity and really has never in my judgment been able to take off and that activity is a little further up Bay Street at the Carlisle Centre. We have to be mindful of these things in our development not to create too many white elephants. That is the term that most people...

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: It will be their creation, the creation of the Barbados Labour Party so that would be in order.

We need to bear in mind and in our development ensure that there is balance both in terms of the facilities that we are providing and the kind of opportunities that we are providing but there is also balance in terms of the people who can grasp that opportunity and run with it. So as we continue to develop and as we continue to lay emphasis on our tourism, though with all the happenings in the world, Sir, one sometimes shudders because we know how fickle the tourist industry can be and how much it can be affected by very, very small things, Sir. We have got to be mindful of that too and we have got to spend a lot of time. Whether Senator Barker agrees or not this is my opinion. I can only express my opinion in here, Sir. My opinion is that there has to be absolute attention to balancing our development and

the move to tourism, the move to attracting the IBCs and the Offshore companies, I put them all in that lump, Sir, must be balanced by that opportunity locally in terms of manufacturing and agriculture and the like, the things on which this country was built between the 1960s and the 1980s. Do not let us fool ourselves about it.

3.10 p.m.

Regardless of what the World Trade Organisation and all those other organisations say we have got to be able to develop. We have got to be able to produce, to earn for ourselves or else I am afraid, Sir, we will perish. To some extent we have got to protect our manufacturing, Sir. We have got to protect our agriculture and I know that Senator Laurie makes this plea every time he gets an opportunity in this Honourable Chamber, Sir, and it is a serious thing because one of the areas I work in relates to things like renewable energy and the whole question of the environment and the balance that is required for small island states like Barbados requires that we do these things. It must not only be private sector driven. We must not leave it to the private sector only, Government must get tangibly involved in terms of ensuring that the kind of development we see is one which can be sustainable and one which can ensure that our programmes are very enduring.

Sir, I want to laud the work of the Coastal Conservation Unit in this regard. The Honourable Senator alluded to it, the fact that their work in terms of maintaining our reefs, maintaining our beaches and indeed in some cases creating our beaches, Sir, is absolutely important because the retention of that beach area, the retention of that coral beside providing necessary food for near shore life and fish, the sand and the reefs also protect the land on which we live, Sir.

We know it has been proven and I do not know if Senator Bolden is going to come up with another story that he has read somewhere again about this theory, but it has been proven that the islands are not sinking, Sir, but the water levels are rising so the Honourable Senator can deal with it whichever way he wants to, Sir. Not so much that Barbados is sinking but, Sir, that sea levels are rising so we need to bear those things in mind as we consider our development.

We need, Sir, to look at absolute balance, Sir. We need to bring it, as the Honourable Senator said, Sir, bring it to the front burner, put the debate to the people. The people understand it better than we do. Sometimes you know, Sir, we believe that we know what is going on more than the people out there. The only time some of us go back to the people is every 5 years to ask them to vote for us, but by then it is too late. Sir, the people out there understand too well the question of management of our environment and this is not for this debate, but certainly waste disposal and the

management of our solid waste, the South Coast Sewerage Project. We will get back to that and matters like Greenland. These are important matters where the Barbados Labour Party stands condemned. It has failed so I have no faith in them carrying forward this programme. If they cannot manage programmes which are absolutely clear in terms of the direction, when we talk about the environment and management of solid waste, how can they manage concepts which have not yet even been fully developed, like the beautification of Bridgetown and the creation of a kind of city like the Mews in London? That is what they talk about these kinds of ethereal kinds of concepts which really, Sir, the relevance sometimes leave us flabbergasted.

I would urge the Government to think on these things as they continue development. Put some action where the Honourable Senator Farley's mouth is in this regard. Let us see the Spirit Bond transformed. Let us see the building at the bottom opposite St. Mary's Church transformed into something. Let us see an adequate bus facility for commuters and transport vehicles alike. Let us see these things, something that we can be proud of and something lasting, Sir. I am grateful to you.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, just a small intervention. I fully support the development of Bridgetown and I am really pleased and quite excited about Government's plans for Bridgetown and I wish them well but I would like to point out, and this particular vesting allows me to talk about this particular building, the premises of the former Harbour Police station building. It is a listed building under the Town and Country Planning Act and section 30 of that Act clearly states that no one shall demolish this building without first consultation and so forth. This was done to some extent. I know for sure that the Barbados National Trust was consulted. However the Barbados National Trust objected to the demolition of the building. I was subsequently told that a Government engineer had looked at the building and said it was not sound. Subsequently the Barbados National Trust employed one of the top civil engineering consulting companies in Barbados who did a survey of the building which stated clearly that the buildings were sound and could be renovated.

I understand that the next step was an order which was issued by the Minister for the demolition of the building. I do not know. I do not have the information as to whether or not the Town Planner disagreed and said the building ought not to be knocked down and the Minister used the powers in the Act to override the Town Planning Department as has happened in the past on a number of occasions. I myself do not like this idea and I notice that there have been some recommendations for revamping the Town Planning Act and taking this onerous duty of the Minister away from the

Minister so as to allow the technicians to make the decision without a political decision being made.

I hope that that does go through because for many, many years we have seen the misuse of this power in past administrations, particularly in the time of the Democratic Labour Party, where land for agriculture was taken out of agriculture for housing even though the Town Planner, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Society, everybody objected to it. The Minister ignored everything and just by one stroke of the pen changed the use of land. I really hope that this does not really happen and I strongly suggest that the Government do this.

The other thing I would just like to mention before I sit. I know in the contract that the Barbados Labour Party has with the people of Barbados that environmental impact assessments would be done on every project over a certain size and I would think, of course, they would adhere to that and that the public would see the environmental impact assessment before the projects are done. Thank you.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Mr. President, I too rise to say a few words to approve the vesting in the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated of a piece of land at Bay Street which was formerly the Harbour Police Station in Bay Street.

I think I mentioned in this Honourable Chamber before that I too have been involved in some small way in the redevelopment of Bridgetown in that I am a member of a committee in Swan Street that attends some of the meetings in Swan Street and attended some meetings in the Ministry of Tourism which is headed by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism.

3.20 p.m.

The overall development of Bridgetown is going to be well over \$200 million. We have not started as yet and I am sure when it is finished it will be well over that so I do not know if any of us in the Chamber will see the development of Bridgetown ever completed. Just to remind some of the Members of some of the areas in this redevelopment in Swan Street itself is that all the utilities, the natural gas, the electricity and the telephone are going to be underground. We are going to have concrete roads with an iron drain in the middle and slanted cobbled stone side walks so that the physically challenged could have easy access to go in and out of stores.

We are going to have arches at the top and bottom of Swan Street. We are going to have new lighting, planting of trees, benches, everything that one could ever want. Swan Street is going to be the envy of most of the other areas in Bridgetown and at the end of the day it is going to

be a pedestrian mall. It is important that the alleys could be kept clear, so that we can get deliveries to and fro. But as it relates to this Resolution to approve the vesting of lands in the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated the Honourable Leader of Government Business said that it is partly to provide economic opportunities particularly the small vendors and give them the opportunity to sell duty free items.

Now, that sounds very nice...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, on a point of order. I indicated that the development needed to provide opportunities for a number of business people, particularly the small ones. The Honourable Senator stretched it a bit far by suggesting that to include that there was the overall depth of this project is for the vendors to sell duty free and that was not the case.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Mr. President, the Honourable Member did mention that because when he mentioned it I made a note of it immediately and it prompted me to make the speech that in the overall context, small businesses will have the opportunity to go and ply their trade. And duty free was one of the areas that we did mention for small crafts. I can tell you that it sounds very nice to say, 'duty free' but after Swan Street is developed, there are a number of stores in Swan Street that would like to get duty free concessions. They have tried unsuccessfully and when stores in Swan Street are having difficulty getting duty free concessions, I fail to understand how the vendors are going to get duty free concessions unless we are talking some kind of an open market, like the Bahamas has, where everything is free of duty.

The other area that I want to mention in terms of the crafts and small entrepreneurs is that we have a situation in Barbados where the same items are being sold over and over again by these vendors and craftsmen. It is the same coral and the same type of things and every where the tourists go, whether it is on the beach, inland or wherever it is the same items and these entrepreneurs need to expand their product lines. They need to really avoid repeats and we have to be very careful when we are pushing trade for these small vendors that they do not become over saturated with vendors because eventually when you have too much and the market share is the same the pie becomes smaller and smaller and it will run people out of business.

Let me say, Sir, that I was a tenant in Norman Centre when Rockers Alley was cleared and it was an area that was not desirable to look at. It was an area where dope seemed to be rampant and it was only when a Rasta ran a policeman with a collins, similar to my friend, Senator Bolden when he ran through the Boat Yard many years ago, with somebody behind him...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. I do not believe that the rules of the Senate would permit one Senator to read something into the record which will affect the standing of another Senator.

I believe that I would want you, Mr. President, to ask the Senator if he would be so good as to withdraw those statements from the record.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden is usually able to defend himself quite well. He made no objection to it. I will let the record stand and leave any defence to Senator Bolden.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: I was about to say the same thing. Senator Bolden is quite capable of defending himself, but I was just saying that the policeman was chased with a Rasta-man carrying a collins behind him and that prompted the Right Honourable Prime Minister of the day, Mr. Adams to do something about it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, more importantly, what you are saying has nothing to do with the Resolution and I think that I need hardly to remind you that this is a serious Chamber and I would like you to move on.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Yes, Sir. There is another area that I am very concerned about. As I said earlier, we have good local architects in Barbados and I would like to advise the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated to hire proper architects and put something on that piece of land that will give the passer-by, so to speak, a window to the sea. Give us a view that we could see that beautiful beach and ocean that Senator Boyce spoke about.

Carlisle Bay is really beautiful and it comes all through the Hastings Rocks. So to put up a massive building there where people on the road will not be able to see the beautiful beach and the water, I think in a tourist country like ours would be a shame. I would like the architecture to be such that you could have a second floor, a third and a fourth floor, but the ground floor should be opened to have lovely access and easy visibility of the beach. And I cannot help but to think of the Holetown Police Station and the Magistrate building on a prime piece of property on the beach. That is a valuable piece of land that the Government could have sold, or could have kept that and have a lovely window to the sea, instead they put up a police station and magistrate court there. That is showing no thinking at all in a country that is pushing tourism.

Finally, Sir, as it relates to the development of Bridgetown, beside the public transport cars, we are having a problem with parking in Barbados. The Estimates to which unfortunately we did not debate, showed that under

Subprogramme 625 that parking meters were supposed to be introduced in Barbados and was supposed to be introduced by a Bridgetown merchant. I can say that the only thing that is left free in Barbados is to park in Bridgetown and now that there is provision in the Estimates for parking meters, I think that is not right. I think if there is anything the Government of the day should have the parking meters and not private enterprise. But more over we need parking facilities in Bridgetown if we are going to talk about all these millions of dollars for the redevelopment of Bridgetown because there is absolutely nowhere for people to park.

With those few words, I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I join this debate with great relish particularly because the area of land in question will provide an opportunity for a number of Barbadian entrepreneurs, progressive thinkers and investors who want to take an opportunity to invest and develop an area where we could really do with such development.

And, what is striking about this is that these investors are black Barbadians. This therefore would give further lie to the very oft repeated accusation from the Democratic Labour Party and Senator Boyce that we are only interested in a particular segment of the Barbadian society to develop. So here we will have a group of young black Barbadians with a facility smack on. On the one hand will be the Boat Yard and then there is the monolith of the symbol of the old plantocracy, the carousel in place right next door. So they will have a stake in Bridgetown, right there on Bay Street, thanks to the efforts of this Government.

There are complaints, Sir, that there has not been any movement regarding the development of Bridgetown by the Barbados Labour Party. But first of all in this instance one of the reasons why matters have not materialised as fast as had been hoped and planned is that there is a legal process. In the same way that if we are going to build some terrace units at Flat Rock, we have to acquire land and vest it, *et cetera*, the same legal process has to be gone through and this is all part of it. So any delays really are to make sure that proper legal and constitutional necessities are respected and therefore they have not resulted from any dilly-dallying or dithering on the part of the Government.

Sir, after listening to Senator Boyce, particularly his opening, I fully understand why, between 1986 and 1994 we had minimalist Government under the Democratic Labour Party. Why? Their horizons were so limited. Because if their concept of the development of Bridgetown was restricted to the turning around of Lord Nelson at half a million dollars and the Independence Arch next door for another half a million dollars, these are speculated figures, I am not sure but we have never heard the specific figures

registered. There are figures which have been voiced from time to time and there has been no definitive representation from the Government so I have to accept that there is some possibility of truth in the figures.

But if their concept of developing Bridgetown was to turn around Nelson, for what purpose only the Democratic Labour Party knows, and to build the Independence Arch, I now understand why Barbados was in a state of lassitude while the Democratic Labour Party was in power.

Sir, we have always had a dream about Bridgetown. The Honourable Leader of the Senate referred to the dream and the plans enunciated by the last Barbados Labour Party Government and which the Democratic Labour Party did nothing to advance. Once again we are having a similar vision of a developed Bridgetown, of an enhanced Bridgetown, of a beautiful and a striving Bridgetown coming out of this Government and quite interesting, Sir, the charge is being laid by the Honourable Member for the City who is also the Minister of Tourism. And if one hears the Honourable Minister of Tourism who is the MP for the City speaks of the plans which we envisage for Bridgetown, one cannot help but be excited.

When you see what is planned for Swan Street, for example, that is only a glimmer of the possibilities. I am sure if Senator Bernstein had more time he would welcome the development and improvement that have come to Swan Street as a result of the moving of the vendors out of the sun and the deplorable conditions, into the Palmetto Mall which the Democratic Labour Party is now trying to scrape and grab credit for.

Sir, if one looks around Bridgetown one will see the development that is going on under the Barbados Labour Party Government. For example, the work being done on BNB Building at the corner of Fairchild Street at the back of the old Empire Theatre. The Empire Theatre is also in the Government's plans for development when the finances are suitably raised. And the entire Probyn Street area including the Fire Station will be remodeled, again when the funds become available. There are also plans for use of the area next door which once housed the Bridgetown Plaza which was burnt out and which adjoins Golden Square. Golden Square where a monument to the Heroes on the 26th of July was recently unveiled and which had itself brought ecstatic and historical significance to an area which for far too long had been seen as the pits of Bridgetown. That is all part of how we see Bridgetown.

There has been enunciated that work is going to be done to improve the Wharf Road at \$6 million or \$7 million. So there is a whole slew of activity, either afoot or on the verge of happening in Bridgetown. There is also Pondsides which consists of 48 units at another \$6 million and if one

saw television last night and saw the exquisite detail of which those apartments at Pondsides have been appointed, one cannot help but be impressed. And I think that this facility as is planned will mesh quite nicely with the enhancement that has come to that general area. With the Boat Yard, now there is Pondsides and there are other things happening which I am sure will help to make Bridgetown the thriving city that it should be. Because it is understood, Sir, that unless a city is populated after business hours, a city dies. It dies and it decays. This is what we are seeking to do in Bridgetown in that area, to bring some life, some inhabitants, back into Bridgetown. That is why the Pondsides development is so important. It is not just a question of putting people in housing. It is a question of developing communities to give life and vitality to a city which would otherwise atrophy and die.
3.40 p.m.

Sir, there was some mention of facilities for commuters *etc.* We are appreciative of that. One only has to look at the Fairchild Street bus stand which was built by the last Barbados Labour Party and which has never been officially opened by the Democratic Labour Party. It used to be called the Vic. Johnson International Airport, so grand it is and the Democratic Labour Party Government was so small-minded. It has been used by thousands since then. It never was graced with an official opening in order to give it...

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: We have not opened Sherbourne because the Fairchild Street bus stand was finished but Sherbourne was not finished. Sir, that is the context in which one has to see this development. I would also like to mention the National Trust. The Honourable Senator Laurie spoke with some insight into what he had heard and been told where the happenings surround the demolition of the old Harbour Police Building. Let me say that for many people the old Harbour Police Building might have been just the building of a monument on a stretch of road or a name. I had used the old Harbour Police Building up to a couple of years ago when the only thing that could be housed in that building was a couple of offices that housed the firearm sector of the Royal Barbados Police Force.

If one entered that building the whole thing was in total decay, termite ridden, run down on the verge of collapse so therefore I am not surprised that it could be classified by reputable engineers as unsound, despite what other people might say. I am surprised that the Honourable Senator who came expounding and projecting a case for the involvement of the National Trust for listening to the National Trust some more that he could not say what was the role of the Town Planning. I thought he would have been so properly briefed that he would know whether the

Town Planner had been appealed to, whether it had gone to the Minister or who took the final act or the decision that it should be demolished. I do not think it is fair to leave it hanging in such a way that it could cause any doubt that full, legal and proper procedure has been gone through in this respect.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: On a point of order. I said that as far as I am aware the order for demolition was signed by the Minister. I said that very clearly.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Yes, Sir, he said that but he also said he did not know what was the role of the Town Planning what it had said and all that. All I am saying is that if he is going to come with a brief, come with a complete brief and let us know whether it was the Town Planner, the Minister or whoever had the final say in this regard. Therefore, Sir, I am very pleased to give my endorsement to this measure. I look forward to it coming to fruition not only because it will provide entrepreneurial activity for young Barbadians and employment for Barbadians but because of the enhancement that it will bring to that whole area of Bridgetown. It will tie in very nicely with our having around it what is happening on Roebuck Street because Roebuck Street itself is also changing slowly but there are some nice buildings, some enhanced buildings going to Bridgetown. I am sure that as time goes on and as the economy continues to thrive that more and more Barbadians will seek opportunities for the development of buildings for development opportunities and that Bridgetown will once again be the pride of place as it has been for a long time and that Barbadians will be able to take great pride in an enhanced Bridgetown that can hold its own anywhere particularly as this Government intends very seriously to make Barbados a fully developed society. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I want to join this debate as I think it is a very important debate. And the whole area of Carlisle Bay in which the parcel of land falls, has been designated as a special development area by the Minister of Finance a couple of years ago in his budgetary presentation and this Resolution is giving effect to a part of the policy of this Government to facilitate activity in the Carlisle Bay area.

Sir, all of us know that the whole Carlisle Bay area stretching from Needhams Point down to the harbour, that beach in that area is of recent origin. I am told that years ago that was just rocks but development further down helped in the creation of that lovely beach stretching from Needhams Point right down to the harbour.

Sir, I want to tell Members that this stretch of beach is very vital to the development of our tourism industry in Barbados and for that reason it was made a special

development area. I note the Other Side had a lot to say about the special development legislation which came into effect a couple of years ago. In their short-sightedness they did not foresee that indigenous people, black people, small people are going to take advantage of the opportunities to be presented by the special development legislation and I am told that the plans for this particular building is an example of people coming forward and taking advantage of that legislation.

I hope, Sir, that in time to come we will see activity in the Carlisle Bay area which would make use of the lovely beach that has been created. In that regard, Sir, I do not think that we should be selling cement on the Carlisle beach area. I do not think that a car dealership has to be on the beach. I feel that the better use of these resources would require that some of these activities that can go inland should go inland and reserve the whole Carlisle Bay area for beach activity and also for leisure activities not only for tourists but of equal importance for local persons.

We look forward to the day when activities that can be moved from the beach would do so and leave the area for restaurants and other types of activities. That is how I see development going in that particular area.

Sir, I want to talk about the protection of the Carlisle Bay area. It is no sense giving people concessions to build and to invest in that area unless we take steps to preserve the environment of that area. That is why this Government is pleased to have taken the decision to close the MOBIL refinery. That was a source of contamination of the Carlisle Bay area. From time to time we have heard of instances where hydrocarbons found themselves in the beach. We have heard of instances where the loading and off loading of petroleum cargo caused certain difficulties. That is one of the main reasons why we moved with despatch to end the MOBIL agreement and why in a couple years time the movement of ships with petroleum products in and out of Carlisle Bay will be a thing of the past. That area as I said, Sir, is vital to our tourism industry and we will want to make sure that the probability of contamination becomes virtually zero.

As long as we have ships offloading and loading there, there is always a probability of something happening so we are going to move with some haste to ensure that that activity no longer takes place in Carlisle Bay. If you would note, Sir, in the Other Place last week a Resolution was passed for over \$3 million for clean up work in that area. This is part of Government's activity geared to preserving the environment in that area and I think it is money well spent. All of us have used that beach for bathing – Browne's Beach and what we called the Old Pot – and we know that it is a lovely beach and the Pebbles Restaurant serves a great purpose. In my view, Sir, that money is well

spent and will go a long way towards enhancing that particular beach.

Sir, I know that the Other Side will have a lot to say about MOBIL. Only this morning we heard some negative comments on our decision to cease operations there, some slighting remarks but the fact that we are seeking to exploit the resources of that area means that our decision is well taken and we have no apologies to make for taking a decision in the interest of the people of this country.

You can be sure, Sir, that this Government will always put the public interest at the forefront of our activity. That is why in 1990, I remember like now, Sir, that we, the Barbados Labour Party, had to mount a political platform in Dalkeith out by the Post Office to expose an attempt by the Democratic Labour Party to extend for 25 years the lease to the MOBIL refinery. That is a matter of historical record. I was there that night when the Opposition Leader was then Henry Forde, now Sir Henry Forde. We had to take the campaign to the streets in order to prevent the Democratic Labour Party from entering into an agreement which would not be to the advantage of this country. We could not be talking about developing that lovely beach and at the same time keeping a refinery which was known to be a source of pollution of the Carlisle Bay area.

The two in my view are incompatible. I think this country owes the Barbados Labour Party. Well, we were doing our job of opposition to expose and what we were mandated as part of our responsibility. We have the interest of the country at heart. I look forward to the day when the area to the North of the Carlisle Bay area, the whole Mobil area and the Hilton area, realises its full potential and provide the accommodation for visitors which this country to some extent lack now.

3.50 p.m.

There is a case for increased accommodation and this activity in the old Harbour Police site will dovetail nicely with our plans for the area.

Sir, the whole question of it being a listed building, Sir, we cannot allow sentiment to get in the way of development. There are times when we have to take a decision. If a building is worm eaten, if a building is in decay, at times we have to take the decision and push it down and build greater. At times it means, Sir, that we may have to push down a ward at a hospital but if that is in the national interest well we will do it.

The fact, Sir, is that the building had to come down. To me it is no big thing at all and I do not think, Sir, that the Government has to enter into discussions with anybody. No organisation is above Government. So, Sir, I do not

really want to go down that line but the time is going to come when Government has to make these decisions and we act in the best interest of this country.

Sir, this Resolution is also part of Government's strategy for developing the area because we know that Government owns a lot of buildings in the area. The Child Care Board as mentioned before, the Welfare Building, there are a lot of buildings that are owned by Government on Bay Street and I think the Prime Minister has let it be known that Government is more than willing to enter into arrangements with investors who have good uses for Government properties.

We want other people to take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves because of Government designating this area as a special development area. So instead of people sitting down there and swiping they have to come up with good plans and they will find that Government is receptive to their plans and will do what it can in its power to bring these plans into fruition and this is an example of Government's pro-activeness in this particular regard.

So, Sir, I welcome this Resolution and all of us in here look forward to the day when that whole area on both sides of Bay Street is transformed. Sir, I know it is only a stone's throw away from this particular building. Government has built Pondsides, a housing development there, in spite of serious objections by a lot of people who felt that that area is too good for poor people. That is a fact. People have criticised the Government for building Pondsides because poor people are not supposed to live near the beach. If it was condominiums for the wealthy like at Westmoreland that would not be a crime, but it is Government buildings for poor people and we are getting all sorts of cries, it is too good for them. But the Government in developing this area will ensure that all the people of Barbados have access to the resources of the area.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Sir, I hate to interrupt the Honourable Senator even when he is not in flow. The point is we on this Side have never referred to the facility of Pondsides as not being good enough for anybody in Barbados. We are a responsible political organisation. He must not mislead the Chamber in that way, Sir. When he says on the Other Side, Sir, he is referring to the Democratic Labour Party. He must understand that he must not give that impression, even when he is not in his flow, Sir.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am sorry if the Honourable Member feels that I meant him. If the shoe fit he has to wear it but I never said the Democratic Labour Party.

Sir, I support this Resolution and as I was saying, Sir, the Government will develop that whole area for the benefit of all the people and housing is going to be part of it, tourism development is going to be part of it, leisure activity is going to be part of it and, Sir, some parts are going to be left open for the people of this country to go when the evenings come and park their cars and get a bath.

Every development that we initiate we are going to make sure that the people and their interest are taken into account. Thank you very much, Sir, and I support this Resolution and urge this Honourable Chamber to give it their fullest support.

SENATOR D.T. GILL: Mr. President, Sir, I rise to make my contribution to this Resolution and, Sir, I really do not want to get tied up, to use the modern jargon, with Senator Boyce and his new theory of relativity whether the land is sinking relative to the sea or the sea is rising relative to the land. What I do know, Sir, is that the engineers report, the consultants report, has shown that that wharf area, all along there and undoubtedly the part beyond the bridge is sinking. It is a fact.

Sir, in a case like this we must compliment the coastal zone management for a job being well done and their recommendations. Sir, this agency has been very close in scrutinising what has been the happenings along the south and west and south western parts of Barbados.

Sir, attention of this entire area is long overdue and as I have said they are doing an excellent job, they have been able to pinpoint the areas where accretion has been taking place, they have also been able to make recommendations for revetment of certain areas along the same area as well as the use of gabions and boulders, *etc.*

Sir, as some speakers have alluded to earlier on, this Bay is about the nicest one can find any part of the Caribbean, its tranquility and its clearness can be attested to. Many a child, Sir, would have been taught how to swim just outside the Harbour Police pier.

Sir, long before we had the pool many a child would visit that area on Saturday mornings for swimming lessons and indeed many of the families from in the area, Sir, used it for their personal activities.
4.00 p.m.

Sir, anyone who would have used that Carlisle Bay area and the Browne Beach area would have encountered the cobbles, something which in recent times, you would have problems finding along the Carlisle Bay area and the Bay nearby. But, because of pollution for more than one purpose these cobbles, which I must inform the Honourable Opposition Member, forms part of the species the

echinodermata, they and sea eggs belong to the same species, the echinoderms for your enlightenment.

Sir, the sewerage of Bridgetown has undoubtedly brought back some form of aquamarine life as has been reported by the same coastal zone management. And undoubtedly, when the South Coast Sewerage Project is in full gear, we would also see the return of many of the marine species, both near shore and far shore to the area.

There are spots between this same area outside the old Harbour Police Pier and going to the deep south where line fishing, rod fishing, net fishing and spear fishing were extremely popular some years ago. Now, it is a matter of scrounging to be able to hold a few of those fish in the area under consideration.

Sir, one only has to think of the Harbour Pier, the Hospital Pier, the Hilton Jetty and behind Hastings Rocks and alongside where the Kentucky is in Rockley – before I go on, Sir, we must be very cognizant of polluting agents. I think it was last week I read in one of the daily's of a great build up of foam along the Harbour Road and the writer alluded to some sort of detergent being used in one of the factories that whenever it rains, it foams.

Asides.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: In this case, Sir, let me use your words, whenever it pours, it foams. And, Sir, seriously, this brings the dire need for a totally environmental Act to come before this Chamber and Sir, I would love to see it before this session expires, where incidences like that would definitely have to be removed and controlled in the best interest of the shore line.

Sir, I would like to see the area from the same Carlisle Bay going back to Rockley being reserved and preserved where only swimming and no form of marine activity, jet skis or such like sports be entertained. The laws are there, they only need to be enforced. And, I am hoping that in a stipulated period of time, commencing the regeneration of certain marine areas, we would be witnessing the return of various species and plant life.

I do not believe, as I have said before that certain pieces of legislation will be pursued only in the interest of visitors. I am fairly firm in the belief that such legislation should bring a certain amount of happiness and enjoyment to locals where you can have clear water, the children enjoying the marine land and this would not only be reserved or preserved for visitors. So, Sir, I wholeheartedly lend my support to this piece of legislation before the Chamber.

I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Sir, I would like to make a small contribution on this particular Resolution and I note although it makes reference to vesting at the Bay Street area, its emphasis is really centered on business development. There is a fairly disturbing feature which was recently drawn to our attention, I believe it was in the Budgetary presentation by the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados that many persons will discover that unemployment among women now stands at 17%. That is particularly disturbing for that very enterprising sector of our community. As I looked at this Resolution, I have been thinking about it for some time and I listened to the emphasis on Government in business, I believe that here is an area that we need to really target for women in business and I want to ask a few questions of the Government of Barbados.

I recall that through the Bureau of Women Affairs, there was supposed to have been some strengthening intra-structurally and training as we dealt with a sum of money, I believe it was about US\$½ million made available to the Bureau of Women Affairs for the training of women in Barbados and that was to help to prepare them for business enterprises in this country. I have not heard anything about it in recent times and I would like very much to know what are the plans of this Government for women in business.

Now, we place a lot of emphasis I know, on tourism and a very significant percentage of our concentration on tourism in Barbados focuses on the hotel sector and those shops which cater to the Duty Free sector. But one of the areas that concern me a lot is that we are not trying to develop in Barbados an indigenous souvenir industry to fully exploit tourism.

I believe that there is a lot that is uniquely Barbadian that we can look at and encourage our young people in using their creativity to develop businesses. I cannot help but think of the Barbados chattel house. I think that we are only putting resources. I have only heard over the last two days that we have more development coming for indigenous business in Barbados. I believe that we can target this souvenir industry in Barbados for women in ceramics, porcelain and those areas.

They do not need very large buildings, they just need to have a good kiln and I think we can do quite a bit of work in the souvenir industry for tourism. I would like to see some of our women have a very prominent place in this new Bay Street development. We are targeting the informatics sector but \$160.00 or \$175.00 a week wages for our women, is just not good enough and although there are probably areas of employment in the informatics sector, I would like to see if we can equip a larger number of women for self-employment and business development. I am not placing my emphasis on small businesses, because I would not want to, although

we have to start at that stage, because it may have been fairly fixed in the minds of individuals that they are not supposed to move on.

When we debated the Special Development Area Bill here, contrary to what Senator Barker is saying, I recall two of the proposals which I made during that debate. Those two proposals are that we should get the cooperative movement in Barbados fully involved and if we are talking about the empowerment of Barbados, it is not going to be a simple thing for all Barbadians to accumulate the level of capital necessary for them to get into business immediately on Bay Street. And I thought we should not try to, in order to have a larger number of the populace involved in the ownership of businesses on Bay Street that we should try to get the cooperative movement involved in this ownership.

I recognise that for this particular venture there is a consortium, some black Barbadian businessmen who have come together and that I am pleased about. But they are the traditional businessmen in Barbados who have come together to engage in this particular project. What I want to see happen as another stage of our empowerment is that we bring on board other Barbadians who have business ideas, skills, and knowledge, but no financial resources. I believe that is the really true feeling of empowerment. When those individuals who have the ability to participate but do not have the financial capacity to do so are enabled in their thrust to get ahead.

I would like to see us try to get involved in groups using that cooperative route, a large number of Barbadians in the ownership of these areas on Bay Street and the surrounding areas in Bridgetown. I know it is not going to be easy for them to raise capital. We know that is part of the problem, but that is what the cooperative spirit is all about, pooling of resources and sharing those resources among the group for a common cause.

Now I would like to raise, and I am sorry that Senator Goddard is not here today, there is a lot of international business legislation that is knocked around in this Parliament from time to time and I do not know if we are giving any consideration to limited partnerships in Barbados. I know that limited partnership feature quite prominently in the international business arena. It is another good vehicle for development in businesses among groups of individuals with a common interest motivated by profit and I would like to make a suggestion that that is one of those areas which we have to consider to see how workable it is in our local situation.

Mr. President, I believe the time has come for us to be a lot more creative if we are to get business to take off the other sectors of this society, we have to be a lot more serious

than we have been today. The Ministry of Business Development must see it as part of its responsibility to not only deal with those individuals who come with ideas but to help to conceptualise for these individuals based on a national plan, ways by which we can go about the development of these businesses.

I know these things do not happen overnight, but I believe that unless we get active on it at this stage that we can find ourselves lagging somewhat. So I want to make a special appeal for women in business and I would like to appeal to the Minister of Business Development too, by way of whatever organisations there are in Barbados to cater to women in business, to try to see how best we can hope to organise a group of women to pool resources by way of their own savings or by accessing these funds through these new organisations which are there and making funds available to get them involved in the development of small businesses among them. But particularly the tourism sector and the souvenir industry, I think there is a lot for scope of us in that area.

Thank you.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

**ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT
(GENERAL) ORDER, 1998**

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, from time to time Governments over the years would bring to Parliament civil establishment general orders for amendment. This is a practice which is done, has been done and is being done in this instance in order to do a number of things.

Traditionally, they do so to correct errors in previous amendments to the establishment order, to consolidate into a comprehensive framework any changes that have been made in the interim between one establishment order and the other, to establish any temporary posts which were created in the interim again between the various establishment orders, in order to regrade any posts that are necessary for regrading, and transfer of posts between various ministries and departments. That is also being done in this case, but I would like to point out that in the last establishment order like this occurred in 1995 and the one preceding that was in 1990.

The Ministry of the Civil Service in Government intends that in future these matters and a civil establishment order will come to Parliament at least once a year. Once a

year because after I explain what is also attendant in this order you will understand why in future we think it might only be necessary to bring it to the Chamber once a year.

In the interim we also intend to bring another order before the end of the year which will do a number of things and include more of the number of some 1 800 temporary officers some of which are included in this present order and also some of those temporary and casual who would not have been included in this order for various reasons. In the mean time the Ministry of Civil Service is also undertaking a review of the various organisations to ensure that the posts which are temporary at this stage are needed before they are established.

Sir, the reasons why I said that this establishment order does more than its customary role is that one would remember that on the 29th September, 1997 the Right Honourable Prime Minister indicated that it was the Government's intention to convert what were known as casual posts and temporary to public officers. This Government has found it repugnant that for many years, the casual workers particularly were treated at the bottom end of the socio-economic ladder of the society. We felt that persons who carry out valuable functions and make valuable contributions as valuable as any other in the rest of the hierarchy of the service that we should have only one category of public worker namely, public officers, as against the situation where there were public officers standing at the apex of the hierarchy followed by public employees and at the bottom of the rung casual workers.
4.20 p.m.

I consider, Sir, that particularly given the numbers of persons involved, some 4 000 workers, who are benefiting from the conversion of casual workers and the abolition of such categories and conversion into public officers that this is possibly the single greatest act of public sector reform that Government has so far undertaken in its public sector reform policy. It is not something that just deals with an institution or an organisation or function. It is something that strikes at the heart of a number of people – 4 000 workers who were previously classified as casual.

If one extrapolates that across the society and considers the number of persons, four or five persons to a family, one would see the tremendous impact that it has had on giving higher status, not only social status, but real and meaningful status to these workers. As I said, Sir, they have been treated as pariahs. If one is familiar with the workings of the public service, if one is familiar with how people in Barbados saw these workers one would understand that the use of the term pariah is not an exaggeration.

The reason why it is so important for these persons to be converted from casual into public officers and the Civil

Establishment Order will make it possible for these workers to be converted from casual into public officers is that there were a number of disadvantages which these persons experienced over the years from being classified as casual workers, even though they sometimes worked for 20 or even 30 years or more as casual workers.

First of all, Sir, they enjoyed no security of tenure even though they might have been working for many years but they only worked when there was work to be done. This meant that there were real difficulties in their social and economic lives. They found it difficult if not sometimes impossible to get long-term financing for housing or for other amenities or for hire purchase activities and this became even more acute when these workers who would have been working for many years between 1991 and 1992 when some 3 000 of them were laid off which exacerbated a situation for they were not or had been only casual but now they were unemployed. We felt that this was a situation which was untenable and we could not allow it to continue.

In addition, Sir, one of the other disadvantages encountered by these categories of persons was that the superannuation benefits that they received when they retired were at a total disadvantage when compared to those who worked as public officers. If they retired at the age of 60, for example, they had to go five years without any monthly or weekly income, that is, until the old age pension kicked in when they would be entitled to a National Insurance pension.

In addition, they would receive a gratuity for as little as 40% when they retired. Let me give you some graphic details of how this would be. A maid, for example, who worked for 33¼ years for a salary of \$14 523 a year would receive a gratuity of \$29 295 compared to a gratuity of \$12 060 as a casual. As a casual, that maid would get \$12 060 as a gratuity but now that person will get nearly \$30 000, almost three times as much.

As a result of Government's measures this will now become a thing of the past. Casual workers will now be able to retire at 60 with full superannuation benefits, receiving not only a higher gratuity but would also be entitled to a Government pension and this would also be supplemented by the National Insurance pension when they reach the age of 65.

More importantly they would have security of tenure just like the public officers. It means that when they have to go to the U.S. Embassy for a visa they would not be seen as just casual and therefore as having insecurity in their tenure, providing some doubtful case as to the evaluation of the officers of the Embassy who would be doubtful about their intentions to come back to Barbados.

It means also that these public officers, the former casual workers, can only now be dismissed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Public Service Commission and even then when this happened they have recourse to the Privy Council as has been the custom with the public officers for many years.

However, Sir, despite the fact that these obvious benefits will come to the casual workers who are now public officers by changing their status to public officers Government does not intend in the interest of natural justice to force it on them. They will still be given an option to decide whether they want to opt to become public officers or whether they want to retain their status of casuals for any perceived conditions that might be beneficial to them and they would like to retain. For example, a casual can participate in political campaigns in a way that a public officer cannot. Some persons who might hitherto have been casual might consider that to be more important than other benefits and they might therefore want to opt to remain casual as against becoming a public officer.

Therefore, Sir, this is the kind of background which is the context in which we are moving forward to give this legislation reality to fulfil the pledge made by the Prime Minister to the benefit of some 4 000 casual workers.

In addition, there is also another category of person who would also benefit from this. The persons who were known as public employees were on the second rung. They would also benefit by becoming public officers even though while they were almost exactly the same they would now enjoy a number of benefits as public officers. Again, they are going to be given the option as to whether they want to retain the status of public employees or whether they want to become public officers. Their retirement benefits will remain the same as public officers but they will also enjoy greater security of tenure than there has been in the past. Again, dismissal is by the Governor-General on the advice of the Public Service Commission and again they will have recourse to the Privy Council.

Right now public employees can be dismissed by the Chief Personnel Officer with their only recourse for a possible redress being to make an appeal to the Head of the Civil Service. So now they would have the full protection of the law and the Constitution as public officers.

This legislation also means that casual employees of statutory boards will also be able to retire with improved benefits similar to those at the central Government. In addition, the temporary workers' position will be made permanent and they will also receive the full benefits of security of tenure and of protection by the law as public officers. We estimate there are some 1 800 temporary posts in the public service and Government intends to make these

permanent as soon as we determine that the jobs that these persons now do are desirable, important and whether they might not have been lost in the shuffle and therefore have lost their relevance. Once these posts have been determined as to their relevance and importance they will be entitled to security of tenure and they also will be made public officers. We will appoint them as public officers because we do not believe that there should be protracted periods of temporary nature of the service of public officers or protracted periods of service as casual or protracted periods of service of a temporary/casual nature where there is insecurity of tenure.

As a matter of fact, the latest figures I have at hand is that between October, 1994 and September last year we made some 2 151 appointments to the public service and some 856 promotions were put in place in that short period of time. They should have the same sense of belonging to the public service like all other officers.
4.30 p.m.

Apart from that, Sir, we as a Government have taken a decided policy that where there are persons in the Service who serve as maids and security guards, as messengers, who would have over a period of time since their entry into the service had gone to evening classes and acquired 4, 5, 6 O-levels, we have had the Personnel Administration Department go through people's records and pick out those persons who were maids and security guards, messengers etc. but who were otherwise better qualified academically, and we have promoted them. We have given them a status more befitting of their qualifications because we feel that it is important to encourage persons to improve themselves, not only for themselves personally but to improve the morale of the public service and to encourage other people to understand that they too can get ahead in life, that where they exist we should provide a scope to them.

We have done this to a number of people. I do not remember the exact number off hand but I would think a couple dozen at least. It is a policy where we have booked out a list and wherever opportunities come up in the public service where those persons can be upgraded we do so as a matter of encouragement and a matter of reward and we are very pleased.

I myself and the Ministry have received several thank you letters from public servants who are grateful for the fact that we are able to encourage upwards social mobility across the service and help them to improve their status and their lives and also improve the lives of their families.

So therefore, Sir, that is the kind of context in which we are operating. But that was not the only improvement and this act to convert the casuals, the public employees and the temporary officers into public officers that is not the only act of improvement that the Government would have given the

public service over the years. This Government you would recall, Sir, if I might read into the record that we have also resorted to the practice of giving public officers salary increases as against salary cuts and wage freezes.

We have between 1995 and 1997 given public officers 2.15% salary increases at the top rising to 3.5% and then 3% across the board. In 1997-99 we gave an increase of 6.25% and 3% across the board. I have already mentioned the number of appointments that have been made in the last 4 years or so. We have also been moving to improve the physical conditions of Government offices wherever possible. One of the biggest bugbears has been the conditions under which the long serving and faithful officers at the old National Insurance Building have operated. That building really is in a deplorable condition but we have been systematically working step by step to improve it. We have improved the water system. There is no longer any fear or complaint about the drinking water in the system. We have worked to improve the air-conditioning and we are systematically seeking to give them a better working environment altogether.

We hope that we can do, Sir, to that building what has been done to the Treasury Building. One would recall, Sir, that some years ago the Treasury Building, just like the old National Insurance Building, was a hot bed for dissatisfaction, quite justifiably, Sir, among public officers who were unhappy with the conditions under which they worked. What Government has done is to systematically floor by floor moved to improve the conditions in the building.

Only a few months ago, I went on the 5th floor and I was amazed at the quality of the improvement given to that floor. The people now have nice tiling, nice walls, the walls are painted in nice attractive bright inspiring colours and that is the kind of treatment we would like to give to the National Insurance Building.

Also, Sir, as is known we are building a new complex for Government offices at Warrens. That is well on the way. We have improved conditions at the police stations, at the fire stations and we are systematically going across the service and wherever possible improve any other government offices. Part of the problem is that we have some buildings that we are not happy with. We are not satisfied they are quite conducive to good productivity by the workers but the difficulty, Sir, is to find rental accommodation, particularly around Bridgetown for offices. Hence the motivation to construct the complex at Warrens.

The Government spends millions of dollars every year paying for rental accommodation. I myself, Sir, have been involved in the Ministry of the Civil Service and we have been trying for nearly 2 years to move out of

Government Headquarters which is bursting at the seams and after a number of set backs, disappointments, etc. we finally landed and we now occupy a building on Roebuck Street. It belonged to Perkins. It is obliquely opposite the Central Bank and downstairs are shops, upstairs are nicely appointed offices and the Ministry of the Civil Service and the office of Public Sector Reform now occupy those much improved offices, much better than what we had before. We wherever possible do this but like I said one of the constraints is to find suitable, adequate, sizeable, even available office space for rental to the public service.

We are very conscious, Sir, of the conditions under which persons operate and do their jobs and serve the public and we, like I said, are determined that wherever possible we will seek to give them better conditions.

Part of our improvement, Sir, in the Public Service as part of public service reform we have improved and increased the loans given to public officers. The car loan as a first loan has been raised from \$20 000 to \$35 000 and second loan from \$16 000 to \$35 000. Motorcycle loan has been raised from \$3 000 to \$5 000 and postal workers now can get their motor cycles duty free. At one time a loan was only restricted to buying a motor car but with the change in the driving habits of Barbadians where people now drive jeeps and whatnot we also now allow the loan to allow persons to buy a jeep if possible.

In addition the repayment period has been extended from 5 years to 7 years and up to last count some 72 new posts have been placed on the Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances Regulations thus entitling them to acquire vehicle loans.

In addition one does not very often hear about the principals of schools but principals of schools have also now been put on the travelling schedule and they are also eligible for loans.

We have also, Sir, improved the quality of life for public officers by improving the question of their pensions. We have brought into the net of pensions, staff which were not previously included and this was through the 1996 amendment of the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act. As a result staff of the National Sports Council, the National Assistance Board, are now eligible for enhanced retirement benefits.

We have also, Sir, made it possible for public officers to move from the Central Government into statutory boards while retaining their benefits. We have also made it possible for persons who have been acting in positions for a number of years, prior to retirement, to benefit from the conditions they would have acquired.

We have said that for the 36 months prior to retirement, any 36 months during the last 5 years to retirement and they do not have to be 36 months consecutively, but you can aggregate them over a period of time but those persons would benefit from the enhanced emoluments and retiring benefits commensurate with the post in which they were acting or which they have been temporarily appointed.

We have increased, Sir, allowances for policemen and their washing allowance has been raised, both the inspectors and the other ranks. We have increased the allowances for fire officers, station officers, nurses, the community centres, community health services and District Hospitals they have all received increased allowances. Customs officers have received allowances for plain clothes, court clerks, Marshals, uniforms have been given to gazetted officers, detectives *etc.* Above Inspectors have also received and benefitted from improved allowances. Travel allowance has been improved, Sir, rising from a previous rate of \$6 900 per year to \$7 860 per year and from \$4 460 per year to \$4 980. That is the fixed travelling. There is also travelling for persons who travel and are paid by the distance they travel. These have also been revised both for cars and for motor cycles and persons who are entitled to entertainment allowance have also gotten entertainment benefits. The telephone allowances have also been increased, Sir, across the board to those persons who are entitled to it including principals of schools and 15 station sergeants who are in charge of police stations.

All in all, Sir, between 1995 and 1997 the cost of these improved conditions of service amounted to some \$3 341 961. So that is the context in which we are bringing this legislation to the Government to improve the status and the well-being both the current and in the long term so as to have a tremendous impact on persons retirement benefits, their gratuity and their pensions, both Government and National Insurance.
4.40 p.m.

We think, Sir, that it is a highly progressive step and one that will have tremendous benefits for all concern, that this Government is very pleased, one, that we have been able to keep our pledge made by the Right Honourable Prime Minister less than a year ago on September 29, 1997. We are very pleased to be able to bring it to fruition and I have great pride in being able to pilot this measure through this Chamber.

But, before I close, Sir, at this aspect of it, I would like to thank all those who were involved in helping to bring this legislation. It really was a very complexed and onerous task that involved a lot of departments. First of all I would like to thank the trade unions. From the very beginning we

decided that as part of the social partnership we would have to encompass and embrace the trade unions as equal partners, as persons who represented the workers interest and that they should be part and parcel of this exercise to be able to protect the workers' interest step by step from the very beginning. And, it would not be a case of, in our perceived wisdom devising legislation and seeking to impose it on the workers and their representatives, but they should, from the ground floor level, be part of it. I must commend them for their cooperation, suggestions and insight in helping to make the whole operation go very smoothly. I think that they have showed great maturity and a great sense of commitment to the workers whom they represent and I think the workers can be proud of the representation which they received from them.

In addition, I would like to thank members of the staff of the Ministry of the Civil Service for dealing with the nuts, bolts and the details of the intricacies and complexities, because you would have heard me use some terms like public officers and public employees as against casual and temporary. The Civil Service has its own jargon and like any other field to which you are not accustomed that can be very archaic and strange interpretation and language which you do not always immediately appreciate and understand. The officers of the Public Service were able to deal with the intricacies and complexities of the issues even to the extent where they were able to quite easily pinpoint the various Acts of legislation that would need amendment in order to give effect to this activity in order to protect the interest. Because, if this had not been done, we might very well have gone ahead and passed an Act converting casual, temporary and casual employees to public officers and at the same time that, quite unintentionally, might have done injustice and injury to their other interests in pensions, *et cetera*.

Therefore, they did a tremendous job and I am pleased and proud of their contribution. I am also pleased with the work done by the officers of the Solicitor's General Office and the Attorney General's Office, who were actively involved in devising the actual legislation. They have done a good job in helping to bring to realisation this measure and we are sure that the society will be a better place because of it. We have a public service that despite certain deficiencies and problems, and areas of improvement that are necessary, are still a very professional, competent, honest and trustworthy public service.

This is therefore, Sir, going to give further status and meaning to persons who would have worked under sometimes the most trying conditions. One can understand how workers in the National Insurance Building, the Treasury Building or in any other building where there is not proper ventilation or there are not good working conditions complain about heat, *et cetera*. But when one considers the conditions under which some of these casual

workers have worked, persons in the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Transport and Works who work very hard in the sun doing some very heavy, physically demanding work, which takes a lot out of them and then they were treated and regarded as less than second classed citizens. They were third classed or fourth classed officers in the hierarchy of the public service. They now feel that they have equal rights, status and standing as any other worker in the public service. From the Permanent Secretary, to the maid, to the casual worker, to the man working in the street, they are all now equal in the eye of this Government and in the eyes of the law as public servants.

I therefore would like to commend this measure as a progressive step. To the public servants affected I think it is equivalent to when Barbadians received the right to vote. It made them citizens and people of authority, people with legitimacy and people of standing in the law. These people, because of this Act, have this equal standing and the same kind of standing in the public service and I therefore commend this measure to the Senate and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Thank you, Sir.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 5.05 p.m. today.

The question that the Senate do now suspend 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.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I listened to everything Senator Murray said in his presentation, Sir, although for part of his presentation I was not in this Chamber. It is so arranged in this Honourable place that even though I was not in the actual Chamber, one is able to follow very clearly, the proceedings.

I heard the entire proceedings of the contributions of Senator Murray, Sir, and really one would conclude only if Senator Murray were to speak on this amendment that there is nothing to debate in the Act before us.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order. I wish to make it clear, Sir, that I did not indicate that and I never said it. That is what he might have concluded but I certainly did not say that in my presentation.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I will try to carry on, but I cannot stop the Honourable Senator in his right to get up even if he does not have a point of order, Sir, to get up and interrupt.

Sir, the point I want to make is that if one listens to Senator Murray one would conclude that everything in the civil service is hunky-dory. All is well in the Civil Service.

I want to start my presentation by indicating my total regard...

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: ...for the civil service. A department, Sir, for which he is personally as Minister responsible for the Civil Service, hence, the reason why he led the presentation and not the Leader of the Senate.

What has characterised the Barbados Labour Party and their dealing with the public service, Sir? On the one hand, they established early a thing called Public Sector Reform and they have been about their business of propaganda, because that is what it is all about. They have printed their letterheads and they included their symbol of Public Sector Reform.

We have always said on this Side that the proof of the pudding is in the eating of the pudding. The truth is that the civil service today is under some considerable pressure when one looks at the actions of this Barbados Labour Party administration. They had hardly been in office when the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the Minister of Health went on public television in this country and dismissed the four senior public officers of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. That is the confidence that we are talking about. On the one hand the Honourable Minister wants to give us the impression that the Barbados Labour Party cares, the Barbados Labour Party is doing much for the civil service and we have a situation where their first order of business was to send home the four senior officers of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which decapitated the hospital. This is a situation from which it never recovered to this day.

To this day, we have a Commission which has been established to look into the operations of the hospital and they promised us a report within the next four weeks. That was the last word we heard from the head of the Commission.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: So we can have a presentation which says that the Act aims to go about the business and it aims to be done every year by way of

correcting errors and amend the Civil Establishment Order by way of budgetary changes and recommendations, changing salaries and emoluments, these are standard things. These are the requirements, but what is the reality? In the social services, in the area of welfare in this country where there are public officers working under stress, because these are the public officers who have to work among the most threatened of our society. The poor, the ones who cannot do for themselves and who depend on areas like home help. I have said in here before that the public officers are under strain and that is what the Minister should be addressing too. He should be talking about an increase in the area of home help.

Instead of that we are seeing a reduction. Sir, this is in a time of plenty. The Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Minister of Trade and Local Business, the Minister of Civil Service and all of the Ministers of the Barbados Labour Party administration, whenever they have an opportunity, they talk about the glory day of the economy. They talk about the foreign reserves, but the foreign reserves are foreign, because they are not impacting on the lives of the poor people in Barbados. So when the social workers went out this past summer and did their work and they brought back in the reports which said, 'yes' this household needed help, without calling names, Sir, they returned to the office with a situation which, instead of being able to even maintain their usual allowance to these people, they have had to tell the poor people, who require help, the uniforms, the shoes and the trousers, Sir, that there has been a substantial reduction. The children are only now being given one uniform in situations where they were getting three uniforms.

I challenge the Members on that side to stand up and tell me that that is not so. They are not going to get up because I know what I am telling them personally, Sir. I have had to intervene and, we would not go down that road.

I am not surprised because again we have to look at the situation in respect to what is said by the Minister in the terms of the establishment of the temporary posts, a matter which we have absolutely no quarrel with and which we agree with totally. At the same time we must remember where the confidence of the civil servants must have been eroded by the creation, first of all of a post of Youth Commissioners essentially for propagandising the Barbados Labour Party. They are being paid well. Hand picked by them. It is not a question of working through the ranks and being promoted to Youth Commissioner. You were created a Youth Commissioner by the Barbados Labour Party.

So what are they telling me about Public Sector Reform? What are they telling you, Sir? What are they telling us about Public Sector Reform?

Personal Assistants to Ministers, again a question of hand picking people and giving them tremendous benefits and putting them in positions above and beyond young serving secretaries and officers in the public service.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, while I will permit references to statements by Ministers or other government officers in relation to policy matters, it is a breach of the Standing Orders to make references to the conduct of Members of this House or the Other Place except by way of a substantive motion. I just wish to bring that Standing Order to your attention which is in fact Standing Order 34.8.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order. I think it is unfair of the Honourable Senator to rope in Personal Assistants in his presentation. Personal Assistants are not public officers. They are political appointees and they are not covered by this legislation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, please proceed.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the Honourable Member can get as low into his favourite place of abode as he likes. I am not going down that road with him.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not know what you mean about 'low', but it seems to me that you should withdraw that.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I withdraw the word 'low'. The Honourable Member is entitled to respond in any way he wants in this regard. But I am commenting on the public service under the Barbados Labour Party as it is today. If Members on that Side expect me to come in here and because they say something, swallow it, they are going down the wrong road, Sir.

I talk and I mix with public servants in this country and the Democratic Labour Party has a tremendous record in this country having been the Government for a long time and intending to be the Government soon again in Barbados. We need to interface with the public servants in a meaningful way. So when I speak about issues and matters relating to the public service and the way public servants are treated, Sir, I am referring to real instances of which I am familiar. There is this obvious gap between what is being said by the Barbados Labour Party and what in truth and in fact is happening by way of confidence in the public service. We hear, for instance, and this is going to affect the way public servants are paid and remunerated, about the signing of the third protocol and I am sure there is going to be a lot of discussion on that topic because one must bear in mind that the first protocol designed by the Democratic Labour Party back in 1993-94 was born of a situation of extreme difficulty in this country and was designed to bring forces together for a common cause – rebuilding Barbados.
5.20 p.m.

We have rebuilt Barbados. The Barbados Labour Party boasts almost every day while not turning around one policy which the Democratic Labour Party put in place in this regard. So we have been able to sustain our public service. We are in a position now where we can make casual workers permanent in the public service and it is because of the strengthening of our economy. The people who made that mammoth sacrifice in times of hardship were the public servants and we call on the Government to repay that 8%. They are in a position to repay that 8% and we call on them to do so to ensure that those public servants, the first persons who made that sacrifice, are now the beneficiaries of the times of plenty.

We have a situation, Sir, where instead of moving back to a regime where workers and business can return to the business of open bargaining, where conditions of service and where remuneration and productivity can be brought to table and discussed. We are having the whole discussion about salaries and wages being clouded – and I use the word reservedly – by this agreement, this almost arrangement between as they boast labour, Government and the private sector.

What is the result of this partnership? What has been the result in Barbados of this confidence that Government has placed in the private sector? Are we satisfied that the private sector is carrying out its role and function in the fullest way or is Government continuing to have to take up slack in areas where the private sector should be taking up more of the slack having been given that opportunity.

The facts will show that what achievements there have been in the unemployment statistics and I want to say up front that the record of unemployment figures are obviously incorrect or at least not absolutely accurate because in the 1996 Economic Report it was made clear that the figures for unemployment which were then quoted at 16.1% could have been incorrect because of earlier errors. We do not have to dwell on that. That is a fact. Everybody knows that that footnote exists.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order. Mr. President, I do not think that the Honourable Member is correct in casting out the accuracy of the information without bringing adequate proof. We have the official publication and he has to bring us proof to show that the records are wrong. He is misleading the Senate and he is reflecting on the character of the officials of the public service who calculated the figures.

Certain remarks made by Senator Boyce were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, in 1995, one year after the Barbados Labour Party came to government the

Right Honourable Prime Minister in opening a centre at Boscobelle made certain public pronouncements with respect to unemployment figures in this country, figures which he indicated were given to him by the Statistical Department, an area for which Senator Barker has a lot of control.

Mr. PRESIDENT: How is that relevant to these Civil Establishment Orders?

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: The whole question of employment in the Civil Service. The whole question of how many are employed will redound to the satisfactory quotient in the civil service. In that regard, Sir, it does have some relevance. I will tie it back in, once I clarify...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. President, the reference to me controlling statistics is again incorrect and slanderous. I do not control and I do not have anything at all to do with unemployment data. The Honourable Member must stop maligning my character.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I will also ask you to withdraw that reference and get back to the Resolution.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I am guided by your ruling. I withdraw the reference by your ruling.

Sir, we have a situation where on the one hand we are talking about a satisfactory index within the public service which is bringing about this good feel. I can use those terms that the management specialists use – "satisfaction index" and "good feel index" because, after all, that is what we are striving for. The point is that as we go into the next era of the negotiations and we continue we are saying on this Side that in a situation where there is so-called plenty by the Government we are not saying to waste anything so do not let it be said that Senator Boyce indicated that we should spend loosely. The point I want to make is that in a situation of plenty and satisfaction we should be able to have confidence in a mature civil service and a mature union being able to return to the time when they can sit maturely and exchange ideas. It brings about a much more satisfied worker at the end of the day.

I have been involved in many negotiations, at both the public and private sector levels, and I know the difference between imposed settlements or settlements where workers are not sure that their entire feelings have been taken into consideration and ones in which they have presented their case and it has been ventilated fully and they are now in a position to move forward with one voice. So the question of the third protocol is going to engage us in much debate, I am sure, over the next...

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order. I have to correct – I know it is onerous and tedious – the Honourable Member once again. The last protocol did not in any way impede the direct negotiations between the unions and the Government. There were direct negotiations between the unions and Government and the settlements were arrived at.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, we are saying that the whole question of open negotiations is one I would like to see where we can return to open negotiations in confidence.
5.30 p.m.

The protocols have served their purpose and I want to go on to make the point about the private sector involvement and the question of what do we, in the public service, in this case in Government, and what would the public workers get in return for the private sector involvement. Are we indeed getting enough by way of employment statistics out of the private sector? Are they taking up enough of the slack in terms of employment or is Government again, and that is the question that is engaging a lot of economists today, that Government is indeed having to develop its own programmes to try to meet this concept of the employment figures which they promised.

We know that although that is a matter which we are aware they are doing, we would have much preferred to see growth in the private sector. The point I want to make, Sir, is that the private sector continues to make these great demands on Government by way of concessions, by way of incentives and when it is their turn we are still seeing that Government continually has to resort to positions of taking up the slack and that is why I am unrepentant in this regard. I recognise there is a tremendous social contract which Government has to make with the public service and it has to put aside funds to provide these social needs because the private sector is predominantly concerned with the making of profit and even when they go into sponsorships and when they go into support programmes they do so only or very largely on the basis of what the bottom line is going to turn out. Government cannot take that approach and does not take that approach. So I think that that alliance between the private sector and Government has to be carefully worked out. And even today we can see the schisms that have occurred by way of the activities on the securities exchange of Barbados and certainly the public comments which I have seen on the part of the Prime Minister and on the part of other Members of the Government both in Government, and in Opposition, Sir, and this must send a message to the public of Barbados in respect to the private sector and their operations.

I certainly am not satisfied that the questions in Barbadians' minds in respect to the particular arrangement

have all been answered but that is a matter which again I believe will engage a lot of debate in the very near future, Sir.

Sir, if we go down the list and I want to spend a little time on especially two areas. I want to spend a little time today on the Ministry of Agriculture, for instance and we see some of them already existing and then of course the list of the new posts created by this new Civil Establishments Order, Sir. The fact is that the Ministry of Agriculture has not delivered in Barbados under the Barbados Labour Party administration. They have not delivered by way of basic agriculture as we know about, in other words the growing of local crops. Certainly, Sir, by way of their extended responsibility in fisheries, they have been unable to deliver any kind of agreement between Barbados and its neighbours in respect to recognition of fishing areas and fishing rights.

Our fishermen regrettably continue to be under threat in Guyana waters, in Grenada waters, and in Trinidad waters. Sir, that Side will continue to say the DEMs this and the DEMs that. The point is that the Barbados Labour Party is the Government. If you want us to negotiate that too, Sir, we can go and negotiate it.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President, I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member when he is in full sail but I tend to suspect that those fishermen are not public officers. I do not even think there were any public officers fishing on weekends or vacations, those ones who were shot. I really think that the Honourable Member has gone way outside the scope of the debate as envisioned and if he continues to sail towards Guyana's waters perhaps he may get apprehended and we will not get back to the Resolution at hand, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, the Standing Orders provide that debate on any motion must be relevant to such motion. I have heard reference to the Securities Exchange, the private sector, fishing in Guyana waters etc. It seems to me that you should deal with what is before us otherwise I would use the full sanction imposed in the Standing Orders.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, any arrangement for fishing agreements has to be carried out by public officers under the direction of the policy makers of the relevant Ministry, Sir, and that is the point I am making. I am saying that the Minister of Agriculture has not been able to initiate policy to be carried out by the public officers in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries so as to effect a realistic agreement even in that area, Sir.

In the area too, Sir, of sugar we know the present confusion so I do not have to stray down that road about where sugar is going but we know that there is a special separate report on sugar which has been commissioned to do

with how many sugar factories we end up with and how many sugar factories should be operating in this country and how many sugar factories need to operate. In fact when we, long ago were going to that solution we were again pilloried for it.

Sir, in the Ministry of Agriculture because there is no policy at the level of the Minister there has been no effective agricultural growth in Barbados and you do not have to talk to me about it, Sir, you can go out there and talk to the agriculturists. All of us can go out there and talk to the men in agriculture and I believe Senator Murray can make his own contribution. I saw a comment in the newspaper on the matter of black belly rams, I believe, where we are in a situation now where we are moving from the export of some 300 rams per year to 2. So rather than growth we are overseeing decline. But you know, Sir, the Honourable Senators on that Side can take these matters as they wish. I am only putting the other view. I have discussions with a lot of people including agriculturists. Even yesterday I had the opportunity to discuss at length this whole question of agriculture in Barbados but this debate is not about agriculture so I would not dwell on that, Sir.

Sir, again we talk about the civil service. We talk about establishment of casual posts. We talk about securing of rights and opportunities and securing of emoluments for existing officers and again we get that question of confidence. Can an officer work with confidence, Sir, in an environment where his direction might be overruled tomorrow? Can he work with confidence, Sir? Can he feel an eagerness to go out there and say I am going to do my best when he has to look over his shoulder and see where is the next order coming from, Sir? I speak specifically, Sir, about the licensing authority now and the confusion that obviously operates there under the Barbados Labour Party administration, Sir. You get a situation, Sir, where a Minister talks about he is not going to micro manage anything and then with one fell swoop, Sir, the Prime Minister comes in and micro manages it. So I am saying in that environment how much confidence can the public officer have and whether we shore up his salary, whether we shore up his tenure, whether we insure his pension rights etc., he still or she still has to have that degree of confidence so that when they go into work they can feel that they are important and that what they are being paid to do, Sir, they can carry out without any fear whatsoever, Sir.

5.40 p.m.

So we have example after example of the question being placed with the fate of the Barbados Labour Party. That question is between what they say with their mouths and what they do in their acts and that is the important question and they will have to answer the civil servants for that, Sir.

I am certainly grateful for the arrangements in terms of the special constables and indeed I certainly have been approached by them.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: If the Honourable Members do not go and interface with the public that is not my business. I interface with the public. It is part of my work and there are numbers of special constables who have asked me how will this Bill affect them, and I have been able to say,

"Yes, you will be included and you will be part of the permanent arrangement now."

So I can go and tell the others who have not met yet about it. These are Special Constables created both under the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Labour Party, but you know, Sir, there is another question and we have to look at both sides of the coin. This is something which we have had a lot of debate on recently too. As you create these posts in the Civil Service what are we doing about the whole question of mobility within the Service? What are we doing about the whole question of ambition and achievement? Where can a young officer expect to go? What opportunities are likely to evolve in respect to training? Does a special constable now appointed as a permanent employee, can that person expect to be a special constable all their lives for the next 50 years, Sir? Those are the questions we want answered. Are they going to be entitled to the same rights in respect to training opportunities? Are we creating within the Public Service enough bands for people to move into and onto?

So establishing at this level is one part of the requirement, the other one is to tackle the massive problem of mobility within the Public Service. What can an Officer who joins the Public Service today look forward to and I am not going to interrupt the Honourable Members when they answer me. They can try to interrupt me as much as they want now, but they cannot succeed. Because, with you there, Sir, I am protected, so they can carry on as much as they want.

The point is the question of mobility in the Public Service has been going on for years. It is not new, so let us here how this has been addressed in this arrangement. What have we done about that? What can the Public Servants now look forward to? Sir, these are important questions which I believe we have to raise in respect to this whole question of the Public Service. And any time that we are looking at dealing with Amendments or changes to the Civil Establishment Act, it is an opportunity to start to brainstorm and think about what we can do to benefit further the Public Servants who work so hard to ensure that things run

smoothly in this country and the business of Government is carried out efficiently and effectively. And I want to see us maintained a situation of confidence in the Public Service and this constant over ruling by different policy makers is not good. It cannot be good when you have a situation where one Minister says one thing and another Minister is saying another thing. It cannot engender confidence within our Public Service and the Barbados Labour Party whether they like it or not stands condemned in this regard. They must answer the question of the level of confidence in the Civil Service, given their track record, albeit four years, but, look at their track record in those four years. The Hospital beheaded. The Youth Commissioners specially appointed. The Personal Assistants specially appointed. The Licensing Authority getting orders from two different Ministers and it cannot engender confidence. That is my point, Sir, and if we are looking at the Public Service we must look at it always in totality and look at what effect we are having on the morale too. That is important and any Public Sector Reform must include this very important consideration.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I am going to just make a brief intervention in this debate. I commend the Honourable Senator Murray as Minister responsible for the Public Service on an excellent presentation. And I commend members of his staff as well in bringing this very important policy matter to fruition. This is action. This is the fulfillment of commitment.

Senator Boyce, on the other hand spoke about this matter basically as if he was on political platforms, seeking to make some choice political points and not making contact with the issue at all. He roamed from Barbados in the East to Guyana to the South and given a little more wind in his sails or diesel in his engine he would probably have gone to Miami in the North.

But, Mr. President, unlike Senator Boyce who was hoping and who indicated that he met a special constable yesterday and he spoke to someone in agriculture yesterday, to him this is a political issue and he either met constituents or passers-by who spoke to him about their experience with this. On the other hand this matter for me is not one that I heard about from passers-by and how it effected them, this one is not one for me which is a political issue about which you spar and you try to score points. That time will come. This is about using my Party's commitment to the upliftment of the workers in Barbados to satisfy what for persons like myself, children of the working class in Barbados, who for various social reasons and various economic reasons have been living the life of these casual employees. This is no academic or political point as it is for Senator Boyce. This is reality.

Mr. President, this measure is about bringing dignity and security to a large class of Government workers, who from time immemorial and for many, many years have been bearing the brunt of what are by and large no more than some of the prejudices that exist in Barbadian society. This is reality.

Mr. President, in Barbados in the Public Service if you look at the vast majority of persons that would have been caught up in this net, for example, of casual workers, they were persons who did manual tasks within the Service and you know, Mr. President, as well as I do that there is a position, a very unfortunate position, held by too many Barbadians that if you work with your hands you somehow disengage your brain and leave it at home or somewhere else for safe keeping, you are not intelligent, that your work is not worthwhile and you are not entitled to the level of privileges as persons who supposedly work with their brains. And that is a throw back not only to the plantation economy and its structure, but the early Civil Service structure and the early structure of commercial business in Barbados. Where, even up until not too long ago whilst the operational people, the technical and practical workers in a plant, might be allowed to form a union division for example, it was a big thing if the clerical and administrative people decided to join the union. It was *infra dig* in Barbados at one point for the office people to be seen to be too friendly with the yard people and it is part of our social reality.

This Barbados Labour Party is not about rhetoric. This is about using the power of office to empower the ordinary man. This is not about casual passers-by, a special constable here and an agricultural worker there. This is about my parents and my neighbours and the people that I would have grown up with in my village. It is not about people that I happen to meet yesterday as a politician. This is about friends and family. This is the reality.

So, Mr. President, here we have a situation in which by and large if you work with your hands for example, my mother as a school meals server in Government would not have been amongst this group of public officers which were mainly the clerical people and so on, partly out of that long prejudice. For as long as there has been a school meals system in Barbados there have been school meals servers. Their work was fixed. As a matter of fact, if we can use the two definitions offered by the Solicitor General of Barbados, not a fisherman in a boat off Guynanese waters...

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Not that. Mr. President, the Solicitor General said in 1979 concerning the matter of casual employment, a washer woman who habitually goes to a private house to wash clothes every Friday and on alternate Tuesdays is not engaged in casual

employment because it is stable as well as periodical. Again, in 1982 if the employment is periodical and regular, then there is stability of employment and hence the employment is not of a casual nature.

It was very clear that you could not have a situation in which persons work for Government with monotonous regularity. It was clear that the posts in which they worked were needed, but yet because of a prejudice they could not be appointed, yet efforts will be made to expand the establishment in the clerical grades and beyond. That is all it is.

Now what you will have, Mr. President, is a situation in which there will be, for as long as there is a public service, certain definite project related post, where a post will be established for a year or two or three months or six months to do a specific task and those persons will be temporary. But where persons are working for a long time, these people need to be appointed. The reality is that persons who work as a road weeder in MTW for 33 1/3 years or who work in the Soil Conservation Unit doing that excellent work, building the gabions to retain the soil in that area, persons who might have worked in the markets whether they are in Oistins or Bridgetown, persons across service who worked steadily for many, many years found themselves in a disadvantageous position relative to someone who worked in the white collar areas of Government.

But this is not a matter simply related to retirement. Where this matter hurt most was where in an effort to improve themselves, persons wanted to go to a financial institution to borrow some money and they could not get a letter that would confirm that they would have a job next week, although they would still put in 33 1/3 years. This is the reality.

So for Senator Boyce this matter is one on which there is political sparring to seek to make some points because he is not familiar with living the life of the child of a casual employee, so he would not quite understand the personal perspective from which I would come to this matter. Friends and family that is what it is.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, on a point of order. I am very familiar with the life to which the Honourable Member is referring, so he is misleading the Chamber, Sir. I grew up in an environment where my mother did not work and my father was a small tailor in a community struggling to make a living. He was not even a casual worker so he was not assured of a job. So I am very much aware and more aware than the Honourable Member.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I thank the Honourable Member for adding to his speech. But the facts of the matter are that the worker in the drainage unit who lives in Fair View will be pleased at what

we are doing today. He now has some security that he can take to the bank. The worker in school meals in Parish Land could take this to the bank too. These are important points but I would not want to spend too much time on this matter but I have to make one or two other points.

Now, Senator Boyce asked about upward mobility for the Public Service. I am amazed that Senator Boyce has this new found love – I am pleased though, but amazed – for Public Servants. Senator Boyce was actively involved in the business of Government when 4 000 public officers were sent home. Sometimes every working person in a household, because it is not unusual in Barbados for all the working people in a household to be working for Government. No consideration was given to these poor public officers. Not only did you cut their pay by 8% but you sent them home so even if you had sent home some and not cut their pay a fellow might have been able to go and beg his neighbour, beg his brother for a little pocket money to tide him over but you sent him home and when he goes to his friend and he says, "Could you help me out? I have been sent home" the friend will say, "my pay was cut by 8%. So I cannot help you. I would have helped you otherwise." Where was all of this love?

6.00 p.m.

Love is more than words after the fact. Love is taking action and showing commitment when it matters, not after the fact when the matter is resolved to say I would have done so and so. Senator Boyce was a Chairman of a board of a public corporation. He cannot divest himself and say he was not part of the apparatus at the time.

Sometimes up to six people in a house would have been sent home. The eight percent pay cut. Where was the morale? Where was the mobility? The only form of motion at the time was a chute through which you would be dropped out of the system. By contrast, Mr. President, between October, 1994 and September of 1997 – my statistics are a year old but there were even more since then but I do not have the information – 2 161 appointments were made. What we found when we came in as well was that there were a number of vacant posts in which there were persons acting for five, six, seven years. It was pure Hollywood. Persons could not be officially confirmed in that upward step.

Two thousand one hundred and sixty one of those persons were given that upward step. No slippery slope down the hill, a gradual and safe landing upwards, marching onwards and upwards to greater things.

Mr. President, 856 promotions were made during that period of October, 1994 to September, 1997. In the last year there would have been an accelerated effort to promote this. But this brings me on to Senator Boyce's touching on the

social partnership and before I get into the other point I would say that particularly in the last year a lot of the work on the promotions and on the appointments were as a result of joint effort by the relevant Government departments and the respective unions.

I could mention specifically in the case of the teachers the matter of concerns about the slow rate of appointment was brought to a sub-committee of the social partners of which I happened to be the Chairman. We determined that the matter that was raised in the context of the protocol was reasonable and that there was a problem between the schools and the Ministry in confirming where the posts were and the number of posts.

A special team of officers was assigned to that, officers in the Ministry, the schools and the unions to go through all the posts and see where the posts are and make sure that the process was put in place because where there are posts available why should you do other than to give public officers an opportunity to have their promotion or to confirm the posts in which they are acting? That is the reality.

Mr. President, Senator Boyce spoke about the social partners and about Protocol III and he said that he wants it to return to open negotiations. Now I believe, Sir, that he has gotten this whole matter mixed up. Protocol I which he quite rightly pointed out was signed and initiated by his Party in 1993 constrained if not eliminated collective bargaining. What do you bargain when there is a wage freeze? A wage freeze was the essential plank of Protocol I.

Protocol II spoke of wage restraint and in Protocol III things are open and it reaffirms the commitment of the social partners to collective bargaining. It has even imported into Protocol III arrangements which would strengthen and support the collective bargaining process through a protocol concerned with the determination of workers and efforts to strengthen the industrial relations process.

Protocol III is in reality about the return to full collective bargaining so I do not know what the Senator is calling for.

The Senator also spoke about the private sector. He said that he wanted to see the private sector make a greater contribution to employment. He said that the private sector by nature and by definition was committed to the bottom line. He said that even when it comes to doing good things like sponsorship they do it for the mileage, for philanthropic intent. What the Senator forgot to do was that when he speaks about "they" he should have said "we". He is a leading light in the private sector and when he was calling for employment – I know they are pressing very hard for

recent integration with the CARICOM single market and economy but I know that Senator Boyce is a politician in Barbados, not in Kingstown, Roseau or Castries or Bequia – he has chosen to boost the employment figures in St. Vincent not Barbados. I am not telling him how to run his business but all I am saying to him is when he makes these grand calls just say “we” rather than “they”. Do not attempt to say the private sector is some distant element, I am not familiar with. You are a private sector leading light.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order. The Honourable Senator is misleading the Chamber but at the same time he is referring to a venture with which I am intimately concerned and I am disturbed that he is in breach of the Standing Orders because for me to explain the arrangements with Rachel Pringle Brewery Limited would be for me to discuss a venture which I am intimately involved in. That is not in keeping with this Honourable Chamber unless you give me leave to do so, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I did not and I am not sure that Honourable Senators understood the reference. I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by a further explanation on your part neither is that permitted under the Standing Orders except the Honourable Senator is in breach in terms of misleading the Chamber. If that is your point, then make it.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, in saying that I have sought to boost the employment figures of St. Vincent and not Barbados the Honourable Senator is misleading the Chamber when he knows full well it is not to be so. My business for Rachel Pringle Brewery Limited is established in Barbados, imports our brand of Tiltman Beer and we employ Barbadians in the distribution.
6.10 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will ask the Senator to withdraw the reference.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I am guided by your direction. I will withdraw whatever reference you wish me to withdraw. However, when one is grandstanding, Mr. President, loud and clear, when one is grandstanding you have to be careful what you are standing on and the suggestion was made, the assertion even, Mr. President, that the Government was siding with the private sector to the disadvantage of the worker. That was the thrust of his argument in here, Mr. President, this afternoon, that the Government workers and the workers in general were not benefitting from Protocol 3. That was the thrust of the Senator's argument in here this afternoon and that, Mr. President, caused me to simply remind him through the Chamber, Mr. President, that it is misleading to speak about the private sector in the context of they, when in truth and in fact he is a leading entrepreneur in the private sector. It

is that simple. So we are all seeking in our own ways to ensure that the Senate is not misled and that the record remains accurate. That is basically it, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I want therefore to support this matter which is before the Honourable the Senate and once again to commend the Honourable Senator responsible for the Civil Service for the actions he has taken to give fruition to this very, very important step by Government.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I am going to be very brief, Sir.

Mr. President, in kilter with the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party and an awareness that is of the technological greatness of men and women and the concept that men, and when I say men, of course that includes women, are all entitled to the opportunities that make human life worthwhile, I was very enthusiastic when I read this Bill.

I have noted particularly greater security of tenure and the ability to retire at 60 with full superannuation benefits instead of at 65. I have been for many, many years associated with people in that category, people on whom our institutions depend, people who are the salt of the earth, people like maids and janitors, cleaners who will benefit from that and whom I would have dealt with closely at the school where I worked and served for over 40 years. I already have been approached by some in that category who are elated, absolutely elated, by the proposals in this Bill.

It is my belief, Mr. President, that every one who has worked for any length of time should be entitled to retirement benefits. I understand too that there are people who thought they had the best of both worlds when they were not public officers and who could work at other jobs at the same time and only on retirement to bemoan the fact and complain that they did not get anything and could not work now and expressed great disappointment. It is people like those who will find it advantageous to become public officers and I am sure that these benefits and perhaps in some instances disadvantages, very few, but some I consider them disadvantages will be explained to them very carefully before they opt for this change which will give them greater status as our leader, Senator Farley said, give people more dignity which every human being is entitled to and deserves.

I also noted the loans for principals and of course, I would feel very pleased about that although it did not happen in my time. I must confess even then I had stopped driving but I am still very pleased for my colleagues and I have heard them saying with great pleasure how they are now entitled to these car loans. Secretary Treasurers as well will benefit. These are all wonderful benefits to be derived.

The Barbados Secondary Teachers Union has striven over the years not only for increase in salaries but to maintain high professional standards and improve the quality of teaching and they have also worked hard for conditions of service and I am sure that this would have been one of the areas which they would have fought for.

Again I was glad to hear Senator Farley remark on the input which they had made and therefore I know that there are many people who wish to contribute to this but I wish again to say that the Government is to be highly complimented on this Bill which I have the greatest pleasure in supporting. Thank you.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I have to say a few things in response to Senator Boyce's contribution because Senator Boyce is always very fast to say somebody is misleading the Chamber. Senator Boyce always can tell you about he met with people and they gave him information but it seems to me that either Senator Boyce's ears are not right, he does not hear well, or people are giving him incorrect information.

Now when he talks about the Ministry of Agriculture and talks about the officers not being able to obtain a fishing agreement between Barbados and Trinidad, Barbados and Guyana, *etc.* Senator Boyce should look back and see that Trinidad and Venezuela have been at war for donkey years over fishing rights between the waters and every year you hear about meetings between the various Ministers and they have never been able to conclude a fishing agreement. So I do not understand how he expects that any one side can conclude an agreement when the other side is not willing.

Now he talks about the Ministry of Agriculture not producing and I have said, I thank God for my years. I thank God for the length of time I have lived and I thank God for the length of time I have been in politics and Parliament because I remember the late Errol Barrow standing up in Parliament one day and saying that only God can make the crops grow when no rain falls and we have gone through one of the hardest droughts in our history.

I remember we went through a 19-year drought some time ago and now we are faced with El Niño. We have had weather which was the hottest on record within the last year so I do not understand what Senator Boyce expects. He expects somebody to work miracles and he comes in here and I keep saying that the record of this Chamber will live longer than anyone of us and people will judge the quality of the people who sit in this Chamber.
6.20 p.m.

Now, I come to another point, Sir. He talks about us having not been able to export rams. That is what he read in the paper this morning. What Senator Laurie has said.

But he will not go on to say that Senator Laurie has said that some of the countries have had financial difficulties and could not afford to pay for the animals. I have read where animals have been sent abroad and people have not been paid because the excuse was they were not to the weight which were ordered. So what does he expect? Barbadians to take up their produce and ship it abroad only to get export figures. He should speak the truth and the whole truth. He must not make half-baked statements which would mislead the public.

Now, Sir, I do not want to deal with the Licensing Authority at this time, he talks about two different instructions. I will have a lot to say about the Licensing Authority, but I must say that I have been practising law for 38 years and I understand the privileges of the court and I understand the confidentiality about meetings in relation to discussions. I represent certain trade unions and I have discussions but I do not come out to the Press and make statements as soon as I come out of the meetings. I do not believe in that. I represent a substantial number of owners, drivers and conductors in private transport and I do not believe in coming out and making statements until discussions are through. I do not give statements to the Press half way and I do not believe in conducting negotiations via the Press. There will be a time when I will have a lot to say about the Licensing Authority and the practises at the Licensing Authority which does not involve the Ministers.

Now he talks about special constables and mobility. If he had spoken to special constables, as he has said, he will know that the procedure is that special constables who wants to become full time policemen, they should go back to the training school and come back as policemen. So he has not been speaking to any special constables because no special constable would tell him such, unless the special constable is unworthy of being in the uniform of the Royal Barbados Police Force because they will go as one of those who become perfected liars and you must deal with people of that nature. So, I am saying that no special constable has spoken to Senator Boyce within the last few days complaining about their positions. Because every day I go to court and I hear an officer takes the stand and say,

"In July 1998, I was special constable No. 1168. Today I am police constable Number so and so."

So he cannot say that.

The other point is, in the Government service that one of the problems we have in a small society like this that you have a civil servant, let us say who goes into the Registry, that person is very efficient. They work well and they reach to the top of the scale in the Registry. In order for promotion, they either go abroad and do a course,

but when they come back, they do not go back to the registry. They go to another post which carries a higher salary and a higher position. So you lose them in an area where they had perfected their skills and ability. So Senator Boyce really does not know that happens in the Service. He is only making jokes.

Now I come to a very troublesome part of my speech this evening. I want to look at section 37 of the Civil Establishment Order which sets out the posts in Government and the code of their salary scales *et cetera* and I look at the Office of the Ombudsman.

Mr. President, it grieves me and it has been grieving me for a time that we now have a body of civil servants who make their own law every morning and expect the public to comply with it. And, I have written to you, Mr. President, seeking leave to deal with this because it is very problematic. The Ombudsman is appointed under Cap. 8(A) Ombudsman and if I may read what it says, Section 1,

"This Act may be cited as the Ombudsman Act."

Section. 2,

"There must be an Ombudsman for Barbados who shall in accordance with this Act, investigate and report upon allegations of improper, unreasonable and inadequate administrative conduct."

Now, the Ombudsman was appointed this year. The newspaper showed him receiving his commission from the Governor-General, but the very next day, or within that week the Ombudsman sought to pronounce and lambaste lawyers in Barbados, Attorneys-at-Law. He knows everything is wrong with them, but this Act does not give him permission to do that and it is time that he stops what he is doing and I will tell him here now that I will bring an action in court to deal with him. He must stick within the law. If he thinks that he wants to go outside of the law, he must do what the Act says. Section 5(1) of the Act sets down certain things, it says,

"The purpose of an investigation by the Ombudsman shall be to ascertain whether injustice has been caused by improper, unreasonable or inadequate administrative conduct on the part of a Government ministry, department or other authority subject to this Act."

I am saying he must stop operating outside of the Act and he must do what he is appointed to do. In today's paper I see people complaining that they cannot get their National Insurance. They cannot find the records and the Ombudsman has failed to deal with that.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: If you have redress in the Court the Ombudsman must not interfere and I want the Ombudsman to know that he must not step into people's business unless the law gives him that power.

This morning I saw him tracking down the beaches. I want him to come and tell the public who in the Town and Country Planning Department gave permission for those boulders to be on the beach and that is what he must investigate. He must not attack people outside without knowing what happened. I am an Attorney-at-Law. I work out there. Nobody will tell the numerous people who walk into your office and want you to work for nothing and then complain about you not doing what they want.

There is a bunch of people called returning nationals and you have to be afraid of them. Do you know why? They left Barbados 30, 40 or 50 years ago. They come back with the understanding that Barbados has stood still and they must tell you how to operate in this country. They blame the custom officers. They blame real estate agents. They blame solicitors. They blame everybody and accuse everyone of wanting to rob them, but they will not tell you the truth. They will not tell you that most of them have worked in Great Britain, when they retire, they get a grant of about £55 000-£65 000. That works out to be about \$170 000 in Barbados. They all come back with the great idea of owning a house by the seaside or a house up on the hill and on 15 000-20 000 square feet of land, or they still talk about getting one on two or three acres and it is an impossibility to find a two-acre spot in Barbados today.

When they hear the price of land which sells in Barbados between 8, 9, 10 and 11 dollars per square foot and that is in the country because you cannot find land on the West Coast and the Sea Coast to buy now, and they find that when they find this spot of land, it is gone.
6.30 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, please return to the Resolution.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I am on the Resolution, with all due respect. Sir, I am dealing with the Civil Establishment Order because if you go to the Port you will find that there are many persons working for Government that have been acting for nearly 25 years and I remember a former Port Authority worker saying that down in the Port is called Hollywood. This Government is trying to solve that.

We are appointing all the casual workers, all the temporary workers. When I was a Minister of Government

I tried to find out what is the difference between casual workers and temporary workers and even the civil servants who put people in these pigeon holes could not tell me what they are. What I have constantly said is that all persons working for Government must have the same privileges and conditions and one of the things the Prime Minister has said is that by establishing these persons you give them security of tenure.

What I was saying about the returning nationals is, I know one of them who reported a custom officer because he charged him the relevant duty and the poor man was transferred overnight from that place to another post, only because he was temporary. When you are temporary the Permanent Secretary can do anything with you. You go to work one morning and find by evening you are transferred somewhere else.

That is why I am saying that those are the things that the Ombudsman should be investigating. He is not investigating those. He wants to talk about lawyers outside in private practice. Therefore, Sir, I want to support the Resolution before the Chamber but I want in so doing that when we do what we are doing today and that is making all the temporary workers and casual workers permanent workers that there is a new beginning. These people see that they have a responsibility to the public and that responsibility must be carried out in the same urgency and the same way that the Government is looking after their interests.

I want the Ombudsman to come back to what he is appointed to do and go to all the Government departments and weed out the slacking. When I talk about this Establishment it is a strange thing. There are many people who come to me and complain that they cannot get their pensions. Do you know, Mr. President – I know you have been an attorney at law and worked in office – how many affidavits we have to fill out to say that somebody worked in this department, at MTW *etc.*? You have to go and ask the supervisor to swear the affidavit and even then those people cannot get their pensions.

Those are the things we want to overcome. That is what we need and we have now the restructuring of the civil service, public sector reform. They must show that they are appreciative of what the Government is doing for them. Most of the telephone operators in Government were casual or temporary and I hope that when they are appointed now that we get better reception because you cannot call certain Ministries after three o'clock in the evening. They would not answer the phone at all. One officer told me that she just went to a particular Ministry and she put through a call at quarter past three and she was told, "If you put through another call at quarter past three you are gone from here."

Don't call certain departments before nine o'clock in the morning. If you call certain departments by ten o'clock you hear the officer has gone to lunch. You call back at twelve o'clock and you hear the officer has gone to lunch. Call back at three o'clock, "well, he went to lunch late so he has gone home early." The same officer.

So I am saying that this is a progressive action by this Government and I hope that we see reflected in the way the functionaries of Government perform that they fully appreciate what the Government of Barbados is doing for them. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I just want to touch on a few areas many of which have already been addressed. I felt let down by Senator Boyce in his reference to the youth commissioners. I am not speaking now as a young person but as a citizen of Barbados who for the last 25 years has dealt with young people from the level of kindergarten right through to secondary level. I felt deeply hurt when Senator Boyce spoke about the employment of the youth commissioners in this country. Mr. President, the youth of Barbados for a while now have been termed delinquent, dishonest, violent and all the negative terms that you can think of putting against their names. The last administration sought to start a youth service, not a Youth Affairs Department but a youth service and what was ironic about it is that the Barbados Labour Party administration of 1976 sought to open up a youth service and the then Democratic Labour Party criticised the Barbados Labour Party left, right and centre in this country that they wanted to put the young people in the Defence Force to shoot down one another as black people.

However, Mr. President, as a result of the Barbados Labour Party coming to the fore in 1994, the Youth Affairs Department was given birth. I am proud to say, Mr. President, that the work of those 32 youth commissioners should be commended by all and sundry in Barbados, old and young, because thousands of our young people who would have normally been on the streets have now found gainful employment through the youth entrepreneurship scheme where their small businesses are being advertised and they have been given the technical training. They have been taught how to do their marketing and their businesses are dotted all over this country. Secondly, Sir, the youth service now accommodates 250 recruits per year compared to the 100 of the Democratic Labour Party's time.

Mr. President, the youth development programme targeting young people throughout the length and breadth of Barbados has been very involved in coordinating programmes in sports, art and crafts and educational activities because our young people have needs and unless a caring government recognises the needs of those young people and plans programmes with them because that is how

the youth department started. It went through the highways and byways of this country trying to elicit from young people what are their needs and how can the department meet those needs.

Through the tracer forms that were sent to all of the secondary schools to determine where would the young people go when they leave secondary school, the department has been able to plan for them as we approach the millennium. Mr. President, the programmes are going well and I felt let down by Senator Boyce, as a younger person than I, ridiculing that department that I know will go from strength to strength and help to turn around those comments that most Barbadians make in a negative manner about young people.

The other thing he touched on, Sir, was to do with the parents not getting the waivers in adequate amounts for the school children's uniforms. The Barbados Labour Party administration, Mr. President, in 1995 October, recognised that there were some secondary schools where students did not have textbooks and it ran up until almost the ending of December, Mr. President. The Ministry of Education made it a policy that every secondary school should offer to those children whose parents, as a result of being laid off by the Democratic Labour Party, over 3 000 casual workers from Transport Board, from the National Housing Corporation, from the Ministries as janitors and maids and general workers, those persons from the working class who were laid off by the Democratic Labour Party, that is the reason why thousands of parents could not give their children textbooks fees and petty fees so that they could go to school and take advantage of what we consider to be free education. The Ministry of Education made it a policy, every child must be given the books and the refund will come back to the schools as a matter of principle.

6.40 p.m.

Mr. President, from then on that has been happening. We have had more than 3 000 waivers so far and this is now the second week of the reopening of schools because our children must not be deprived of opportunities that some of us did not have by going to school without books because of poverty. Therefore if a child goes to school without adequate books and information to assist them with their lessons they will then tear down and break down the toilet bowls, the windows and the doors as they did in some of our secondary schools.

Mr. President, I am proud to tell you today, St. George Secondary is a gem. The destruction at that school has come to a minimal as a result of those children being given access to the books and all the niceties that they need, to be able to take advantage of the opportunities.

I am going to touch the Resolution now, Mr. President because I am beginning to get annoyed. I do not think we should all talk because we have mouths.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President, the Honourable Senator, I hate to interrupt her, but Sir, she is misleading the Chamber. In my presentation I did not refer to anything about books for needy cases. I talked about welfare cases in need of uniforms and the record will indicate that, Sir. I never spoke about textbooks. The cases I dealt with they have their books and I commend the Ministry for that, Sir. They could not get the required uniforms, Sir.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, most of the waivers come through the Welfare Department on recommendation of the school attendance officer who then visits the homes of the parents to determine whether there is such a need and to make the necessary recommendations.

Mr. President, I want to move on, Sir, because I know the time is limited. The parents or the workers of Barbados who were considered to be casual workers from time immemorial are very happy to learn of this particular bit of legislation that comes about to do with the Civil Establishment.

Mr. President, rather than being given lunch money and bus fare to go now to learn a trade they can now feed their children by giving them lunch money and bus fare to go to school, when the Democratic Labour Party wanted them to get lunch money and bus fare during the time of those austerity measures when Barbadians lost their salary by the 8% cut, when Barbadians were sent home, when there were plans on the drawing table to up rent in the housing units, the bus fare, the water bills and you can name them as time goes on, Mr. President.

Mr. President, nobody in this Barbados Labour Party has ever called the people of Barbados an army of occupation.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to laud the efforts of this Labour Party government for those 2 161 appointments up until 1997. I would have been in that category, Mr. President, because I worked for 11 years in this Barbados as a teacher without an appointment and I know of the frustration and the hurt because the instrument that was given said that your

employment could be terminated by one day's notice on either side. Tonight, Mr. President, the casual workers of Barbados, now the public officers and public employees are very happy to be recognised by a caring Government, to be able to have security of tenure.

Now the public service reform should make a difference and start to lift up, because those men and women who have toiled day and night to help with the development of Barbados will now feel secure to get the letter to go to Courts to buy furniture or to do hire purchase. They will now feel good to go to the National Housing Corporation to take advantage of the General Workers Fund. They will now feel good to be able to go to the Embassy with a letter that says that this person is now employed with the Government of Barbados and can have a visa that they can go and spend a holiday with their children. These parents now have opportunity, Mr. President, that they can give their children some of the comfort that many of us know that they do not have or have never had because they know from day-to-day they would be working to be able to receive at the end of the week or at the end of the month a salary that can help to put bread in the mouths of their children and of their neighbours because some of them are still unemployed as a result of those austerity measures that were laid down by the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. President, I am happy for the humane approach of the Labour Party whose motto, and every time I come in here I am going to talk about the motto of the Labour Party, a better life for our people. If this is not a better life, I want the Democratic Labour Party to tell what is.

Mr. President, our people in Barbados are dedicated. I am talking about the casual workers again, hard working, productive and consistent workers. I am sure that this opportunity for them to receive security of tenure, for them to get gratuity, for them to be recognised as making their contribution, will help to upgrade the work ethics in our various Government institutions. I trust that some of the things identified by Senator Bolden about how people answer telephones and how they respond to you in certain situations will come to an end since having been given security of tenure these individuals will now feel that they are a part of the process of helping to build Barbados and therefore that they would be more punctual, that they would be more productive and regular in getting to their employment, that they can produce.

Mr. President, the upward social mobility continues to climb because I can speak of my experiences now and not by just meeting one person on the road or going to ask one individual a question when I know I am coming into the Senate, but I meet thousands of people on a daily basis who because of training opportunities offered by this Barbados

Labour Party are doing continuing education classes to be able to upgrade themselves.

I can speak of individuals who worked as school meals workers who are now today, Mr. President, telephone operators. Some of them are teaching. They are actually teaching in the public schools in Barbados because they have been able to take advantage of opportunities for training and upgrading their skills. There are janitors who have now become clerical officers as a result of those opportunities that have been offered by this Labour Party.

Mr. President, I want to finally make mention of the opportunities where these individuals can now do a little extra job on the side. In the past, as civil servants, we had to hide and do it. They can now sell their bread on afternoons to help bring in an extra income to help to maintain their families without feeling that they will be threatened by an individual. They can now show their political persuasion, speak on platforms, do canvassing without hiding because I had to hide, Mr. President. I hear people come in here and talk about victimisation. I lived in victimisation street under the Democratic Labour Party so I can speak of it but now is not the time, Mr. President, I will get my time on the platform when I go to Christ Church.

Mr. President, no longer do they have to feel fearful that as Government changes they will be sent home lock, stock and barrel. They now have that security of tenure that will help them to be able to hold on to their jobs for a longer period.

I want to laud the efforts of the Government departments, particularly the Ministry of the Civil Service for the hard work that I know has been put into formulating this legislation as well as that support that was given by the social partners because they recognised that this is a new shift in helping working-class people to know and to understand they are an integral part of the process. Therefore we are going to make you feel secure as citizens and not have some second class citizens or even third class as I have heard mentioned today. They are now going to feel that they are people too as a result of these measures made here today.

6.50 p.m.

Therefore, Mr. President, I want to encourage the Honourable Members of this Senate to lend their support to this particular Resolution because at the end of the day the individuals who will benefit as a result of this master piece are individuals who are our relatives, our friends, our neighbours, even the janitors who will assist us in our various homes and our institutions and help to make Barbados bigger and brighter as we approach the year 2000. I want to lend my support to this particular Resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I rise to support this Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) Order and there are a few comments that I would like to make.

Firstly, I congratulate the Government upon such progressive thinking and humanisation of the entire work force. Everyone is important in their own area of occupation and they should be made to feel that way. Being casual workers or substitutes make some of our workers second and third class citizens. In fact, Mr. President, it is a form of what one might term slave labour in that they are constantly under pressure knowing that they could be given virtually one day's notice. So what happens with these workers is that they work and work and work. I know because some of the substitutes at the Geriatric Hospital tell me that they work hard on one Ward and when they finish they are told to go to another Ward to do virtually another day's work. They do that because they need the money and there is always that threat over them that if they do not go and work and work and work, next time they will not be called and given work.

So therefore security of tenure is one of the best actions that one can take, especially when people have to depend on being called to work when they work and being over work and being forced to grant all sorts of favours in order to get what they call "a pick and a call" all because these people are women and they are heads of households. I am very glad that this approach is being taken.

However, Mr. President, I would like an education programme or orientation to be done with these workers to tell them the difference between a casual worker, a temporary worker and a Government servant, the do's and the don'ts and I would like to see it written down and given to them. Not the whole book of the General Orders, but at least some of the important do's and don'ts and put in their hands and explain it to them fully, so that they would not be saying that they did not know.

Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the administration for making the appointments that we have heard about. However, there are still some to be made and I am speaking in the area of nursing. Some senior appointments have been made but there are still some staff nurses who have worked up to five years and have not yet received their appointments. In other words, they are still working in temporary posts. There are 45 or more of them who are in that position at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and I sincerely hope that something could be done to hasten their appointments.

Mr. President, I also listened with interest and I am very glad that attempts were made by the Ministry of Civil Service in collaboration with other agencies to go through the work place and to see what posts need to be established as Government post. However, I would like them to take a special look at the Geriatric Hospital and the other District Hospitals. I will tell you why, Mr. President. There are a lot of workers there. They are called substitutes, but they work like casual workers and they do not have security of tenure.

What happens, Mr. President, with these workers are some of them who have worked up to five years and have not been appointed have recently been finding themselves being left out and other younger persons being placed in the positions that they have been in. This happens with casual workers because you have to depend on the person in charge to call you in to do the work. They do not seem to have any kind of order in which to call people. Normally what should happen is the most senior should be the ones to be given the 18-month terms to work and then the younger ones that are coming on should be given the one week, the two weeks and the three weeks but that is not what is happening.

Mr. President, I am talking about people who have worked at the Geriatric Hospital when it was called the Almshouse, when no one wanted to go there with those elderly people. They have worked hard. They have worked well. They have called them at short notice. Many times they are home and they are called at short notice, "can you come today?" They reply, "Yes" and they will drop everything and go. These are people who have been producing. I am not talking about people who do not produce. If they do not produce, you let them know and you should give it to them in writing so that there is no argument when they are not called or when they are given very short appointments.

Mr. President, I must say a word or two about the Civil Establishment (General) Order and it is in connection with the Mental Hospital. If we look on page 28, we can see that on the establishment there is one Hospital Director. As I said before in this Senate that Hospital Director has gone on retirement leave and the Hospital is rudderless, in that there is just a part time director, still going in for about three hours. It was said that there was an Assistant Hospital Director. That is not true. It is only true on paper, Mr. President. The post was advertised but it was never filled. So therefore you do not have a Hospital Director or an Assistant Hospital Director and the place, as I said, is rudderless and being manned part-time. The Hospital Director has a salary of S3 and it is being manned part-time with an office of S6.

If one has an institution that is so big and so important I would think that one of the first things one will have to do

is to find someone to put there in order to man that institution and give it a sense of direction. This Resolution also mentioned that some posts were regraded. I must acknowledge that there has been a task force in nursing and I was told that at some time they would look at nursing. However I would like to put a word in for the same Mental Hospital in that in the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the years 1991-92, on page 31, says:

"The Psychiatric Hospital a complement of 627 beds provides services from twenty departments and fifteen wards."

This is the one that has a part-time director at the moment.

"...The activities of the Hospital are co-ordinated by the Senior Management Committee which consists of the Hospital Director, the Senior Consultant Psychiatrist and the Principal Nursing Officer."

7.00 p.m.

Mr. President, what I am trying to say is that all of these persons should be in the same scale, the top management seat and I would like to urge that when they start looking at nursing because it has not been regraded in this document neither was it regraded the last time, when they do go and look at nursing that they will take into consideration and put those persons responsible for managing the institution on the same level.

Mr. President, the time has come that nurses cannot expect to work year after year without seeking to improve their education and their skills. I am the first one to say that we should not be appointing people just because they have been there for 10, 20, 30, 40 years at this point in time. We need to serve notice to them and let them go and study.

The time has come for nurses to hold doctorates and masters degrees to man our hospitals and they need to be regraded and put in that position. Nursing has changed and it has changed beyond recognition and nurses must understand that.

Even if you appoint them, you give them an appointment on condition that they will complete their studies. That is very important in this Civil Establishment Order. When we go to regrade the nurses you must make it very clear to the young nurses because they seem to feel that they must move up one after the other and then allow the institution to jog along without any creativity. We need creativity in nursing.

Mr. President, I would also like to say a word and I am still talking about the Psychiatric Hospital on page 29 where there is a senior tutor and a tutor that man a school of

nursing. I would like to call again for the rationalisation of nursing education in Barbados. Put it one place, be it the Community College, be it on its own, but rationalise it. There is also a section at the polyclinic that is training people who are being siphoned into nursing and you have the Barbados Community College, then you have tutors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital also doing the training.

I know that you do not have room at the Barbados Community College but I think an answer has to be found because many of these officers are not talking to each other and what is happening is you are sending in a lot of nurses for regional exams and the failures are heavy. That is the loss of our money. It is taxpayers' money because the people who take these exams are paid. Some are paid a stipend and some are paid a full salary. There are far too many failures so we need to do something about nursing education when you look at nursing in order to regrade the nursing profession.

Mr. President, I am glad that many people have had uniforms *etc.* However, Mr. President, some people have been on strike and they got theirs but the nurses have not been on strike and I would not advocate that they go on strike. They have not had their uniforms or shoes or laundry allowances. They are still waiting. We have written letters and letters and up to two weeks ago, I wrote to the institution about it. They are still waiting for it and I sincerely hope that some action could be taken so that they can get theirs.

You see the others go on strike and refuse to work until they get them so because you want the workers to work they are given theirs.

Mr. President, unfortunately it was said that there is going to be a new complex at Warrens and I am glad for civil servants. Work has been done at the Police and the Fire Station and I know that they took off the roof of the nursing office in the Psychiatric Hospital and work is being done there at the moment. However, Mr. President, for some reason arrangements have not been made, neither did we hear in the Budget about the renovation of that burnt-out area. I made mention about one ward for 72 patients and nothing has been done about it. I urge persons to take a second look because what we need to do... The explanation I was told was that it was asked if the number of court cases being sent to the Psychiatric Hospital are on the increase and they were told yes and they said they have to make provision for more, so therefore they will make a big one, but that is not the answer. We need to cut it down and have two wards.

We need to look at penal reform. We have a report here on the attempts that the administration is going to make on penal reform. We need to look at penal reform *in toto* and not just say that the courts are sending more people, so therefore we need a bigger and bigger ward and

have 72 people in one place. Mr. President, we only have a few people in here and sometimes it gets very noisy, furthermore 72 people who are not well. It is an impossible task to give any form of care to 72 persons in one room. So I would like to have that rethought before a supplementary is submitted.

A supplementary has not been submitted yet and I would urge that as soon as the House starts meeting that a supplementary...

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: ...Not for the burnt-out area of the hospital. Nothing has been done for that burnt-out area of the hospital as yet. We were told since August 14, that we would be told how much it would cost but it has not been submitted for the Psychiatric Hospital and something needs to be done because the morale of the nurses is at an all-time low and we need to do something fairly quickly.

Mr. President, on the question of school principals, I am glad for them that they are on the travelling schedule, including secretary treasurer, but I would also like to see the heads of the nursing institutions, the principal nursing officers, also placed on the travelling schedule. They are on call for 24 hours and if anything happens they have to come to the hospital any time of the day or the night. So it is a case for them all to be made travelling officers.
7.10 p.m.

Mr. President, this Bill came quite early but since it is going to be produced every year to Parliament and the Senate I would like to make a suggestion that for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on page 31 that we bracket staff nurse, nursing assistant 1 and nursing assistant 2. I will tell you why. Mr. President, what happens in the other institutions is that they are bracketed so that when a nursing assistant qualifies as a staff nurse automatically one has to write to Services Commission and the nurse could function as the law says, as a Registered Nurse. However, I have written to them about it when there were nursing assistants qualified as staff nurses and the excuse given for not allowing them to function as registered nurses as the law says is because they did not have any posts. However if the nursing assistants' post is bracketed with the staff nurses posts, as soon as a nursing assistant qualifies as a staff nurse she can start functioning as a registered nurse. It is done in all the other institutions and I feel that it should be done at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for harmony and morale.

Mr. President, when you qualify and graduate and become a registered nurse you feel that you have achieved the world. You have worked hard for 3 years and you have

an Associate Degree and you want to show off your belt and you want to start practising and now you are told you cannot practise because there are no posts. That is a way of getting around it in order to keep the morale going and do the best for the nurses concerned.

Mr. President, I think that I have said most of what I wanted to say and I can leave for the next Resolution what I have not said in this one. With that I support the Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I believe that I am now able to wind up debate on this measure. I do not intend to be very long but I think there are some things I have to say for the record particularly in response to some of what Senator Boyce had to say.

I was puzzled as to Senator Boyce's approach to this Resolution, Sir. While this is obviously a progressive measure which has won the acclaim of all sides of the House and independent members also, I was wondering why he chose to praise it with such faint dance. He did not come out and praise it as an aggressive matter and it finally dawned on me that it was his political conscience which was speaking because he realised that this step would come in the wake of a civil service which had been depressurised and disillusioned and humiliated by the last Government with the 8% cut *etc.* and 4 000 layoffs.

The fact that there was a regrading exercise which had not benefitted this category of persons but had only benefitted the upper echelons of the service. I think it cost some \$30 million and contributed to the economic problems of Barbados.

Sir, it also dawned on me that he was cognizant of the fact he had remembered, like Senator Forde said, that his late leader had once referred to the Barbados public service as an army of occupation which consists of "fire-proofs" and "gully boars" and things of that nature. So I understand why therefore with that kind of political history, the political culture, he could not therefore all of a sudden overnight seek to be praising. It would seem to be disingenuous and you know the Honourable Senator would not want to be disingenuous or to be seen so, Sir. Sir, I understand why the history where again, his illustrious leader, when he is talking about the Barbados public service is under a lot of pressure and people are being sent home *etc.*, including the QEH 4, that his illustrious leader led the historic charge in the House of Assembly when he chose to abolish the post of a public officer named Shirley King, just to get back at her. So I understand that and I appreciate his feelings. I appreciate his sense of political conscience and now therefore I understand that.

Sir, I have no doubt that this measure which in a sense, Sir, provides for the creation of some 4 000 posts to accommodate the appointment of casual workers, public employees and temporary workers that it is really a step that has removed the last vestige or some vestiges of the social snobbery and the prejudice which the Honourable Leader said had existed in the Chamber. I therefore am very pleased to be able to commend and thank Members for their contribution.

I want to state that those areas of discomfort which Senator Bolden spoke about and which Senator Rickinson spoke about I will certainly look after, particularly Senator Rickinson's comments come at quite a fortuitous time since I am acting as Minister of Health, I would therefore be able to make some direct enquiries regarding these 45 or more persons who are outstanding for appointments at the QEH and regarding the situation of the Hospital Director at the QEH.

Therefore, Sir, I want to commend all the Members for their support and to beg that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1998

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: This Bill, Sir, is intended to give casual and public employees the option to retain their present status if they so desire which I have enunciated and explained in the previous measure and therefore, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I will not be long. I just want to ask a question on this matter and I know that we are a democracy and that we would want to give individuals the freedom of choice. The question I want to find out is, has this matter been properly discussed in all of its stages that these individuals understand what are the implications for opting out of it, from the perspective of the state and the burden the state would carry in future when these individuals cannot look after themselves at retirement and have to resort to the welfare system and all the social services in the country? I would like to encourage the Minister to investigate this matter even as we now try to have this Bill passed to make sure that these individuals are fully aware of what they are giving up. I am extremely concerned about it, Sir.

7.20 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I am very appreciative of Senator Thompson's very perceptive comments and I can assure her that it is a very important position. There has been full discussion with the Unions and there are plans afoot. As I speak now, a brochure is being prepared which will go out to

each public worker and a letter explaining the terms and conditions.

In addition, there will be some programmes on radio and television explaining the ramifications of this letter and I will therefore take her suggestions into further consideration. And I assure her that every step will be taken to bring these matters to their fullest explanation to the workers where they are concerned.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY, Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT reported to His Honour, the PRESIDENT, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Civil Establishment (Amendment) Act, 1998.

ORDER NO. 8 – THE PENSIONS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL, 1998

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, again this is another companion Act which would bestow on the former casual and public employees pensions arising under the Pensions Act, Cap. 25 and for those employees in the central Government under the Statutory Board Pensions Act, Cap. 384, for workers of scheduled state corporations.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of the SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY, Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT reported to His Honour, The PRESIDENT, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1998.

ORDER NO. 9 – THE INSURANCE
(MISCELLANEOUS PRO-
VISIONS) BILL, 1998

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Bill before us seeks to revise the arrangements as they exist in respect to the exempt insurance industry. This will be done by way of the Insurance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, which was designed to have the impact of providing the conversions of the domestic and the exempt insurance industries. By way of doing that we are hoping to reinsure Barbados' position in the exempt insurance business given the changes which are occurring in the way that this matter is being approached.

As you are aware, Mr. President, there currently exist separate legislation governing the regulation of the domestic insurance industry and the exempt insurance industry. The domestic industry is regulated by the Insurance Act of Barbados and deals with the writing of all kinds of domestic business, general, life and so on. The exempt insurance industry really relates to insurance companies which are domiciled in Barbados, but whose ownership is non-CARICOM and whose principal business, over 90% of them would be from non-CARICOM sources. So that is really the heart of the international business and financial services sector.

However across the world, Mr. President, and more particularly in the OECD countries which are most of the industrialised western democracies, there is a move on the part of tax planners to seek to tighten the regime as it exists for offshore businesses. Their arguments are that there is not enough regulatory control on businesses establishing offshore location and they are also arguments as it relates to unfair competition and other arguments. But they primarily

speak to the issue of controls and they also tie the arguments in relation to possibilities for money laundering and other business activity.

What is therefore needed and what is in our best strategic interest is to move to ensure that the jurisdiction of the legislation is protected, but also in respect of ensuring that companies are illegible for the tax benefits which are approved for international businesses, and to ensure that they are not placed in a position where the legitimacy and the right of the companies to the reduction in tax can be challenged on the basis that the regime in which they are embarked is an artificial regime. So that what is being done and what, for example, Britain is pressing Bermuda and its own dependencies to do, is to have a harmonised system where domestic and international regimes are harmonised.

So in effect, Mr. President, the legislation would seek to allow both domestic and international business insurance companies to receive a foreign currency tax credit under the Income Tax Act.
7.30 p.m.

The Insurance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill would basically seek to provide the incentives to the international component of business by locating those incentives within the relevant domestic legislation in Barbados as opposed to the traditional model where incentives for offshore companies are located in the single offshore legislation.

Rather than all the benefits for exempt insurance companies being merely under the Exempt Insurance Act they would be located in the Insurance Act of Barbados, the Income Tax Act, the Property Transfer Tax, the Stamp Duty Act and the Value Added Tax Act, and by way of going that route the plan is to be able to show tax authorities of other countries that we are not in fact creating an artificial shelter and haven approach but there is a harmonised environment that Barbados is in fact an insurance domicile and where there are regulatory provisions that apply for insurance companies, international and domestic.

The details of the Bill are pretty much set out but what I would want to indicate, Mr. President, is that given that there is an Exempt Insurance Bill on the books and given that a number of companies will be operating on 15 to 30-year guarantees that provisions are in place for the Exempt Insurance Act to continue to allow those companies. Companies are also given the opportunity to opt to be registered under the local Insurance Act and to have a certificate of a qualifying insurance company issued by the Supervisor of Insurance and that the definition for a qualifying insurance company would relate to having more than 90% non-CARICOM ownership, more than 90% non-CARICOM business.

It opens up opportunities in two ways or it makes major changes in two ways. One is that obviously if one is harmonising legislation and one has as far as possible to apply similar conditions to your domestic business and international business so as to be able to say it is not an artificial regime created merely for international tax purposes then it means that the local companies would be able to benefit from the tax credit for any international business which they write because the tax credit is being provided under section 12H of the Income Tax Act in respect of foreign currency earnings for the export of goods and services.

It also means that subject to their willingness to subscribe to the capital solvency and other regulations of the Supervisor of Insurance of Barbados that exempt insurance companies or qualifying insurance companies registered under the Insurance Act will also apply to write business in Barbados.

There is, however, the provision under the Act as specified in the Miscellaneous Provisions Bill for the Supervisor of Insurance to withhold the grant of a licence to write business in Barbados in order to ensure that there is protection, to put it bluntly, for the local insurance industry.

That basically, Mr. President, constitutes the reasoning behind the development of the Bill and the framework which would have informed the design of this Bill. The Bill basically would be amending the legislation listed in the Schedule. The Bill itself is two clauses and Schedule. The Schedule in effect amends the Income Tax Act, the Exempt Insurance Act, the Property Transfer Tax Act, the Stamp Duty Act and the Value Added Tax to give effect to the desire to harmonise the domestic and international provisions with respect to insurance in Barbados.

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

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, it is unfortunate such an important piece of legislation is so far down on the Order Paper and at a time when we are attempting to wrap things up. I remember that the amendment to the new Insurance Act came on December 23, 1996 just two days before Christmas. We were also trying to get out of the House and it was not accorded the full debate which it deserved.

I want to comment on this Bill at this time as we are dealing with the harmonisation of legislation in the financial service sector and the implications for such harmonisation. I would not want to give the impression that as I make my comments on these pieces of legislation that I am seeing things in a negative fashion but I believe that unless one is able to look at things in their totality one would not be able

to put in place any measure necessary for one's very survival.

I would like to share with the Honourable Senate the experiences of my colleagues in Trinidad and Jamaica who have been saying to me that ever since it became known that this legislation would be harmonised that on weekends there are suitcase traders in insurance in those territories, individuals who fly in and sell very large policies and are really cutting into the market.

I note the Leader of Government Business stated that the Supervisor of Insurance – that there is provision there for protection. We know how the World Trade Organisation and these international agencies and their liberalisation legislation feel about protecting territories. They say there is no most favoured nation. What that means is that you are not going to get any special grants, provisions, concessions because you can make any special case for yourself.

I think we as a Government are lagging somewhat in the interest which we should be showing in the financial services sector and in insurance in particular. If there are going to be opportunities for us as a people to be great players or greater players in this sector I think that Government has to show greater interest in an educational thrust.

I want to say that for too long the education of people in the insurance industry has rested, and the cost of education, on those individuals and their interests, whether they wanted to go further or whether they wanted to be seen as other than salesmen only. I think the time has come for the Government of Barbados to recognise that the Barbados Community College and even at our secondary schools that by now we should have programmes on our curricula to ensure that Barbadians are very well equipped to participate in one of these fast growing areas in the world, the financial services sector, which has sprung out of the life insurance industry.

They came the route as insurance sales people in their companies. Today they are individuals who on the Internet are managing to tie a number of deals, large financial services deals in their countries and I would like to see us in Barbados in our educational system make room for young people because this industry is still in a way stigmatised as a profession.

A number of university graduates believe that to have a university degree and then to continue a career in life insurance industry that they are going several steps down. Unless the Government of Barbados intervenes in this area and make training of our young people in insurance and the wider financial services sector a part of our general system of education we are not going to progress as much as we would like to.

I have heard talk of an off-campus facility for the financial services sector but I am not seeing enough happening there. I think by the time we develop this, in another year or two, we would be really very far behind and I want to call on the Government of Barbados. I do not know why we are still not paying enough attention in this area. We are introducing very sophisticated pieces of legislation dealing with retirement benefit, dealing with securities and we do not have those individuals who are qualified and equipped to make sure that we put in place the security necessary. I hope the Government is going to be calling on the qualified life insurance people to make significant input into these areas of legislation because for a long time we have been the only people in Barbados who were equipped to deal with them.

7.40 p.m.

I note that over night the accountants, because of the CGA and the ACCA and those programmes and some background information, are the ones being sought to give advice in this area but this has been and still is the domain of the life insurance industry. I hope the Government of Barbados will give the credit that is due to that sector in the Financial Services industry.

I am not satisfied that the department of the Supervisor of Insurance is equipped by way of human resources to adequately deal with these new areas on which we are embarking and this Government has already, I would say, in a way deviated, and that is not meant to be a negative term, from strict public sector practices in terms of human resource requirement and it is necessary to have professionals who are equipped and I note they are coming on board in the public service. I want to suggest that the department of the Supervisor of Insurance should be looked at carefully and indeed the Government should go into the private sector and look for some of those chartered life underwriters, chartered Financial Consultants and try to bring them on board and get them in there now to help with the infrastructure in Government legislation.

I would also like to suggest that we really try to put in place a proper financial services school. It is necessary. I am not supposed to pre-empt legislation that is coming but we have been talking about it for so long that I am sure we are aware that our registered retirement savings plans and mutual funds and all these other measures which are due to come before the House, they call for people who are specialised and the public service is not equipped enough to deal with them. I do not want to have to criticise unnecessarily so I will give a little advice up front so that I would not have to criticise and I want to encourage the Government to start now to get about its recruitment programme.

There are individuals who are qualified in the industry and if the proper offer is made who would not mind being

pioneers in this particular area in order to make sure that we can, not play catch up, but be very current in the financial services sector. Basically that is all I want to say at this time, Sir.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, the Senate went into Committee for further consideration of the Bill, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

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

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Insurance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1998.

ORDER NO. 10 – THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 1998

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 1998 is really meant to give effect to a proposal which was first raised in the 1996 Budgetary Proposals concerning where reference was made to the possibility of creating a legislative framework which would permit the introduction of a registered retirement savings plan. That plan was further revisited in the subsequent Budget and also in the most recent Budget where the reference to the use of the registered retirement savings plans as a means of having a tie in with the raising of down payment which might be required for the purchase of a house and the opportunity to withdraw, tax free, up to 10% of the purchase price or \$25 000 in order to make the down payment.

7.50 p.m.

But as you are aware, Mr. President, the registered retirement savings plan is really a tax deferred capital accumulation account and basically what it does is to provide an opportunity for no tax to be paid on income that is placed in the plan. So that if a person is agreeable to setting aside these sums of money to cater to their retirement

income needs, the Government is willing to forego the taxes which would normally have been paid on those earnings.

So whereas normally one would pay taxes on the taxable component of one's income that taxable component could be further reduced by way of placing sums in a registered retirement savings plan. Because, the Government recognises that the society as a whole, and more particularly the Government as well as the individual would benefit if more and more persons within the society made their own provision for their financial security during retirement, than if that were left to the Government or the society generally.

So the tax-free approach is really an incentive toward encouraging persons to go in that route. Basically, the income earned by investments made by, for example, registered retirement savings plans are really invested year after year and they are able to accumulate and no tax is levied on the income during the life of the plan.

Of course, if the ultimate goal of a registered retirement savings plan is to provide for one's income at retirement, then any withdrawal other than approved withdrawals before the maturity of the plan, which is retirement, obviously defeat the purpose and will therefore be subject to tax as would that money would be subjected to tax if it had been taken at source, that is as you were paid, and spent at that point in time.

So that the taxes that are levied on withdrawals before retirement are not penalties, as I have heard it described somewhere else where a discussion was going on, but that appears to be a major misunderstanding. It is really a matter of the taxes that would have been applicable being charged because the saver in the plan did not keep his part or her part of the bargain.

What is proposed in this particular Bill, Sir, which is done by way of an amendment to the Income Tax Act, is for the registered retirement savings plan to be a plan which is approved by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue for tax purposes and which is particularly operating through the commercial banks, insurance companies, credit unions and trust companies and the like, but generally through financial institutions. The case which we are advancing in this particular matter, Sir, the maximum allowable tax-free contribution would be \$4 000 or 15% of assessable income or whichever is the lesser.

There is also a provision, Mr. President, where the persons who make an investment in another plan are able to claim up to \$6 000 between the two of them or again 15% of the income, whichever is the lesser. As I indicated earlier on in my introduction one of the things that we are trying to do is to encourage persons to save at an early stage for two reasons. There are some persons who may not have an eye

to retirement at the beginning of their working lives and as an added incentive to move in the direction of saving generally, and also to satisfy, perhaps what are the two most significant needs throughout one's working life, that is the acquisition of a first house as well as security on retirement. The incentive of being able to withdraw up to 10% of the purchase price of a first house for residential purposes or \$25 000 is meant to encourage persons who are newly into the work force, persons for whom retirement may seem like the most distant and remote possibility, but who would be enthused by having a savings plan which on the one hand, reduces their tax liability and on the other hand provides them with an opportunity to have a lump sum in hand to make that downpayment on a house which is the most difficult thing for young persons to find.

I remember my own efforts in trying to find the downpayment and the associated cost being the most difficult thing for young persons to find. This registered retirement savings plan will get them into the habit of saving, gets them that downpayment, as well as have a framework in place for them to continue on through to retirement.

So, Mr. President, I commend this Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, to the Honourable Senate and beg to move that it be read a second time.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I have been calling for such a long time for the introduction of registered retirement savings plans that I could not be standing on my feet to object.

There is just one thing that I wonder a bit about. The maximum deductible under the Income Tax Act for mutual funds in any one year, is \$10 000. And I believe that when we have our legislation properly in place that a number of the registered retirement savings plans carriers will be investing in mutual funds and whether there should not be a maximum contribution of \$10 000? This would mean that you could decide to go by way of either mutual funds or a combination of mutual funds, RRSP and RPP, for diversification, for spreading the risk, for having that element of security on one end of the scale and the speculative element on the other end of the scale and I would like to suggest that we look at that area.

The legislation from which this was borrowed, the Canadian legislation, does carry a maximum contribution room of the lesser of 18% of earned income and a figure which changes annually, but it is now frozen and the index in 2003 and is CAN\$13 500 from now until 2002. But the maximum is that whether you are in the private service or in the public service that you qualify for the same pension benefit sum under the Income Tax Regulation.

What this piece of legislation has done, it has the two mixed. One section is really addressing registered pension plans which will be either the employer/employee plan in the company or the registered immunity: Retirement immunity which the individual will buy privately which is one area. Then it steps into registered retirement savings plans, but it calls them all the same thing and we need to address that. That is an irregularity in law which could come back to haunt us some time in the future.

So that what we have here, Mr. President, I believe is a piece of forward looking legislation which would help to build a capital market too, because pension funds are still the most significant sums collected in Barbados in any one year among, I would say, very small people, people who are not earning significant incomes because of the employer/employee benefit plan. The component which allows individuals to make a withdrawal for home ownership comes out from the Ontario legislation, the Registered Homeownership Plan. I think that information came out of the insurance industry almost three years ago.
8.00 p.m.

I am pleased to see that we have embodied it in our local legislation but I think the most significant part of this legislation is that it allows individuals to have their earnings on savings tax sheltered. Whereas at present you pay 12.5% tax on interest and dividends, that your interest and dividends which accumulate in your registered retirement plan will be allowed to accumulate free of tax.

The anomaly we have in our system which works positively for our citizens is that pensions are not taxed up to a particular point. We give it to you on two ends in Barbados which is unusual. In the tax sheltered regime once you have the tax savings out front whenever the benefit comes out it is fully taxed and I think Barbadians are privileged and I would not want to suggest at all that we resort to that measure. I think it is a very positive thing for us but we need to put greater emphasis on it because I am not satisfied that enough Barbadians recognise how critical this aging population is.

I was looking at the Economic and Social Report today and I knew that it was fairly high but the figure that startled me is the percentage of our population that is 60 years and over. It is a very significant percentage. I think 12% for the 60 plus but between 45 and 60 when we combine those two it is really too high on the scale and Government must find a way of getting home to Barbadians its implications for this country and all the developments that we are working towards. Unless we can put in place a good framework to

take care of this aging population we will have a crisis on our hands in the future.

We have made an adjustment to the social security system and I am glad that we have done something about the unemployment benefits but I think there is something a bit more that we have to do. I note the auditors have recommended that an additional 1% should be deducted at the same time that that adjustment was made and I think that maybe for political purposes the Government has not touched it in this year because we are on the threshold of a general election. However, I would want to say that if dialogue is properly conducted with the citizens of this country, I do not believe that we will find many Barbadians who understand that that scheme is threatened somewhat. I do not believe that you will find many Barbadians who would object to the adjustment when you consider that almost 4% in levies were on there and were removed. Barbadians have grown accustomed to contributing 12.5% of their salaries to the social security system, granted 4% were levies.

I think that we should in order to retain the integrity of the social security system discuss it with Barbadians to help them to understand what the additional contribution could do for the scheme and that would be another small step because I believe that over the next three or four years, we have to be making a 1% adjustment along the way for at least another 4 years in order to bring that scheme up to the point that it can respond to our aging population.

I do not want to bore the Senate anymore but I look forward to further contributions in this area.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I just want to make a small point on this Bill to amend the Income Tax Act. I want to note that the Minister of Finance is a bit ingenious in killing two important birds with one stone, that is, providing an incentive for people to save towards a house and at the same time make provisions for down the road. It is another example of a thinking Cabinet. I must put on record that it is the example of a Cabinet who is prepared to confront in a positive way the issues facing this country. This is very important and I want to encourage all Barbadians to take advantage of the opportunities which are being made available by this progressive Government.

Sir, we have put the people in a position where they can use these instruments by the fact that we have significantly reduced the level of unemployment and in addition overall wages are increasing at a time when the price level is showing remarkable signs of stability. So we are putting the people of this country in a position where they have more income and we are putting provisions in place to encourage them to take this income and not to spend it willy-nilly but to use it for productive purposes and that is of getting a home and preparing for the future.

This is a progressive legislation and in time to come we will see more efforts by this Government to prepare this country further for the 21st century.

With those few words, Sir, I want to commend this Bill to this Honourable Chamber.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I did not intend to speak on this Bill but based on the last contribution, I have to make a few statements of fact. One is not able to take advantage of these initiatives if you are in a position where your total income is required to meet certain basic needs. Sir, Senator Barker must not therefore give the impression that it creates a panacea of opportunity for all Barbadians.

There are thousands of Barbadians who are not even earning the minimum wage in this country. How can they contemplate renting a home? How can they contemplate paying their utility bills? How can they contemplate paying value added tax? How can they contemplate all these things and at the same time take advantage ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please!

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: These are good pieces of legislation but we must not go away from here with the impression that they are going to make a terrific difference to the lives of ordinary Barbadians just because of the stroke of a pen in here or anywhere else. One has to have disposable income to take advantage of these types of saving opportunities whether they come by way of interest rates in the bank, whether they come by way of opportunities to invest in business ventures or they come by the words that we use today to describe registered retirement plans and registered pension plans. It is all about the same kind of thing, having discretionary income to deal with the opportunities which these bits of legislation might offer from time to time.

Senator Barker must not get up here and thump his chest and behave as though this is now the end all and the be all. This is the beginning. He must recognise this, Sir. This is the genesis. We have to create an economic environment where the Barbadian can now take advantage of it. Senator Barker has to understand these fundamental basics. Let us have a level of contribution which befits the office of the Honourable Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance at that. Thank you, Sir.

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

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

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill be read a third time and I certify that this is a money Bill, Mr. President.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was passed and cited as the Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 1998.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the adjournment of the Senate. Speaking on the adjournment I want to indicate that we have completed all matters which have been sent to us from the Other Place. The Other Place is on recess until November 10, 1998 and therefore I believe that we will not need to meet, unless they do and send some business to us, before some time after November 10 this year. I want to take the opportunity therefore, Mr. President, to wish you first of all, all the best in the time that we will not see you here and to thank you for the excellent way in which you have kept us on track and maintained the high and Honourable traditions of the Honourable the Senate during this session so far. I certainly look forward to when we meet again so that we can continue the work of the people of Barbados under your guidance.

I would want, Mr. President, to take the opportunity to thank all Members of the Senate for their participation in debate and their contribution and certainly to wish them all the best, the Opposition Senators, the Independents and of course, Members on my Side and to thank you very much and to wish you the best during the recess and to look forward with the keenest of interest to our lively debates sometime after November 10 this year.

Mr. President, I beg to move that the Honourable Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Farley for your kind remarks. I think all Honourable Senators deserve some respite from their parliamentary labours and I look forward to seeing you again some time in November.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. President adjourned the Senate accordingly.
8.15 p.m.

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THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 25, 1998

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, November 25, 1998 at 11.20 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

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

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

Senator the Hon. 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 N. A. LYNCH

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON

Senator J. D. E. BOYCE

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN

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

Senator Dr. V. J. DAVIS

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Prayers were led by Rev. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. The Financial Institutions (Audited Financial Statements) Regulations, 1998.
2. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No.17) Order, 1998.
3. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No.18) Order, 1998.
4. Report on the Audit of the Account of the Sugar Workers Provident Fund for the years ended December 31, 1995, December 31, 1996 and December 31, 1997.
5. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1997.
6. Annual Report on the Operations of the Severance Payments Scheme for the year 1997.
7. The Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Auditor General's Department for the Financial years 1996, 1997 and 1998.
8. Interim Report of the Advisory Commission of Inquiry into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.
9. The National Insurance and Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations, 1998.

10. The Sugar Industry (Sugar Workers Provident Fund) Order, 1998.
11. Report of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for the quarter ending September 30, 1998.
12. Value Added Tax (Refund) (No. 4) Order, 1998.
13. Value Added Tax (Refund) (No. 5) Order, 1998.
14. Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados National Standards Institution for the period April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

1. Resolution to approve the acquisition of land at Foster Lodge, St. George for housing development.
2. Resolution to approve the acquisition of land at Salisbury, St. George for the construction of hard court sporting facility.
3. Resolution to approve the acquisition of parcels of land at Farmers, St. Thomas for housing development.
4. Resolution to approve the rescission of Resolution 54/1998 for the acquisition of parcels of land at Trents, Orange Hill, Greenwich and Lancaster, St. James for housing development.
5. Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Orange Hill, St. James for road improvement.
6. Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of land at Warrens, St. Michael.
7. Resolution to approve the acquisition of parcels of land at Trents, Orange Hill, Greenwich and Lancaster, St. James for road improvement.
8. Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of a parcel of land at Cheapside, St. Michael.
9. Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of land at Warrens, St. Michael for the purpose of industrial development.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that the District Auctioneers (Amendment) Bill, 1998 and the Road Traffic (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1998 be now read a first time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO.1 – DISTRICT AUCTIONEERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1998

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill, a Bill to amend the District Auctioneers Act. This Act, Mr. President, controls the functioning of District Auctioneers or auctioneers appointed by the Government to deal with matters relating to the sale of goods which are restrained upon or taken under execution issuing from the courts. The last amendment of this Act would have been in 1992 and the principal reasons for the amendment proposed today relate to a replacement of the Third Schedule to the Bill, the Third Schedule to the Bill being that portion of the Bill which prescribes the fees which are charged by District Auctioneers for their various services. The other amendment is to amend section 15 of the Act to allow for sales to occur on any given day. Section 15 of the Act as it currently stands lists Monday as the day of sale except when Christmas should fall on a Monday. It was felt that that provision was a little rigid and the flexibility should be there for other days of the week to be used as appropriate or suitable.

In terms of the changes which are proposed, Mr. President, in Schedule 3 it is proposed to increase the fees which are charged. All of the flat rate fees have been increased, however the commission which is set at 15% remains the same as it has been for many years, that is the commission on the sale of goods and so on for which the District Auctioneer is responsible. For example, the notice of sale as in accordance with the Act now carries a fee of \$40.00 and other fees are listed there, attending on the day of the sale for example, \$50.00 and so on.

Mr. President, this Bill really seeks to increase the fees which are charged by District Auctioneers for their services and to make the administrative adjustment in the legislation making it possible for the days to be set as may be convenient and appropriate rather than being limited to Mondays only as was currently prescribed in the Act.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, there is no division I think in this matter on this side with respect to the

proposal to amend the District Auctioneers Act in the way as outlined by the Honourable Leader of the Senate.

Sir, I merely want to add a few comments and this is as a result of my research in the area and talking to a few persons who are actively involved in it. I think that there is general agreement that the commission of 15% is one that is acceptable and I think that as the Honourable Leader of the Senate said there is no intention to change it in this Act. However, the fees as they stood and as they even stand now after the amendment are indeed still considered to be very small and I think it is obvious to anyone that carrying most functions today would actually cost more than these fees would indicate. I think that although this is an acknowledged attempt to modify the fees and make them more acceptable or palatable in reality one would recognise that they are probably not adequate for the work that is entailed. But I do not want to belabour that point, Sir. I do not think that the auctioneers themselves depend so much on these fees for their business as much as they depend on the commission.

Sir, we tend to look at a lot of these, what I call regular functionaries without seeing where there need to be change and where there need to be additions. And it brings to mind as I reflect on this, another area of regulation and that is to do with the competent persons and I think I have spoken in here before and I think that again the Government must be urged through the relevant Ministry to endeavour to have that list of competent persons adequately made up so that there can be proper coverage and the work which they are supposed to do can be adequately carried out.

Another area of concern for the district auctioneers is one of storage and I think the view came across that there can sometimes be need for adequate storage to be made available for the use of the district auctioneers. Sir, it is not a big thing but we must remember that when we do not pay attention to these small areas at some time they can return to haunt us and I think that is the message that I got in discussing it with the persons involved whom I spoke to and I think that is the message which I would like to share to this Honourable Chamber today in respect to the above Bill, Sir. I thank you. 11.30 a.m.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I want to say a lot on this Bill and on other matters. It is humanly impossible for anybody to come to Parliament to make a meaningful contribution when we have not got the previous laws to compare what the amendments are in comparison with what the law has been.

This is a bundle that came to me notifying me that the Senate is meeting today. Under Notice of Government Business we know that there are amendments to certain Acts. Now I can say, and I vouch for this, that sometimes between the late 1980s and early 1990s we have not been able to get copies of laws passed in this Chamber. Even today, if you

ring the Government Printing Office they will tell you they are not available. I have heard Senator Laurie in here complain when he wanted to check on the Firearms Act. He could not get a copy of the Act.

Now some functionary of Government has taken upon himself or herself to write to the Attorney General's Office and send a list of Senators who must get laws and who must not get laws. My name has been excluded from those who must get laws. I checked with Senator Springer today and he has not got any. A lot of people have not got.

When I first came to the Senate I asked about the practice of distributing laws to lawmakers and I was told they were stored at Marine House in a basement and the water washed them out and you cannot get them. You have to get new sets. Now that the new sets have arrived we cannot get them; but certain people have them packed off in offices who do not use them.

I called again today and I asked for a copy of the District Auctioneers Act to look at what we are amending. Even the Volume which is available in Parliament is not up to date. I have been in the Other Place and seen the then Minister of Finance, the late Errol Barrow, come to Parliament and amend an Act of Parliament dealing with the Ministry of Transport and Works to find later that the Act had already been amended and he amended the wrong Act that he wanted to amend.

In the District Auctioneers Act if you look at it carefully, you would see that there are further amendments which are necessary. What we amended today is section 31. Look at section 32 and see what should be done. I can only get a casual glimpse of it here. It does not give lawmakers in here an adequate chance to make a meaningful contribution if we are deprived of the laws that we have to deal with.

I deal with this every day. I know how I have to get around this but it is not right that I must use my own private facilities to do the Senate's work when those who can facilitate it are trying to put obstacles in the way. I do not know whom I should appeal to. I called the Attorney General's Office and there is a lady there who is quite willing to help me out but she has to wait for instructions from another functionary.

If you look at the amending section...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, if I may just interrupt you for a moment. It seems to me that you are really dealing with a matter of the privileges of members of the Senate and it was in fact open to you to have addressed the Chair in respect of that particular point because there is a procedure by which concerns such as you have raised could be referred to the Committee of Privileges for action. I think you have made your point.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: If one looks at section 13(2) of the District Auctioneers Act which says:

"Goods and chattels which can be removed shall be sold by the District Auctioneer at Police Headquarters in cases where they have been distrained or levied on within the limits of District A and in cases where the same have been distrained or levied on within the limits of Districts B, C, D, E, or F respectively, at the appropriate police stations for the several parishes comprised in those districts or, in whatever district the same may be distrained or levied on, at such other place as may be specified in the appropriate form prescribed by the Second Schedule."

Mr. President, one would be likely to forget, but one cannot forget when the Democratic Labour Party Government started to levy on the tenants in the various housing areas for rent and they employed several bailiffs. It usually took place on a Friday evening when the bailiffs descended upon the housing areas and took out all their household chattels etc., particularly in St. Michael and carried them down to Bridgetown. The Police complained that they had nowhere to store these things but I know that when the time for sale came lots of goods which were taken from the houses could not be found to be sold.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President, I hate to interrupt, but the Honourable Senator is misleading the Chamber when he seeks to give the impression that only the Democratic Labour Party Government have ever been responsible for levying on people's goods. This is something which all collectors, especially in areas like National Housing Corporation, have had to take that action in the past. I think it is unfair and a misrepresentation to give that impression.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order. Please proceed Senator Bolden.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Senator Boyce has said to me once that he is not responsible for what they did before. If he is ashamed of it, get up and say you are ashamed of it, but I am not misleading this Chamber. It happened under the Democratic Labour Party rule. If you want me to call the names of the people who were involved I can call them.

Sir, section 13(2) certainly needs amendment because the auctioneers are complaining that the police do not receive goods now and there are limited storage spaces around Bridgetown for storing of the goods. What is happening now is that the auctioneers get a bailiff who in turn gets a security guard to watch goods in certain places, which carries up the expense and the expense falls to the debtor.

All I am saying is that one could make meaningful contributions if one had the laws available to compare them with the actual situation out there.

We see the last amendment was 1992-11 but 1992-11 is not in this book and this is the book we use in Parliament. I am saying, Sir, that while I do not want to vote against it, there are several other things that auctioneers have complained about and there is still a limited number of auctioneers who will accept to do this work. I know there was an amendment some time to increase the number of auctioneers. At one time Mr. Darcy Scott was the only district auctioneer in St. Michael. He is now retired. I think they put about three more but they do not do the work because they say they find difficulty in storing the goods. I think that we should take a comprehensive look at the Act and bring in something which would cover the problems which arise now under the present Act.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1-3 inclusive, were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the District Auctioneers (Amendment) Act, 1998.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SALE TO D & C INVESTMENTS LIMITED OF 67.4 SQUARE METRES OF LAND AT UPTON, CHRIST CHURCH

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks the Senate's approval for the disposal by way of sale of some 67.4 square metres of land at Upton, Christ Church to D & C Investments Ltd. for the purpose of expanding their car park.

This land in question, Mr. President, would have formed part of the larger area the majority of which would have been used for the Wildey Sporting Complex.

The building in question is a building which is on the eastern side of BET and partly within the same property on which a number of offices are located. The Ministry of International Business is located in that office complex as well.

Mr. President, the area in question therefore falls between the road which goes around the tennis centre, the Aquatic Centre and going towards Upton Main Road and the building itself which is on Upton Main Road.

So in effect the radius provides for a small expansion of the existing car park which is at the back of the building. Approaches were made by D & C Investments Ltd., the owner of the building, and they are asking the Senate's approval for the sale of this land to D & C Investments Ltd. for the expansion of their car park.

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

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

**ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
LEASE TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BARBADOS
YACHTING YOUTH TRAINING ASSOCIATION
OF LAND AND THE BUILDING THEREON
AT BRANDONS, ST. MICHAEL, FOR
THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTION AND
PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
SAILING AND RELATED
ACTIVITIES**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Honourable the Senate is sought for this Resolution to lease some 914.3 square metres of land at Brandons, St. Michael to the Barbados Yachting Youth Training Association.

This Club, Mr. President, has operated in that area for some time now and this lease is really by way of an extension of an existing lease. This is a new lease. The lease is proposed for a ten-year period at the rent of some one hundred dollars per annum.

There is a provision for rent review in the fifth year and as usual with these leases, the Barbados Yachting Youth Training Association will be responsible for any repairs and maintenance of the building, the payment of insurance premiums, land taxes, utilities and other outgoings and the lease also makes provision for the Association to indemnify government against any liability in terms of injury etc. on the property.

As is usual with these leases as well, any construction of additional facilities on the land would certainly also need to have the approval of the Town Planning Department.

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

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I want to say a few words on this Resolution, Sir, because at this time I think it is important that we understand in Barbados how urgent the need is for the provision of certain facilities and in this case, Sir, the facilities are being provided to the Trustees of the Barbados Yachting Youth Training Association, a parcel of land situated at Brandons.

Sir, one regret I have, Sir, is that I have not yet been pass the plot of the land in question. I do not know if it is available on the file. I keep asking for these plots from time to time, Sir, without much success.

Again, Sir, you intimated earlier that this is something which we will probably have to raise in another forum, Sir, I think that would help especially given the development that is taking place at Brandons.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You raised it in this forum and it is dealt with by the privileges.

SENATOR J. D. E. Boyce: I raise it in this forum and I trust it will be dealt with at the appropriate level, Sir, and at Brandons especially, Sir, an area which we see so much activity taking place.

Recently, we have seen the development of an entrepreneurial activity which allows for entertainment and for the provision of dining facilities for a number of visitors and locals who converge on that area now, Sir, for lunch and other recreation, Sir.

The Barbados Yacht Club of whom I believe the Yachting Youth Training Association is some kind of subsidiary, because I think I know the historical origins and they used to operate as the kind of mirror dinghy Training Group, Sir, and of course, we in Barbados are aware that the question of the Barbados Yacht Club of course, always brings about or causes certain antennae to rise, Sir, and I think that one of the things that have been often asked about the Barbados Yacht Club and its subsidiaries, is the question of membership.

How wide and how broad and how embracing is the membership of the Barbados Yacht Club? I think in today's world and in today's Barbados where we are preaching, where we are asking for an openness and we are asking for a full integration or indeed to coin a recent phrase, a full inclusion, Sir, of many different persons or many different interest groups in the overall objective.

I think it is important that people organizations like the Barbados Yacht Club come out and state openly what their position is in respect of these questions which have worried Barbadians and have concerned Barbadians for many years.

There is nothing, there is absolutely nothing to lose by doing so. One should be able to say, well, membership of the Yacht Club is free to all Barbadians. All Barbadian children can join the Barbados Yachting Youth Training Association and can participate in the activities at Brandons or wherever they take place, Sir.

I think this is absolutely important, because I certainly have been a member, not of the Barbados Yacht Club, Sir, but of the Barbados Cruising Club which is a next-door organization and I think there is an obvious difference to anyone who has had that privilege, Sir.
11.50 a.m.

The Barbados Cruising Club, by way of passing, is certainly in need of increased vibrant membership and if the Honourable Minister is interested, I can talk to him afterwards and have him join a very worthwhile organisation. I cannot do the same for the Barbados Yacht Club.

Sir, again in allowing the use of these beach facilities, one has also got to be concerned with another development and that is the safety of the persons using the beach. Very recently and tragically too, we have noticed another accident which has caused great grief and sorrow, I am sure, among Barbadians and especially among the parents and the friends and relatives of the victims. I think we have to get to a stage where we allocate areas of our beaches for certain kinds of recreation. From time to time we have heard the plea of various interest groups in respect to jet skis, in respect to all the other powerboat equipment and the very serious effect they can have if they are used in areas where there is recreation, swimming, and indeed in a case like this where you are training young children mostly in dinghy sailing. These are very small boats. They are powered, not by engines, but by the weight. Of course, as there are youngsters mainly involved, they again will be exposed to the dangers of any powerboat equipment if it was nearby. I think we have to move with haste, therefore, to allocate areas specifically for these activities. I know that it is a very contentious issue. It is not contentious in Barbados alone either.

Sir, we have to understand that this nonsense about this administration did nothing about it or that administration did nothing about it is absolutely puerile. I hear from time to time Members on that Side like to make these kinds of comments when one is trying to make useful contributions for the development of Barbados and all Barbadians. So it is puerile to think that because a previous administration did nothing about some things we should sit down and allow it to remain and fester and allow it to become a problem for all of us. That is not the approach that we want to see in this country. That is not the approach we are working toward in this country.

We are going forward so we would like to see that the organisations who have special interests in the activities of

the beach, and indeed, these are many – You have the Barbados Tourism Association. You have the hotel owners. You have groups like these, the Barbados Yachting Association and indeed you very well have to bear in mind the community groups because our beach at Brandons especially, is probably one of the few areas left where locals, although at great risks to life and limb in crossing the Spring Garden Highway, gather on Sundays and on days of the week, but especially on Sunday afternoons, to enjoy a sea bath, so we need to protect that.

This is serious because as I have said in here before, I grew up in a village and we used to journey to what is now Port St. Charles. We used to be there on Sundays. Once we had lunch we would be at the beach until, in some cases, our fingers were withering with the temperature of the water. That is something now which I fear the youngsters of Mile and a Quarter can no longer enjoy, not at Port St. Charles, at least, but they have an opportunity to do so at Brandons as I said, one of the few remaining areas where it can be done.

Therefore, Sir, we need as a people to get our organisations to sit down and start working out how best we can allocate the use of our beaches. When we are on land and we create facilities to play cricket, for instance, we do not use them for football for fear that the studs in the boots of the footballers might damage the cricket ground, especially if we do not have time to change the preparation before the next cricket game.

Again, in the case of the National Stadium, we know the kinds of outcries we get from the athletes. I am sorry that Senator Lynch is not in his seat. I am sure he would have a very lively contribution to make on this matter. From time to time the Stadium is used for recreational activities and, most of all, the Crop-Over Festival. The athletes complain vociferously about the damage that is inflicted on their facility.

We do not want this kind of conflict to arise on our beaches, or we do not want this kind of conflict to develop any further on our beach facilities. So that the powers that be, as I said, Sir, need to sit down with the users of the facility, with the Yacht Club, with the Cruising Club, with the community groups in Barbados and other areas of Barbados and look at ways in which these facilities can be best utilised, at the same time recognising that we need to retain that cutting edge in respect of what we can offer our visitors because, as I said at the opening of my remarks, this has become a very popular area for our visitors.

Sir, I also want, at this time, to go to the question of equality of fairness, again trying not to be sensational. We at this time are dealing with an arrangement to lease to the Trustees of the Barbados Yachting Association and, as the Senate Leader said, at the rate of \$100 per year. What I want to say is that we also have to recognise the needs of other

organisations in Barbados. I am not saying we can do it in one fell swoop. I am not saying that, but the point is we have been hearing too many times the crying need of other organisations, other communities for facilities which they can use for recreation and it is not always or it does not always have to be yachting or swimming but it can be sporting facilities. It can be hard court facilities.

Even this morning again in the newspapers we see a crying need for the only Member of Parliament for Christ Church on the Democratic Labour Party benches where he is again asking for facilities to be provided in the Carter's Gap area for sportsmen. These are very serious issues.

I think the Honourable Leader of the Senate is now beginning to appreciate the dire need in that area. I am sure as the weeks and the months pass on to that moment, he will more and more recognise how urgent that need is and maybe one day he will join this plea for some facilities also to be provided to these young men and women in the Christ Church South area, the Christ Church East area and a lot of areas of Christ Church and, indeed, in Barbados, so we need too to examine that question of fairness. We must recognise that our young people as much as we like to accuse them of one thing or the other in terms of the part they play in some of the negative aspects of our society, one of the real ways in which you can challenge the young mind is to involve that young soul in an active and meaningful recreation. Children should be able to look forward when they come home from school at three and four o'clock, look forward to going into a community where there is an offering of all kinds of facilities.

12.00 noon

There was a time when we could play ball on the road *etcetera*, those days now, Sir, are gone. We could play netball on the corridors and basketball under the street lights, we could engage in almost any sports. We need now to start providing the facilities and make sure we provide the correct facilities. Do not go down the road of just going into a community and say, let us provide yachting facilities, or let us provide a hard court, Sir. Let us examine the need. Let us talk to the community workers to establish that need and once that need is confirmed, let us move forward with resolve to make sure that it is satisfied. That is one of the ways that we can counteract the crime situation in Barbados.

I am sure that the programme of the Barbados Yachting Youth Training Association has in some measure contributed to counteracting the tendency for deviant behaviour in those members who have been fortunate enough to be part of the programme. We must accept them for what they are worth and we must understand that these efforts need to be duplicated and triplicated all over our community, all over Barbados if we are to establish a beautiful Barbados, which we, Sir, in our older years and our children and their children, can look forward to.

With those few words, I want to associate myself with this Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, as far as I have been made to understand and I always try to do my research as I was taught to do and I shall, of course, stick to the point. The Barbados Yachting Youth Training Association is registered as a charity. It was formed to widen the scope of yachting. It is distinct from the Yacht Club although some of the members of the Yacht Club were involved in its formation. Most of the money was raised through fund-raising efforts and covenants by some companies. Contrary to the belief that it was exclusive, 20 sea scouts were taken in and efforts have been made to involve school children of all strata.

Applications used to be sent to all the schools and five years ago, the National Sports Council sent out circulars to the schools encouraging them to become involved in this sport. Unfortunately, the response was not very good. The Association itself offers free training to a number of young people. Unfortunately, there is a problem. Like tennis some years ago, and that fortunately has disappeared, that idea where it was considered an elitist sport, and it is not cheap but certainly it is one that I think should be encouraged. The fact that the National Sports Council was supporting it also shows that it was a sport considered important.

As we all know, Mr. President, sports tourism has become an important part of the tourism industry and therefore yachting needs to be tapped. It seems to go in spurts because apparently in the 1920s yachting was very popular and again in the 1950s and 1960s and in fact in 1960 at the Caribbean Championships, I think it was Tony Hoad who won a bronze medal in Cuba. Again in 1967 Barbados participated in the Pan Am games.

I would like to suggest too that as yachting becomes more popular that a race week would be very beneficial to the tourism ancillary sector. It could be of great benefit because it attracts people from all over the world, of all strata and brings in millions of dollars to some countries where a race week is held. I think too, Mr. President, that in order for the Barbados Yachting Youth Training Association to attract more members, it will have to run public relations programmes particularly in the schools and offer to provide help.

The Honourable Senator who just spoke talked about safety and of course that is important but there are swimming programmes in almost all of the schools nowadays and the ability to swim would be vital. Barbadians naturally have a great affinity with the sea and I think that with a vigorous public relationship programme, more children could be attracted to the sports. Again, I understand that the Association is anxious to attract as many young people as possible. Again, I stress children of every socio-economic

bracket, children from all strata and therefore, I, as a sports lover, as one who believes that sport is vital to the development of character, I have much pleasure in supporting this Resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
VESTING IN THE BARBADOS INVESTMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF
LAND AND THE BUILDING THEREON
AT FONTABELLE, ST. MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move this Resolution which seeks the approval of the Honourable the Senate for the vesting of Crown lands at Fontabelle, St. Michael in the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation. This land in question, Mr. President, is some 5018 square metres and is proposed to be used for the construction of a small business complex.

Mr. President, as you would be aware on your passage through that area construction has already started in that project given of course that the land is owned by the Crown and that the Resolution seeks to give clear legal title to the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation to ensure their capacity to engage in long-term operation and management of the said facility. The facility which has been described previously, Mr. President, is intended to provide a single location which a number of business, advisory and support services to the small business sector and to provide a location, Mr. President, where the entrepreneurs of Barbados, particularly the young and first time entrepreneurs can go to obtain free advice and support on their many and various projects.

The building project is expected to be completed, Mr. President, by the end of 1999 at a cost of some \$6 million. The facilities, Mr. President, in addition to providing the offices for the business advisory and support services of the Barbados Investment Development Corporation will also provide headquarters for the Small Business Association of Barbados. It will also provide facilities where there is a permanent exhibition of the work of a number of small businesses to provide them with opportunities to showcase their products and services on a more sustained basis.

Mr. President, facilities will also be provided for a number of small business designers who will be operating their own small businesses. This is part of the programme which was started by the Barbados Investment Development

Corporation in association with the European Union whereby a number of Barbadian students, particularly graduates out of the Barbados Community College and the University went to various technical institutions in Europe to train in various aspects of design. A number of the graduates of that programme, Mr. President, work now for the Barbados Investment Development Corporation providing excellent free advice and support to the industrial sector in Barbados. Also the programme envisages a number of the later graduates being able to operate their own businesses and the opportunity would be provided to establish some turnkey facilities for designers so that the skills and talents of those individuals would be very much available to the small business community in Barbados.

Additionally to be included within the scope of the project are facilities which can and will be used by a number of financial institutions so that institutions can establish facilities to run a number of what we can describe as clinics whereby, for example, institution X could choose the particular date on which it proposes to be in the complex and to be able to provide advice, support, target some business to I am sure, not only the occupants of the building but any other small business persons who may want to attend.

We anticipate that being able to access financial advice and make enquiries concerning various aspects of financing, whether it be by way of insurance and planning facilities by way of advice on straightforward loan and other forms of financing, financial management and other issues relating to finance, by being able to access these facilities in a less threatening environment than is sometimes presented by the very nature and structure of banks and other financial institutions, would provide that increased opportunity for a number of entrepreneurs to raise questions and to explore possibilities.

In addition, Sir, it would provide more facilities for training and development and would be used frequently, not only by the Barbados Investment Development Corporation but by the Small Business Association and any other interested small businesses to conduct training programmes, seminars, to house receptions and other fora for networking amongst small businesses.

So that what is proposed, Mr. President, is really to provide a modern attractive physical location which would provide enhanced opportunity and provide support for a number of services which are currently provided but which by being consolidated into a single location and by being in a location which is dedicated exclusively to small business development, Mr. President, that entrepreneurs, pledging and aspiring in particular would be more readily able to know where they can go to get their free advice and support. We expect that with an enhanced technical support programme for those small businesses coupled of course, with the introduction of a more friendly and facilitatory environment

which will be engendered by the new Small Business Development Act which will enshrine in law the 25% corporate tax rate for small businesses as opposed to the 40% corporate tax rate for other businesses and for high income individuals that that and all that would be included in the Act would provide a real opportunity and an enhanced opportunity for a number of these businesses to go boldly into the future.

So, Mr. President, the approval of the Senate therefore is being sought to vest this land in the Barbados Investment Development Corporation so that it may have clear legal title to the property and thereby be able to move ahead with the completion of the project and the continued operation of this facility, all to the good of the small businessman in Barbados.

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

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I am pleased to see that this project which was in labour for some time is now about to deliver. I have been hearing of it for the past 3 years on every occasion that the matter of small business has been raised in this Senate. It would appear that quite unlike the mountain in labour that we will get more than a mouse. I, Mr. President, am a firm supporter of the development of small business in this country and therefore would not in any way object to this project.

I believe that for some time now I have been, from this Chamber, asking that we really put things in place to get small business going, especially our Small Business Act. It is not the practice to comment on these matters when they are in gestation period but in listening to the Budgetary Proposals of the Prime Minister one got the impression and I hope the Minister would correct me on this if I am wrong, that the legislation would cater to the Manufacturing sector only. I am hoping that other legislation for small businesses would allow those businesses which offer services to the Small Business Association to qualify for that lower tax deductible. I wonder whether in our concern for small business development we are not ignoring a very vital area. I heard the Minister touch on it and move on: the area of financial planning, wealth accumulation, and I go on to say – conservation and distribution.

12.20 p.m.

I listened with great interest to the fact that once again we brought a number of foreign people in to discuss in a fora in Barbados international business, trust planning for proper succession, planning in business and wealth accumulation. I wonder whether the Minister responsible for small business does not believe that at this time in an attempt to get this sector to grow that the Government of Barbados should not focus on the certified financial planners programme.

At present we are trying to get the programme into Barbados. The franchise for the programme is being held in

Jamaica by an association called the Caribbean Association of Life Underwriters and a decision was made recently to allow Barbados and Trinidad to take responsibility for their part of the programme. Barbados was even responsible for all of the OECS territories.

What this programme does is we have at least ten Barbadians who are in the final stage of qualification for this designation and this programme teaches them how to counsel individuals who have already amassed some kind of wealth but who know not where to go. It teaches them how to look at risks and rewards, how to evaluate performances in the stock exchanges, how to determine timing, when is the best time to make certain decisions and when not and at present there are individuals offering this kind of service who are not qualified to do so.

I would like to suggest to the Minister with responsibility for small business that he try to network through Life Underwriters' Association of Barbados in order to make sure that we can have a number of Barbadians properly equipped in this area of business planning, the accumulation of wealth, business continuation and proper succession planning. It is vital as the international market is opening up to us that we can really respond in a positive way to those challenges.

There is another group of persons in Barbados pretty well equipped, chartered financial consultants in business planning and because of the type of environment which we have here these individuals are not allowed to practise their skills in the way in which they are trained to because they are all tucked away in an insurance company and are seen as salesmen of insurance policies only. That is unfortunate that Barbados cannot on the Internet say to people worldwide that we have these individuals in our midst.

As we look at CNN and Fox and all of these stations we see these guys with the same designations and they are mounting all the programmes for the development of these people in these other countries. I want to encourage the Minister to assist in this area because it would be of vital service to the development of small businesses in Barbados.

I am pleased that we have reached this stage and I really look forward to the completion of the project. I heard of individuals giving advice on insurance in this special manner. Only people who are trained to do that know how to do it in a special way so unless you can assure me that you have qualified insurance people offering these services because it would be in contravention of the Insurance Act for anyone to offer advice on insurance who is not qualified to do so.

I want to advise the Minister to make sure that in equipping his office to offer these extended services that he is doing so in keeping with the expectations of the relevant laws of Barbados.

Also we need to recognise that for business to develop individuals need access to venture capital. I see the financial planning service as an extension to the development of small business. It is not that we can encourage small business people to get into emerging sector funds in the mutual fund market which is another very vital area for the development of our small businesses and in the retirement planning sector which is going to make significant sums of money available for economic development in Barbados but which the Minister and Government should look at carefully in order to assist in the development of small businesses because Government would have at some point to put in place certain securities to back the development of some of these businesses.

In all, I really look forward to this materialising very soon. I hope that we will emphasise the importance of estate planning for these individuals in order that they can make sure that should they die prematurely that their children can carry on or that they would be in a position to pay for the services of professionals. I hope we will emphasise the importance of demand insurance and I look forward to businesses in Barbados looking more at partnership planning. Very soon, I believe we are going to bring legislation here – I have not seen it – dealing with partnerships and all that to accommodate international business but I think we should try in Barbados to see how best we can utilise these particular areas for the success of our own people and the success of our local economy. Thank you.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I have a very special interest in what happens to small business in Barbados and not least of all because of my personal involvement one which it would not be proper to elaborate on here.

Sir, I think that this question of small business development needs a lot more attention. One of the features of the Honourable Leader of the Senate is that every time he makes a presentation in here or indeed every time I hear him make a presentation it would give one the impression that the clock has stopped for that moment and here is the first time we are grappling with this question of small business development.

Sir, the question on the minds of Barbadians today is what has happened to small business from 1994 to now, 1998. The Honourable Leader of the Senate cannot come in here today and believe that he can get up and say that he is going to open a small business unit down at Fontabelle and he is going to have an area where small business people can interact and where small business people will be able to use his own words network for the benefit of the business.
12.30 p.m.

He has had four years. He has had four uninterrupted years. He has not even had a distraction, Sir. There has been no shuffles in terms of the Cabinet. He has had four years to

put together his programme for small business in this country and what are the features which we can point to today, Sir.

The first feature, Sir, is that the two million dollars which was allocated for small business from 1994 have to this day not been properly and adequately dispersed in small business development.

What are we waiting for? Are we to have the impression, are we to form the impression, Sir, that with the creation of this centre and I do not like the term, Sir, I do not like the term that he uses, Sir, in this incubation centre business because I believe and in searching the only dictionary which is available to this Chamber, Sir, the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, Sir, it seems to connote a difficulty, Sir.

Incubation is something you use when there is danger lurking. When there are serious problems, Sir, and I can return to the definition, Sir, for the benefit of the Chamber and I quote, Sir.

Sir, "An apparatus for rearing children born prematurely", Sir, that is what an incubator is, Sir.

There is always that element, Sir, of difficulty of danger lurking when one thinks of incubation and I beg the Honourable Members, Sir, to think about it for a little time, Sir, and do not go down the road of the narrow definition that incubation means the first stage of development.

Incubation, Sir, has a lot of other connotations which I do not think are necessarily appropriate. It is almost like the term small business, which we have adopted lock, stock and barrel. Because there is in truth and in fact there is nothing call small business.

You cannot go into business, Sir, and expect to compete with persons who have been in business for a long time, the big business of Barbados for instance, if you are going to think small, Sir.

You have to be in a position to deal with the reality and the same attending problems of marketing. The same attending problems of accounting, the accounting difficulties will face the small businessman as is being use in this debate, Sir, and is being introduced by the Honourable Leader of the Senate as face the big businessman in Broad Street, Sir.

So, if we continue with this belief that there is a place for small business on the one hand and there is another place for big business on the other hand, we are going to have a problem, Sir, because we are competing for the same market. We are competing for the same sales, Sir. We are competing and we are attracting the same persons to our stalls, to our products, Sir, and we know only too well that the cost is the same whether you are dealing with big business or small business.

As a matter of fact, if you are dealing with small business the cost tends to be higher because you cannot create the volume, you do not have the scales to beat your cost down, Sir.

So you need, Sir, to bear these things in mind. So I am concerned when I hear the Honourable Leader of the Senate, not only in here, Sir, he is always regurgitating these figures of entrepreneur and entrepreneurial activity, Sir, and what will happen when this place opens and the next place opens.

We hear it all the time, Sir. We hear it from Sunday night, Sir. We read it again, Sir, in the "Secure Their Future" advertisement. The secure advertisement, Sir. We read about these hopes, these aspirations. These things that will happen once these things were put in place.

And I am saying, Sir, there is absolutely no reason why the development and the growth of small business or the growth of new entrepreneurs, that is the word I want to use, Sir. The development and growth of new entrepreneurs in Barbados should have to wait for the creation of any incubator at Fontabelle or anywhere else for that matter, Sir.

We should be actively pursuing a policy in industry and manufacture and commerce, Sir, which provide the opportunity for ordinary Barbadians, Sir, to participate fully in the economic and business activities in this country and if the Honourable Leader of the Senate does not put this as a paramount philosophy in his approach to the development of business in Barbados, Sir, we are going to continue to have a problem because I could visit a number of new initiatives in Barbados in terms of, I think my colleague refer to things like mutual funds and investment opportunities.

But when one examines for instance the development of these funds in this new money so to speak, Sir, where is it going. Who is benefiting from it, Sir? Who are the persons benefitting from the new investment? Where are the persons out there who have money to invest? Where are they putting their money? Are they moving towards new entrepreneurs? No, Sir. They are going still towards the traditional business places where they feel the security.

So we obviously have a problem. We have to change direction so as to attract money because that is the only way we can go. We have got to attract money, Sir, into these new entrepreneurs, that is the challenge, Sir.

It is not about new entrepreneurs going out there and creating it on their own. They have got to get the people with the money. We have got to get the banks, Sir. We have got to get the ordinary Barbadians who have savings accounts, Sir, to recognize that the security of the 5% and the 6% in the banks is not enough and we need to be able to take that risk out there with the new entrepreneurs of this country and provide them with the funds for their ventures, Sir, and I

think that once we start to refocus our initiatives to that kind of direction, Sir, we will begin to get somewhere quicker. Sir, if we return to the actual unit in question. This area Fontabelle that the proposed unit is going to be constructed on has a very strong traditional business relationship with Barbadians and we know that there has been the Pelican Centre which had been the hallmark of Barbadian entrepreneurship up until about two years ago or three years ago when we saw a rapid decline in activity there, Sir.

It is therefore something which has been tried and has been tested, Sir. It is in an area, Sir, also with an easy and ready market for the increasing number of visitors who we have coming to Barbados on a daily basis by way of our cruise tourism thrust, Sir, and it will provide opportunities indeed for some new entrepreneurs.

What I want to extract from the Honourable Minister today, Sir, is that those persons who will be allocated opportunities in these facilities will indeed be new entrepreneurs. This is absolutely important, because we must recognize in Barbados, how much we are providing so-called opportunities for new entrepreneurs and when one looks at the reality, the dominant business places of the past have taken up the prime areas, Sir.

So I hope that this project will see indeed new entrepreneurs being able to set up their businesses in this area and it will go beyond just the area where the construction is taking place right now and it will include that entire area of Pelican Village, Sir, and it will include a refurbishment and a rebuilding of those facilities, to continue to maintain that attractiveness in the business activity that they carry on, Sir.

In terms of what has been done in the past and I again refer to the two million dollars provided for small business which the Honourable Minister has been unable up to this moment, Sir, to explain where it has been a benefit to the Small Business Association.

He has been unable to explain, whether it has been indeed allocated to them or whether we have to wait on the Urban Development Council to allocate that too, Sir.

Sir, I want to pose another question to the Minister. What has been the success rate of the Access Fund for instance? Let us hear today some report about the number of successes. The number of projects which the Access Fund, which was designed for new entrepreneurs, has been able to put on the road.

Sir, the other fund, the Enterprise Growth Fund at the time of the last report could not indicate that any entrepreneur whatsoever had in fact been able to benefit from this disbursement of funds.

12.40 p.m.

Again, Sir, I said it in here and I must repeat it. We have to be careful how we set up our funding programmes for new business. I am wary of any fund which is supposed to bring about development of new entrepreneurs in Barbados or anywhere, especially at the stage of development in terms of the economy and in terms of the view of how development takes place in Barbados at the stage where we are at, and the kind of messages that we get sent when we examine what is happening, for instance, on our stock markets as to who are capable of benefitting from these activities.

I am wary, Sir, when these funds are controlled by the same organisations and the same businesses who the new entrepreneur will be competing against. I say it is an arrangement which is going to be wrought with difficulty. It is not going to be easily handled. It requires a maturity, and I mean this in a very broad sense, which I do not think we have always observed in Barbados so far.

Whereas the Enterprise Growth Fund might be well conceptualised, the question that any entrepreneur in Barbados must ask is whether they can truly access the funds. We hear stories even now, not of the Enterprise Growth Fund, but even existing banking systems where people report from time to time where they believe that they have been acted against because of one reason or the other, so we have to be very careful.

We must recognise that this is a replacement for the Barbados Development Bank which was designed deliberately and which, indeed, has a very good record in respect to the kind of entrepreneurs it was able to put on the ground. There have been bad cases and the records are there for any of us to examine.

If you look at, for instance, the fishing fleet in Barbados, I do not want to say in Oistin because everybody would get up and say that Boyce is going down this road but I am talking about the fishing fleet in Barbados, the development of long line fishing, the development of the ice boat, this is part of the contribution of the Barbados Development Bank. It was more or less a very successful move and it provided an unencumbered opportunity for entrepreneurs to move forward.

We have to ensure that when we establish facilities, we establish them with an independence which allows Barbadians to freely participate in the full knowledge that they are able to reap the benefits and they are not likely to be blockages put in their path for one reason or another. We are all in this Honourable Chamber aware of the kind of things that I refer to.

Sir, the Honourable Minister must remember that his record in this country as Minister of Industry and Commerce will be measured not so much on the continued development of the traditional businesses in this country, or the continued

reassurance of the Big Six in this country, but it must be measured against the record of new business success in Barbados. That is what any Minister of Trade and Industry in Barbados today must aspire toward, an introduction of new business, an introduction of meaningful new business which will make a difference and which will challenge the establishment.

It is the only way that we will (1) create new jobs; and (2) drive down monopolistically high prices because where there are monopolies and where there is total control the person owning the monopoly can set the price that he or she wants and can maintain that price unchallenged. Where there is new business and there is challenge from day-to-day, we know that we have to look over our shoulder and see what the other business place is doing so that we can keep in line so as to remain attractive.

The record of the Minister will be about the success of new business, not about the creation of buildings and the amount of starters he has achieved, or the amount of soils he has turned, or blocks that he has laid, or plaques he has erected, or curtains that he has pulled, or ribbons he has cut. It is not about that, Sir. It is about the new entrepreneurs that he has put on the road to success in this country. That is where his record must be. It cannot be anywhere else. So coming in here from week to week and regurgitating these promises when in truth and in fact, when you talk to the small business out there, when you talk to the entrepreneurs out there, they are "catching their royal"...

What has happened in our industrial estates? Where is our manufacturing going as against the distributive sector? What are we producing? That is the challenge. That is where the Minister will be measured.

Sir, the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education does not have to worry about this kind of record because she is not going to be measured on that. She will be measured on something else but the Minister of Industry and Trade, Sir, will be measured solely on what he can demonstrate to Barbadians that he has been able to achieve in terms of creating and sustaining new and successful business in this country, so he has to bring this forward, as I say, to the centrepiece of his thinking.

We have to go away from this idea that we have to create buildings and we have to continue building kiosks for these operations to be successful because there is plenty of room all over Bridgetown, I am sure, where these things can be carried on. But you see, Sir, if you have an Administration which is bent on public relations and bent on symbols and symbolism, it will be important that these kinds of erections occur because without those erections to point to at a later date, they will find themselves in an absolutely more impossible situation than they find themselves in today. So we go around the country and we turn the sod, as I say, and we erect these buildings.

It makes no difference to the entrepreneur until we demonstrate to them that we are going to create an opportunity, and I speak in here oftentimes about affirmative action and some people growl at it but whenever we are finished, we will recognise there needs to be some measure of affirmative action if we are going to bring new entrepreneurs to the fore also. There must be some measure of it.

We are not talking about affirmative action necessarily as applied in California or in other states in the world. We are talking about affirmative action suited to business in Barbados, and whether traditional business in Barbados likes it or not, they have to appreciate that for the stability of this country, for the growth of this country, we have to keep developing new business and if affirmative action is part of the programme, it has to be brought on board. It can be avoided I am sure if we are prepared to take other routes, but where those routes are not going to be taken, then Government has to take the initiative. That is the only reason we are placed in here. That is the only reason we have a Legislature to set laws, to bring about the equitable development of our country. That is the only reason. There is absolutely no other reason for it.

When we recognise, especially if you review history, and I say so in here time and time again, the trend now is to push Government's activity into the background and pretend that all will be well and good so long as the private sector takes the driver's seat and hand in hand with everybody they will take the country forward.

Sir, we have said it in here time and time again. We know for a fact that the private sector is driven by a thing called profit. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that. But there is a social responsibility which only the Government can meaningfully accept and take and that is why they levied taxes on us so they can carry out their social programme. And no matter how much the international organisations might continue to cry down or to indicate that these kinds of programmes might not be acceptable, what we are seeing around the world today is a rebellion against the measures in the main that have been initiated by these international lending agencies.

12.50 p.m.

We in Barbados must not be afraid. Look at the challenges of the Caribbean. I saw a picture last week of three young men in St. Vincent indicating to the Prime Minister that they will be taking serious steps if they were not allowed to continue developing and growing their marijuana. Can you imagine that, Sir? It is serious business. It is the nature of what we have, as legislators in the Caribbean, to recognise the problem. We cannot sweep these things under the carpet. It is a reality and in some cases, it is a crime but the point is, it is a major economic activity and it is growing in terms of a number of Caribbean people.

Once upon a time, we used to point at Jamaica only. I remember as a University student that is the only place we used to point our finger at and say that was where the problem lie but today we have successive Prime Ministers – Dominica making it very clear that if they cannot achieve economic development in an ordinary way they will do it in an 'un-ordinary' way. We have got a serious challenge before us, Sir.

The Minister has got to recognise that he happens to be in the hot seat at this present time. He cannot continue going about these solutions in the traditional manner. He has got to break new ground in terms of meeting the entrepreneurial opportunity of the future. I really would like to see over the next couple of months leading up to the general election some move towards this kind of activity.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: They do not have to do it because if they do not do it all the better for us. If he does not go that road, Sir, it would not bother me in the least. We will go that road when the time comes. He will have to explain to the people not only in Fairy Valley but all over Barbados, he will have to explain to the people why there has not been more economic opportunity for them.

Sir, there is another area in terms of provision of these facilities. I must say that facility as it appears now, as I have said, is characteristic of the Barbados Labour Party and its symbolism. It looks like it will be a pretty building when it is finished even though we do not know when it is going to be finished. Some time down the road. We have got to start providing facilities for our entrepreneurs which are on par with facilities that are provided for other business places. I know that it is a hard pill for the Members of the Government to swallow but it bears repeating to make the point, that they found it necessary some years ago to run, to chase, to get rid of some entrepreneurs in Shepherds Alley.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: You hear, Sir, you hear them.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: And to indicate that that was not a place for business and they move those persons to what has now become known as Temple Yard. I have no quarrel with that *per se* but look at what is going on today. That same alley, Sir, is being used for business. What are the young people of Barbados to think, Sir. What impression are they to form of the Barbados Labour Party and the people who carry out its policy? What impression are they to form? Are they not to form the impression that they are two worlds at least in which we live? One for them and one for us?

Let me tell you something, Sir. The craft provided by those men and women in Temple Yard is way beyond in a number of cases anything you will find anywhere else.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: That is true, we will get to that. We are not afraid of those things. Yes, there are difficulties attending them.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, will you please wind up? You have about one minute left.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, it certainly is a pity because I really had a lot more to say on this matter but I am sure the opportunity will come again, Sir. The point I want to make is that we have got to start ensuring that facilities which we provide for our new entrepreneurs are on par. We must not have the impression that we can put the fruit vendors in Palmetto Square and do not look back at them. We can have shanties for the market in Cheapside and Fairchild Street and do nothing about them. We can give the fish vendors in Oistins a kiosk and we could not care less whether it has electricity or adequate lighting or it has facilities where people can sit. We have to take that extra step with them, Sir. We have to hold their hands and we have to help them to face the challenge of the traditional businessman. He is not going to surrender it freely, Sir, and we do not expect him to. That is the beauty about it because development can only come with true competition.

I believe that all young Barbadian entrepreneurs understand that fully, Sir, and they should be allowed the opportunity to develop their thinking in this regard and develop their strength and expertise and their product.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise on the conclusion of this debate on this Resolution naturally needing to respond to the loud but empty presentation of the Honourable Senator.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: The Senator has sung this song many many times. Senator Boyce, Mr. President, if he had made any improvement in the song, if one could refer to an enhancement of a cacophony as improvement, then, Mr. President, we can applaud him for that.

Mr. President, let me get on with the business. The Honourable Senator sought to give the impression that in my presentation and that was as far from the facts and reality as one is allowed to stray in here whilst remaining within the four walls of the Standing Orders.

Mr. President, he sought to suggest that I was suggesting that all of these plans for small business were to be implemented when this project comes on stream. The first thing that I said was that the construction of this facility will provide a single location for the consolidation and enhancement of already provided services. But he, in his typical style, Mr. President, would want to convince the uninitiated, Mr. President, that in truth and in fact, nothing has happened.

He has asked some questions and I am happy to provide the answers. I am assuming with the greatest level of generosity that I can drum up within my always generous spirit, that he did not know, that he has not heard and therefore, Mr. President, I am happy to help him along.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, he enquired and he charged, quite rightly so, that the record of the performance of the Minister of Industry – that happens to be me, Mr. President – will be judged on the basis of the start up of new businesses, how many entrepreneurs he has managed to bring on board and these sort of things. Fine, I agree with that. The records will show, Mr. President,...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE : On a point of order. The Honourable Leader is misleading the House. I did not talk about any start up, Sir. I talked about successors so he is going to have a difficulty answering that question.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: The record will show quite clearly that notwithstanding attempts to use language to obscure the basic points that during the four years during which I have had the privilege and honour of being Minister of Industry that we have been able through our direct effort and this is not counting those businesses that need not have come to us, we have been able to create some 229 new businesses, 153 of which were small indigenous, local entrepreneurs. He should ask those 153, Mr. President, whether we are doing something or whether we are doing nothing. He says, Mr. President, that the small business people that he has spoken to, I do not know who they are or where they are, but he says that the ones he has spoken to have said, Sir, that they are catching their royal, to quote him, Mr. President. What therefore would they have been saying if that is the case? What would they have been saying in 1992/1993 when the economy was at a standstill. He knows, Mr. President, as well as anybody does, that the first thing that small businesses need is a buoyant economy. So if they are catching their royal in 1998, according to him and I have all reasons to doubt him because the record rejects that totally, but if they are catching their royal in 1998 they must have been catching the kingdom in 1991.

1.00 p.m.

Mr. President, businesses were closing left, right and centre, the hairdressers, the barbers, the ladies selling food

out of the back of Suzuki vans. The vans were parked, the dishes were turned down, the small construction companies, you could find a carpenter and mason on every corner. So what is he talking about, Mr. President? Even the suitcase trade, Mr. President, was drying up in 1991/92. Small business people depend on the regular flow of money. They depend upon regular trade and therefore our first responsibility, Mr. President, was to correct the wrong that they had done.

Mr. President, he went on to talk about the building that is being constructed on the land which is part of this Resolution being part of the symbolism of the Barbados Labour Party. At least there are strong positive symbols but if he is talking about symbolism, what was Sherbourne? What was the St. John Polyclinic? What was St. Thomas Secondary School? What was the Ministry of Education complex? They were not symbols, Mr. President, they were ruins, uncompleted structures, half way houses and quarter way houses. What was St. Joseph Hospital, Mr. President? They were symbols, symbols of an era of maladministration. So, Mr. President, the Honourable Member would know a lot about symbols because he was a key part of all of that. He was a central part of the administration. He knows about all of that, Mr. President. He cannot divorce himself from all of that. He was a key man.

Mr. President, going on to some other matters that he raised, Sir. Small businesses in Barbados are growing, expanding, consolidating at a rate never before seen. I believe, Sir, that even Rachael Pringle Brewery is doing well. Check the figures of sales now compared to 1991-1993. He asked, Mr. President, how will this Minister of Industry be judged in relation to his contribution to the economic development of the people. Ask any of the 122 000 people who wake up every day and go to work. Ask them. A large slice of those persons, Mr. President, I believe going on memory that the figure of persons employed in 1993 was somewhere in the region of 93 000, the number of persons getting up every morning to go to work.

As a matter of fact, Mr. President, the whole matter of transportation issues and so on seem so dire now. It is just a greater demand for transportation. People have places to go, they have work to go and do, Mr. President. When they were all at home the roads were not busy, the buses were not full. They were not going anywhere. So he only has to ask any of those 122 000 Barbadians who are getting up when the mornings come to go to work what has been the contribution of this Government and this Minister of Industry to the development of Barbados. Those are the people he should talk to.

The Senator spoke about Oistins. He should ask each one of those business operators in Oistins what were they doing before that and how business has been going since then. I am sure that his colleague, Senator Thompson, rather

than seeking to play some games with those folks would be giving them sound financial advice on how best to secure their future out of the opportunity that has been provided by this Barbados Labour Party administration.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. President, I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member but he is misleading the Chamber to impute that I am seeking to play games with anybody, least of all, Sir, the business community at Oistins, people for whom I have tremendous respect.

When I represent the difficulties or the challenges they face, Sir, it is not playing games. It is a reality and I would beg the Honourable Member to withdraw that, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please proceed.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Thank you. Mr. President. Sir, the Honourable Member raised the matter of financing, a very important matter and this administration faced the issue frontally. The Democratic Labour Party left a Barbados Development Bank that was bankrupt. It could not lend money to a fellow. Not only could it not lend money, it could hardly meet administrative expenses. Mr. President, he asked what has been the success of the new financial institutions. What about Fund Access? Mr. President, let Senator Boyce go and ask the 142 persons, Mr. President, that have received loans from Fund Access. Let him ask the 142 about obtaining financing. These are 142 real live small business people, Sir, who have been able to get their projects off the ground or to expand their projects through financing provided by a vibrant, active institution which will through its activities not only allow for the economic growth of the country but for the social transformation of those people, make them true and firm craftsmen of their own fate, Mr. President. Ideas without money do not get too far and Fund Access is providing the money. Ask those 142 people who have obtained this financing this year alone and the year has not come to an end as yet, Mr. President.
1.10 p.m.

So Mr. President, we have a record of which we can stand and on which we are proud to stand. We have been at the forefront, not only in this administration but in previous administrations of the Barbados Labour Party, at ensuring the participation of the ordinary man and woman in the economic fruits of this fair land. We will continue to do that. We will ensure that facilities where they are provided for the small business people are of a standard and dignity befitting kings and queens.

Pelican Village, as has been noted by a person from an organisation called A for Artisans, a Canadian organisation which is involved in the development of crafts and they do lots of consulting internationally. He has indicated, when he was here on a visit as a tourist and managed to make contact with me, that the Pelican Village project is one of the best

conceived crafts facilities that he has seen in his travels around the world. That is the standard which we offer to the ordinary craftsman.

The village has been designed for them and they are the ones who will be the beneficiaries. Those former tenants who opted for the no – arrangement, as well as other craft workers.

So, Mr. President, we have a record of support in the development of the small individual in Barbados at an unemployment of 11.8%. Those people who have gotten jobs will tell you. So, Mr. President, I totally reject the suggestion and assertions made by Senator Boyce. The record is there to be examined and in time we will be able to stand and explain to the people our record, performance and achievement.

We are sure that there are more persons out there within that 122 000 who could confirm the veracity of the statements that we make in support of our record than those who might be able to answer the call from Senator Boyce to join him in his misdirected statements.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2.15 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. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT WOODLAND, ST. GEORGE FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to seek the approval of the Honourable the Senate for the compulsory acquisition of 5.94 hectares at Woodland in the parish of St. George for road construction and housing development.

Mr. President, this tenantry of Woodland is a small tenantry which is perhaps almost as old as Barbados is. It is

one of the long standing tenantries in St. George area and it has approximately some 14 or so houses which for the better part of 150 years have been hidden away somewhere in the back and they have had to travel through what the experts would call an unmade road and what the rural folk would call a cart road to enter and exit their homes.

The area does however provide significant potential for further development in that the land on which the tenantry is located is stable. The area of Woodland is adjacent to another larger community of Greens in St. George and it provides significant opportunity not only for the provision of roads thereby allowing the residents of Woodland to have access, full, free and unrestricted access to modern amenities, but it also provides the opportunity to develop the land in the adjacent area for the provision of additional housing.

This project, Sir, by way of its evolution from road development into housing is one of which the access road into the tenantry as it exists now covers some 150 metres. Therefore, the decision has been taken to acquire lands on the two sides of the road in order to expand the village of Woodland and also provide opportunity for further housing development in that very strong and stable part of St. George.

It is with pleasure, Mr. President, therefore that I join with my colleagues in support of this Resolution.

I too, Mr. President, am acutely aware of what the folks at Woodland, St. George are going through. We were lucky where I grew up in St. George to have the benefits of a strong and intense rural development programme in a previous Barbados Labour Party administration where the unmade road that led to my house and the house of my neighbours in St. George became a fully developed, well paved and lovely road under a previous Barbados Labour Party administration. Only persons who have lived through that situation are able to appreciate what it would mean to the residents of Woodland who have long, strong, historic ties to that area and who with the provision of a paved road surface would be able to improve their homes with confidence, would be able to have more of their friends and relatives building houses nearby visiting, who would have free and unrestricted access to the ambulance, to be able to walk to church using one pair of shoes only, and not having a special pair for the dust, a special pair for the mud, a special pair for the rain.

This project, Mr. President, is not just about providing a road. This project is about enlivening a community, a community which dates back to some 150 years and a community which still has been forced to live in the conditions of that era in terms of access to their homes.

Today, Sir, even as we speak, work is well advanced on this particular road. Only yesterday at about this time I passed the area and I spoke to residents of St. George and they were quite pleased with the work that has gone on. 2.25 p.m.

The surface has already been scraped. The curves installed, the marl rolled in. The access into and out of the district, Sir, used to be by way of a very, very blind junction. That has been widened to ensure that there is a better line of sight and therefore the enhanced safety of the many vehicles which will now be able to roll freely and smoothly into and out of the historic village of Woodland in St. George.

So I join, Sir, with the residents of that area in rejoicing the benefits which will derive from this project, which like I said, Sir, is not just about putting a road but really about strengthening an existing community ensuring that those persons, those residents of Woodland would not have to relocate to another area in order to benefit from the basic amenities which as proud citizens of Barbados today, we not only expect but demand.

It is consistent with the standard of living which we have set ourselves in this year of Our Lord. Also, Sir, they will be providing the opportunity for the people of St. George to be able to have access to those lots which are to be created by the acquisition of this 5.94 hectares of land on either side of the road which represents the entrance to the traditional Woodland Tenantry and in fact will be somewhat of a direct bridge to the larger community of Greens in St. George.

So, Mr. President, it is with pleasure that I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr President, I would like to deal with this Resolution, Sir, and acknowledge first that it is not so much about road construction as it is about housing development. Because, as the Honourable Member might not have made very clear, the acquisition in the majority is for the provision of housing lots. The road which as he has intimated does exist to some extent is being redone to standards which are more acceptable and when completed, Sir, would indeed as the Honourable Member indicated, allow much safer access and much better access for the existing people of Woodland and indeed it is a requirement anyhow given the kind of development that is planned or envisaged by this Resolution, Sir.

My concern however, Sir, about road construction in Barbados today is not so much about the land that is acquired, Sir. But how are we going to ever complete our roads when it has been made very clear that in the haste to conclude an agreement to get rid of the Mobil Refinery, the Barbados Labour Party Administration led by Senator Barker, Sir, did not calculate for the continued provision of bitumen and this is a fact.

Today, Sir, all road construction in Barbados is virtually at a standstill because of this error in judgement, and I say so on this occasion with absolutely no fear of contradiction, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: The Honourable Member is deliberately misleading this Chamber. To say that the road construction has been curtailed because of lack of asphalt is totally against the facts and to say that there was no plan speaks volumes about the Honourable Senator's inability to read what actually went on.

The point is, Sir, that provisions were made and are still being made and there is no shortage of asphalt. The Honourable Member must stop misleading this Honourable Chamber...

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: And in any case is he referring to bitumen or asphalt. He himself do not even know the difference.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, as I said, Sir, road construction in Barbados has been brought to a virtual halt because of a lack of bitumen to complete the roads.

Those were the words, Sir, conveyed to me by the Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Development Commission no less than two weeks ago.

Sir, when you go into the areas where the Commission has started roads, they have been able to complete curves. I heard the Honourable Senate Leader when he introduced the Resolution talk about the fact that the curves were in place and the people he spoke to at Woodland were very satisfied with what has gone on so far.

The people also at St. Christopher and Bourne's Land are very satisfied with what has been going on so far except that the road remains a marl road to this day. Continually being degraded with traffic, Sir, as you roll over it because it is not able to hold itself together.

So that when we return there is a double problem. Not only are we causing some distress to residents, people who we seek to help by provision of these roads, like the road we are going to provide here at Woodland, Sir.

Not only are we causing them distress by way of the excessive dust that they have to endure because of these projects, Sir, but the length of time that they had to endure it has been compounded by the error made by the Barbados Labour Party Government, Sir, when they did not make provision for the adequate supply of bitumen subsequent to the closure of the Mobil Refinery. And I say so, Sir, as a matter of fact, and if Senator Barker wants to get up and show this Honourable Chamber where that is incorrect let him do so, Sir. But there is no way he can do it because the

records of Barbados would show that the officers in charge of the present oil arrangement will tell you that, Sir.

Everybody in Barbados knows that it is a fact and the last public statement made about it was that they are still seeking to set up a company who is now going to be responsible for the importation and the production of bitumen for the very road projects. It has not yet been completed.

Again, I want to hear from Senator Barker if that is not true. So the road projects are essentially at a standstill, Sir, because of that.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: On a point of order.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Because of a lack of bitumen the road projects are at a standstill.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, Senator Goddard is on a point of order.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Oh, sorry, Sir, I did not...

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, in the last couple of months I have seen in excess of a mile of newly paved road in this Island. From just past Golden Ridge, out past Pool Land up to Pool Plantation has been completely paved. The road from past Upton all the way up towards The Ridge has been completely paved. The roads of Claybury Tenantry, Jill Pot Hill has been completely paved.

When I drove across the East Coast Road the other day coming back from a reception at Almond Beach, I drove across new realigned roads, newly paved roads all the way up from Bathsheba to the top of the hill by Joes River and then from the bottom of Horse Hill to the top of Horse Hill.

Mr. President, it is clearly misleading this House, this Honourable Chamber, to say that the road construction programme has been brought to a halt.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you Senator Goddard. I think what should be made clear and Senators should not be sidetracked on this is that this Resolution is about acquisition of land at Woodland.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, as I was saying Sir, in respect to the acquisition at Woodland for the development of housing units and road construction, Sir. The Resolution carefully states that, Sir. All I am seeking to say, Sir...

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have said it. Please proceed.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: All I want to say, Sir, is that it is a fact that over the past couple of months, the

Barbados Labour Party Administration has indicated clearly to all and sundry in this country that the road works programme is being affected by the lack of bitumen, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, this is the third occasion on which you said it, points of order have been made but you are repeating the point which you have made. It is in Hansard, please proceed.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Thank you Sir. Thank you for your guidance, Sir. All I am saying is when we conceive our projects, our construction projects, be it road construction or housing development, we must always know that even as we stand at point A we can look down the road and see how we are going to reach point Z.

We must always have a plan whereby we can reach the target that we have set ourselves. So I would hope, Sir, that in the case of the Woodland Road, the Barbados Labour Party Administration has carefully plotted its course in respect to the completion of the project and not to be characterized by the kind of starter projects which are obviously being implemented by this Administration for no greater purpose than for electioneering, Sir.

So, if you can scratch at a lot of surfaces, if you can dig roads here and there and I will get back to that later on, Sir. If you dig roads here and there and disrupt life here and there you will demonstrate to the people of Barbados that you are doing something and in truth and in fact, Sir, there is absolutely no intention to carry out the full development, the full completion of the project in any reasonable time. It is almost impossible, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is imputing improper motives and that is not familiar with us and I would like the Honourable Member to withdraw his improper imputation that the government is merely scratching at roads for electioneering and that they have no intention of completing these roads, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please proceed.
2.35 p.m.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, as we continue to look at the overall development of Barbados and we grapple with the unending problem of providing land space for housing and for road construction, it must be clear that the plan is in place and that we know how we can reach that target. We must not have a situation where, in our eagerness to carry out these projects we are, indeed, causing more pain sometimes to the residents in the area, as I pointed out earlier. There are times when with the best intention in the world, we can sometimes cause more pain because of the method and approach to these problems.

I want too, to deal with the whole question of what happens after the subdivision of land at Woodland. Indeed,

the burning issue of allocation and I think the Honourable Member, I speak under correction, said that this land which would provide housing units for the people of St. George and I think that we have a much broader question than that to deal with in terms of how we allocate our land today and in the future.

Obviously, we cannot go down the road of saying that if we put a housing development at Woodland well then only persons from the neighbouring districts will be entitled. That is not acceptable, not in a country where we are trying to move toward an equitable society.

When the Pondsides project is eventually completed, whenever that will be, we would hope again that we get a mix of persons occupying these units for the simple reason of bringing diversity even if it is only diversity of heritage and diversity of practice to the Bridgetown community.

Again, I have heard expressed in other forums that if you provide housing areas at Woodland that only St. George should use it. If you provide housing areas in St. John, only St. John should use it. If you provide housing developments in Christ Church, only Christ Church residents should use it. I am not party to that kind of view, Sir. I believe we have to get that complete provision.

If you take a cursory glance at the unfulfilled applications at the National Housing Corporation, both for lands to build houses on as well as for units to rent or purchase, you will recognise that the requests do not come from Woodland alone, they do not come from Christ Church or Pondsides alone, but they come from many and all the diverse areas of Barbados. So in our allocation, I would suggest that we do not follow the lead of the Honourable Leader of the Senate, but we move toward an allocation which seeks to allay the aggravated situation that exists today in respect of the provision of housing units and housing lots for Barbadians in general.

We in the Democratic Labour Party are extremely proud of our contribution to the emphasis that is now being placed in finding solutions for housing in this country because we ensured by applying consistent and unrelenting pressure over the last two years that our Barbadian people will suffer no more under the Barbados Labour Party but they would start to do something about the housing needs which are lagging too far behind.

Successive Administrations in this country must take responsibility for our unfulfilled requirement in Barbados. It is a record which none of us can be proud of, least of all the Barbados Labour Party. So their paltry contribution at this stage of 24 units at Flat Rock and 44 units at Pondsides although it helps, does not go anywhere of significance to solving a waiting list which is some 6 000 or 8 000 long.

I keep saying, Sir, that we have to go out there and examine the kind of housing need that is required by Barbadians. Do we want housing units for rental at subsidized rates? Do we want housing lots of 5 000 square feet or whatever which would eventually sell along with the house at \$125 000 regardless of whether the Housing Credit Fund provides the money, or regardless of whether we have a 40-year mortgage or not? What is the need? Do we want a facility where a young single parent can occupy a small unit at a rate which would be commensurate with her wage which the Honourable Members over there know only too well in today's Barbados are significantly suppressed because of certain specific negotiations that have taken place over the recent past?

Jobs today in the so-called new industries, the few that are available, do not necessarily pay the kind of wage especially to the regular employee, and I am not talking about a few examples which might fall through the cracks, to use a very loose term. I am talking about the broad mass because as I often say we have to concentrate in here on doing things for the broad mass of Barbados so that the kind of employment that is being offered, for instance, in the new industries, and in the typesetting industries, only allow a certain level of income to these kinds of workers and they are therefore restricted in what kind of housing unit they can use.

We need in areas like Woodland, Sir, and as we contemplate housing development at Woodland, to ensure that we are satisfying that kind of requirement also, the situation where we probably have to look at low subsidized rental units for some of these persons. As I often say, we need to generate that mix in respect of our development.

There is no reason if we have an area allocated for 5 000 square foot lots that we cannot also have a settlement in that area with single units, terraced units, high-rise units. I said before, the debate in Barbados in housing needs in Barbados has not been taken far enough in respect to high-rise living. It is a pity that the developers at Pondsides did not seize the opportunity to really bring Pondsides in train with what is the accepted norm in terms of provision of lifts once you go over a certain number of storeys.

The problems that confront us, Sir, in Barbados are many especially to the provision of housing and road construction. We hardly need the additional burden, as I indicated earlier, of the miscalculated shortage of bitumen for road completion. I wish that the Barbados Labour Party Government in the few weeks or months that it might have remaining, will ensure that the Woodland Development encompasses some of these considerations and therefore makes available a wide range of housing for all Barbadians to participate in and therefore will go some way to satisfying that unsatisfactory long list of applicants at the National Housing Corporation for housing units.

Indeed, Sir, it is significant that we speak of this today, a time when the National Housing Corporation is celebrating 25 years, I believe, as an entity. It is timely that we should bring to bear some of these needs and not be clouded by the usual kind of euphoria that accompanies these anniversaries and let us recognise the reality too of the unfulfilled job at the National Housing Corporation and the part that we can play in ensuring that that job is completed and completed to the benefit of all of us. I am grateful to you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I can quite understand the Honourable Senator's thrust in his presentation for he comes from a culture where project planning is unknown and has been typified by the unfinished buildings of the Gall Hill Polyclinic, the St. Thomas School, and various other started and uncompleted projects of which Sherbourne is also a prime example.

This project of the Barbados Labour Party at Woodland is carefully planned and organised to develop a road system to service an existing community and to provide lots adjacent to that road to make the road truly cost effective by serving the maximum number of people along that road service. It is also being constructed with due care and diligence to make sure that there is enhanced safety along that road and the provisions are being put in place to ensure that there is better vision at the junction of that road which is one of the most serious blind corners on this island and which has seen many an accident over the years.
2.45 p.m.

Mr. President, the fact that this Government has developed projects, seen them through to their completion and finished them, is a matter of record. This is but another project which the representative of that constituency and the Prime Minister has taken a deep personal interest in. This is one of the hallmarks of the way that we pursue our constituency representation and our Government's actions to bring benefits to the people of the countryside and to improve their quality of life.

The Honourable Senator alludes to the fact that there is an insatiable demand for housing and he is correct. That is in large part driven by the tremendous increase in employment in this country and the numbers of people who now have the disposable income and the saving to...

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: The Honourable Member is misleading the Honourable Senate, Sir. I said that there was an unsatisfied demand. Unsatisfied and insatiable are two different things. I do not want to be associated with his insatiable appetite, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Goddard, please continue.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: This demand is being driven by the tremendous increase in

employment which is a direct benefit from the growing economy we have in this country which has flowed from the policies of this Government and the prudent economic management of this country. It is because of that, Mr. President, that there is a significant demand for housing.

I will refer now to the confusion that exist about what people want whether it is one type of housing, a high-rise housing or rental housing or whatever it is. It has been long established that most Barbadians like to own their own piece of land and their own house. The policies of this Government have ensured that Barbadians will have the opportunity through the most generous means and over long periods of time at low interest rates to purchase their land at reduced rates and to build their own homes or to buy homes that have been built for them. The growth of houses for Barbadians, owned by Barbadians is a significant factor on the landscape of this community today.

I must say that there is clarity of thought on this Side of the Table, Mr. President, and with the Government of Barbados in its policies regarding the enhancement of our road systems as well as to the provision of housing needs and housing lots for Barbadians in the rural and in the urban areas.

Mr. President, the programmes will continue, this is but one of many and we can point to many that have been completed and we can assure the public of this country that what we start, we finish.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I rise just to make a few comments on this debate particularly arising out of some of what I consider to be offensive statements or imputations that emanated from Senator Boyce. I take great offence and I am very resentful of his claim and his charge, unsubstantiated as usual, that this Government's road building programme which has been one of the most extensive and intensive that this country has ever seen is merely electioneering.

I believe that as Senator Goddard, my worthy colleague said earlier that he has this attitude and this perspective because he is accustomed to a certain political culture in the Democratic Labour Party where election is concerned particularly in roads. I remember in the 1976 by-election in the City when the night before the election about 6 o'clock, I left the *Advocate* and went through New Orleans to see barber-green being placed in New Orleans road just to impress people in that constituency. I remember that.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: It did not work. I remember that well and to me that was the most

offensive and crass attempt at trying to wield and manipulate the people through barber-green.

Senator Goddard also brought up the question of unplanned...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, your presentation was met with silence, please accord a similar courtesy to Senator Murray.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. President, there is no need to protect me from him, I can take care of him.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You can take care of him outside of this Chamber. Not in this Chamber.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you for taking care of him for me in this Chamber, Sir.

The point is that Senator Boyce walks far and wide on the issue of barber-green or bitumen or whatever he might call it. At one time he was saying that the project was brought to a standstill. Then when he came under intense pressure from my colleagues who drove him to the wall, he then started to soften up his approach and he talked about being affected which could mean anything. It has gone from being brought to a standstill to being affected.

As one drives all over Barbados one sees many examples that will refute his spurious claims. Even in St. John the example of that is not so. I just witnessed a road being surfaced from Belle Gully from down by Belmont School right up to the Norman Niles roundabout. Where did that bitumen come from? We understand, Sir, that he is wavering on this thing even in the face of irrefutable facts. Again, he does the same thing about Pondside housing. A few months ago his colleagues were saying that Pondside should be knocked down now he wants to tell us how to enhance it.

All I am saying, Sir, is that Senator Boyce and his Party needs to make up its mind whether they are for something or against something. I remember how they were against the ABC Highway and said that it would be used for gamblers in the casinos or for drug traffickers to land their light aeroplanes on the road so that they can come and gamble and do drugs in Barbados. That is the kind of claim that we are accustomed to where these major points are concerned.
2.55 p.m.

Above all, Sir, I should like to assure Senator Boyce and the Honourable Senate that we have no intention when our houses are being allocated through the bureaucracy of the NHC seeking to put into effect a very obnoxious notion that was once advocated by one from his party when he was in the Ministry that the houses in the Ivy should only be populated by persons who live in the Ivy. We do not intend, Sir, to have

that kind of policy of exclusivity. We think that all Barbadians pay taxes, all Barbadians contribute to the infrastructure and the development of the community and that all Barbadians share in what is essentially theirs brought about through the plans and the foresight of an effective Government. I thank you, Sir.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT LANCASTER
AND HOPE PLANTATIONS, ST. JAMES
FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, approval of the Honourable the Senate is being sought for the requisition of some parcels of land at Lancaster and Hope Plantations in St. James for housing development. The area in question, Sir, totals some 17.12 hectares and this acquisition of course is part of the Government's policy regarding the provision of housing for the meeting of the country's housing needs and of course this land will ultimately be vested in the National Housing Corporation for the further development of the land. All the necessary stages have been gone through, Mr. President. The 17.12 hectares are being acquired between 3 properties, 16.62 hectares on the one hand, 4049 square metres on the other and 1010 square metres on the other. I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, Sir, in looking at this Resolution, Sir, for the compulsory acquisition of land at Lancaster and Hope plantations, St. James for housing development, Sir, again one is forced to examine the Barbados Labour Party administration record in respect of the provision of housing for Barbadians and as much as it might bore or anger or upset Members of that Side, Sir, it would not be fair for one to give the impression under any circumstance whatsoever that the record of the National Housing Corporation in respect of fulfilling the needs of the Barbadian is anything that the Barbados Labour Party administration can be proud of.

Therefore, Sir, although we are dealing specifically with land at Lancaster in St. James, as the Honourable Senate Leader said, these land will ultimately be vested in the lands of the National Housing Corporation when they come to their full fruition in respect of how they are allocated. So I feel it necessary therefore, that the Members of the Barbados Labour Party side, Sir, examine for instance the last report, the 1996-97 year report of the National Housing Corporation and therein it will see the real record of achievement in respect to the housing needs of Barbados and in some respects what the report says that from inception until 31 March 1997 there were some 47 476 applications for

housing. These are for rental houses, Sir, and up until that date the number that had been satisfied was some 10 493 out of 47 000, less than a quarter, Sir, less than 25%. So I think the Members on that Side have got to sometimes sit back for a little while and examine the records before they begin this chest thumping exercise of which we have become very familiar.

Sir, I would therefore beg the Honourable Members on that Side, Sir, to examine the records for what it is worth, examine the needs in housing in Barbados for what it is worth and start to meet some of these needs head on. We have been urging this for a long time and we must admit to our pride they have moved some way towards meeting these needs. We have now made new requests in respect to fulfilling these needs in total. We have made requests about how allocation should take place, what type of housing should be provided, requirements in respect to an examination of the needs, the assumption by the Barbados Labour Party that one type of housing is preferred by Barbadians. I do not think it is fair. It might have been a situation which applied many years ago but many years ago too, we were a society who felt that we should have a significant part of our land allocated to agriculture. If you go out there today and take that argument to the people of Barbados you begin to get different answers. The new forces of globalisation etc. have been making their mark and people have been coming to various conclusions in respect to where Barbados should go and agriculture should be. So I am saying, Sir, that the Barbados Labour Party requires that a new study be carried out, a new survey be done so as to come up with a 1999 view in respect to housing needs. I think they will find there is a requirement that the National Housing Corporation probably shift its focus in one area or the other. I am not going to hazard any guess at this stage. I am not going to be like some other Members on that Side and say that Barbadians want to own their own piece of land. I am not going to go into that argument. I want to have the real facts in front of me. I want to see the results of the survey.

3.05 p.m.

Of course, all of us would like to have our own piece of land. Of course, all of us would like to be millionaires, but in reality it cannot be achieved. So I want to see in black and white the difference between that aspiration and the reality. That is why I am calling today on the Government of Barbados to carry out a conscientious study as to the housing requirements in respect to the type of housing being provided.

The acquisition of land at Lancaster Plantation in St. James brings into mind the whole development of that area and it has been an area about which there has been tremendous debate ranging from arguments where the landowners have felt that they have been done badly to some in which there is a view that there is too much emphasis being placed on the development that is taking place in that

particular area which I believe is part of the constituency – I do not have the benefit of a plot to this Resolution. This is something that is very difficult to come by obviously on a regular basis. We get it once but probably do not get it again for the rest of the evening. So you have to chart a very careful course lest we run afoul of the Standing Orders.

This Lancaster area I believe falls as part of the constituency of St. Andrew, an area which a lot of Barbadians have held the view that there has been over-development relative to the general development in Barbados. We have to be careful about these things. Do not let us dismiss it as foolishness. We have to be careful about these things because there are other areas of Barbados requiring development assistance and roads and housing too. So if everything is going to be pushed into one area then the other Barbadians must feel wronged.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you speaking of Lancaster?

Senator J. D. E. BOYCE: Only if everything is going to be pushed into those areas.

Sir, the point that we must ensure as we go about our development, and development in housing is one, is that we are providing the right kind of housing in respect to the type of unit and that can only be done by careful study and analysis that the housing be provided for all and that is a capital ALL and that it be provided in such a way that the entire Barbados can see a useful and meaningful development, again, Sir, of which we can be extremely proud.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Sir, I would like to make a small contribution in this area and it springs also from my concern about the pace at which we are travelling in providing housing in Barbados.

I wonder whether we have passed the stage in Barbados where the National Housing Corporation can embark on a meaningful project with private developers. The house which I now inhabit and in which I have lived for the past 24 years was purchased through the National Housing Corporation on one of Government's housing developments around that time and some years after the Government of Barbados embarked on a number of housing projects around Barbados in its attempt to satisfy the housing needs of Barbadians.

Something seems to be wrong that we are not able to get past the point of acquisition, vesting and a few small – let's recognise and accept – developments... Pondsides is a small development. The area at Flat Rock in St. George one has to call that small. We have known the days when Government built in excess of 100 units in a housing development programme over two to three years.

What is bothering me at this stage in our development in Barbados is that we have allowed and I think Government has to take some responsibility for this, we have not managed to put in place mechanisms to keep that balance in our development and we have allowed the construction sector to go so far in the direction of commerce and large private owners that we have now pushed the rate up for a carpenter and a mason to \$100 a day. Now, pray tell me who as a small builder in Barbados who would qualify for a mortgage through the General Workers' Fund within a range of \$40 000 to \$75 000 with a cost of materials can afford to pay a carpenter and a mason at \$100 a day?

The cost of labour alone will take in excess of 50% of the money such individuals have for construction. They have a problem and I think the Government must look at the industry. And I watched the Prime Minister on television and he appeared calm but one could sense that little bit of panic in the back of his mind unless he wanted to make us upset as he spoke of Government's attempt to secure some foreign collateral that should the foreign economies go down that the Barbados economy would remain somewhat stable in terms of its level of foreign exchange.

He pointed once again, as has happened in Barbados over the past five months and I spoke of this, to the fact that construction has placed our foreign reserves under a lot of pressure which is true. But what is unfortunate is that if we have to hold down our construction at this time or until the next few months we would still be a long way off from realising our housing needs in this country.
3.15 p.m.

What we would have done is created I would say a very unstable environment and that we must watch.

If we have too many Barbadians on the list at National Housing Corporation wanting to access housing but who can get on a Speightstown Bypass or some other bus and see all these big pretty buildings going up on one side of Barbados, as if to topple it over in the sea, while they have no where to live, we are creating some problems for ourselves. And I think the onus and the responsibility rests on the Minister of Finance to make sure that no further construction is done in Barbados in these areas.

As much as they contribute to our economic and national development, we have to put balance in the type of society that we are building and I am very concern about that.

I heard Senator Goddard boast about the fact that many more individuals are trying to access housing because we have created employment and they have access.

What would make it very painful is that the same government that can boast about the economic activity and how they lot had been improved is the same government

which did not put in place, at the right time, measures which will put balance in that economy that they could benefit from these gains which we are shouting about so often. And we watch our televisions and we see the amount of social unrest around the world when people believe that things are happening in their country, yes, but when they feed on their fringes and we must not fool ourselves about that and I want to implore the government of Barbados.

I want to encourage the Members of the government side. I feel pleased. I am not going to discuss this in no D's or no B's when Barbadians can earn and live comfortably.

I lived alone. I could sleep comfortably at nights with my bedroom windows open and not have to worry about anybody believing that I have something in there that they do not have and wanted to come for it.

So I do not have the time to split partisan political hairs on that matter and I really want the government to look into that. We have enough of the beautiful eleven-million dollar villas and I do not know that I get the greatest pleasure when I feel sometimes that I, that Barbados is not one place and I am not going to say that the B's are responsible for that. I say all politicians are responsible when they put the wrong type of development in their country or the right type of development in their country at the wrong time and we have to take note of that.

So I want to encourage, as my colleague Senator Boyce has been doing this afternoon, the government to try to get more activity in this area of housing. I did not speak on the Resolution on Woodland, in St. George but I believe in communities. And even though I do not support the view that one should provide housing for individuals in an immediate area that is being developed only. I believe that one has to be sure though that the needs of those individuals around these areas are satisfied before one goes on the outside.

These are areas in which people have walked over time, lost several pairs of shoes, taken many flat bicycles and car tyres and what a pain it would be to have to march down to Country Road to try to find a lot in St. Joseph or St. Andrew or somewhere when right there in front of you it is available and others are moving in.

So we have to be careful and I think what must be done when government is developing areas in already established neighbourhoods, is seek to find out whether there are individuals around who would prefer to remain within those neighbourhoods.

This particular Resolution on this Lancaster. I have started to take a count on the number of Resolutions brought to this House dealing with acquisitions in Lancaster, Thorpes, Apes Hill, White Hill and I never thought that there was a part of Barbados that had so much land available for housing

development in Barbados and it is interesting. I am glad that we have discovered that, but at the same time it is sending messages, which we probably would not like to accept, to the public of Barbados.

I do not have to say that 75% of these lots are in the constituency of the Minister of Housing and Lands.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: If I have to say it then I will say it.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: But no, there are lands in many other parishes in Barbados that people can live on and that government can compulsorily acquire to make sure that housing is available all over Barbados.

And the other thing, I have said it before and I will say it again. Citizens of this country must never be made to feel that the long arm of the State is being used in vengeance against them and as I speak with residents of this particular parish, I have heard a number of them say that their grouses, their differences, they say these differences, goes back to years, family splits and all kinds of differences and finally they wake up overnight and see their land advertised in the paper to be compulsorily acquired by the government.

And I encourage the Members of the government side not to take this lightly. Senator Forde knows what I am talking about that is why she is pointing her finger, and the Members on the government side I encourage you all to get up and go into that particular parish and try to find out what is going on out there because it is creating problems.

People must not feel that people are using the power of the State to get back at them. I killed your cat when you were a little boy so now I have got it I could take away your land and we must watch that.

I am very serious because I just do not say these things because I like to hear myself. But I am concerned about it, because I am one of the people who would say that is not how government is used. Government does not make decisions in a willy-nilly fashion and Ministers of government have the support and cooperation of other Members of the Cabinet and these decisions are not made at that personal level.

But when you could see two pieces of your land going as soon as you walk around and canvass against a political party – one piece gone and then within the next three, four weeks you see the other piece gone – you are bound to feel that somebody is going after you because you canvassed against them.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Do what I have done. Take a trip to St. Andrew and you will get the names in the same way that I have them. You know I do not believe in attacking personalities but I am concerned about that...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I think there is certain inferences in what you say in which could be regarded as a reflection on the conduct of persons in their official capacity and I would suggest that you not go down that road.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I was merely being an echo, Sir. I did not intend to do that to the character of anyone, Sir, but since I was asked, I am almost pressured to mention it, I thought I would do so.

I would therefore want to encourage the government of Barbados to get on with its housing programme. There is another area that concerns me, it is moreover a little technical thing which is not controversial but is important.

The General Workers Fund, I heard the Deputy Manager of the Barbados Mortgage Finance say on television that those mortgages are life insured. They are not. The Government of Barbados has the Insurance Corporation of Barbados which can provide group coverages to protect the lives of all of its tenants at a more than reasonable rate.
3.25 p.m.

Group life insurance and creditors for life insurance and mortgages can be on the mortgagors. Barbados Mortgage Finance can make that coverage available for these individuals who would access mortgages through the Barbados Mortgage Finance.

I believe since the General Workers' Fund is a lending facility, that they should be able to access those creditors life insurance rates also because we must admit that if we want to have a number of persons own these properties we would want to make sure that we can pass them onto their dependents. We would not want them to die and leave these debts there in families which could be considered very poor families. Maybe the person who has access to the mortgage is the only breadwinner therefore there would be no one left to pay the debt off. The chances are it is not a joint mortgage anyhow so we have created other problems.

I want to encourage the Government to make sure the Insurance Corporation of Barbados can provide this insurance to cover all the mortgages of the Barbados Mortgage Finance and the General Workers' Fund. That is my contribution. I thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I usually pay very close attention to what Senator Thompson says on many matters. First of all, I think it is my

duty to correct her. The General Workers' Loan Scheme, as far as I know, is administered by the National Housing Corporation and not the Barbados Mortgage Finance so therefore you are talking about dunks and gooseberries. They are two different items altogether.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Mr. President. May I advise the Minister?

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, you cannot. You can make a point of order.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: In his last Budgetary Proposals, the Prime Minister of Barbados advised that a window would be open in the Barbados Mortgage Finance in order to carry out these loans for the General Workers' Fund. When individuals called in on the programme to ask the lady at Mortgage Finance, she said: "Yes. We are doing the loans here." In addition, she did not say that the same terms would apply that apply in the National Housing also. I did not say that just now but I will say it now, so yes, Mortgage Finance will be doing those mortgages, Mr. Murray.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will treat that as a point of elucidation. Senator Murray.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I wish to thank the Honourable Senator for her unnecessary detail because the point I was making is that the General Workers' Loan Scheme is administered by the National Housing Corporation. She wants to talk about a window, two different things all together.

Sir, I am glad the Senator has mentioned the General Workers' Loan Scheme because it really highlights some of the progress being made by this Government on housing over the last four years for there were a mere 19 loans worth \$173 000 made under that Scheme in 1994 and thanks to the policies and the thrust of this Government that 19 has now jumped to 1 030 loans to a value of \$7.5 million, the very same scheme which was languishing in obscurity and neglect, not even benighted neglect, but pure callous neglect by your Government, that is what has happened.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I do not really rise on a point of order but Minister Murray knows there is a correlation between foreign currency and construction in this country and at a time when the economy was in trouble we could not be building houses.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, you call that Economics 101. I did that too, so I am not impressed at all.

Sir, in addition to our programme under the General Workers' Loan Scheme, we have also implemented a fast

track facility for a recently introduced \$5 000 loan which has been a tremendous success and therefore we are doing very well in that regard.

Apart from those nuts and bolts, and those factual things, I want to stress that while Senator Thompson sometimes take the high road, or seems to want us take the high road and she is not being partisan, neither B nor D, she is performing seemingly like a stateswoman, which I think she has the capability of except she is on the wrong side so therefore she does not have the culture to cultivate that. But be that as it may, Sir, I think she still has used a number of buzz words, buzz phrases, buzz concepts which, in the long run, still add up to making her a "D". So whether you are talking about big pretty buildings, or houses, or balance and the right type of development, those are the kinds of buzz words that the Democratic Labour Party uses to agitate people's expectations, fears and anxieties.

I was fearful, Sir, as she talked about people on the fringes of society and talked about marginalisation, a policy which this Government has excluded through its politics of inclusion, because she said that if people saw on their way driving to work in the buses, those big pretty buildings and they had no houses that we would be creating problems, and it would generate social unrest, I was fearful that I might be hearing a further extension next of the concept and precept enunciated by that young Democrat about tools for trade, meaning guns. I was very fearful that we were going to go down that way because I was fearful that once you get into that kind of mode anything can happen. I am glad she pulled herself back and we did not go that far.

Sir, Barbados has always had pretty buildings, big houses, even from the time Barbados started there would have been certain social divisions, social stratification. They had the rich and the poor, the bigger houses and the smaller houses so, therefore, the fact that there are big houses now or pretty houses is no new phenomenon in Barbados. That is a feature of Barbadian life.

In spite of that, Sir, like Senator Goddard said, he did not put it in these words, but Barbados has one of the highest per capita rates of house ownership in the world because Barbadians have always dreamed, it is part of their psyche, it is part of their culture about owning, if only it is a 14 x 9, they know a piece of the rock is theirs. They like to know they have their house papers, their land papers in their hand, under the pillow, in an Ovaltine tin, in the bank somewhere, in a suitcase, a valise, in a cupboard somewhere but they like to know they own their property.

Sir, apart from the neglect and the failure of the last Government who I think only built 8 or 9 houses, I forget the exact figure now, I am not up-to-date on the figure, but I think it is 8 or 9 houses in eight years, apart from their failure which therefore meant there was a backlog and a pent-up

demand, the point is that in better economic circumstances, persons who were previously losing their homes, or having to move out of their homes and having to go back to their parents, or renting because they could not afford to pay the mortgages under the DLP when 5 000 or 6 000 people were laid off with the 8% cut and all that kind of stuff, people were only being offered bus fare and lunch money to work for, people are now working for substantial money. Now they can realise their dreams again so you can afford to dream dreams. People do not dream dreams generally when there is no possibility of these dreams being fulfilled so that is why we will always have dreams, expectations and demands exceeding current supply. I hope it goes on because it means that Barbados will always develop. People will always get jobs and the standard of living and the quality of life in Barbados will always improve.

Sir, I am therefore really not impressed about the song and dance being made and warnings about social unrest and that kind of stuff, and sending messages, and talk about a family split over land because I know that her party is very familiar with family splits over land. Because the spot where the Black Rock Polyclinic is built upon came about as a split over land. And in order to solve that split was to buy the land from the family and build the Black Rock Polyclinic with the greatest expanse of parking and its beautiful trees. It is in a most commodious spot, Sir. I hope you get the sarcasm. You understand? That is a result of a family split.

When you talk about the numerous acquisitions of land in the Minister of Housing's constituency, when he buys land that passes through these two Chambers, the Lower House and this House, the fact is that he is not benefitting from it personally. He is doing it for the good of the people of Barbados. He is not enhancing himself.

It is not the case, Sir, of a certain high official in the National Housing Corporation who, despite a Government directive, still ended up owning land which had been determined by policy for low income owners he still ended up owning it. That was a family split too, so we are all familiar with the history of these things.

Sir, I want to commend the Government for its housing policy. I want to congratulate the National Housing Corporation on its performance because we have had some 419 completed sites and services lots in 23 locations in seven parishes. In addition, we have another 762 lots on the way now at 22 locations across Barbados so therefore all of this can only contribute to the satisfaction of people's demand for housing and houses.

I look forward to this Government achieving more of the same, Sir. I thank you.
3.35 p.m.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT took the Chair.

ORDER NO. 7 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING
CORPORATION OF LAND AT LANCASTER
PLANTATION, ST. JAMES, FOR
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, these areas of land for which approval is being sought to be vested in the National Housing Corporation were acquired earlier in this session with the approval of both Houses. The area in question, Mr. Deputy President, Lancaster, St. James forms part of that larger area which is being developed and this particular area in question will provide some 77 or so lots, Blackmans in St. Joseph some 86 lots would also be developed in this area.

Mr. Deputy President, these areas in question are in the possession of the Crown and are being vested in the National Housing Corporation for the purposes of housing development.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 8 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
VESTING IN THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT COM-
MISSION OF LAND AT WHITEPARK ROAD
AND COUNTRY ROAD, ST. MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, the approval of the Senate is being sought in the vesting of this land, again owned by the Crown in Country Road and White Park Road. It is proposed to vest this land in the Urban Development Commission for further development.

Mr. Deputy President, this land is some 1.043 hectares and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, in speaking to the Resolution before the Chamber, the vesting of the land at Whitepark Road, Country Road in the parish of St. Michael in the Urban Development Commission, the land as described in the Schedule, I want to speak a little bit, Sir, about what, as the Honourable Senate Leader said, is likely to be the Urban Development Commission's role in the further development of this area. This area has been earmarked in the past according to the description given for many different projects probably best known some time ago when the idea was I believe to use this land for the building of a new Hall of Justice for lack of a better term, not being a

legal person myself and not following it very, very closely. Of course, now the role of the Urban Development Commission is one which is much wider. I recall very carefully the debate in this Chamber and indeed the public debate at the establishment of the Urban Development Commission. They have been engaged as indicated in some works throughout urban Barbados in their urge to carry forward the programmes of this administration in this regard.

As they contemplate this particular development, of course, one would hope that it enhances the programme of the Urban Development Commission.

When the Commission was established, again the Democratic Labour Party had certain reservations as to how the Commission would operate and indeed one of the reservations was one of which it was felt that there were agencies already established in Barbados to carry out many of the functions which are now being contemplated for this new Commission.

They have engaged, Sir, in a number of road activities in the recent past since their development along with other activities and I have to bring to the attention of the Honourable Members the methodologies which are sometimes employed by the Urban Development Commission as they were.

Recently we had a situation, a road construction which is needed for Amity Lodge in Rendezvous. The way in which the Urban Development Commission intended going about their work was obviously one which was not going to meet the needs of the people who live in these areas. Again, we have to be mindful, Sir, as we carry out our ideas and we develop our projects that we do not exclude our people but that we include our people in these programmes and where necessary, we need to hear from them exactly what their opinions are in respect to this development. A development which does not have this component to it would be a development that is wasted on the people who are to benefit. The people of Amity Lodge, because they were able to make some noises and to be heard in the right places, have eventually got their wishes and to a large extent their needs have been satisfied.

I say that, Sir, to urge the Members on that Side, that the Urban Development Commission in going about its work must bear in mind these kinds of considerations and indeed again as a matter of a kudos, in the case of development at St. Lawrence, the Urban Development Commission did go about that development in a way that is commendable, in that they entertained the residents in a Town Hall meeting and discussed the particular needs and the routing of the road. The officer in charge of the Commission should be granted his due in that he acknowledged that the approach at Amity Lodge was in error and they sought to right that too.

Sir, the Urban Development Commission too has taken on another role. Again, that is why we have to be careful in looking at the plans for Whitepark, what role this Urban Development Commission is expected to play? Is it going to be involved, Sir, in the construction of facilities for another organisation in the construction of housing? Is it going to take the place of the National Housing Corporation in constructing housing unit probably similar to the units at Pondside or elsewhere in the City? Is it going to take on the role of a private developer and build some kind of Government office which would then be either sold or rented to Government? What exactly is the role that is contemplated for the Urban Development Commission in this case? How does it affect the overall operation of the other established agencies of this country? I speak to agencies like the Ministry of Transport and Works which has traditionally taken on a lot of the construction work in Barbados.

3.45 p.m.

I spoke of course before of the role of the National Housing Corporation in the event that we are going to look at the building of housing. So the debate will continue as to what kind of development is best for Whitepark, Country Road, Sir, especially bearing in mind what is happening in Barbados, *vis-a-vis* construction and what is happening more particularly in Bridgetown *vis-a-vis* construction and development. Bridgetown is becoming more and more cluttered. There is hardly anywhere to park without attracting the attention of the law enforcement officers who then invariably have to resort to make a report of some kind. I hope, Sir, that the Government of the day, because the Barbados Labour Party will hardly get to deal with this matter, Sir, because it will hardly be completed in their tenure, but I hope that if the plans are started that they include things like adequate parking facilities to be provided in the Whitepark area, that they include adequate network of roads for traffic to move in and out of Bridgetown because those of us and many of us travel into Bridgetown on a daily basis but we know the kind of difficulties that are involved. As a matter fact many people now decide not to leave home once they have missed a particular hour, they decide not to leave home until way after 8:30 or 9:00 o'clock so as not to waste too much time on the road. So any development, Sir, contemplated for Whitepark must bear in mind the urgent need for things like parking, the urgent need for provision of the adequate road work, Sir, to compliment the entire City development.

Sir, I would like to urge that the administration looks carefully at what is the best use that this area can be put to before they make their final decision and indeed bear in mind too that strong and ever pressing need for housing within our city boundaries and indeed for the entire Barbados. I thank you.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

**ORDER NO. 9 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING COR-
PORATION OF LAND AT ORANGE HILL
AND APES HILL, ST. JAMES**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution seeks the approval of the Senate for the vesting of a number of parcels of land, the property of the Crown, in the National Housing Corporation. These areas of land, Sir, are 7 647 hectares of land at Apes Hill, 15 328 square metres of land at Orange Hill and 3 042 square metres of land at Cave Hill in St. Michael. These as I have indicated are vested in the National Housing Corporation for housing development. Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

**ORDER NO. 11 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING COR-
PORATION OF LAND AT ORANGE HILL,
ST. JAMES FOR HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, the parcels of land in question were acquired earlier in this session, two parcels of land of some 2 120 square metres and 948 square metres at Orange Hill in St. James.

These lots are intended to be developed by the National Housing Corporation as part of a much larger housing development in the area and I would beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution for the vesting of these parcels of land in the National Housing Corporation do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

**ORDER NO.12 – RESOLUTION FOR THE
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT FOSTER
LODGE, ST. GEORGE FOR
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, this area in question, some 4 298 square metres of land was once a tenantry on which a number of persons resided. Most of the tenants, over time, either relocated or were evicted in 1988 when there was a change in ownership of land. It was a tenantry, Sir, where there was some difficulty as to whether the provision of the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act related, but there were a number of houses and a Seventh Day Adventist Church on the area. It was an area of land which was once an active tenantry and it is now proposed that the area be redeveloped once again and

the Government is proposing to acquire this 4 298 square metres of land at Foster Lodge for housing development and the approval of the Senate is being sought for this particular action. Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.
3.55 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I am pleased to see that the Government of Barbados is making sure that this land is returned to the people. I remember making representation on behalf of some of the residents of this area. It used to be my neighbourhood and I made some representation on their behalf some years ago to the then Minister asking that Government compulsorily acquire this land in order that these families could reside in this neighbourhood. They lived there for some time and were forced to leave.

Of course, my representation came just at the point when there was going to be a change in Government and therefore it had not been taken up. I am pleased for the people of Foster Lodge and their surrounding areas that they can once more return to their neighbourhood. They got some very bad treatment at that time and I hope that they can be settled and get back down to their peace and comfort to which they had grown accustomed over time.

I therefore support this Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I think this is one occasion of which Senator Thompson and I can unreservedly join battle on the same side for the same cause. I too share the great satisfaction which will result from Government's move in this regard to acquire this portion of land at Foster Lodge, St. George.

Sir, while it might be a relatively small portion of land – I think some 4 290 square metres – it represents symbolically a lot to the people of St. George, particularly persons in the area of Charles Rowe Bridge – I live nearby in Rowans Park – and all that area. I moved to Rowans Park in 1985 and in that time, I have seen what was once a nice little cluster of houses, even a church stood there at one time, was decimated. I am not sure the term is grammatically correct but it was virtually eliminated. Because from all reports it seems that some persons resented... It was a case of the rich man in his castle and the poor man standing by. It was a case of a person wanting to be lord of all he surveyed. Therefore this nice little cluster of houses and church had to give way to the exclusion of one last house and what was once now a small community had become apart from the big manor on the hill – there is a termite exterminating company on the inside and so you had all of this grass – a lot of greenery. I have seen thousands of dollars spent just to create areas of rolling grass. There are no fruit trees being planted. Nothing is being cultivated. It seems as though this lone house that stood out frustrated the overweening ambitions of the landlord.

Therefore, Sir, the residents of that house, Sir, have told me stories of how they were harassed, how on Sundays in the afternoons after one and two o'clock when persons were watching TV or reading or sleeping you heard lawn mowers coming down cutting grass right next to their piling. All kinds of shenanigans took place to almost drive these people from an area which they occupied for many years.

I know that there were protestations made when Government began to take steps to acquire this land but in all I am glad to see that we did not recoil from our civic duty, our responsibility to the country, our responsibility to the humble folk of Foster Lodge, for those who are disadvantaged through no fault of their own who have been taken advantage of through the failure of the previous DLP Government to respect what...

I have to give the history because they were taken advantage of through the amendment to the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act which made what happened to them possible.

We have taken this route, Sir, to redress that imbalance. This is one imbalance which was necessary to be addressed and therefore I am glad to see it has come to this. I know that the present lone tenant on the spot has wanted to repair the house for years but they could not because they did not own the land. They have the means to do it and therefore one has seen in an area where the houses are in good condition and almost all wall structured that that was the lone wooden house. I think they had started to build wall at the back in the good old Barbadian tradition of coming from the kitchen and the back room forward, had to stop and through no fault of their own they were frustrated, and the house began to deteriorate. The boards were rotting and they could not go any further because they did not have the legal means or the legal right to do so.

I have had many entreaties from them saying, "Please when are we going to get our chances? We are working as quickly as we can but we have to follow a proper legal procedure so that you do not create one problem by trying to solve another."

I am sure this is going to be a historic day for that family and some other persons occupying that site and I am sure it is going to be a moving experience for them. It is going to mean a lot to them personally and individually because once again, at long last they will be able to fulfil the Barbadian dream of owning their own little piece of the Rock. Therefore, Sir, I give Government my wholehearted support. This is my neighbourhood. I pass this road every day. On mornings when I walk I pass this road early in the morning at quarter past five, not when I am going home, when I am leaving home to go walking I pass this road. A group of fellows and I go walking.

Therefore, I look forward to seeing what is now a wooden house being transformed into the kind of residence which I know they want to. I look forward to seeing them being able to live in the kind of lifestyle, to enjoy the facilities and the ambiance which is deservedly theirs. I'm glad that I have been part of a Government that has been able to make it possible for them. I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. Deputy President, just to raise one little matter of concern. I think that this land runs to the edge of a very deep quarry and I would hope that Government before allowing houses to be built, builds some kind of structure to prevent some child from going over the edge into the quarry.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of elucidation. Houses already exist in that location and the quarry is way back beyond the office and the building and the property of the company so there is no possibility of little children... It is in the back.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No point of elucidation. 4.05 p.m.

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

**ORDER NO. 13 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
ACQUISITION OF PARCELS OF LAND AT
SALISBURY, ST. GEORGE FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A HARD
COURT SPORTING FACILITY**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, approval of the Senate is being sought for the acquisition of land at Salisbury, St. George for the construction of a hard court sporting facility.

There are two parcels of land in question, Sir. One consist of some 2 051 square metres and the other 5 590 square metres and this facility is to be constructed by the National Sports Council and it is intended to serve the surrounding communities of Newbury, Cottage, Groves, Bridge Cot, Gun Hill and of course Workmans if I have not mentioned that already.

Those areas have not been served by any such facility over the years. There is no hard court facility anywhere in that particular area and therefore it is anticipated that this would provide a further opportunity for the development of the sporting talents of the youths in that area particularly in volleyball, basketball, lawn tennis, netball and the other sports for which hard courting facilities are to be used.

We believe that the closest facilities there would be James Bryan over in the North West and there are facilities over at the St. George Secondary School in the South and

there is nothing anywhere near or close in the East. And if one knows these rural communities, Sir, one will know that there are great distances separating these distinct communities and it is therefore necessary to provide within each cluster of communities facilities such as would allow the youth of the area to use those facilities without having to journey excessive distances and the like.

So, Mr. Deputy President, as one who is familiar with the area, I am proud to be associated with this Resolution and beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO. 14 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE ACQUISITION OF LAND AT FARMERS,
ST. THOMAS FOR HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution seeks approval for the acquisition of an additional 6.8 hectares of land at Farmers, in St. Thomas.

You will recall, Mr. Deputy President, that sometime ago some 2.7 hectares was acquired at Farmers largely to provide some lots for some relocation of folks from White Hill in St. Andrew.

That area produced at the time some 52 lots. It turned out that those number of lots were inadequate since there were some 96 households who had expressed a preference for relocation to that area particularly in relation to the proximity to the Hillaby/Turners Hall Primary School which their children tend to attend.

In order to satisfy these households an additional 44 lots are required. Provision is also being made for a number of persons who will be affected in the Welchman Hall area by the expansion and redevelopment of the Harrison's Cave area and therefore have to be relocated. And also provision will be made as well if there are additional lots left to accommodate those persons who were disenfranchised tenants as a result of the amendment to the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act which was made sometime ago which changed the legal definition of a tenancy and left a number of persons high, dry and stranded.

Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution is before us and I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. Deputy President, when the initial small amount of land was acquired, I pointed out that this was taking area under agriculture, was no way near a village and that that same owner of this land had land contiguous with Hillaby Village which would have made a lot

more sense. Because I believe it is the policy of government to expand existing villages rather than to go into an area with no villages and create a new village entity and having to put in all the other bits and pieces of infrastructure that go with village life.

Now, this is land that I have seen in the government plans designated for agriculture. Government plans say that this land is designated for agriculture and here we are now going to acquire it and put it into housing.

There is plenty of land in that area contiguous with the village of Hillaby which could be used on both sides of that highway going North from Farmers to Hillaby.

There is partial land right now in agriculture that could be used for housing rather than come across onto the Plumtree boundary. Now Plumtree was partially abandoned. This government through its BAMC has revitalized the whole of Plumtree Estates, has put it back into canes and now we are going right on the border of that and putting a village.

I think this is really a very, very bad move. It does not comply with the thing. This particular piece of land had been applied for to Town and Country Planning for development and was turned down.

Has government got Town and Country Planning permission to put housing on this land? It would be very interesting to know. How come Town and Country Planning can turn down the owner of that land and then government can acquire it and automatically put it into housing.

These things are indecent to me. I feel very upset when I see this kind of thing. Is Government not subject to Town and Country Planning regulations like everybody else? Can they do everything? A citizen is required by law to consult with Town and Country Planning. Can Government then go and just acquire land and change its use without any reference to Town and Country Planning?

These things are things that I feel Government should not be attempting to do at all and I would like to protest very strongly against this particular acquisition. Thank you.

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

ORDER NO. 15 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION 54/1998 FOR THE
ACQUISITION OF PARCELS OF LAND AT
TRENTS, ORANGE HILL, GREENWICH
AND LANCASTER, ST. JAMES FOR
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to seek the Senate approval for this Resolution to rescind a decision which was taken previously.

Members will recall, that on September 16, 1998 the Honourable the Senate approved the Resolution which had been approved by the House on September 8, 1998 in relation to the acquisition of 64 parcels of land at Trents, Orange Hill, Greenwich and Lancaster in St. James.

Members will recall that the debate, the information before us spoke to road improvement. This is all parcels for the expansion of the Trents to Highway 2A road.

However, somewhere along the line the actual Resolution as was put out and published in The *Official Gazette* on October 1, 1998 inadvertently stated that the intended purpose was for housing development.

It is therefore now necessary for the Resolution to be rescinded and what follows next is a new Resolution which basically is one that we would have done before. As we are rescinding this Resolution we will have to put a new Resolution in its place and ensure that the publication of the notice has the appropriate public purpose since land cannot be acquired for one purpose and be used for another.
4.15 p.m.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 16 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT TRENTS, ORANGE
HILL, GREENWICH AND LANCASTER,
ST. JAMES FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, the Resolution before us contains all of the facts as previously indicated both in the debate of September 16, 1998 and in reference to the earlier Resolution. It was published as Resolution 54/98. It really speaks to the acquisition of some 64 parcels of land at Trents, Orange Hill, Greenwich and Lancaster, all in St. James for the purpose of road improvement.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 17 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
ORANGE HILL ROAD, ST. JAMES
FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution seeks approval for the acquisition of 954 square metres of land at Orange Hill in St. James for

the purpose of road improvement. This land is at the corner of Orange Hill Road and Hope Road in Orange Hill. It is an area that embraces a miniature rock cleft, what we would call a large piece of cut rock. The particular location endangers the safety of the increasing number of pedestrians who use this area as well as they obviously have to compete for space with vehicular traffic in this section of Orange Hill on a regular basis.

It is now also part of the road improvement plan taking place between Trents, Greenwich and the Orange Hill area. It is in that context, Sir, of this road improvement, safety and enhancement programme that I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. Deputy President, the area that concerns me is the flooding in this area here on which we speak today. I note we are doing road improvement but somehow we are not managing to correct this serious problem we have with flooding in this general area. I wonder whether we should proceed in our road improvement without carrying out a proper study in order to determine what is responsible for such a body of water settling in this area when there is not even what one can consider a significant downpour of rain.

I have heard individuals qualified in engineering say that this problem stretches way up by Lancaster, the same area around which we have spent quite a bit of time this evening and one wonders after we have spent significant sums improving the road, that during the rainy season next year we would not have a problem on our hands in correcting the serious erosion which could come as a result of a rainfall. Maybe, the Government at this time should, instead of embarking on further road development, really look into the problems with flooding, drainage, gradient of the land, damming, sinking of wells, whatever it takes in order to correct this problem in this general area.

There is a lot of housing development going around there and a number of people are going to be paving their yards as soon as they have built their nice little home in this area which, I believe, I am no builder, but as I listen and observe, would exacerbate this problem of flooding. I think we need to look at it, Sir.

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

ORDER NO. 18 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING
CORPORATION OF LAND AT
WARRENS, ST. MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, the Resolution before us seeks approval for the vesting of some Crown lands at Warrens in St. Michael in the

National Housing Corporation. The area in question is some 3.65 hectares and it is in an area on the north-eastern junction of the Warrens junction in the area of Tropical Beverages Ltd. on lands of Ensopack.

I beg to move that this Resolution for the vesting of Crown lands in the National Housing Corporation do now pass.

4.25 p.m.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Deputy President, I rise more to speak about development in Warrens than to speak about the National Housing Corporation.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I will start over, Sir. Mr. Deputy President, in speaking to the Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation lands at Warrens, I rise more to speak about development of Warrens than to speak about the National Housing Corporation.

Sir, we are witnessing a rapid development at Warrens in the parish of St. Michael and the creation of a very large urban area. I think that although a lot of Barbadians are proud of this kind of development, one must be a bit concerned when we surrender totally all of our opportunities to retain some of our lands for the purposes of natural development. It is something which many countries regret as they contemplate and go about their development.

Sir, I think that the reason why we in this Chamber can probably take note of what is happening at Warrens is because we probably grew up at varying stages and at varying ages and saw it happened before our very eyes. Many of us who, not myself so much but other Members of this Chamber, the more senior Members would have seen other areas developed in this way. For me, Sir, I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing the shock that sometimes attends me when I pass through Warrens. Warrens that I knew as a schoolboy, travelling from Mile-and-a-Quarter to St. Michael to Harrison's College and to watch this transformation, an uncontrolled transformation into what is now fast becoming a concrete jungle.

I think that we have to sit back and think about it a little more and probably ask ourselves if our development should not be even more carefully planned. We saw this area first being occupied by a few houses by way of I believe, Clermont and then we saw the closure of the Warrens factory, there was a long hiatus, where nothing happened and suddenly it has sprung into a very active commercial and residential area.

Although this has its benefits, I am not saying that there will not be development but I think that we should learn from the lessons that are taught to us worldwide. Although there

are immediate benefits as far as the development of a country is concerned, we also have to be cautious as how quickly and almost without warning this kind of development can literally sneak up upon us and if allowed to occur in an unplanned and an unchallenged way, we can have certain conflicts which can bring about a harshness as we look at our country side in the future.

One such example, again it is not meant as a criticism but it is an architectural fact. You have the contrast of the Warrens Great House as it would be called and the commercial building going up right next to it. That is a clear architectural clash and we wonder as to the benefits, if you want, of this aesthetic diversity that some people refer to.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: It is a thing that engages a lot of attention not only by way of the architects themselves but by the people who occupy the land. We know too that there are plans, I believe one of the options facing the...

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: I am very cautious when I refer to anything to do with Senator Barker's portfolio but one of the options being considered by the Thermal Company that is to take care of providing oil for Barbados is the location of the tankage at Warrens. That is one of the options. Especially with the development that is taking place by way of commercial building and by way of residents, I hope that that option recedes to the back burner and a more suitable location by way of compatibility and the threats, of course, the ever present threat of an oil terminal in the area of Warrens must mitigate against that as being a real possibility.

The jury is out on it and they will look at all the options and I hope, Sir, that the very important aspect of the environmental impact study be borne in mind when the final decision is taken on that location.

I think, Sir, that as we contemplate the further development of housing by way of the National Housing Corporation using the lands at Warrens, be it for as I have said, provision of housing or, be it for the provision of office space, the point is that once you have humans living or working in an environment, then we need to control the environment or the man-made aspects of the environment to a different level than if there were no occupants. If we had the choice in Barbados of remoteness, we would locate these things away from residents or away from humans altogether. We do not have that privilege to a large extent but where we have it, I would beg that those kinds of areas be given priority in those considerations.

I think, Sir, that Warrens is a live example of how we can go and how things can sneak up on us in respect to

development in an unbridled way. It could send a lot of messages about the west coast. In a lot of ways the same kind of occurrence, where the entire west coast now is unavailable for access by ordinary people to the beaches *etcetera*, the entire west coast. Certainly, Sir, we have to be extremely...

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Senate when he claims in a quite cavalier fashion that the entire west coast is unavailable and inaccessible by Barbadians to beaches. There are numerous public accesses laid out by law.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is no point of order. The Honourable Member will have due course to reply and to point out what he thinks is the correct thing.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I was about to wind up and merely point out that the Warrens example is one that we need to take.

Sir, the Honourable Senators on that Side can look at it and take the lesson that is being taught by it as I am willing to take, or they can ignore it. They can ignore it in their enthusiasm, in their hunger to demonstrate that they can do anything in this country. But the time is coming soon within the next nine months when Barbadians will decide whether they can do anything in this country or not.

Asides.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Whenever the time comes, that will be the message that we will be out there talking about. Whether the Barbados Labour Party can do as they like in this country or not.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Honourable Member, stick to the Resolution before the Chamber. We are not debating whether the Barbados Labour Party can do as they like or not. That is not on the Order Paper.
4.35 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. J. D. E. BOYCE: I am directed by you, Sir. So therefore as I say, Sir, we have that lesson to learn and I would beg that this Honourable Chamber and the Members on that Side take the lesson for what it is worth, and recognise as I say, how quickly and without warning, these developments, well intended as they might be, can sneak up on us, Sir, and close us out for eternity and close Barbadians out, Sir, for eternity. So, I think, Sir, there is a lot to learn in the Warrens Development. The opportunities that it has provided are well noted, Sir. The opportunities for commerce, Sir, the opportunities for housing, the opportunities for recreation, Sir, but at the same time the lessons that are being taught we must be prepared to accept. I am grateful to you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, I must rise to have the record of the debate of November 25 of this year

of Our Lord not be tilted on the side of inadequate evidence and inadequate information with any reflection that development which is occurring in Warrens was sneaked up on us, was unplanned. You were living in space.

Sir, back in a previous Barbados Labour Party administration the then Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Tom Adams, planned and executed the Industrial Access Highway. The Industrial Access Highway was a project which, as the name suggested, Mr. Deputy President, this was no alphabet highway, this is the Industrial Access Highway, no ABC or LMG or PQR. This is a serious highway. This was not just a means of getting Barbadians around the island quickly. This was a means of linking the Bridgetown Port and the Grantley Adams Airport, the ports of entry. It was a means of moving containerised cargo and so on back and forth smoothly. It was a means of opening up locations for industrial development, Mr. Deputy President, and therefore the development which is taking place at Warrens Town Centre is a corollary, Mr. Deputy President, to that plan conceived and implemented by Tom Adams, the Industrial Access Highway.

So, Mr. Deputy President, I just want to ensure that the record of debate in this day of Our Lord would be balanced, not tilted, by the weight of inadequate evidence. It requires, Sir, fuller evidence to balance, like the scales of justice, so that for posterity, persons doing research in this matter would recognise that the Honourable the Senate was aware of the plans for the Industrial Access Highway and how the development of that highway has influenced Warrens as a Town Centre and other areas along that wonderful stretch of road.

So, Mr. Deputy President, my short intervention at the conclusion of this debate is really just a small reminder of the critical importance of factual data as an aid to our need in ensuring that our debates are not only pretty but they are meaningful, Sir, and they advance the interest of the people in this country.

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

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

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 5.15 p.m. today.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. Deputy President suspended the sitting accordingly.
4.45 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 20 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE VESTING OF LAND AT WARRENS,
ST. MICHAEL IN THE NATIONAL
HOUSING CORPORATION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr President, approval of the Honourable the Senate is being sought on the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of an area of land at Warrens in St. Michael of 2.418 hectares. This is the property which is south-east of the existing polyclinic and which was many years ago contemplated as an area on which the national crematorium might have been built. It is now proposed to vest this land in the National Housing Corporation for further development. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 10 – ROAD TRAFFIC (AMEND-
MENT AND VALIDATION) BILL, 1998

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the Second Reading of this Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act, Cap. 295. Among the main purposes of this amendment is to set a cap on the level of liability with respect to insurance claims arising out of accidents as well as to make provision for the issue of special permits for public service vehicles and to provide for validation of actions taken with respect to the grant of special permits in times past.

Mr. President, I want to zero in first of all on the issue of amendments which would seek to set a limit on the level of liability in this matter of claims arising out of accidents. First of all, the Road Traffic Act, as you would be aware, deals with many of the issues relating to registration, licensing and regulations of the traffic of Barbados. The Act deals with sections of registration, the whole issue of licensing and taxation, the matter of motor vehicle insurance, Part IV, which is one of the main areas for amendment and of course the issue of drivers' licences and so on.

Mr. President, the first provision relating to the capping of the liability is section 38 of the Act. At present, that section makes provision for a limited liability with respect to the claims which are possible arising out of accidents in Barbados. Representation has been made over time and research in the office of the Supervisor of Insurance has borne out the fact that it has become virtually impossible, very difficult and tending towards impossible, to obtain re-insurance cover in jurisdictions around the world where unlimited liability still remains part of the requirement for insurance. In fact, when the matter of the contemplation of a cap first arose and research was undertaken in terms of

comparison of where we would want to set our cap, and certainly from the perspective of the Government we would have wanted to ensure that the entitlement of citizens was not in any way reduced due to this particular action, we looked at a number of locations, for example, and it was found that capping has been pursued as a policy in many countries. In the United States certainly there is a cap on benefits and in several other Caribbean countries. The level of cap that we are proposing of some \$10 million for a single accident really is in excess of what Belize, Trinidad and St. Lucia for example have set as their particular cap.

We are satisfied, however, that with that particular level, companies will be able to have better success at being able to obtain reinsurance cover. What we are proposing is I believe a sensible solution to the issue of having some coverage or no coverage at all. We considered setting our level with the size of the vehicles which are used for transporting public passengers, the tour buses and so on. The size of the vehicles and the potential size of the claims had to be taken into account. It should be noted for the record as well, that in terms of actual claims experienced, the largest single claim which had to be paid arising out of claims made in respect of an accident in Barbados has been in the region of \$1.9 million. That was pretty serious involving death and so on.

Therefore it does appear to us to be room within the cap set for the legitimate claims of parties to be entertained. That is a major matter with respect to this particular amendment. It would be interesting to note in terms of the research done that a number of reinsurance companies around the world have pulled back from offering reinsurance coverage to any of the jurisdictions where unlimited liability exists in respect of any sort of claims. Of the six or seven major reinsurance companies at one point only one company was offering reinsurance to Barbados and the Caribbean with respect to unlimited coverage and certainly since 1996 there were extreme difficulties and the possibility of not getting the cover. I am not sure what happened with respect to 1997 and 1998. Certainly the reality is that the days of unlimited cover are over in terms of insurance companies being willing to carry the risk which is involved.

What is proposed, Mr. President, is an amendment to the legislation which we would see in the relevant section which is section 38 of the Bill which speaks to the requirement in respect to policy and it indicates at 38(a), "all sums without limit" and they are basically amending that to "liability in respect of any sum to a maximum of \$10 000 000."

5.25 p.m.

We are also Mr. President, making some amendments in respect of another section in relation to section 40 in relation to the matter of insurance, Sir, where we are deleting a reference to a paragraph (b) which basically is just meant to streamline the application of the \$10 000 000 amount.

The other amendments which appear in the amending Bill relates, Sir, to streamlining some of the administrative requirements of the Act. For example Section 42 which deals with the production of the insurance certificate in a report in the case of an accident or where requested otherwise to do so by a police officer where in one section of that Bill one was required to do it within 21 days and the other in 15 days.

Sorry, Sir, that section relates to the notification of a cancellation of a policy where in one section one was given 21 days to notify the Supervisor of Insurance of the cancellation of a policy and another section there was 15 days.

Both have now been streamlined at 15 days for the notification of the Supervisor of Insurance for the cancellation of a policy or where there is a total write-off of a vehicle. And of course there are other relevant sections of the Road Traffic Act which require a full inspection by the competent authority before a vehicle which is a total write-off can be put back on the road.

The other major amendment Mr. President, which is proposed in the amending Bill which amends the Road Traffic Act is the amendment, Sir, to Section 104 and Section 104, Mr. President, relates to the matter of the licensing of public service vehicles.

This particular section deals, Sir, with the matter of inserting full and proper provision for the grant of special permits.

The existing Section 104 basically speaks to the Licensing Authority being able to issue permits for the use of the motor vehicle as a public service vehicle and that at anytime basically, Mr. President, that provision under certain circumstances may be revoked.

However, it was thought necessary given the fact that most permits for the operation of public service vehicles are issued to vehicles for the operation of and on specific routes that there needed to be a clear legal basis on which public service vehicles could be granted special permits.

So, the section to be inserted immediately after the 104 for special permits basically allows for special permits to be issued for the usual things for making special trips to school children and teachers. For carrying persons to and from places of public entertainment and recreation which has broad meaning and basically the usual catch-off phrase which will allow the Licensing Authority to approve other circumstances in which special permits would be issued. And of course it makes provision for the Minister of Finance to charge such fees for such services as will be required from time to time.

It also makes provision as of the existing section to provide for a process of appeal, where a person who is aggrieved by the decision of the Licensing Authority to revoke a permit issued in the relevant section may apply to the Magistrate for District "A" and have the matter adjudicated.

The other basic amendment, is the amendment at Section 40, I believe it is Section 24, I am sorry, Mr. President, which basically speaks to the penalty for one of the offences under the Road Traffic Act and it basically seeks to increase that penalty from \$500 to \$5000 or for 6 months to a year of imprisonment if such is warranted. And that basically speaks, Sir, to the matter of either having the vehicle which is not at all licensed or registered or also the situation where a vehicle is registered for one purpose but is used for another purpose where the direct impact or where the action is one which is calculated to have the registration done at a lower level but with every intention of operating the vehicle for a purpose which brings it within a class or description of a vehicle for which a higher tax is payable.

This whole matter of course of the registration and licensing of vehicles has its significant implications for insurance and hence certificate of litigation for the safety and the protection of liability of persons who are hurt by individuals which may not be so registered. And in fact according to the Licensing Authority there are still too many vehicles on the road which are not carrying the appropriate registration either by way of being registered at all or in some cases by way of having the appropriate class of registration.

So that there are still a number of vehicles which are privately registered but there are used as private service vehicles or for hire for example, and of course the challenge is to ensure that all vehicles on the road are covered by at least third party insurance in order to ensure that the general travelling public has that form of protection in the event of an accident or where there is injury or damage, Mr. President.

So that therefore, Mr. President, is the basic information concerning the amendment which is proposed to the Road Traffic Act.

The last section of the amending Bill speaks to the effects of the amendments and validations and that basically provide that all fees which had been paid to and collected by the Licensing Authority previously, that is, before the commencement of this amending Bill in respect of the issuing of weight certificates, with respect to the issuing of special permits and the like are deemed to have been properly and lawfully paid and collected.

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

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I am at a lost as to where we are going in the Road

Traffic Act in this country and I think my lost and my position has been brought about by the Licensing Authority because I do not believe and I say so openly that not one of them up there knows what they are doing.

They do not read the law and they get up every morning and make rules and they foster upon Government situations, where the poor Government has to carry – when in truth and in fact it is the functionaries in the Licensing Authority who do not know what they are doing.

Mr. President, if we look, let me step back, Sir. We had a debate in this House on September 16, about acquisition of land for road widening schemes. In that debate I made a contribution and with the good help of the Clerk and the Reporters in this House and with your permission, Sir, I will like to read what I said at that time.

5.35 p.m.

If you give me sufficient time, I will show you that they do not know what they are doing. I said so then on September 16, 1998. I also want to look at the same Highway 2, and I have spoken about this before. If one drives along Highway 2A from the ABC junction, the Mile-and-a-Quarter junction, it is the strangest road marking I have ever seen on any road because there is a solid line from the ABC Highway until you get to Mile-and-a-Quarter.

Now, I saw a report in both newspapers, the following Saturday in which an officer who is a Traffic Engineer, is reported to have said that the...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, I would suggest that you be careful. You are identifying a public officer.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I am saying what I saw in the newspaper, Sir. I am not calling any names.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You know the extent to which you can quote from newspapers in this Chamber.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I am not using the newspaper. What I am saying is, if the newspapers are wrong the editors should be brought before Parliament and dealt with.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There is a special procedure for that.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Sir, I have to say this because the public out there and my reputation as a traffic attorney is at stake. I never said there was a solid white line at all because Barbados, for some unknown reason, has broken every international law by marking roads other than the international markings which are black and white.

Where yellow appears they have special reasons for appearing in those areas because they indicate special things.

It was said that I said there was a white line. I never said there was a white line. But then it went on to say that a solid line does not mean that you must not overtake. Now, that is contrary to every bit of law I have seen or read in any Road Traffic Book anywhere in the world and Barbadians are going to tell you it means something different.

We talk about why we have accidents in this place? We have to start from the driving inspectors. Mr. President, I sit down daily and I shudder. I see inspectors sitting in the back of vehicles and people who are supposed to be under examination for licences wavering all over the road doing all kinds of things that are non natural and the next day I see them driving alone.

Now, I have lived in Britain. I went through a driver's test.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I have used the word "non natural" for a specific reason and I will come back and tell you why.

I went through a driver's test and I have seen people going through a driver's test. From the time the examiner sits in the vehicle and you move off and you make a mistake he says: "Stop. Turn back. Get out." It is finished, but not here.

I do a lot of claims, that is why I am coming down to this now. We have to ask ourselves in this country where we are going in terms of traffic. Rather than knowing the law and applying the law, I read statements about our now having to consider limiting the number of vehicles in this country. But the problem in this country is not the number of vehicles on the road but the drivers that are being put out on the road.

I ask whether the driving instructors or the testers know the Road Traffic Act of this country and I say: "No, they do not." The trainers cannot drive. The inspectors cannot drive and I hear the other person cannot drive either. That was told to me by people from up there. I did not ask.

Now, Sir, here are amendments which are draconian penalties put upon the Government by the people in the Licensing Authority because if you look at section 24 which is being amended, when you read it carefully, and I know why I say so and I will tell you why, this is what section 24 (7) says:—

"Every owner of a motor vehicle who uses it or causes or permits it to be used in contravention of this section or in contravention of the terms of a permit granted under this section is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of..."

What you are doing is changing the fine from \$500 to \$5 000 and, in addition, or to a term of imprisonment of 6 months and you change that to 12 months or both.

Now, Sir, if you look at the Road Traffic Regulations, what has happened is who copied those Regulations copied the construction section of the English legislation and put it into our law and then tell you that you are contravening certain laws which are meant for the construction company or the builders of vehicles.

You have officers in a certain branch of Government who says there are a number of Suzuki vans out there plying for hire and they have been trying to catch them. You know what it means? That the people in St. George and St. Philip who are masons and carpenters *et cetera* pick up their friends on a morning and drop them to work and you have policemen dressed in civilian clothes, I am not saying undressed policemen because that would mean they are naked, trying to catch these people collecting fares and bringing them before the courts and they have had difficulty in convicting them.

What they have put on the Government is that they must amend this section here to give the Chief Licensing Officer the right to withdraw the permit because that is happening now. I can come and show you what is happening. You do not know what is happening. You will not listen.

Now, Sir, the Government has to ask itself whether it has carried out an independent inquiry into what is happening in road traffic other than listening to the officers in the Licensing Authority. I have said openly, and I will say it again. We will always have problems with the Licensing Authority. The Government will one day have to sweep out all of them and start fresh if we want to get anywhere. I have said it openly. I tell them so when I go up there every day because every time when I turn up there with a case they back down.

Sir, we look at section 38. I understand section 38. All of a sudden Barbadians are watching American television and it is causing problems not only for insurance companies but for lawyers who are settling claims because the first thing they ask you is: "How much you are suing for? I want \$5 million. I want \$10 million."

With a bit of education, you have to educate the public that we still operate under the law as it exists in the United Kingdom. Settlement of claims is on the same basis that claims are settled in the United Kingdom. We do not settle them for millions. We settle according to the injury, the prognosis of the doctor's report, the length of time you were not capable of functioning in your normal manner, and what an English Court would award for such injuries. It is very seldom that an English Court would give anybody £3 million, or £3.5 million for injury so \$10 million is an adequate amount to cover our existing claims.

I know many of the insurance companies have put in a clause that any claims settled in Barbados are settled on the terms of the law of this jurisdiction because we have visitors who come here and think that they can settle in the United States fashion. So this should clarify the situation both for the insurance companies and for the litigants. It will help the attorneys-at-law because people would no longer walk about and say we carry away their money. The first thing they like to say is that the lawyers have the money if they do not get \$1 million and \$2 million.
5.45 p.m.

Sir, I want to look at Section 104. Again, I have to complain that in the books in Parliament you have to dive about in three or four volumes to get at what you want. But if you look at Section 104(a)(c), it says:

"For carrying passengers to and from any place, if in the opinion of the Licensing Authority, there are exceptional circumstances that render the issue of a special permit desirable".

I have had complaints from a number of owners of public service vehicles that they have applied to the Licensing Authority and (a) it takes days and days and days before they get a response and then when they get a response they get a 'no'. I keep saying in here and I will keep saying that it is time that the Road Traffic Act and Regulations of Barbados apply to all vehicles in this country. It is basically unfair that you will see a Transport Board bus loaded with 120 school children, passed every policeman on the road and a mini bus comes down behind and the mini bus is stopped and the children put off in the road. Then you will hear that the mini bus driver or ZR driver has no discretion for its passengers. It cannot be fair. The law is meant for all and then this is the damaging section, it is a worrying section to me – I have a case that I will bring against the Government very shortly where the officers in the Licensing Authority suspend people's licences. In the Act in certain places it gives you 10 days to apply before the Supreme Court and the letter is typed and dated 15 days after the suspension. The police stop notice on the very date, the letter gets to the Post Office and eighteen days later a man knows that his licence has been suspended and the Act tells you within 10 days of the suspension. This leaves it open. Whose discretion must we wait on. The people at the Licensing Authority who have buses out there competing with the other private persons.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am going to ask that that be struck from the record.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: We have to look at this more carefully. We represent everybody and we must be even in what we are doing.

Sir, we have another Clause here. If we look at 104(4):

"A person aggrieved by a decision of the Licensing Authority to revoke a permit issued under this Section may apply to a magistrate to have the decision considered by him and the decision of the magistrate is final".

When must he apply? All this is doing is mounting up the liability and the funds that Government will have to pay out because when they suspend these permits and you apply to the court, the Government has to pay the cost and the lost. Unfortunately, Government does not pay quickly but they have to pay. Unless we put a Clause in this to tie it down to a specific time – because what we are dealing with today...

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I remember the late Tom Adams saying when he created the permits that this was property which a man can transfer to his children or grandchildren, he can dispose of it or he can sell it. You do not get that happening. The Government has to look at the Licensing Authority.

Another point that I want to raise under this is that as Senator Farley said, the large vehicles, I think that this is another step that we have made which in my view needs to be seriously reviewed. The people who control the tourist industry have suddenly tricked this Government into believing that visitors need all to be moved together. There are some buses marked Bartic something, some big, big buses.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I do not know who they belong to. My point is, Mr. President, Sir, we must think of all the people in the country equally. What they are doing is putting down three or four taxis, applying for a big bus and then the poor little fellow with the taxi is lined up down at the Port a whole day to get one trip.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: The big bus goes in and rolls out loaded with forty and fifty passengers. I know no tourist wants that. There is no tourist who ever tells you that he wants to move in fifties and sixties. What we are doing is depriving the small fellow with the taxi of making a daily bread.

I have sat in court many times and I heard people say, Sir, I was only doing that to get something for my children. In my view, we have to ask ourselves whether we should not now begin to share the pie. It brings me to the question of the all inclusive hotels.

In my view they are the greatest culprits.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, please.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Sir, they have buses and taxis and cars running under this Act.

Sir, you said I must not call names but if you give me five minutes I will go out there and write a letter and tell you the names I am going to call.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have not got five minutes. You have about three minutes left.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: They are saying that you must only have all your taxis from one particular person. I would like the Government to seriously consider taxing the all inclusive hotel as a special tax because they are depriving the people who live around them from participating in the tourist industry. When they give all the thing to one particular person, what are the rest to do?

I would beg the Government carefully to look at the Road Traffic Regulations because it is not the Act, it is the Regulations that need to be seriously addressed, and to investigate why they are being asked to pass these kinds of legislation because they are going to burden the courts with more problems. You know what beats me, you only see a few people in the courts day after day after day.

Mr. President, I would like to tell you a short story. One night I went to a nightclub in St. Lawrence Gap. Coming home about 2.30 a.m. and a car comes up in front of me and stops. Eventually, I hear, "man move that". A man wants to reverse and somebody gets out. It was not any ordinary folk like you and I driving, Sir. I will tell you quickly who was driving the taxi at one o'clock in the morning.

Sir, these amendments might look good on paper. They may look very very good on paper. They may appear to be enhancing the Regulations which we now have. There are certain things that one does not worry about like asking a man to produce his insurance certificate within twenty-four hours instead of five days, those things do not matter but the serious ones that have slipped in between are the ones that we must watch, the ones that we must ask, why have they been put in there?

In my view, this amendment is one which is not improving the road traffic regulations but it is going to cause more problems. I say it again, Government will very soon have to investigate the Licensing Authority of the country.

I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Senator Bolden was so mellow, I really wanted to give him my time.

There are a number of areas that concern me and he touched on them. I believe it was a morning last week in watching the *Wake Up Caribbean Show* that I saw

representatives of the public service vehicle business on television. As a practitioner in the insurance industry a number of their concerns concern me quite a bit.
5.55 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Some of their expectations concern me, expectations which have arisen as a result of some structural changes in transportation in Barbados which in my opinion are working against the safety of the travelling public in this country.

I note their appeal that in the face of serious competition and a significant fall off in their business that they be allowed to carry increased numbers of passengers.

Now the case they are making, let me say the grounds on which they make their case are good grounds. Why should we have one area of public transportation in Barbados having the right or the privilege to carry extra numbers of travelling passengers and another section of public transportation in Barbados being penalised to do so. I think we have to correct that.

I travel on the roads of Barbados also. I am a driver and one morning two weeks ago around the roundabout at Collymore Rock I gave way to a Transport Board bus heavily laden. I was scared. The number of young school children I saw packed into that bus was frightening and I asked myself a question. God forbid, but what would happen if an accident had occurred, how much of that liability would have been absorbed by a particular insurance? We have to be very careful in this particular area.

Now the owners of the small public service vehicles who are now encountering difficulty making their business viable, own vehicles of a different structure and one knows only too well that these vehicles really cannot carry this load. So what is government going to do in order that these owners of these small public service vehicles will not feel that the system is not fair? It must be addressed. It cannot be a good thing that they must conform or abide, as my grandfather would say, by the law while others can do otherwise.

Another thing is the call for them to form co-ops to deal with their insurance. I do not know what kind of insurance premium would be charged them if in their small numbers they are able to access their own insurance for one of the principles on which insurance is acquired, at a reasonable rate, is the law of large numbers. So they need a significantly large number to get an economic rate that would allow their business to be viable. They would be able to acquire insurance but my question is, would the premium rate which they would be charged on the vehicle allow their business to remain viable once in the face of increased competition? This is something we need to consider.

I think both administrations insist that they have an interest in the development of indigenous businesses in

Barbados and would want to develop these areas of business among our people but we ought to be concerned when, especially in an area like this, there is that degree of stress and competition.

I heard the representative say that as a result of increasing numbers of cars on the road that they now make at least 3 trips fewer, a decrease in the number of trips they can make as a result of the increase in the number of vehicles on the road. Now I agree with him. You cannot tell people not to buy cars but what is the Government going to do about this? Are we going to look at the number of licences that we have out there? Are we going to offer guidance in a way that we can direct these individuals into other areas of business activity or are we going to allow them to drive around on the streets in their large numbers, chasing after fares and endangering the lives of themselves and the travelling public?

I am pleased that we have been able to place a cap on this personal accident area and I wonder how we were able at all to gain insurance protection for an open sum because I think one of the principles is that it must be predictable. The loss must be predictable so you must be able to attach a sum from the outset in order to acquire the insurance. So I do not know how we managed in Barbados but we have and I am glad we have been able to put a cap on that and I hope this would mean a decrease in the cost of insurance. Because since you can now predict the sum or the maximum, the premium that the reinsurer charge, there should be some adjustment downward in the premium and I hope that saving would be passed on to the owners of public service vehicles and to people in Barbados because personal accident is not only for individuals involved in public service business in Barbados.

I think the Government has to play a more active part in what is going on with the public service vehicle owners in Barbados. I think that there is some responsibility which now rests on the Government. I do not like what is going on out there. They are claiming that they cannot get insurance and we are told that a number of them have their vehicles on the road without insurance. So in the event there is an accident we have citizens of Barbados who could suffer severe disabilities and not be able to make claims in a timely manner and these matters could be drawn out for some time in the law courts and I hope the Government would intervene and make sure that all public service vehicles that are on our roads in Barbados are insured. It is in the interest of the country that they be covered.

I support that part of the amendment. I think we need to start dealing with some matters other than by penalties and maybe we need to pull in these owners of vehicles and their staff and I am talking now about the State. Every time an area develops in the economy I think Government has to show an interest and I am not talking about Barbados Labour Party or Democratic Labour Party, and not allow it to get out of hand. I think they need some assistance. They are doing things on

their own but they need some assistance in the development of their staff and in the development of the attitudes on the road.

I know that a number of them try to be very kind to the travelling public and I think that is why they are patronised at that level but I think they need a lot of assistance in that area and they should not be made to feel they are out there on their own. I did not like the recent experience when they were thrown from one street to another and then they were in pools of water. I could not believe at one stage that I was seeing an area in Barbados when I watched it on television that night after the rain had fallen, that that was where we were asking them to go and take their businesses. I think we must remember that this is their livelihood and if we really have an interest in small business people that we have to facilitate them and I am glad that we are seeing a positive response in that area but one must not forget that these individuals came on the scene at a time and flourished at a time when there was a significant gap in transportation in Barbados.

6.05 p.m.

We should not because we now have brand new, attractive Transport Board buses, forget the role that these public service vehicle owners played at that time in Barbados. I hope that the Government of Barbados would remember the role that they played and if because of certain changes in our economy their role is not as important or pressing as it was at the time that we would try to assist them in looking into other areas that they can continue to make a livelihood. After all, they had to access loans through commercial banks, credit unions whatever in order to put these vehicles on the road but it is no longer as viable as it used to be and we should offer them advice.

Senator Farley now has to come in and play his part as Minister responsible for development because we are going to have what the economists call structural unemployment in that particular area because of the changes in the structure of the economy and we will have to try to have their activities absorbed into other areas of the economy.

With those few words I support the amendment to the Road Traffic Act.

I want to say something on where I work at Collymore Rock. I am very concerned about that experimental roundabout at Collymore Rock. Every evening, and I live ten minutes away from Collymore Rock, as I attempt to leave my office on First Avenue Belleville to get to my home in Wildey, I am constantly in fear.

The people who are supposed to turn as you come across Pine Road, who are supposed to go on the left and go to Collymore Rock, are remaining in that lane and going straight ahead onto Culloden Road and the person who has come down from Collymore Rock seeing that individual in that lane believes that that individual is turning and is about

to move off and you find yourself pushed right up in a corner locked between at least four cars.

I want to say to the Ministry of Transport and Works that it is not good enough. If I as a citizen of Barbados living here for 46 years...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please!

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: If I am encountering that difficulty pray tell me what is happening to the tourists who are accustomed that once it says that the roundabout is going in this direction that wherever it turns it is going in that direction? They are playing with trouble. I am going to say what I have heard Senator Bolden say. I wonder which insurance company in Barbados will be prepared to settle under circumstances of that kind of accident around that experimental roundabout.

So I would like to appeal to the Ministry of Transport and Works to try and correct that problem. I have never seen so much congestion on Collymore Rock. Since the experiment it has worsened. That is my contribution, Sir. Thank you.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. President, I would like to join this debate on the amendment to the Road Traffic Act because like so many Barbadian road users today, I am also extremely terrified at the state of which our regulations have reached as far as traffic management is concerned.

As Senator Thompson ended I would like to start. It lies in the continued acquiescence of the Barbados Labour Party policy makers because we have to understand that there is politics in this. It is not enough to come in here and believe that these are just regulations set by people who are abstract agents or entities lying somewhere around in positions that are untouchable and are not responsible to the Government which is elected by the people to serve the people and to serve them and render this country safe.

There is no excuse for the Minister of Transport and Works or the Prime Minister or Senator Farley as Leader of this Chamber or anybody else to sit in here and watch experiment after experiment, day after day, continue to endanger the safety of people using our roads. What Senator Thompson did not say is that when you leave that experiment at the top of Collymore Rock and you go to the bottom of Collymore Rock by Purity Bakery another set of regulations apply which return to a different era and requires that the driver now suddenly refocus and change his thinking pattern and start to expect something entirely different.

I am appealing like Senator Bolden and Senator Thompson before me to this Administration and I am not appealing to any Licensing Authority nor to any officer in the

the Ministry of Public Works. I am appealing to the relevant Minister and the Barbados Labour Party Administration to get that situation righted as a matter of urgency. It is not so much that there are no accidents, it is the horror of it.

Using that roundabout is like Russian roulette. It is almost exciting.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: You have to take on the role of an excited participant. It is like when you go into those playrooms and you sit before those cars and you press buttons and you try to fire at the enemy. You are sitting there and you are wondering as you enter the roundabout where is the next car coming from and you start to learn to watch wheels and you find yourself looking at the steering columns under the cars and that kind of thing to see where they are tending towards before you decided to release your brake and proceed forward. When you get down to the bottom by Purity Bakery you have to change your thinking again and go back to the more regular style of driving.

Sir, there is a political responsibility on the part of the Barbados Labour Party Administration to ensure that these things are righted.

I recall too, Sir, and I like to go back to it because this Administration cannot be set free. In 1994 everything under the sun was blamed on the Democratic Labour Party including the absence of lighting on the highway that leads between Life of Barbados and Graeme Hall roundabout, a highway, Sir, of which I am sure you are acutely familiar. 6.15 p.m.

Today, tonight as we leave here, I risk to bet you that you do not find 6 lights burning.

I remember, the gentleman who is now our High Commissioner, His Excellency in London, Sir, calling in on a call-in programme and saying, you know, I want to tell the people of Barbados, you know, that there are only 2 lights burning right now. I can see it from my patio. Those were his words, Sir. Those were his words and he was commenting on the Administration of the Democratic Labour Party, that is what he was doing.

And I am tonight commenting on the Administration of the Barbados Labour Party and I am saying that that highway is in the same condition now. The lights are essentially not burning. For a full week there was a pay loader parked on the side of that road and it is only my intervention. I made sure when I called the Police, eventually after I could not take it anymore because I thought of the number of people from Christ Church who risked their lives using that highway, Sir, and you know there was a pay loader there for about an entire week and nothing was done by the regulators, by the Road Traffic people to move that pay loader.

I picked up the phone and I called Oistins. They told me Oistins do not cover there. I say no problem, tell me who covers it. "Call Worthing!" Yes and I called Worthing and I told them to please in the interest of public safety have the vehicle removed. Surely somebody else must have called you.

Well, he did not admit whether someone had called or not, Sir. He said, "well Sir, do you mind giving me your name." I said I do not have any problem. My name is John Boyce. "And where do you live?" I said I lived at so and so and so and so and that was the end of that, you understand.

But, Sir, we have reached a stage where we are allowing the practice of traffic management in Barbados to reach such a low that one is risking life and limb on a daily basis as you travel these streets.

I have now become an extremely cautious driver, Sir. I drive now at about 40 km an hour. One time I would have taken the chance and taken my vehicle into more exciting speeds, not to break the law of course but to approach more exciting speeds in certain areas but now I will not risk it, Sir.

So we have the question of the lights, Sir. We have the question of the way we use our roads, Sir. We have the question of the roundabouts.

We spoke earlier about the development for instance of the Warrens city and I think the Senate Leader was careful to say that the towns will be developed. It was part of the highway plan that these towns will be developed. I am sure I heard that report being attributed to him, Sir.

But the point is in the middle of that town, you have a roundabout with pedestrian crossings just at the exit and the entrance, depending on how you are entering them or leaving them, Sir. Whether you are coming or going, that is the word. Whether you are coming or going Sir, and nothing is being done about it.

Nothing, nothing, and we are sitting here day after day, the Barbados Labour Party is in government, day after day and month after month and they are doing absolutely nothing about it.

As if, Sir, you would believe and I do not believe it but most people, as they say, any average human being would come to the conclusion that they have a vested interest. Somebody must have a vested interest in these kind of catastrophe or something. I would hope not, Sir.

So we have, Sir, to come to a realization that if we do not put in place the correct regulations we will continue to have accidents, Sir. We will continue to have claims on our insurance companies and these claims will continue to

skyrocket and worst of all will continue to injure and harm our people. The people who we should be serving and protecting, Sir.

We spoke about the public service vehicles and Senator Bolden was at length to describe the kind of difficulties and challenges they faced. I want to take a slightly different turn to it as a result of that kind of treatment.

What is the effect on our households because that is where I am at, Sir, and when I pick up a lady in Carters Gap, I know and I am driving with this lady and she is talking about her family and her children and she tells me, Sir, how careful she is with her young son. I think he is 11 years old she said and he goes to Alleyne School. Imagine that she said, "Mr. Boyce you imagine down here and he has to go all the way to the Alleyne School." There are other details about that Sir, but that is another debate.

The point though is, that she went on to describe to me as part of her arrangements with her son, she stapled a \$20 bill inside the wallet as caution money so to speak, Sir, so that when he is put off the ZR's or the normal transport that he has to take in order to get to school he can get a taxi to her in town. Because he cannot get to Christ Church with \$20 but he might be able to get to town where he can find reprieve and probably find her at work and get sorted out.

Sir, are we not in serious times? Is not this the responsibility of a Government and Ministers? Not only even now the Minister of Public Works anymore? This is about the Minister of Home Affairs, Sir. This is about the Prime Minister. This is about everything that means development in Barbados. We have to step in as a Government. This is what you have to do, Sir. You have to step in as a head of a government just like you stepped in and decapitated the hospital, Sir. You have to step in and if necessary remove persons.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Who has to step in?

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Pardon me, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Who has to step in? You used the word "You".

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the government of the day has a responsibility to step in and take control of situations to ensure the safety of the road users of Barbados. That is all I am trying to say, Sir.

We have seen occasions of it before and I am not going to go down that road. So you have got to step in, in the case of the Public Works Department, in the case of the Licensing Authority, Sir, and ensure that the changes would ensure a satisfactory regulation of traffic in Barbados, and that a

satisfactory management of our transport system in Barbados is put in place, Sir. So that our children and our parents and our workers can get to their places in safety, Sir, and that we who necessarily might not use the public service vehicles or the Transport Board buses can use the same roads in some measure of safety too.

You have a situation now, Sir, and I had to raise it recently in one of my meetings with the people, the Ministry of Health, Sir, in the case of the South Coast Sewerage Project work. What are the regulations being applied to the vehicles which are being used in the construction of that road?

You have bobcats now. There is a new style in Barbados as I see it where bobcats now are loading trucks in the open street. There is nobody saying hold on, hold on, while this is going on. You have to raise your horn above the volume of that bobcat and the idling truck engine to draw attention to your presence in order that you can be eventually given an opportunity to pass. Other than that you stand the chance of being decapitated by one of those uplifting forklifts or the buckets that the bobcats carry.

What madness are we sitting on? What kind of a time bomb? What kind of a traffic catastrophe are we observing in this country, Sir? Where are we, Sir, in respect of traffic management?

I speak time and time again in this Chamber of a simple example just down the road there. And I want to go now to pedestrians in terms of traffic management because this is about that too. Because when you strike a pedestrian or if you knock over someone they have rights too and they will go to their insurance companies and they will seek redress. And we have a situation where that traffic light has been out of order now for all the time that I have been a Member of this Honourable Chamber, Sir, and Senator Murray last time I heard him said that he was going to fixed it immediately. That is what he said and that was at least 6 weeks ago and nothing up to now up to this day Sir, nothing has been done about that and I urged Senator Murray, Sir, to come and join me on a little journey to the traffic lights. I would not be long, Sir, and we could observe whether they are working or not.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Pedestrian crossings gone wild, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order. I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member in his full wild flight but I think he got a bit carried away with his own propaganda when he accused me of saying that I would fix that soon some 6 weeks ago. I do not remember saying that.

I do not think we met 6 weeks ago so I do not know, and he and I were certainly not drinking anywhere.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am inclined to believe you Senator Murray. I was not aware that you had engineering skills.

Aside.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the pedestrian crossing at the top of Broad Street, Sir, I know I have spoken about it. I have invited Members of this Honourable Chamber. You Sir, indicated you cannot necessarily come but I am sure that you are aware of the difficulties they face.

This has been going on for a tremendously long time. I would desist then, Sir, from including Senator Murray in the solution. If he does not want to be part of this solution in this crusade, Sir, to have the lights at the top of Broad Street operating again. I will go alone then, Sir, and probably ask Senators Bolden and Thompson to join me, Sir, since they seems to be willing partners in a crusade for regulations on road traffic in Barbados.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir.

I will like to tell Senator Boyce that I do not need to join him in anything in traffic in Barbados. I think I know enough about every junction, every road and every law governing traffic in Barbados.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is no point of order. Senator Boyce please continue.
6.25 p.m.

SENATOR J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, the point I want to make, and I have made a very interesting observation over the last couple of weeks as the road improvement project on the Wharf has gone on stream which I hope will lead to a better flow of traffic. I am sure it will lead to a better flow of traffic in Bridgetown once it is completed. I know the contractor is capable. He is one of the few contractors in Barbados who does that kind of work, piling and so on and I am sure that will soon be ready.

What I want to raise about that, Sir, beside the actual project itself is that we have seen an instance where there has been the placement of a Traffic Constable at that juncture. He has been dealing very adequately with the traffic. I must say it did not only add regulation and flow to the traffic but it brought back to me a feeling of being part of a town, a country, an island where there were people.

I recall, certainly, visiting places like Grenada where this is still a regular occurrence where we have policemen still directing traffic. I wondered if we could not use the opportunity to kill, as they say in the proverb, two birds with one stone and solve some of the unemployment problems by

including the special position of a Traffic Constable on or around Bridgetown and so outfit them as to make them attractive. I say, Sir, it would do something to enhance the ambience and the *joie de vivre* of this country. I am sure it would build Bridgetown for what it is worth.

Sir, Barbados is a country that we all love very much and I believe that all of us in here at the end of this exercise are very interested in seeing Barbados go forward. As we build our tourism, as we educate our children, as we provide jobs in different sectors of industry and commerce in this country, we want to go about it in an environment of safety, comfort and relatively free environment.

We do not want to feel threatened at every step that something might fall on us, something might break. As we use the roads they might fall apart in front of us, or that we will get oncoming vehicles, or we get traffic coming out of a junction, bam, bam, and that kind of thing. We want to create a safe Barbados.

I feel, Sir, that the Members on that side ought to remember that not too long ago they were accusing the Democratic Labour Party of everything under the sun and under the moon in respect to anything that went wrong in Barbados. When the time comes, as it will come sooner than later, the Democratic Labour Party and I will be out there putting a spade where a spade should be, and an X where an X should be in respect to the maladministration of this Administration especially in respect of the present Bill before us and that of traffic management.

It is a serious situation. I believe the Members on that side must appreciate that it is a serious situation. It is not only Senator Bolden, or Senator Thompson, or Senator Boyce. It is about many Barbadians and I am sure in their heart of hearts, especially my friends at this end of the Table who hear best, they appreciate the seriousness of what is going on.

I wish, Sir, they would impress upon the relevant authorities that there is politics in this, that there is a politician who is head of the Ministry responsible for traffic management. He happens to be the Minister of Public Works and Transport in this country. They should talk to their colleague and if they cannot talk to their colleague, well then they should take the matter to Cabinet, the highest decision making body of this country and ensure that it is resolved.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, in lending my support to the Bill, I just want to draw a couple of concerns to the attention of this Chamber. I heard what Honourable Senators had to say earlier about their concerns and I really think that the signage on our streets leave a lot to be desired.

I would like to recommend that a serious campaign be adopted in order to deal with the matter. There are too many of our road signs that are falling or fading, hence it creates quite some problems, particularly for new drivers and visitors to the island who may have temporary licences. I think it is important we have proper signage on our streets if our motorists are to adhere to the various regulations.

My biggest difficulty, however, has to do with bicyclists, particularly at night. They do not carry lights in most instances. The other sad thing about the bicyclists is that they do not stop at what we call major stops. Coming from side roads onto main highways, they refuse to stop. It is unfortunate that more senior motorists are doing it and therefore it leaves our children to copy the bad habits that seem to be developing in our society and that is one of the major concerns I have.

In the same way we have called for an amnesty on guns, I think it is about time that the respective Ministry should do something about bicycles that have no lights at night where the police can carry out their responsibilities a bit more effectively. It is a very dangerous practice. All of us know that when struck by a bicycle that is really in speed that it can cause serious injury and to see a bicycle without a light it really does create quite some problems.

My other concern is to do with some of that heavy traffic such as the pay loaders, the tractors and the caterpillars that are on the streets on mornings in particular at 7.00, 8.00, 9.00 o'clock, what we call the rush hours. They do take up quite some time and some space on the highways especially when they are not carrying the various pieces of equipment that are attached in the correct manner.

We know of incidents in the past where people were decapitated, where people received serious injury as a result of accidents that occurred with those vehicles. It would be a wise idea for the respective Ministry to ensure that there are specific times where such vehicles could travel on the street, whether it be in the very early hours of the morning or very late at night to avoid such congestion and danger.

The final issue on the Road Traffic Regulations I would like to touch on has to do with comments raised by both Senators Boyce and Bolden. I know within recent times we have quite some accidents with the Transport Board buses, but more so accidents with the ZRs and the minibuses and they being overloaded. It is frightening to see, particularly some of the ZRs, how the school children are rammed into those vehicles. I think it is important if law and order has been broken down to the extent where motorists and other individuals in this society are not complying with the rules then they will have to be fined in order to get them to comply with such regulations.

6.35 p.m.

I would like to recommend that we in Barbados work towards good road practices. The Association, under Mr. Junior Jordan, has been calling on motorists to try to be more cautious with their various actions on the street and for me it sounds like if it is going on deaf ears. A lot of the accidents that we see on the streets are not as a result of new licensed drivers, a lot of it has to do with experienced persons, particularly male drivers who seem to have a better view of their space than females. They try to get through little spaces that we know are not at all possible and everybody seems to want to leave home at 8 o'clock to get to work for 8.05 and that is, of course, causing some of the problems where we have to keep rushing in order to be able to reach our destinations at a proper time.

Unfortunately only in the News this evening at 5.30 there were 3 very serious accidents on our roads and again, even though some of them are genuine accidents where people's brakes let go or there are oil spills in the roads or people fall ill at the steering wheel as a result of a blackout or whatever, a lot of the accidents on our highways are to do with speeding and dangerous driving.

I also want to recommend that something be done. I am sure that the Ministry of Public Works and the police will be involved in this, where we have many drunk drivers on our streets. It is about time if we are not into it yet but I am aware that we are into it, that motorists be given Breathalyser tests to insure the safety of our driver. If one drinks, then one should not drive. It is O.K. to drink and have a good time but then to go behind the wheel, we are causing danger not only to ourselves but to other motorists on the streets. I would like to encourage all other Members in their own little communities to carry out campaigns against drunken drivers whether they be male or female as well as to respect and to show concern for the various problems that we are experiencing in our society. We are all aware of the serious impact that serious accidents can cause to people where they are maimed and disfigured. Many of them lose their lives. In fact, it is so tremendous on the health resources as well as that of the police that are already strained. It says to me that if as Barbadians we try to abide with the rules and we pay extra caution and look after the needs and the health and the interests of other Barbadians that our roads can really accommodate the vehicles that we have.

We all travel to large countries and we see streets that are no wider than ours but I find that those motorists, in most instances, are more courteous than ours. They allow pedestrians to cross the street. Our Barbadian people, especially the drivers, have become very, very indisciplined and very very discourteous to others on the streets. I think that we need to get back to that brotherly and sisterly love because after driving on the streets and you have to walk through Bridgetown, we have to cross the crossing. We cannot do it in our cars. If we are on a side road and we want to get out then we expect the motorists on the main road to at

least ease the situation to let us out. Many of us continue to hold our heads straight and we do not act as though we will go on to side roads or we will ever walk the streets.

I think that it is an unfortunate situation where we keep espousing from all the various institutions that we are in, that there is a breakdown in discipline but the breakdown in discipline in the classroom for me is the same as the breakdown in discipline on the streets with our adults. It is the same as the breakdown in discipline in any other institution. If we want to work together in building a better Barbados, then we all need to work together and ensure that whether we are Members of this Honourable Chamber or we are teachers or police officers or farmers or whoever that we comply with rules and regulations in order for us to be able to enjoy the benefits of a brighter and a better and a healthier Barbados.

It is with those few comments that I would want to lend my support to this Bill.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

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

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 9 were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Road Traffic (Amendment And Validation) Act, 1998.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The question that the Senate be adjourned sine die was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
6.45 p.m.

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