

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2004

THE SENATE

Wednesday, August 16, 2000

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, August 16, 2000, at 11.25 a.m.

PRESENT

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

His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN, C.B.E. (Deputy President)

Senator the Hon. P. C. GODDARD (Minister of Health) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY, J.P. (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office and the Civil Service)

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

Senator T. E. BARKER (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources)

Senator the Hon. Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS, G.C.M.

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS

Senator G. E. N. BROME

Senator Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE

Senator D. D. MARSHALL

Senator C. A. MASCOLL, B.Sc. (Econ.) (Hons.), M.A. (Public Finance)

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Sir John Stanley GODDARD, K.A.

Senator B. R. COLLYMORE, C.M.G.

Senator the Rev. L. W. B. ROCK

Senator Mrs. V. E. NEWTON, S.C.M.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

ABSENT

Senator Miss C. S. THOMAS and Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following documents for the Honourable the Senate:

1. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (Project Management Office for Maritime Co-operation and Training) Order, 2000.
2. Excise Tax Order, 2000.
3. The Protocols Amending The Treaty Establishing The Caribbean Community:-
 - (a) Protocol IV: Trade Policy
 - (b) Protocol VI: Transport Policy
 - (c) Protocol VII – Disadvantaged Countries, Regions and Sectors
 - (d) Protocol VIII: Competition Policy, Consumer Protection, Dumping and Subsidies
 - (e) Protocol IX – Disputes Settlement
4. Charter of Civil Society for the Caribbean Community.

and other problems, with which we are grappling so vigorously, is an area which is really in need of encouragement to motivate persons to provide whatever skills they can to help society tackle what is not a narrow sectoral problem but is a national societal problem.

The Council, Sir, has further recommended that the recipients of these Centennial Awards would be presented with them by the Governor-General in a public ceremony on the 1st January, 2001 at Government House to be followed by a reception to commemorate the occasion.

The National Honours and Decorations Advisory Council, Sir, has also been in contact with Mrs. Pat Byer who, you will recall, designed the medals for the Order of National Heroes in 1998. Mrs. Pat Byer has submitted initial designs for an appropriate medal to be struck in sterling silver. The medals envisaged, Sir, will depict on its face the Bearded Fig Tree as represented on the National Coat-of-Arms, and the words "Nation Builder" engraved in the upper arc of the medal. The medal will be suspended from a ribbon and/or a bar to be pinned to the breast. The bar will bear the word "Barbados". On its reverse side, the medal will be engraved with the name of the honouree and the date of presentation, namely, 1st January, 2001.

Mrs. Byer has indicated that the cost of supplying 100 such medals is £10,814 (BDS\$37,767.50) including the cost of her professional services. To this will be added an estimated \$1 300 for the inscription of the names of the awardees and shipment of the medals, bringing the total cost to \$39,067. The public ceremony at Government House is envisaged to cost some BDS\$42,000.

11.35 a.m.

In determining the eligibility of persons these factors should be taken into regard whether that person was born in Barbados, is a citizen of Barbados, or entitled to be registered as a citizen of Barbados, has made an outstanding contribution in any sphere of national or community life, particularly those being as a builder and guardian of a society by initiative and innovation by providing voluntary service and care; by sponsoring forces for good and for repelling perverse and regressive influences; by triumph over handicaps and adversity; by giving expression and emphasis to social and cultural upliftment; and by providing a role on which to model a life as a citizen of Barbados, like I said before, if that person has not been awarded any other national or imperial Honour.

Sir, I think this is a most important step in the life of Barbados as a nation. It further illustrates the psychological, social and cultural maturity which Barbados has been experiencing as a country. There was a time, Sir, when in the 1960s, 1970s there was a popular refrain that Barbados had no culture. Sir, that has gone away, I am happy to say, even

though people may dispute what is culture. But I think it is now accepted that there is a Barbadian culture made from the influences of Africa, Europe and many other places because Barbados is now a multi-cultural society with a diverse set of cultural and other attributes which has made Barbados different from how it was 20 or 30 years ago.

Sir, in the same way it was said that there was no culture, there was also the time when persons would have envisaged that there would be a Barbadian Honour and that it would be bestowed on persons. We had not been brought up as a society to think of ourselves as being mature enough and sound enough in our judgment and have an appreciation enough of ourselves to define ourselves for ourselves and not as the world sees us, to be able to think of Honours being awarded for such persons. As a colony and even as some while after Independence as an ex colony there was still much regard paid to the Imperial Honour as the only signal of society's appreciation and accommodation of person's contribution to the development of society.

I think also, Sir, this comes at an opportune time when we can now quite calmly and objectively, level headed and maturely think of Barbadian Honours, whether it is for National Honours for Independence or whether it is for these special and unique Honours or National Heroes. The issue is that in the same way we were able to take that in our stride and we had reached the point of maturity where we could decide on such an issue and implement it with some regard, I think, Sir, this is also in some way related to the future developments that will come as to whether we continue to be a constitutional monarchy or become a republic.

It is all part of an overall maturation of the Barbadian society and Sir, I am happy to be associated with such a venture. I am sure that there are many such persons in the society and we should have no difficulty in selecting 100 of such outstanding ones. I think when the criteria are published in the Press, persons in Barbados who know persons in the society that might have gone abroad but who would have made a solid and outstanding contribution to the Barbadian society in these several and diverse ways, should lose no time, Sir, in making such recommendations to the Council so that the next step could be taken to include those names in the 100 persons listed as Honourees to receive this unique Honour to mark the twenty-first century.

Therefore, Sir, it is with great pleasure that I move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to support this Centennial Honour Bill. I think it is uplifting and the Honourees will feel very proud. What I would like to see emphasized, however, is that persons are honoured for work beyond their call of duty and not for doing their jobs. Sir, there are some jobs that are in

the public's eye and those people are always in the public's eye but there are some other jobs that are not in the public's eye. In essence, I am trying to say that persons should be honoured for doing extra things other than their work for which they are already paid, and I hope that will be taken very seriously into consideration.

I know that they might be in a field, for example, if you are talking about care giving...

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: ...well nurses come under this area but I do not think they should be honoured just for working as a nurse and being paid as a nurse. They should be honoured for doing extra care, given beyond the call of duty of nursing, the 8 to 4 job or 9 to 5 job or that sort of work.

Sir, I would also like to see the deadline for this award go beyond Independence, because we have submitted some names for people to be honoured for Independence and if it so happens that these people are not honoured, I personally would like to resubmit their names to be eligible for this type of Honour because the names submitted were of persons who have gone beyond the call of duty. I am saying that if the deadline is before you have announced who will be given the Independence Honours, it will be too late to resubmit those names that have been submitted. I do not know how it will be worked out but I would like it to be given that sort of consideration.

Sir, I would also like assistance and maximum publicity to be given to people in filling out the forms. I had grave difficulty in filling out the forms to submit for the Independence Honours and it took me a very long time. Even though the average person might know someone who is eligible for this award, they might need some help in filling out the form. I hope they will be able to go to someone who could assist them in putting down what the person has done in such a way that it will be noticed. It is very difficult when you are only given a few lines to write what contributions the person has made. It is true you can send a curriculum vitae (CV) but everybody does not have one and a CV takes a very long time to prepare, but a lot of people who have worked in the community may or may not have a CV, so I would like to see some assistance given in helping people to precis the work done by these persons who are eligible for this award.

Sir, I would like to know what would be the difference between these awards and the Independence awards. I realise that you did say the Centennial Awards will just be a one-off award. Sir, sometimes there are many people who have contributed that have been left out and they are getting older and older and we would like to see some of them get awards. I would like to see some form of awards included in the

Independence awards. For example, the police and fire service men are given awards for service, *et cetera*. There is no such award given to nurses, for example.
11.45 a.m.

I would like to see some form of award included in the Independence Awards like those type of awards that are given to the policemen and the firemen for Independence honours and long service being extended to the nursing and teaching professions.

With this I fully support the Bill.

SENATOR Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I want to lend my support to this Bill. I believe that this is a Bill which shows the maturity of this nation when we begin to appreciate our people. We have people who have made outstanding contributions to things that go on in this society at a national level, and more so at a community level, and although those persons may think that they are ever so humble, they still like to be awarded and rewarded. I am very glad to see that this Government is doing that for our people.

I am not sure that I have heard if this category will include persons who lived overseas because we have many persons who reside in other countries who are of great assistance to Barbadians who go up to those countries. I am not sure whether that category of persons are in but if they are not in, then I would like them to be part of it.

Mr. President, we have many persons who do great things in this society but the things they do never reach the public's eye. We have great caregivers within the community. We have people who feed the aged. We have people who look after the latchkey children and they do this out of the goodness of their hearts, not because they are going to be compensated for it, and I am really pleased to see that this Government is willing and ready to acknowledge these persons.

I sincerely hope that Barbadians will submit the names of persons who are not very much in the public's eye and that they will not see this as a political ploy because I strongly believe that it is not a political ploy. I believe it is that the nation has reached maturity where, as I said before, we can appreciate our people.

I also think that it is a great thing to show to the children of this nation. Our children must learn to participate in the celebration of its people. I think it is a good move that we are highlighting our heroes and that we are awarding those who are making contributions to the country. As I said before, our children need these things to grasp. Here of late, we find that our children really have very few role models. We have no mentors, and this sort of thing will help to stabilize our children in some small way.

Sir, that is really all I want to say and I really lend my support to this Bill.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 – 7 inclusive, were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY, 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. G. S. H. MURRAY, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Centennial Honour Act, 2000.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST TO REDEEM AN ISSUE BY THE BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (BAMC) TO THE SUM OF BDS\$51 MILLION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, the moving of this Resolution is for the borrowing of \$51 million by the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited to provide working capital for the sugar industry up to the year 2003.

As you know, the price for the EU Protocol sugar remains fixed at 523.7 euros per metric tonne and the price received in Barbados dollars for sugar has steadily declined from a high of \$1 406 in 1995 to approximately \$900 per tonne in 2000 as a result of the slide of the euro.

This significant decline in the foreign exchange rate was clearly evident in the year 2000 when the euro declined from an exchange rate of BDS\$232 to an exchange rate of

\$186 during the crop season. These factors have inhibited the cash growth projected and the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited is at the point of exhausting its cash surpluses. This situation was projected since 1997. Though we did not accurately forecast the extent of the devaluation of the euro, the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited now requires financing for the out-of-crop period in order for the sugar industry to continue.

The projected finance is based upon the continued operation of the three factories through to the year 2003. Based upon the company's projected financial result for 1999-2000 and 2000-2003, and the projected cane price for the same period, it is expected that the company will require an injection of funds.
11.55 a.m.

It is, therefore, proposed that we raise a bond issue of \$51 million for the financing of the operations of the sugar industry. Whereas By-law No. 5-1 of the Barbados Agricultural Management Company was adopted on May 26, 1994, the company is authorized to borrow money through the issue of bonds for the purpose of financing its operations. The directors now deem that it is necessary to borrow the sum of \$51 million through the issue of bonds and the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited (Sugar Bonds Guarantee) Act, 1994 provides for the establishment of a sinking fund for the purposes of meeting the redemption of the sugar industry bonds and any other expenses incidental to the redemption of bonds.

The Directors of the Barbados Agricultural Management Company have resolved to borrow the said sum of \$51 million from the Citicorp Merchant Bank Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, Cap. 308 on terms and conditions set out in the Schedule of this Resolution.

Be it resolved that Parliament approves the guarantee by the Minister responsible for Finance of the payment of the principal and interest money for the redemption of the bond and the issued sum of Bds\$51 million.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, it cannot be the case that the depreciation of the euro to the dollar could be responsible for the inability of the BAMC to service this debt, and particularly to the tune of Bds\$51 million over the next three years. But there is a fundamental problem here because this Administration vowed that there will never be another day when there has to be repayment of a loan and

there was not the adequate provision of a sinking fund to take care of the repayment of that loan at the given point.

In short, we were told that there would always be, whenever there is the borrowing of any funds an appropriate sinking fund put aside into which Government would allocate a given amount of resources over a particular fiscal year.

The fact that we are now being asked to approve a \$51 million bond for the BAMC must indicate that no such provision was made. I am not surprised because the information coming from the Treasury is quite late. We are never in a position to know what is being put aside anyhow. We get information on the monthly assessment of the Financial Statement of the Treasury sometimes a year later. We are never too sure what is really happening with the financial affairs of Government.

There is no doubt that the BAMC has been inadequately managed over the last several years. In fact, less than a year ago I recall the Prime Minister of Barbados saying that he will not put one cent into the financing of the sugar industry. It is surprising now that there are all kinds of admissions that the industry is in need of assistance and to the magnitude of \$51 million. Certainly, it is not being said that these losses were incurred over the last two years. It cannot be the case because this would be clear evidence that there is no need for a sugar industry in Barbados. The industry on average over the last five years has earned about U.S. \$55 million in foreign exchange. The industry's production has declined. In 1968, we produced as much as 208 000 tonnes of sugar in Barbados. We now produce less than 60,000 tonnes of sugar. This is really a dying industry and the only reason why it is being propped up is because we can be guaranteed of the foreign exchange that you can get from it and to some extent a psychological value in terms of maintaining the soil and in terms of maintaining balance in the ecology of Barbados.

When you look at the performance of the industry in one given year, we need to question whether the sugar industry's days are not numbered. We have heard that during the time of reaping of the harvest this year that the euro to the dollar fell by about 46 points.
12.05 p.m.

That cannot explain the financial plight of the industry. If not, we should be able to say with equal certainty that, when there is an appreciation or depreciation of some exchange rate *vis-a-vis* the Barbados dollar from what we derive from tourists, there should be an appropriate explanation one way or the other. An appreciation of the pound by whatever should translate into increased tourists from the U.K. An appreciation of the Deutschmark should do likewise.

How is it that we can so carefully and skilfully predict the outcome of the sugar industry and we can never see that same kind of analysis for the tourist industry? It is similar to what the car industry does to the consumer. Whenever you hear that car prices are up, you are told that there has been an appreciation of the Japanese yen. When the Japanese yen declines, we are never told that car prices are coming down.

What will happen is that the average between what should be the price as a depreciation of the yen and what was the price before would be done so that in the instance when there is an appreciation there is full passing on of the price to the consumer, but when there is a depreciation of the yen you get some adjustment between the two, the high and the low. I am very familiar with that.

It cannot be the case that the main movement in the euro is to blame for the present state of financial affairs in the sugar industry. What is needed here again is a complete overhaul of the industry to determine whether we are going to maintain it in its present form or whether we are going to look to restructure it totally.

We had all forms of discussions about Bulkeley, if you remember. When there were suggestions that perhaps the best thing to do for the industry is to establish one factory, political reasons intervened and there was the retention of the St. George factory. All of a sudden we are now hearing that the only rational thing to do with the industry is to establish one efficient, modern factory to deal with the state of affairs in the industry. So you see how politics plays in everything? Even when it was apparent that the sugar industry could not sustain more than one factory in Barbados, political reasons intervened and were skilfully used to justify the maintenance of Bulkeley.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise on a point of order. I do not think I said anything in my presentation that indicated that the sugar industry should just have one factory.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Certainly, Mr. President, you do not expect that my knowledge of the industry will be limited by what was said by the Leader on that Side. If not, I would hardly speak for two minutes. It cannot be limited by that.

I am saying that the industry has been in existence from time immemorial and its analysis cannot bear simply in relation to what was presented here this morning. There is no doubt that studies have been conducted on the sugar industry to demonstrate that it could not have been retained in its previous form and structure and that we had every reason at that time, five years ago, to look at the alternative proposal of reducing the amount of factories to one. All forms of evidence were provided to show that the industry in its

diminishing form cannot sustain more than one factory. The evidence was provided and, I repeat, politics intervened. Understanding the political barometer of Barbados, the maintenance of that sweet parish in the centre of the island called St. George, which determines the political outcome, could not have been interrupted. Its historical relevance to political outcomes could not have been interrupted and therefore political decisions intervened to ensure that that factory called Bulkeley would not be removed. Now the time has come for financial and economic reasons to be provided for the sustenance of the industry. It is no longer politics. You are now into two terms and you will get whatever you deserve but, certainly, it must be respected that decisions of this nature must not take only a political character.

It is the case that the cost of production in sugar has far exceeded the revenue to be derived from sugar for the last decade in Barbados and perhaps more than that. Therefore we have to make a decision about the future of the industry. Are we going to retain the industry on the basis of its foreign exchange value, on the basis of the fact that it keeps the soil and the environment intact, on the basis of the fact that there are over 2 000 people still benefiting from employment? Or are we going to suggest that it needs to be restructured?

I dare say that it has to be restructured to survive in a new global environment and, particularly, in light of the new arrangements under WTO. We have seen what has happened with bananas in St. Lucia and the rest of the Windward Islands, and it is just a matter of time before sugar becomes part of that process. Why should we wait when it is obvious that sugar is on its death bed? I am not suggesting that we have to kill it, but I am suggesting that we have to respect that the financial state of the industry does not augur well for its future survival and, therefore, rather than pussyfooting around the issues we need to come to the table and respect that here are several critical decisions that have to be made within the sugar industry.

I am not comfortable at all agreeing with a Resolution to approve payment of principal and interest on loans for the BAMC at this point in time. I am not comfortable, particularly in light of the fact that it is not \$5 million. It is a whopping \$51 million and it is a lot of money. If we were putting aside something for the rainy day which is what a sinking fund is supposed to be, we could not have been approaching the Senate today to ask for \$51 million to repay a loan and repay the interest.

Mr. President, if you are in a position where you incurred a loan some time ago and you are not even capable of repaying the interest component of it, why should the country be asked to fork out this type of money to bail the industry out of its predicament? You do not mind forking out some, but \$51 million over the course of three years is not a small sum.

I will hear discussions soon about the 1970s when there was a windfall and where it went because that discussion will be located in the political realm and therefore to take us back to the late great Right Excellent Errol Barrow and what he did with the windfall would be appropriate for some, but I cannot live in the past, and I cannot take myself 25 years backwards. I am talking about the issues now of the industry. Can the industry survive in its present form in a new global environment where there will be no guarantees, where there will not be any preferential treatment sooner rather than later? It is just a matter of time.

12.15 p.m.

The industry has been losing money steadily and not a small amount of money. It is amazing when you look at the studies what has happened to the cost of sugar and the revenue derived from a tonne of sugar grosses the cost of production in Barbados. It will obviously get worse because as the industry gets smaller you cannot depend on the economy of scale to reduce average cost. We are at a critical juncture, and can we function at this juncture, is what is being asked. I am suggesting that we can hardly function at this juncture because we have delayed looking at the critical issues in the industry over the last five years.

Mind you, some people may wish to see the demise of the industry for different reasons. As we all know, real estate in Barbados has become the sector to invest in. As we all know, we take the inheritance from the Almighty, you sit on it and it appreciates and you benefit without even altering the character of the real estate. So the death of the industry may very well be the birth of more millionaires around Barbados.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am not interested in who is a millionaire or who will benefit. I would suggest and I have always suggested that money has no colour, cast or creed and it does not matter to me who gets it.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It has no character as such but people love it. It does not matter the pigment of the skin and it does not bother me who gets it. It bothers me when it becomes a situation in which the State has to contribute to the kinds of levels that we are being asked to contribute to, such as this industry, when there are several other things we could be doing with these resources.

We are in the habit of squandering money in Barbados. We squandered money in the Cubiertos exercise on the South Coast. We have certainly squandered money at Greenland and now to squander some more will not be a major thing anyhow but this is some lovely money that we are squandering. It is \$51 million that you could hardly

recover from the industry because the industry continues to make losses'. How could you lend me money that I cannot repay? It is to all intents and purposes a grant.

Where is the industry going to get the funds to repay? This is really a disguised grant. Again, it is very skillful management on the part of this Government.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: They cannot lend me this sort of money when I cannot repay it. They cannot promise me it because I would not be able to repay it. It will be translated into a gift so it must mean that somebody is carrying this burden. And who is carrying the burden?

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The taxpayers. It is similar to what we are experiencing in housing. Having raised \$50 million in bonds for the purpose of building low income houses in Barbados, we have spent \$30 million on a VAT office and a facility at Warrens that has not been done beyond a cave. We have seen the building by the same contractor of the National Housing Corporation Headquarters...

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Squandermania again. You have individuals who never built a chicken pen or a pigeon coop being asked to build large buildings with Government resources to the detriment of the taxpayers, and that explains the demise of the previous Minister who was subsequently shifted to tourism who also prepared his burial and died.

I find it very difficult to appreciate what is being requested here in the form of \$51 million for the sugar industry. Mr. President, it is difficult on this Side to speak frankly and boldly on the issues knowing only too well that at the end of the day the words will go in vain. No matter how much I protest about the misuse of these funds, this Resolution will be passed, so all I can say, Mr. President, is that I have noted my concerns. I am extremely concerned, and I feel that we need to revisit the state of the industry at this point in our history not only because it has been performing so poorly but because the future does not offer an alternative route of financial viability for the industry and, therefore, we need to ask whether or not this will not be the beginning of a major loss of resources.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It is only the beginning of a major loss of resources in this industry. A cosmetic

analysis, therefore, of the sugar industry at this stage will not yield any prudent decision to finance it to this order of \$51 million over a short three-year period.

I am begging the Administration to sit down, work out the implications of the industry, understand the future of Barbados, understand all the other sectors as we look at the sugar industry, knowing and appreciating that there is the inter-relation between the sectors, to do that study at this stage just to satisfy the Government that it is supporting an industry that has a future.

When I look ahead, I view this as a misallocation of resources. When I look ahead, I cannot see the industry being better off as a result of this injection of funds. When I look ahead, apart from the \$50 million in foreign exchange, there is nothing more that sugar does beyond maintaining the environment. I do not want to provide an escape for decision-making that has to be done on the part of this Administration because what is really being sought here, in very subtle terms, is to allow suicide to occur within the industry such that no one can point a finger at the Administration for having committed murder. Therefore, they will be provided once more with an escape route avoiding the harsh decisions that have to be made. I have in other places referred to it as "Owenisation".

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It is the ability to avoid the critical issues and the real issue involved in WTO. We are stepping around them in the hope that you do not have to confront these very harsh measures that logically determine you will have to confront it. Rather than understand globalisation and trade liberalisation there is something now being practised called "Owenisation" with the avoidance of these decisions. Again, this is a perfect example of the Government's attempts always to avoid dealing with the harsh realities of the Barbados economy.

Sir, I end on this note. This particular request is very difficult for me to understand, because I am aware that there is nothing that has happened in the last sugar crop that can be responsible for a request of \$51 million for the industry. It cannot be the case that the depreciation of the euro is to be held responsible for this. This is really just an ongoing cancer that will have to be revealed over time. No matter how much you cover it up, the time is going to come for the bigger decisions to be made about the Barbados Sugar Industry.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, everyone knows my feelings about the sugar industry and how important it is to the environment to keep our soils intact and

so on. In addition, in recent years, there has been utilisation of carbon dioxide to curtail global warming. Sugar cane is one of the unique plants in the world in terms of converting carbon dioxide back to oxygen and to useful energy. It is something that we will have to look for in the future because there are these CO₂ credits that can be sold and if we grow sugar cane it is possible that we can sell these CO₂ credits to some company that is actually burning fossil fuel and producing a lot of carbon dioxide so that we can gain some income for the sugar industry.

In addition, I see a future for cotton, if only Government would make up its mind. We seem to have been struggling along and it is one of the only crops that is showing some real future because of its unique character and I think we have to move and move briskly.

We have to stop just selling cotton to the Japanese and we have to start looking at producing cotton garments in Barbados. Cotton grown continuously on soils will deplete that soil and will lead to soil erosion so sugar cane is an ideal rotation crop with cotton and vegetables. I see no future for raw sugar. We are presently producing a tonne of raw sugar at about \$1 500 per tonne. We are getting from Europe about \$900 a tonne. We are losing \$600 for every tonne of this quota. We hold up this quota like a holy grail, we must achieve this quota, we must not fall back on this quota. Do not mind that every tonne that leaves this island costs us \$600.

12.25 p.m.

Do you know that granulated sugar is landing in Barbados for less than \$600 a tonne? Fifteen hundred dollars to produce a tonne of sugar, we send the sugar to Europe, they refine the sugar and send it back to us for \$600. You do not have to be an economist to say that this does not look sustainable – totally unsustainable.

I had suggested to BADMC that we buy granulated sugar, take it and throw a little molasses on it, spin it around and bring it out as raw sugar again. You will make a lot of money.

Asides.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: An interesting sideline to this is, if this sugar lands here at \$600 a tonne, how come we the consumer are paying \$1 700 a tonne? Somebody is making like a \$1 000 a tonne between the consumer and the importer of granulated sugar.

I remember going to the Minister of Agriculture nearly 15 years ago – the sugar industry, at that time, was the sole importer of sugar. If you needed any sugar you went to the sugar industry, they imported it, and they used any profits on that to subsidise the industry. When it became obvious that

local requirements were 16 000 tonnes of sugar, we looked like we needed a 16 million-dollar subsidy for the industry per year, at 16 000 tonnes of sugar coming in and we put a \$1 000 mark-up on that, there is the \$16 000 000. The sugar industry would have needed no support at all.

Government, at that time, decided that they were going to keep this money that came, between the cost of imported sugar and what the consumer was paying, a controlled price, for doing various things.

One year I asked the Statistical Department what was the price of imported raw sugar and they told me \$2 000 a tonne. That was the Government statistics published by them, and they were selling it at \$1 700. I have never yet been able to understand what went wrong there.

If we are not going to produce raw sugar what else can we do? Grow cane but not produce raw sugar? That is why I am saying we have to look at sugar cane as a plant that has capabilities of producing things other than sugar. It produces fibre. Right now we burn the fibre. We burn the fibre and the surplus is used for making compost. That fibre can make very valuable building materials. The technology is there and people are interested in making the investment. A Canadian firm has been in touch with me about it, the technology and the investments are there, but we need to have a plan.

The cane varieties that we presently use are very high in sucrose and we can look for one that is higher in fibre. There are other alternatives. There are a lot of things out there but we need a plan. We need to see where we are going, not just from year to year, say okay, here is \$16 000 000, use this to subsidise the farmers to give them a good price for cane in order for them to break even. I do not think that the farmers here are really making money growing sugar cane. Most of the farms I know of that make money, make it on their vegetables and not on their sugar cane.

We have to look at producing our own granulated sugar and I think we can do that. There is no need to import granulated sugar. We can refine sugar cane syrup that the sweet drink manufacturers can use rather than the granulated sugar.

A long time ago they said that we cannot make syrups here. We used to make syrups for 300 years and suddenly we no longer bothered with it. Could it be that Tate and Lyle are the producers of table syrups so they do not want us to produce any syrup here?

Asides.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: We sold syrup here at \$5 a gallon locally and do you know that it comes in here, lands on the supermarket shelves at \$50.00 a gallon? Ten

times the price – you see little bottles of syrup and you translate that into gallons and you find out the price. You are paying \$9 for a little bottle of syrup. This is crazy. We have to look at these things but not just plain syrup.

We used to make a syrup product here but that is not the only product. We never tried to advance that technology into making flavoured syrups. We have fruit here that would make flavoured syrups – tamarind and mango syrups. There are a lot of ways that we can move forward and transform the sugar cane into profits for the farmers.

We have sugar cane out there that produces high glucose, very difficult to refine and very difficult to separate the molasses. You do not need to do it. You take the sugar cane juice, invert that to total glucose and then you make your syrups from there and you get much higher yields of cane. We have been selecting varieties here for sucrose production, and if the variety was a high yielding one but was poor in sucrose production but high in glucose production, it was eliminated from our selection process. So we have to go back to the basics and start looking for varieties that would be grown to produce different products. 12.35 p.m.

One variety of sugar cane probably will be grown for manufacturing building materials and one for manufacturing syrup for sweet drinks. When you think of the ridiculousness that we take sugar cane juice and at great expense, evaporate it down and separate out the molasses from it to get a crystal sugar and then we take that crystal sugar and we add water back to it to make Coca Cola, that is madness in this day and age of high energy cost. We should be going directly. The sugar factories should be the ones producing a base material to which the essence of Coke, Pepsi or whatever else, is added. You do not need any of this long process. You would reduce the use of bagasse significantly and you would have surplus fibre left over...

Asides.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: ...but these are technologies that are available, these are not pies in the sky. We could do it but we need to have a plan and I think that is really where we are at present. We must keep the industry going for now so it is going to take us three years to get there; but there seems to be no urgency. I am President of the Barbados Society for Technologists in Agriculture which is a professional group and we had a "think tank" last year on sugar cane and we came to the same conclusions. This is not my idea alone, this is the idea of all the professional people involved from U.W.I., CARDI, C.D.B. and all these people who had inputs into it and the thing is that we must have this plan.

I agree that we have to do something for the next three years and \$51 million is probably justified to keep us there without closing down. But when I hear plans and I know the Leader of Government Business did not mention it but, certainly, there are rumours going around about the building of a new sugar factory costing \$250 million to \$270 million. That is absolute madness. I hope it is no more than a rumour because I see the sugar industry with this scenario: the sugar factories' through-puts are shrinking so there would probably be no more than one sugar factory, certainly not three. Any technical person would say that Bulkeley Sugar Factory should be closed.

We saw what happened here during the last crop season this year where we had serious, serious breakdowns. That is a very, very old factory and it really should have been closed but I think the major thing we have to do is to come up with a plan for the future.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Williams.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I sat and listened to Senator Laurie and I am particularly happy to know that when the Multi-disciplinary Task Force that is functioning on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development gets around, of course, to galvanising all the inputs and getting contributions that he too would be ready and willing to assist in the future development of the industry. But let me first begin by putting into context the Resolution before us.

Mr. President, this is not the first such bond issue. Indeed, it is the third. There was the first issue in 1994. There was an issue in the month of June and there was a subsequent issue in 1996. I can report to this Honourable Chamber that the 1994 issue was indeed repaid in 1998, and the December issue of 1996 will be repaid by December this year.

The first issue in 1994 was to the tune of \$42.6 million and the 1996 issue was to the tune of \$41.3 million. Now, those persons in the industry will tell you that in terms of financing the out-of-crop expenses and operations, it would normally be done out of any surpluses that would have been generated through the sale of sugar over time. However, we all know that the sugar production in Barbados has been going through a very difficult period and, therefore, the Agricultural Management Company is at a point where working capital and cash flow represent a difficulty.

The question is, do you sit idly by as a Government and do nothing, or do you simply say that we all recognise that presently we still enjoy to the tune of \$60 million in foreign exchange as a result of the sale of sugar and that is

something that we cannot ignore. That in itself represents some 6.12% of G.D.P. so it is still not an inconsequential thing. Therefore, a prudent Government would do one or two things. They would seek, of course, not to create the immediate demise but you would also seek to get the kind of information and recommendations on which you can look at the long-term viability of the industry. One cannot fault the Ministry of Agriculture on that score because in November last year, they set up the Multi-disciplinary Task Force to do just that.

As a matter of interest, the Multi-disciplinary Task Force in itself was set up to look at a number of things, including identifying what are the critical problems in the industry at this time. Also in sync with what Senator Laurie was suggesting – to look at what opportunities, “exist” and clearly taking into account lots of the things that he identified as possibilities, not doing it in any knee-jerk way but looking at it in a very analytical sense, taking into account all the major players involved at this time in the private sector as well as in the Government.

Also, one has to look at the kinds of policies and strategies that we would come up with at this stage in order to move the industry forward and with the scale of operation that will be necessary, taking into account all of what we know that is going on in the sugar industry.

Finally, to look at what may be considered the long term viability of the sugar industry. In other words, it is not an arbitrary approach of Government. There is some logic and sense in the approach in the way the Government is going about it.

However, in the meantime, one can almost be certain that for the next three years, notwithstanding the continued decline in the price of sugar and the impact of things like the euro to the U.S.A. dollar – because although Senator Mascoll quite naturally would want to slide past the impact of the euro and the decline of the euro *vis-a-vis* the US dollar – it makes a significant difference because between the beginning of the year when the crop started and the end of the year, you also have even a further reduction in what we will get in terms of our own receipts because of that decline in the rate of the two currencies, hence the need to support, as I said, the sugar industry at this point in time.

I indicated that the 1994 issue was repaid and the 1996 issue is going to be repaid by the end of this year.
12.45 p.m.

Government had quite naturally three possibilities in terms of supporting and financing it at this stage. Quite naturally, it could have gone for a direct loan. It could have gone for an injection which would amount to no more than what Senator Mascoll was saying but in essence a grant, or

it could have simply said, “Look, we will guarantee the loan, but, indeed, the industry itself must be able to function and to operate in a manner to be able to pay back that loan and, therefore, we are guarantors of last resort”.

In other words, you are not taking the responsibility out of the industry itself from being efficient, but what you are saying is that when you need that level of injection, the Government has to signal and indicate to the industry itself that it is serious in supporting the industry. If, at the end of the day, we arrive at a situation where one can come to a conclusion that the industry is viable, Government is prepared to assist as well.

We talked about a period of time when there were some 25 000 people employed in the sugar industry, but now we have just over 2 000 people. We will now have to look at some of those people who still find themselves working in the industry because tomorrow, if you remove those people, one would have an obligation and a responsibility to try to retrain them. I cannot sit here and tell you how many of these same people to whom we refer are indeed re-trainable into something else but, certainly, at this point in time, it makes good sense to make sure that we move forward cautiously with a sense of purpose and at the end of the day we take all the critical stakeholders and players into account.

Now, I alluded already to the fact that the receipts which we get presently represent in the region of 2.31 per cent of GDP. There is no gainsaying that people are still employed so it still takes care of employment consideration for us as a Government.

There is the foreign exchange component, and as I said, \$60 million in foreign exchange for a small country like ours is nothing that one can just dismiss like that and simply say we are going to go into some other form of production. However, I will say this, as Senator Sir John will tell you, sometimes in order for something to be viable you have to be able to operate at the scale of plant which makes it viable.

To come to say that we can do methanol technology and we can do fibre this and whatever, the question is what level of cultivation would be necessary in order to make these things viable. Those are some of the questions that have to be answered. We already know that for us, for example, to produce anywhere in the area of 75 000 tonnes of sugar that is desirable, it requires us to have to reap approximately what would be equivalent to 26 000 acres of sugar cane. Therefore, at the same time we would have to have more than that in cultivation. So we need in the region of 33 000 acres in any year if we want to reap at least 26 000 acres of sugar cane.

We all know that only as far as 1995 we had in the region of 18 000 acres or just above 18 000 acres of canes in

cultivation, and it was only because of one of the things that will flow out from this same Resolution, the fact that Government was able to continue to encourage the growers with their sugar incentive replanting programme, that we were able to move in 1995 from the 18 000 to approximately 21 000 by 1997.

In other words, you have to encourage people to plant, if not you are going to get what we have. We have close to 9 000 acres of land in Barbados lying idle and there are many reasons why those lands are lying idle. I guess the longer they remain idle and non-productive, the more argument one may want to advance as to why they ought to be deemed as rab land or whatever and then be cut up and put into house spots.

Part of this money is to support that replanting incentive scheme which is to encourage people to put more land that is presently lying idle back into sugar production because you need to be able to get back to that point where the whole thing becomes viable. I would like to see the day come when in truth and in fact as a Barbadian I will be able to use our own sugar year in and year out. I wish that can happen as opposed to us having first to satisfy our European quota and then normally there is nothing left for us as a people. But all of that can only happen if we decide what it is we want to do.

Do we want to recognise that the foreign exchange component is still important to us and that at least for the time being we do not have to look for \$60 million somewhere else or borrow it from somebody at an extraordinary rate of interest? In truth and in fact, even if we have to support it in Barbados dollars, we can be guaranteed the \$60 million in hard currency year after year.

The other point that one speaks to flippantly from time to time is important, the whole ecological consideration. In order to keep the soil in Barbados together, we know that sugar cane itself is the kind of plant that does that. So from the point of view of land degradation, there is that added benefit in terms of maintaining our sugar production. But I do not want to stress that as a reason but suffice it to say that whatever we do, it must be viable and the way to do it is exactly what Government did by setting up a committee to look at it and to report back.

If at the end of the day we believe... I do not know what the Committee will come up with, whether there will be one sugar factory or two sugar factories, whether we maintain three or whether we look towards other things like by-products, but whatever advantage we think that we can derive from maintaining the sugar industry, that, to my mind, is something that should flow out from the deliberations of the Committee.

Mr. President, I believe I have spoken to the reasons why the loan is before us. I think at this stage we cannot afford as a Government to sit by and just simply pronounce the final rites on the sugar industry. I think we have to take advice on it. I believe in the interim we need to support it and we need more importantly to signal to the independent producers and the small growers that Government is still committed to the industry so that they can think in the medium to long term of the way in which they themselves can continue to produce and grow sugar.

Mr. President, I have absolutely no difficulty in supporting this Resolution.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: 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.
12.55 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Senator Sir John Goddard.

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to support this Resolution in the full realization that it is really only buying time because there is no way that the BAMC could borrow \$50 million or any amount of money without the support of a Government guarantee. I just do not believe that its cash flow would be able to support the servicing of any loan and repayment of the principal. But in the circumstances, I think it is important that the industry is supported, but there has to be some urgency about restructuring the industry itself. As Senator Laurie has said, there is need for a business and strategic plan.

I do not believe that Barbados can do without the sugar cane industry, and I stress the word "cane" because I agree with what has been said earlier that we do not necessarily have to produce sugar. But for economic and ecological reasons, I believe we need to retain a sugar industry for the foreseeable future. Unless some plan is developed sooner than later, I can see Parliament having to meet again within another three or four years to pass a similar Resolution; and that is not good enough. We cannot be calling on the taxpayers to be, in effect, subsidizing the industry whether by way of transfer, payments by grant or by a loan supported by Government guarantee.

While I fully support it now, there is an urgency in which some sort of plan has to be prepared so that we can see exactly where we are going whether it is with one factory, two factories or three factories. I do not pretend to know the answers. That will come out of recommendations made by the experts who know and understand the various factors.

Sir, once again I say that I rise to support this Resolution but I hope that we do not have to come back here in another three years to approve a similar Resolution for a similar or even larger amount.

I thank you, Sir.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution and there is a basic reason why I want to support this Resolution. There are numerous particular interests existing in the sugar industry and I firmly believe that we need a very in-depth study of the sugar industry and more so by people who have not got these special interests in the industry and sectors of the industry.

We have to look back at 1992-93 when BAMC was created. The Government of the day had ample opportunity to really create the unified sugar industry in Barbados for the benefit of the people. We hear so much of the previous plantation owners who took the money out of sugar and injected it into the hotel industry and left the sugar industry and lands wobbling along the road. The Government of the day came in and I can say this. I represent the Sugar Industry Staff Association which is an association of all the managers, overseers and technical people in the industry.

We have asked over and over to see a copy of the Agreement between BAMC and Booker Tate and it has never be produced. The first thing we have to do is to restructure the whole administration of the industry. You have a system which the only one who knows how it works, I believe, is God in heaven above. You have Booker Tate and you have the CEO. I do not want to say much about this because I see in today's newspaper that the CEO is not renewing his contract. You have a Board, and you have a place up in Warrens, and you have another office up in Christ Church. I can say that I heard one of the men from Warrens say that "Divi" have special people up there with special terms that nobody knows anything about.

The expenses in the sugar industry are scattered far and wide. What we have to ask ourselves is how much goes into the administration of the sugar industry? That is the first thing we want to find out. When we know that, then we can tell whether or not we will have a viable sugar industry in Barbados, because we would know where to cut and where the benefits will result.

I heard Senator Mascoll mention about political reasons in that place up in St. George. Sir, I read in the newspaper one Sunday how there was a recommendation to close Bulkeley factory. Now the people that I represent came to my house. We sought a meeting with the Prime Minister and they said to bring a report. We sat down and we prepared a report in two days and took it to the Prime Minister's Office. Regarding all the talk that you hear about a single sugar factory and closing Bulkeley, those people will not tell you what are their particular interests in closing Bulkeley and having one single sugar factory.

Sir, I heard Senator Laurie talking about Bulkeley factory and what happened to it last crop, but he should have carried on and told the public the truth. They brought a Frenchman in here as an engineer and put him to run the factory at Andrews. He knew nothing about Andrews. Then they moved him down to Bulkeley and the flywheel at Bulkeley works in a particular system. So when the flywheel went, everything went through the roof. The sugar factories are special to Barbados. I see a Booker Tate Report that said to close Bulkeley, close Andrews and keep Portvale which is a new factory. But there is a Bajan term called "new old" or "old new". Portvale was built by Louis Greenidge from all the discarded factory equipment from around the Caribbean – Antigua, Guyana and Barbados.

The same people who put in the report about a one-sugar factory will not tell you and when I ask them, nobody answered. They said there was no way that you could expand at Bulkeley or Andrews. But after Portvale was built, they realized that the road was too narrow. So the Government had to come in and widen the road from St. Thomas Parish Church and put in a new bridge. When I asked them if either one of them has ever driven behind a cane cart from the corner of Groves to get to Andrews and what happens, nobody answered. But if anyone wants to chance like us who have to drive around the country as lawyers going from court to court, if you get behind a cane cart anywhere from Lower Estate going to Andrews, you cannot pass it until it turns into Andrews. So you look at the structural improvement that would have to be done to every road leading to these places and see what happens.

Sir, they will not tell you also that they brought in a piece of instrument for Portvale that cost over a million dollars that they said would save sugar. That threw away two million dollars in sugar last crop season, because the people we have running the sugar industry do not know anything about the sugar industry in Barbados. I dare say that they do not know anything about the sugar industry in Barbados. This is where our problem is.

They talk about one sugar factory in Barbados. I asked them a simple question. Do you know the story they put up? Oh, they have a rum factory running by electronics and

computers that employs two or three people. I asked a simple question. In making rum, do you put a cane cart out in the fields that grabs everything?

Remember we do not have a foundry in Barbados anymore. The way sugar is grown around the world you have to plough the land every four or five years because of impaction. You plough it with metal discs. When a piece of metal drops off and you cut the cane the next year, and you pick it up and drop it in a cane cart and then drop it in a mill, and the mill goes through the eddoes, you will see what happens to your sugar. All the sugar out there on the ground will spoil in four or five days. So come with a one-factory and I hope to live to laugh at those who say so. If you tell me how you are going to purge the sugar from the big rocks, because every time you plough a field in Barbados rocks come to the surface. Tell me how you will stop that from going into the mill and breaking the mill. You have no foundries in Barbados to repair the mill.

2.10 p.m.

Ask Senator Laurie what happened when Portvale stopped this year for nearly three weeks. He would be able to tell you if he wants to. I hear Senator Laurie talk about cotton as an ideal rotation crop and we should look at this. Ask Senator Laurie how many plantations in Barbados grow cotton today. Ask him how many plantations planted cotton four or five years ago and left it in the ground without reaping a pod. You do not have to tell a farmer to plant something that is beneficial to him. Ask them what has CARDI been doing to help agriculture in this country and ask them what is the big dispute between BAMC and Eastern Caribbean Fertilizer Company (Barbados) Limited. Then you will get to the bottom of what is happening in sugar in this country.

If you come from away and tell the people in Barbados to grow sugar and this is right, nobody in the Caribbean can tell them that they are wrong. The man at Eastern Caribbean Fertilizer Company (Barbados) Limited has been able to prove that with better fertilization you can increase your production of sugar. They are fighting against him because he is a local Bajan telling them so.

From the time I came along as a boy I heard about 12-12-17+2 fertilizer. That is all we know because it was sent to us from England. When the man sought to prove that by changing your fertilizer basis you can have increased production from the same land, all you hear is that we cannot see it. Do you know why? They are blind. They do not want to see.

The same cotton that they talk about when I was Minister of Agriculture, I held a three day seminar in my office on cotton. A man called Spence who was the expert sent here from Britain, a Bajan sent here by the British, said, "Mr. Bolden, I agree with you, Mr. Minister. We cannot

grow cotton profitably in Barbados at all because we have too many pests."

That is why I asked what is CARDI doing. The Sea Island cotton that they are talking about now grows taller than me. Sea Island cotton is a short crop but because there has been no research into Sea Island cotton it is allowed to grow tall, and the cost of growing cotton is now exorbitant. You have to be dressed in special gear, special equipment for putting on pesticides.

They brought one machine here to reap cotton and when it finished it tainted so much of the cotton that the cotton was of no use. So do not talk half of the things in supporting particular interests. I heard the same Senator Laurie talk about letting go, and he and his group agreed to let go all of the land on the seaside of Highway 2A to be developed.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Yes, you came in here and said so. With respect, Mr. President, when Cottage wanted to get out two or three pieces they said no to that. That is why I said that the sugar industry has particular interests for particular reasons.

They talk about growing particular canes for building material. I would like Senator Laurie to take a look on the Internet and check and see if bamboo is not a developing crop in the construction industry around the world. How much do you have to re-cultivate for bamboo? It is a crop that grows continuously. These are the things – special interests and special thoughts but not the general interest of the entire community.

Mr. President, for a long time now I have been saying that what we need to do in Barbados is what I have seen in Taiwan years ago, a factory that produces all the by-products of sugar. You get sugar, granulated sugar, syrup, everything, coming through a factory. That is another thing. We bring in people who have interests in the end product of sugar out there and we must do the hard work here of growing it and produce raw sugar to sell it elsewhere for somebody to finish manufacturing. Instead of our looking at a factory or one of the factories that would produce our own granulated sugar in Barbados and try and retain in this country as many of the jobs as possible, we get up and support those who say we should have a one-factory sugar factory to send everything outside.

To talk about that little place in St. George again, nobody has considered, I believe, except the Prime Minister, that you are losing small farmers out of the sugar industry daily. At the end of the day, which small farmer in St. Philip can afford to send a load of cane to St. Lucy where the

rumour of this new one-factory is going to be? They say it is supposed to be next to the cement plant in St. Lucy. They say it is to use the same furnaces and everything and these rumours coming from high office are now causing the technical people in the sugar industry to leave. So we will find shortly that we do not have any of the technical people who know about the sugar industry in Barbados.

When I sat down representing a union and I said to them that we should try to retain the old people in the sugar industry for as long as possible the BAMC team said, "No". As they get to 60 – outside, 65, the maximum, outside! They do not want you anymore. They have no uses for you. I can show you the Agreements because I sat down and tried to negotiate with them because you have people who do not understand the sugar industry in Barbados. All the other people who love the sugar industry are now saying that they have no uses for us so we might as well leave.

There was a meeting about three weeks ago when a senior person in the sugar industry told a manager to get up and leave in a discussion about the sugar industry. He said, "If I were at you I would leave, but I am not at you." That is the attitude in the industry today.

There is still unfinished business. When BAMC was created, there was supposed to be a document which transferred the plantations from the owners to BAMC. As I understand it, only one of those documents have been signed up to this day. So there is uncertainty in the industry.

You have a situation where you have a trade union negotiating with BAMC and with a certain amount of big business in the sugar industry, and private enterprise out there is sitting down waiting because they know what is happening.
2.20 p.m.

Mr. President, as I have said, farmers who have been growing sugar continue to grow sugar for a reason. I have heard somebody here said today that the only thing that pays is the food crop in the plantations. If that is true, why is it that BAMC has shut down all the food crops off their plantations. If that is true, tell me why, and Senator Laurie used to sit on the Board of BAMC.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, on a point of order. I have never ever sat on the Board of BAMC at all. I am hearing Senator Bolden make a lot of accusations here today.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: BAMC has shut down all the food crops. Once before you used to get sweet potatoes, yams, eddoes, pigeon peas – all these things were grown on the plantation and what happens now. They only grow canes.

Mr. President, I have to support the Resolution. If you know the sugar industry in Barbados, it is going to be very difficult to run it. We will always be losing money but, unfortunately, we have an attitude in Barbados that once you come from over and away, that what is done is correct until we find ourselves way out to sea.

I support the Resolution but I would wish that the Government would take a very careful look at the industry. The Chief Executive Officer has intimated that he is not renewing his contract and I see in today's paper that the Ministry of Agriculture says that somebody else has been identified. I hope this would be a golden opportunity to look at the whole administrative section of the industry and come with perfect plans of what we are going to do with the industry in the next five years because it is not going to take one, two or three years to revamp this industry. It is going to take considerable time to restore the industry and decide whether or not we are going to have a sugar industry that is producing sugar only for Barbados or whether we are going to have an industry that attempts to produce sugar for export.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I just want to say a few words and to support this Resolution.

As we all know, sugar suits our conditions and I think that is something that should be borne in mind in any decision that is taken either in the short-term or the long-term. It restores humus and keeps down weeds. It is a very tolerant grass and it is grown in latitudes north and south of us. What is very important is that it is still very valuable for the foreign exchange that it brings in. I think also one has to bear in mind that if the sugar industry were to collapse that there will be a cadre of men and women who work in this industry, the collapse of which would present great difficulty.

Then there is the environmental factor. Barbados all the years has been noted not only for its sun, sand and sea but its sugar cane. Tourists and locals enjoy the sight of acres of waving sugar cane and I am sure that Barbados would be the poorer, I am not now speaking only financially but environmentally and from an aesthetic point of view if we have abandoned, desolate lands. I am reminded of Calvary's famous poem in which he says:

"The golden sun shines on the lush green canefields magnificently."

With those few words I wish to repeat that I support this Resolution.
2.30 p.m.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution. I want to focus on this Resolution a bit. We have been talking around the Resolution and I am not certain that all of us have read the Resolution.

The Resolution seeks Parliament's approval for a guarantee by the Minister of Finance for the payment of principal and interest necessary for the redemption of bond issue of \$51 million. Parliament is just giving a guarantee. There is a reason why we are called upon to give a guarantee. There are certain risks associated with any sort of borrowing and the sugar industry, because of its powerless nature, would hardly, as some Senators said, be able to go on the market and attract a loan of this size without the guarantee given by Government.

In addition, because Government is giving a guarantee, the sugar industry will get a better rate of interest because the risk factor is obviously less so you can get a better rate of interest.

I quote from the Schedule that the interest rate is 8 per cent. It is 1 per cent less than the local prime rate, so it is about 8 per cent. The guarantee by Government of this loan enables them, first of all, to get the loan and, secondly, to get the loan at a decent rate of interest.

Sir, it is of interest to note that this is not the first time that the sugar industry has borrowed money. As Senator Williams said, when they borrowed money in the past, they were able to repay the loan. So, in spite of the nature of the industry they are still able to service the loan, and the guarantee that the Government gave some years back did not really cost the taxpayers because the loan was repaid.

If you look carefully, this loan is not a one-shot loan, but this loan as we see in the Schedule to the Bill, is in three tranches. This year is \$16 000 000, next year \$17 000 000 and the following year \$18 000 000 – in three tranches. As soon as Parliament agrees to the guarantee, if we so agree, then they will go and get the first tranche of \$16 000 000.

What is this money to be used for? Again I go to the Addendum. It is financed out of crop capital requirements. For example, Sir, this is the time that the factories would, traditionally refurbish making sure that the factories are in good shape for the next grinding season. Obviously, you cannot wait until the grinding season starts to effect these sorts of repairs and refurbishments.

During the off-season period you have to have money in which to carry out the necessary repairs, so that is what this money is there for. It is something that has been happening for quite a few years so it is nothing new that we are called upon to do this afternoon. It is an ongoing way in

which the sugar industry has been financed over the past few years. It is the method of finance.

This brings us back to the whole question of the sugar industry. Senator Mascoll made an interesting statement where he said that BAMC had inadequately managed the sugar industry. I hope I have heard him correctly because I wrote what he said – that the industry was inadequately managed. Sir, we trust Senator Mascoll to have good information, so we have to assume that his information is correct.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: We tend to think of the sugar industry in a narrow way. We think only in terms of the growing of sugar cane and the processing of sugar cane into sugar. Historically, the sugar industry included other things like the rum industry. Enormous profits are made from the rum industry, but they are siphoned off and all that is left is the shell. If we look at the industry as a totality we might find that it might be profitable.

Furthermore, if you look at how the sugar industry has been chopped up, the inputs to the sugar industry, is there any good reason why the sugar industry should not be managing, importing and doing their own inputs? Was there any good reason why the owners/operators of the sugar industry, in years gone by, decided they were going to take off the profitable non-risk part? There is no risk in fertiliser, because you basically know how much fertiliser you have to import. They have taken off the low-risk parts, put them by themselves, and all that is left is the high-risk operation.

I am not sure that some of these estates, in calculating the cost of producing sugar, are not giving us an incorrect picture. For instance, is it not possible that some of the costs associated with growing sugar grows other crops? There is a possibility that maybe the cost that they say is a sugar cost, part of it is used to grow potatoes, and all the costs go to sugar but the revenue goes to non-sugar agriculture. So, you may not be getting the full picture of the sugar industry if we take these costs as given.

I believe, Sir, that if we look at it in totality, look at the non-sugar as well as the sugar part of the operation, we might find that at the end of the day we may have a profitable operation. I am not certain that the sugar industry, taken as a whole, including all the bits and pieces, when you add them together you may not get an operation which could be profitable. This exercise has never been done but it is something that we need to look at if we are going to persist in growing sugar.

We need not take the bits and pieces in isolation but look at it in a holistic sort of way to see whether or not the

benefits outweigh the costs. Then and only then should we be making definitive decisions about the sugar industry. We need to have the total picture.

We hear talk about a factory costing millions of dollars. Of course, we have to ask when we expend that sort of money, are we going to get the sort of returns? Unless we do the whole exercise, look at all the costs centres and all the revenue centres, we will not be in a position to make that sort of investment decision.

We are a long way away from making a definitive decision about sugar. My view is that the BAMC should have started this a long time ago so that they would be better able to advise about the potential of the industry.

Mr. President, I am afraid that I do not have this emotional attachment to sugar. I do not agree with the calypso that sugar made us free. I am going to look at it in the light of cold facts. We have been growing sugar for 350 years but we have been growing it in a way that we might not want to continue. We have to take a detached look at the whole industry.

It is true that we need a grass to cover our soil but sugar is not the only grass. Is it not better to plant grass to feed black belly sheep? As everybody knows, black belly sheep produce the best mutton in the world. We cannot compete with New Zealand lamb. If you look at the quality of our lamb and compare it to New Zealand lamb, we do not want to compete with that. We should be looking at a niche market because our lamb is the best that I have ever tasted.

We are taking our good black belly stock, developed under our special conditions, and shipping it overseas to Malaysia and other places. We are selling our birth right for a "mess of pottage". That is what we are doing. We have not exploited the potential of our lamb industry. It is very possible that we can get some of the land that is now under sugar production, have proper pastures established and use it to grow a small amount of black belly sheep, a small amount because we do not want to flood the market. So we will take proper marketing decisions as to how much we can reasonably expect to sell, noting that a million people visit our shores every year, both in terms of long stay and cruise stay.

We need to exploit our potential as far as other agricultural crops are concerned and the black belly sheep is one area. We need to have proper research done and I think that we have enough scientists in the region that we can do the research and develop a feasible alternative so that we can still grow sugar, but as everybody knows, any amount of sugar that we grow we are able to get it sold. Selling sugar is not the issue. The issue is the price. There is every indication

that the price we are going to get for sugar is going to decline in years to come, so our costs are escalating and we are basically the price takers.

A lot was said about cotton and I disagree with most of what was said about cotton. Our cotton is about the best in the world. The Sea Island cotton that is grown in the Caribbean is about the best cotton in the world. We must not treat cotton like we treated sugar. We produce raw sugar and Tate and Lyle in Europe makes the money out of sugar. That is what we have done to our sugar. We must not do the same thing to our cotton, because if we treat cotton as just a primary industry, we will never be able to give the farmers the sort of returns that are necessary. If we treat cotton as an integrated industry, I believe that there is enormous potential which is untapped in the luxury clothing market, but we have not done enough research.

The last Democratic Labour Party Government, CARSICOT was a good idea. The whole concept of CARSICOT was not a bad idea but it fell into the wrong hands. I remember in this Senate, 1991-1994, people on the Government Side, I was on the Opposition bench, talked about the crooks in CARSICOT. They were the ones who brought them in the first place and they were describing them as crooks.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Is that relevant, Senator, to the Resolution which is before us?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: With due respect, Sir, some Senator mentioned cotton as an alternative to sugar but I can move away from that particular point.

I want to make the point that cotton can be seen as a viable alternative to sugar. We have the sort of climate, and this can be proven, where we can grow cotton without the need for a lot of water of which there is not too much available for large-scale agriculture. We must not resign ourselves to believing the only thing that can grow in Barbados is sugar. In my view, that is mere propaganda. My own feeling is that we are not even a good sugar-growing country because our temperatures are probably a little bit too high. We need cooler temperatures.
2.40 p.m.

This is an era where the cost of production is a vital factor. In years gone by we had free or cheap labour – slave labour and semi slave labour so you could actually manicure the crops and get a good yield. I think Senator Bolden was saying that every four or five years you have to re-till the land because of compact and the ratoons do not give the same yields as they used to give.

When I was a boy, you used to get the fifth and sixth crops producing very well but you do not get that now. In those years when you had a lot of labour available probably it was viable but because of the scarcity of labour, it is now becoming more expensive. I do not think we can ever get back to that stage so sugar may have been a viable crop but we now have to put it under the microscope to see if the economics of it would really put us in an advantage.

Sir, my complaint is that what we are saying now should have been said ten years ago. It is nothing new, but it seems as though we are not preparing ourselves for an era where sugar is no longer king. We have not yet started to make the necessary analyses to make informed decisions and this is where we need to be. We need to make decisions, not tomorrow but yesterday, and we would only make decisions when we have all of the facts and figures in front of us.

Sir, if we are talking about a factory costing \$200 million and only the Government could find that sort of money is by using the taxpayers' money. So what is going to happen now is that the sugar industry is in trouble and the only bail-out is the State but the question is, as a taxpayer, am I going to be satisfied with putting that sort of money in an industry which has an uncertain future? So we need to sit down and make these decisions and we need to start the process now.

Sir, my problem is that what everybody said here has been said years ago but we are no further along the line in making decisions. When the sugar industry collapsed in the late eighties – when the other Party was in Government because they were the ones that brought in Booker Tate – and the analysis was not started. There was no attempt made to really look at the industry and see where we should go.

We brought in Booker Tate hoping that it could solve all of our problems and we found that after many years of Booker Tate we are still back to square one, and I am not sure that this country has really benefitted from having Booker Tate. I think that experiment failed in my own view and we have not benefitted because we are nowhere further along the line in the decision-making process. We need to see where we are with sugar and start making proper decisions. I am told that there is a task force and we hope they will accelerate their work so that we can then be in a better position.

Sir, as a stop-gap measure, we have to support this Resolution because we cannot just allow chaos to be the result. In some countries where there has been a sort of unplanned removal of sugar from the landscape, we have seen the environmental degradation that has resulted and we do not want that to happen in Barbados. It has to be in a phased, controlled and properly researched manner because

we cannot afford to have our landscape in a state of bush. In pasture land it is proper but we do not want to go that way. The effects on our environment would be tremendous and it would affect all of the other industries so we need to support this Resolution and give the industry a breathing space, but in the meantime impress upon them the need to really look at the whole industry, especially noting the pivotal role sugar plays in the whole agriculture industry. We need to sit down and make these sorts of decisions.

Sir, with those few words, I want to urge this Chamber to support this Resolution, noting that the Agricultural Management Company has a history of repaying its debt and all we are doing here is giving a guarantee to enable them to start the out-of-crop work so that next year, February or March, they will be in a position to harvest the crop.

Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution because I do not think at this time there is anything else we can do other than to prop up the sugar cane industry. I want to say, from as far back as post-slavery period in the 1830s – 1839 *et cetera*, they have been recommending diversification, and I have been hearing it throughout history. They have been recommending all these things and we do not seem to be able to pull it together. I only hope that this Multi-disciplinary Task Force will be able to sit down and take a good look and point to some sort of direction in which we should go regarding sugar cane.

I personally feel that we need to grow enough sugar for the consumption of our population because our sugar is much more nutritious than the white granulated sugar with all the chemicals.

I also feel, Mr. President, that while we are talking about this, what does not make sense to me, is that sometimes the sugar cane crop is brought to an end and all the canes have not been cut and they did not grind all the canes, some have been left standing. I do not know the reason for this and I sincerely hope that the Multi-disciplinary Task Force could have a look at the practice of not grinding all the canes to see if there is a reason for it and give us some sort of explanation. People have been talking about it, crop after crop but it seems to carry on all the time.

I would also like to see them return to giving us molasses. Sir, we need to get the by-products of sugar cane such as syrup and molasses here again like when we were young. We also used to be able to get cane juice. Now, everything is so difficult that if you go to the factory and even want to purchase something, the people tell you that things have changed, you cannot get cane juice and you

cannot get this or that. I would like to see them make it possible at least to put it on the supermarket shelf so that we can buy some of the by-products.

2.50 p.m.

One question I would like to see the Committee answer is who owns the plantations that are growing the sugar canes. Are they owned by Government? Are they owned by private enterprise or what? Because if they are owned by private persons, they need to repay the subsidy that Government is paying towards propping up the sugar industry.

I noticed that there is a lot of land which used to grow sugar cane which is now grassland. I do not know if it is unprofitable for the owners to grow sugar cane anymore and I do not know if the land is being allowed to lie fallow hoping that it would be converted into residential areas. I know we have been talking about the most economic use of our land. I sincerely hope we are not going to have nearly every space with a concrete building on it and not having sugar cane and agricultural crops.

One other comment I would like to make is this. I noticed that there will be a need for a Chief Executive Officer. Is this the time now when everything is at the crossroads to appoint a new CEO, or is this the time ... It could work both ways. One could appoint a new CEO to coordinate the examination and redevelopment of the sugar industry or its downfall, or whatever, or one could do an analysis and decide what type of CEO is needed. I think that we need to look at it very carefully and decide which way we are going to go. Are you going to appoint somebody now for a short time or are you going to look and see what skills you need and then appoint the person?

I wish the Multi-disciplinary Task Force success and hope that we could once and for all come to some conclusion about which direction we would like to go regarding the sugar industry.

SENATOR G. E. N. BROME: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution. Mr. President, I think the sugar industry has been important to Barbados for many years and I think it still plays an important role in the lives and history of Barbadians.

Mr. President, I think it is important for the Ministry of Health to take into consideration the level of diabetes in this country. We have a very serious situation in Barbados with diabetes. I believe that one of these days the sugar content and the sugar consumption in Barbados should be taken into consideration.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: The United States of America Food and Drug Administration did a study on the

problem of sugar consumption and showed that there was no correlation between sugar consumption and diabetes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will treat that as a point of order.

SENATOR G. E. N. BROME: Over the years, our consumption of sugar has been enormous. I do not think we understand it enough. Most of us behave like little children. We enjoy sweet things and we eat them all our lives and regardless of which doctor from wherever says what, I still believe that sugar will affect our health and I feel that the Minister of Health and his Department should do something about the sugar content in our soft drinks and even in our breads.

With those few words, I thank you very much.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, in bringing the debate on this Resolution to a close, it is very clear that the sugar industry is perceived as many things to many people. It is unfortunate that Senator Mascoll would have us close it down tonight. I do not think that would be in the best interest of Barbados and certainly not in the best interest of the wider agricultural community.

Sugar production is a very complex issue that encompasses not only agriculture but industrial production as well as the transportation network that we have. It is very clear that this is still a critical part of our economy. It is valuable. It provides meaningful employment for thousands of people and it is something that we have to handle carefully.

This Government, with its responsibility to discharge its duties to all of its citizens, is embarking on a programme to analyse how the industry can be developed, how it can be fostered and how it fits into supporting the wider agricultural production in this island.

I would like to say that the issue of alternative crops has always been batted around and we have always been besieged with consultants from around the globe who come here to tell us what they know best. I am mindful of the Royal Commission who advised Grenada just before the Second World War that they should produce more maize and less nutmeg because the price of maize was high and the price of nutmeg was low.

I am also mindful of the fact that we are the best people to know what our interests are. Just last week, I purchased a can of syrup in a supermarket that was labelled "Dark Treacle", and I remember the Sling that I used to get from Frere Pilgrim in a small can with a blue label. When I saw this little can, Frere Pilgrim came to mind and I said I was going to buy it and take it home and taste it to see if it was

anything like Sling and it was quite a bit like Sling only thing it was burnt. It was relatively unpalatable but it attracted a very hefty price.

I must say that if it is one pet thing I have with agriculture, it is the neglect of adequate marketing of the products – product development and product marketing. It came to mind, that when I was a young man in Barbados, a bottle of rum used to sell for about \$3 or \$4 for a 26 oz bottle, in these days a 750cc. We were producing a commodity. Recently, I was in the duty-free Lounge in Barbados and I bought a special bottle of rum to take to a friend in Geneva and it costs \$115 and the shelf was full. A couple of weeks later I was going to Washington and I wanted to get another to take to another friend as a special gift from Barbados. There was not one in sight. They all had been sold out and we can imagine selling rum for \$115 duty free. Now that is why I talk about marketing value added products and we have to learn this in our sugar industry as well as our wider agricultural industry.
3.00 p.m.

With those few comments, Mr. President, I think we have an absolute duty to ensure that agricultural activities remain viable in Barbados by passing this Resolution and I wholeheartedly support the passing of this Resolution to support the sugar industry over the next three years. I now move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 4 – SUGAR INDUSTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, in rising to introduce the Sugar Industry (Amendment) Bill, 2000, this Bill is to amend section 26 of the Sugar Industry Act by deleting the words “and fancy molasses” appearing in subsection (1) and by deleting subsection (2) and substituting the following:

“With effect from the 1st day of January, 2000 the levy shall be paid by the Barbados Agricultural Management Company to the Board...” [that is the National Insurance Board] “...not later than the 30th day of June each year.”

Now this arises because in 1984 when BSIL went into receivership and ceased to operate the sugar factories, the management of the factories was then later taken over by the Barbados Agricultural Management Company or the BAMC. Since that time, the BAMC has been paying the levy to the National Insurance Board. Now this levy is to the Sugar

Workers’ Provident Fund. Consequently, it is now necessary to change the legislation to indicate the new time frame for payment of the sugar levy and the name of the company which now pays the sugar levy to the National Insurance Board. In other words, the change was made, but no change in the legislation reflecting this. Therefore, this Bill would regularize the payment of the levy to the Provident Fund at the National Insurance Board.

I move that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question that the Bill be now read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill. HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, 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. P. C. GODDARD, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Sugar Industry (Amendment) Act, 2000.

ORDER NO. 5 – THE FINAL APPROPRIATION (1999-2000) BILL, 2000

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, the Final Appropriation (1999-2000) Bill, in respect of all supplementary expenditure voted by the House of Assembly and pursuant to sub-section (4), the Minister responsible for Finance may at anytime before the end of the financial year introduce into the House of Assembly a Supplementary Appropriation Bill containing under appropriate heads the aggregate sum so voted and shall as soon as possible after the end of each financial year introduce into the House of Assembly a Final Appropriation Bill containing any such sums which have not yet been included in any Appropriation Bill.

This supplementary grant of \$119,784,003 is presented for approval by the Honourable Senate. The Schedule, Part I outlines the various heads as follows:

	\$
Governor-General	3 789
Judiciary	4 928
Parliament	244 044
Prime Minister's Office	2 950 743
Cabinet Office	248 905
Ministry of The Civil Service	17 079

3.10 p.m.

	\$
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs	26 609 586
Ministry of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development	251 224
Ministry of Industry and International Business	255 152
Ministry of Health	18 056 403
Ministry of Social Transformation	644 176
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1 566 733
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources	1 566 733
Ministry of Tourism and International Transport	951 186
Ministry of Home Affairs	4 360 500
Director of Public Prosecutions	3 000
Attorney-General	1 313 557
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	758 089
Ministry of Labour, Sports and Public Sector Reform	659 028
Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture	11 075 684
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	14 221 290
Ministry of Housing and Lands	1 100 274
Post Office	104 213
TOTAL	119 784 003

I beg that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I will support this Bill, but I would like to make a comment that \$119 million which is almost \$120 million in excess of the Budget tells us that what we needed to do is to look at each area more closely so that the overrun does not amount to so much with prudent planning. I know there will be unforeseen circumstances that will arise in many Ministries and areas, but I do not think they should amount to \$119 million.

Most of the contribution that I would like to make to this final Bill would be under the area of Health. I would like to start with Programme 360 – Primary Health Care Services which include Maternal and Child Care and various polyclinics.

Recently, there has been much talk and writing about the upbringing of our young, the cry from mothers for assistance for children and the indiscipline of children. What I would like to say is that most of the nurses in the polyclinics are trained in Jamaica and they are not kept in the school. They have to walk up and down the countryside with the public health nurses who hold the keys to the polyclinics in Jamaica and virtually run the health centres themselves in Jamaica.

They go to the homes and they educate the mothers in the upbringing of their children, not only what to give them to eat, but how to feed them from the family pot instead of buying all of these expensive baby foods, also what type of clothes, what to wear, for example, to buy cotton instead of the expensive nylon and the type of shoes to wear.

When the nurses return to Barbados this will be lost. I think we need to re-organise and restructure our health care services to allow those public health nurses to practise what they have been taught and it will go a long way in assisting the parents with guidance from the time they are pregnant until the children become teenagers in their upbringing. That is what nurses are taught to do, they hold classes, they show them what clothes, they hold sessions with clothes and show them the type of clothes that the children must wear and they give them guidance. If they pick up anything untoward it is referred to a doctor. This is how our public health nurses are trained in Jamaica. They are not trained to sit down in the polyclinics and weigh babies and just talk to a few mothers. You can get aides to weigh babies although the public health nurses can talk to the mothers. I would like to see us get involved in nursing in the community instead of hospital and clinic nursing.

Mr. President, throughout the world the health care systems are changing and there is a shift from hospitals to community care. It is much cheaper and it is better to nurse people if they can be nursed in their homes rather than let them go into hospitals where it is extremely expensive.

Now when people have surgery they only stay in hospital for two or three days or four days and then they are sent back home to be nursed. This is the direction Barbados will have to go if it needs to save cost in our health care industry under maternal and child health and then we shall see less of the mothers crying out about their children.

They even advise mothers to send them to Sunday School. This is what the nurses do. They talk to them about life in general because this is how they are trained. Nurses are trained how to bring up children until they reach adolescence and they specialise in other areas.

Another area I would like to talk about under health care is the area of education. When I am talking about

education, I am not talking about education via the mass media as we have recently heard about the new Aedes Aegypti programme. They are spending quite a lot of money over the mass media and, Mr. President, that is not very effective for the hard core that you want to reach. That is effective for people who are interested in getting rid of the mosquito but the people you need to reach are the hard core people whose homes you have to go to and inspect and tell them what to do and what not to do. Then, if necessary, give them a warning in writing if they would not do as they are told. You have to educate them. It has to be a face-to-face education because the impact of mass media is not as great as the face to face education. I will tell you why.

I was in charge of health education for quite a few years and I worked on a research project with one of the doctors. A gentleman came and told me that he has moved out of his wife's bedroom because she has high blood pressure and this thing is catching. I had to sit down and say to him that you do not catch high blood pressure and explain to him that he should move back into his wife's room as that would help to bring down her pressure because moving out only gets her a bit more agitated and worried. His idea was that he heard about high blood pressure and he said this thing is catching, a lot of people are getting it. This is what I mean by face to face education. You have to sit down and explain to some people, not everybody, about the mosquito and what it does to you. Usually the middle-class people tend to understand because they listen to the media and they read books but then there is a set of people you need to get to. We need to spend a lot of time on them because of the different strains of dengue that are here. I am taking a little time to talk about this because we did not have them. When I was Health Education Officer and I worked with Dr. Belle our aim was to prevent these strains from coming to Barbados.
3.20 p.m.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I know we have airplanes and you will tell me that they can come in on airplanes, but we also have to give education in order to keep these things out and in order to prevent people dying from them. I do not think people realise what dengue fever is. The same type of health education is needed for the HIV programme but it needs to be more face to face.

Mr. President, so much health education is needed in so many areas and Government does not have the money to spend on all of these areas and set up groups responsible for educating people on drug abuse and also on HIV. You need to educate people about healthy lifestyles and teach them what is healthy regarding the preventative aspect of health education instead of picking out one or two or three of them.

For example, we are hearing that diabetes is a major problem, we knew that from the 1980s. Dr. Jordan did a lot

of research and I worked with him in the research area and we knew that because of inter-marriages between families, *et cetera* that the incidence of diabetes was very high.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Inter- marriages between families in Barbados. Nearly everybody in Barbados is related. We are a small island and families marry into each other and you will find that there is diabetes or hypertension in each family. We know that nobody should have an amputation. We know that no woman should die from cancer but Government seems reluctant to set up a health education unit and that is what is needed because this is a recurring decimal regarding education. You pick up the newspapers and read about it and then you remember that you talked about it in the '70s and it is still occurring and next year somebody will talk about some other disease, but you cannot set up projects for each one of them because you do not have the money. What you have to do is set up a health education unit to produce the literature, get the same public health inspectors and public health nurses to go out into the community and assist with educating the people. What I used to do, if I educated a group at a primary school I educated the school during the day and the parents in the evening so that the parents were given the same type of education that the children were given and they complemented each other. This is one reason that I keep calling for nurses in the schools.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I know that I keep singing that but it will help with your education. Teachers are there to teach but they are not competent to pick up the asthmatic child with an attack or a hyperactive child. You need a nurse to pick up these things and attend to these areas and let the teachers get on with teaching. You will find that if you can find a little amount of money regarding health education and putting the nurses in schools it will go a long way in educating parents, teachers and children.

Mr. President, another area in the Appropriation Bill that I would like to touch on is the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I am very much aware that a Committee has been set up and that they are doing their work and we are awaiting the outcome of what they have done so I am not going to touch on sensitive areas as such. What I would like to comment on is the area of health aides that has been introduced into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. They help but they can go a long way in assisting some more. What I think we are going to have to do is to allow either some of the nurse managers to go to Canada or America and let them see how health aides function or hold seminars so that we can educate them.

If one could get a WHO Fellowship and allow them to visit a hospital overseas so that they can see how to integrate

this type of health care personnel into the system, I think that would help a lot. Even though the health aides are there, they are not allowed to take a report of the patient. Yet I was in the Hospital the other day and I heard a doctor saying to a health aide that a person was a diabetic and since the person was not eating that he wanted the health aide to make sure that she fed that person often.

Mr. President, they are at cross purposes. Here it is that nurses are told that they must not allow the health aides to hear the Ward's report on the various patients, yet they are giving patient care.

We all know there is something called "team nursing" in which everybody counts from the health aide right up to the nurse in charge. You really cannot nurse patients unless you are given a proper report so they really need to be more integrated into the Hospital than they have been. They also need to be given a uniform so that they feel that they belong to the system. They have been a great help. They run errands and they help the nurses. At night when there are no nurses, they have to do the nursing care. There is nobody else around to do it or if not the patients would not get any nursing care. This is more the reason why they should be more integrated into the system.

3.30 p.m.

Government cannot afford to pay these highly qualified nurses, not the amount that is needed to give the care. What you have to do is to have so many registered nurses, nursing assistants and health aides in order to cut the cost of running the Hospital. I do not want to go in front of the Committee that has been set up to implement the Haynes Commission recommendations. I would like to see them get on with their work and look forward to hearing from them as soon as possible. They need to finish quickly because the nurses are being attracted overseas – the Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, England and the USA at very attractive prices. We need to do something to keep them in the island.

In the Hallam Report – nurses' salaries had to be raised to stop the exit of nurses. Maybe, you might have to think in terms of doing that to stop the exit of nurses.

The Geriatric and District Hospitals – we need to think seriously of finding some money. The windows are falling off the Geriatric Hospital and it is in a state of disrepair. It is really getting into a bad condition. I used to tell everybody how wonderful it is, but I am getting ashamed now to look at it. I think that we need to pay a bit more attention to the refurbishment before it gets out of hand. Millions were spent on that Geriatric Hospital and I do not know why it is falling apart so quickly.

The question of Greenland – I would like to know what has been the update on Greenland. There has been much

discussion on it. It is said to be a lake. I know it is a spring because our family land is next door to Greenland. We still pay taxes on our property next door to Greenland, and my parents woke up one morning and found the house down the road. Therefore it is not really suitable, it slides. I think we need to stop our losses and stop doing investigations on Greenland, cut your losses and let us find something that is an alternative because that is going to be a headache. That is not going to work. There are too many springs there and it is much too slippery. The sooner we can make a decision on that and get on with what other method – I think we are going to have to use incineration eventually, because we are going to run out of land space. I do not know if it is going to be in my lifetime or whose but we are going to have to think very closely about incineration, even though people say that it is not too environmentally sound.

The landfill is not all that environmentally sound because we put everything there. We put batteries, acid *et cetera*, where in some other countries you are not allowed to wash your car because of the grease and the contamination of the environment. There are car wash stations where you have to go and have your car washed and that water is properly disposed of. Car batteries are disposed of in the ground because they contaminate the water and we will have to come around to that area of environmental control sooner rather than later since we are an island and we do not want our water contaminated.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I would like to congratulate the Government on the stance they have taken with the disabled in the document that was given to us. I hope we will be able to get the opportunity to debate it in the Senate. Something is being done, it might not be as fast as some people would like, but at least you are trying very hard to make attempts to integrate the disabled into the society. We have done some but we still have a long way to go.

Unfortunately, the St. Andrew Children's Home is too small. The St. Andrew Children's Home is a place where the mentally and physically handicapped children and adults are housed. There are so many of them – it is overcrowded. It is not large enough. I do not know if we need a larger children's home or one needs to try to integrate them into society and how it will be done.

I know in the U.K they are nursed at home but they are given assistance. They have the home help and also the nurses like the nurses aides and, maybe, a nursing assistant that will go in and help bathe them at home and take care of them. I do not know if we will be willing to go that route or if we like to have them institutionalised into the children's homes.

The Ministry of the Civil Service has to do with the appointment of staff, so I do not know what the problem is, Mr. President. I do not know if there is not enough staff to deal with the paperwork at Headquarters. That is the conclusion I have come to. It seems as though nursing is a special field. They do not seem to understand or get the handle of nursing, and it takes them so long to appoint the nurses, and that should not be the case. In this respect, I am calling again for a nursing service commission. I will deal with this in the constitutional change and ask for it.

We need to have people who understand the special case of nursing, who can expedite the appointment of nurses and the transfer of nurses. They do not seem to understand the difference between the nurse with experience and the nurse without experience. For example, you will get a post whereby the qualification says three years' experience as a Sister and Administration certificate. If the person gets a certificate in Administration without the experience, they place that person in the job without any experience whatsoever, which causes all sorts of confusion and low morale.

I think we need to look at experience as well as qualification. If you have a case where people have the experience, they should be placed in the post and given the opportunity to qualify for that post. That is not happening and it is causing quite a lot of confusion in some of the institutions, in particular the Psychiatric Hospital and the District Hospital, not so much at the Q.E.H. but at those outlying institutions.

In other words, what happens is that a staff nurse is given triple promotion to go and act in a position for which they have no experience and they do not know what they are doing. Therefore, it causes a breakdown in the whole system.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Programme 123, under Land Registration, Mr. President. I would like to say a word or two about land registration. My understanding is that the Land Registry was set up so that if people are buying and selling land, it will be easier for them to buy and sell the land. I do not know if that is true and therefore would like to see it progress if it can.
3.40 p.m.

Sir, regarding the land taxes, a promise has been made to review the land taxes and I am trying to see if I can get it expedited. What happens is, if you own a piece of property, Mr. President, and you are a Barbadian and work for a small sum of money and you live on the beach, a multimillionaire buys a piece of land beside you for \$200 per square foot, when the land evaluation time comes, they look to see the

actual price of the land that was sold and then value your property in keeping with what the multimillionaire paid for his property.

Sir, the multimillionaire can afford to pay taxes but the local Barbadians cannot afford to pay the high taxes. We have been told that if you cannot afford to pay the high taxes you can appeal. Mr. President, when you appeal, here is catch 22, the land valuation people come and examine the property. They examine the land and then they send you a note, "Appeal denied" because...

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: ...the sales indicate that is the value of the property. If you are being told that the appeal is denied, because the sale of land indicates that is the price, there is nothing you can do about that because that is exactly what the multimillionaire paid for that piece of property.

Therefore, the land tax people have no choice but to deny it because, apparently, that is what the law says, that it is based on the going rate of the property. When there is land speculation and the multimillionaires around have paid exorbitant prices for land, the local people have to pay increased taxes and their appeals are denied. I would like them to examine this so that the local persons who live in Barbados and work and pay taxes year after year and then they retire and get a small pension should not really have to pay taxes in keeping with what persons who have millions purchased the land for. It is not a fair system. It means that the local people will no longer be able to live on the beach and that will cause social unrest.

One has to be very careful and one has to examine this land situation objectively and see what can be done and what can be done quickly because it is a fact that the taxes are based on the going rate for the land. That is what they write and say and that is what the people tell you that they do. They have no choice. That land was sold for so many millions so therefore this is the value of your property. Sir, we have to find some way for the local people to retain their properties so that they can enjoy what their parents, grandparents and great grandparents handed to them and they are not forced to sell their property because they cannot pay the taxes.

Mr. President, it is a fact that we have been told that if you do not pay your taxes your property could be sold out. Therefore why put the taxes so high that you cannot pay? It means that the land will be sold out sooner rather than later because there is no way that people in Barbados who get a very small limited pension can pay that type of money in taxes. It really needs to be examined because as much as we would like investment, we should not want investment at any

price because if this continues, as I said, it will cause social unrest in the country. That is something we all should try to avoid at any cost.

Mr. President, I would like to say a word or two about Programme 041, National Defence and Security Preparedness. I would like to congratulate the Defence Force for the work they have done but in my view, I do not think it is the role of the Defence Force to do policing. I feel that the role of policemen and the role of the Defence Force are totally different. I feel the time has come for us to examine these roles and ensure that we have enough policemen who are adequately equipped to do our policing.

Sir, we are having problems advertising for policemen and nobody is interested. In fact, I have been trying to get some young people to join the Police Force. Mr. President, they said, "Do you want me to risk my life? I am not interested." Sir, some of them are not working and they are not interested in joining the Police Force and these are people who can get into the Police Force because they have the basic qualifications.

In that case, I think we need to examine what is happening in the society. We need to increase the numbers and I do not know how. In order to attract policemen and nurses, one has to improve the conditions of service and improve the wages. It has happened before. If you do, you will find that people will enter the Police Force and I would like to call for an urgent review of this. I feel that the police themselves need a voice. I do not think that they have a voice. I know the law says that they have to send their grievances to the Governor-General. In this society what does our Governor-General do? Our Governor-General is not accustomed to listening to grievances. We have known him as a ceremonial head. I guess he can do it...

Asides.

SENATOR MRS. P. E. RICKINSON: Sorry, Mr. President, I apologise for saying what I was not supposed to say and I will put it a different way.

I would like to see the police get a voice. I do not know how it should be done but there are people available who know. I am not talking about a voice through their Commissioner because I know I am a nurse and I would not want my Chief Nursing Officer to be my voice. The nurses would have a voice through their various organisations and their trade associations and their trade unions. If we have to change the law, we should change the law. I do not know how to change it but we need to look at it so that they can get a voice and their grievances could be attended to.
3.50 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rickinson, you have three minutes.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I would like to wind up by saying that I look forward to the time when we can have some more community involvement in the area of health. It cannot be done sitting down in hospitals and in polyclinics. The nurses have to get out into the community which means it has to be restructured.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I am winding up under Head 360 – Primary Health Care Services.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, do not be distracted, please.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President, I support this Appropriation Bill and hope that next time it would not be so big.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, the Bill was read a second and third time and passed and cited as the Final Appropriation (1999-2000) Act, 2000.

ORDER NO. 6 – CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 2000

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, the object of this Constitution (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill is to bring gender equity in relation to the issue of citizenship.

As you all know, the wife of a Barbadian male can be granted citizenship due to the Constitution. However, the same benefit does not apply to women and this amendment seeks to put that right.

Also under the existing Constitution, a person can claim citizenship by descent if that person is a child of a Barbadian male born outside of Barbados and was born in wedlock. However, where a child is born outside of wedlock to a Barbadian father and a non-Barbadian mother, that child cannot claim the status of citizenship.

On the other hand, if the child is a child born outside of Barbados of a Barbadian mother born out of wedlock that child may be registered as a citizen of Barbados. So we have these odd inequities in the Constitution.

It is proposed that a person born outside of Barbados on or after November 30, 1966 becomes a citizen of Barbados by descent for the purposes of this Constitution at

the time of that person's birth if only at that time of the birth at least one of the person's parents is a citizen by birth. Therefore, that clears up that particular aspect.

The legislation now drafted makes an amendment to section 2:

2. The following section is inserted immediately after section 3 of the Constitution:

3A. (1) The following descriptions of person also have the right upon application to be registered as citizens of Barbados, namely –

- (a) a person who has been ordinarily resident in Barbados throughout the period of 10 years (or such longer period as may be prescribed) immediately preceding that person's application;

- (b) a person who has been married to a citizen of Barbados..."

[regardless of whatever sex]

"...and has cohabited with that citizen for such period as may be prescribed immediately preceding that person's application."

As regard the right to be registered as a citizen, I go now to subsection (4):

"The right to be registered as a citizen of Barbados under this section is subject to such exceptions or qualifications as may be prescribed in the interests of national security or public policy."

The Bill tidies up the Act somewhat. A person born outside of Barbados under section 3 (4A):

"A person born outside of Barbados after 29th November 1966 shall be deemed to be a citizen of Barbados within section 4 at the date of his or her birth if he or she is born to a citizen of Barbados who at the date of the birth is in the service of Barbados in a diplomatic or consular capacity."

So that covers the diplomatic corps and children born to diplomats overseas.

This amendment has been long in coming and I really do think that in the interest of gender equity, fairness and

justice that this Bill should be passed. I think this is progressive and I commend it to the Honourable Senate and beg to move that it be read a second time.

SENATOR THE HON. Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I am more than pleased to support this Bill. I am elated. I am overjoyed. As the Leader has just said, it has been long in coming.

In 1976 when the Barbados Labour Party resumed office, one of the first steps taken was to set up a National Commission on the Status of Women. I had the honour of being appointed Deputy Chairman of that Commission. Miss Norma Forde was the Chairman and there were other very distinguished ladies and gentlemen who were members. The gentlemen included were Mr. Ronald Hughes, Professor Ralph Carnegie and the Reverend Anthony Jemmott. So even there, there was a balance.
4.00 p.m.

One of the areas which we looked into was citizenship. Women and the law was a very wide area to which we gave a great deal of attention. Others were health, education, women in public life, women in politics and so on. This report was completed and presented to the then Attorney-General, Mr. Henry Forde, as he was then, and it was laid in Parliament in September, 1978.

I remember the first inaugural meeting of the Commission where hundreds of women attended at Marine House and there was great excitement as to how this would affect the status of women, their progress and their rights. We subsequently held many public meetings in various parishes and these meetings were all well attended and we submitted 212 recommendations, almost all of which were implemented.

Regarding the one on citizenship based on a paper presented by Professor Ralph Carnegie, I would like to quote from that chapter. It was, as I said before, laid in Parliament so it is already in the House:

"In formulating the recommendations of the Commission in relation to Barbados' citizenship law therefore, the Commission must first take a stand on the question of the non-discriminatory assumption. The Commission accordingly recommends that discriminatory provisions which prevent the husband of a Barbadian woman from registering as a Barbadian citizen and are right now enjoyed by the wife of a Barbadian man be altered."

That was in 1978. This is the year 2000. Although it has only now happened, I can say with joy at last that this will correct an imbalance, one for which women's organizations particularly and women individually have been clamouring for years.

Therefore, Mr. President, it is with the greatest pleasure that I support this Bill to amend the anomalies. It is not necessary to wait for the Constitution for those because I think that these anomalies are long overdue. Again, Mr. President, I say that I support the Bill totally and wholeheartedly.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I rise only on a small point which I want to make that the Government should take another look, not so much in gender equity but on the question of tidying up our citizenship position and to support those persons who are very firmly committed to Barbados through Barbadian parents but are deprived the normal method of certifying their citizenship.

Where this Bill is concerned in section 3 (1)(a), it produces a citizenship by registration. In section 4 (a) sub-section 5, the Bill looks at those persons who are born outside of Barbados but it takes it from the date of Independence because Independence was November 30, 1966. We have a situation where there are persons who fall into a situation outside of the November situation but exactly into what is represented here.

I know of a situation where a couple was posted in another Caribbean island by virtue of the husband's employment. A child was born in that country but soon after within months when the family was relocated in Barbados the child came to Barbados and had all of its education and everything. Now that child could only have been registered in Barbados as a citizen by descent. But as the law stands, you can only have one step of citizenship by descent.

Now that child was in the United States at a university and gave birth to a child in the United States. That child came back to Barbados with its parents, lived in Barbados, was schooled in Barbados, educated in Canada, came back to Barbados and was offered a job in Barbados and the employer said, "Bring your status in Barbados". That child made application to Immigration. But that child cannot be a child of Barbados because citizenship of Barbados is only one step. So they are at the mercy of the Immigration Department as to what is their citizenship.

There are other cases that I know of. If this had gone back outside of November 29th, it would have corrected the situation. But as it stands, these persons cannot lay claim to being citizens of Barbados although their parents are citizens of Barbados, but it is an accident of their position that they were born outside of Barbados.

I would hope that the Government takes a quick look at that situation or make regulations so that the Immigration Department can rectify this deficiency, because I know of at least three persons who would like to live and work in Barbados but they have to go through Immigration's permission to work. Their parents are all here but they are not deemed to be Barbadians under the circumstances.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Newton.

SENATOR Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. President, I rise to speak briefly in support of this Bill but I need to make a few comments in advance of doing so. The first is that the provisions of this Bill form part of the recommendations of the Constitution Review Commission's Report which I would like to address. I gather that these provisions of this Bill, which I must say are long overdue amendments to the Constitution, had been drafted some time before the Commission's Report was made and, therefore, they have come to us as the Commission's recommendations. We will deal with them when we look at the Report in full.

Now the first section I wish to look at is section 3(a) which widens the categories of persons eligible to be registered as a citizen. There is something curious about sections (b) and (c). Section (b) provides in its amended form that a person who has been married to a citizen of Barbados and has cohabited with that citizen for such period as may be prescribed immediately preceding that person's application can be registered as a citizen. Then sub-section (2) says that a person who has a right to be registered under the previous paragraph of sub-section (1) by virtue of marriage to a spouse who is a citizen of Barbados does not lose the right if the spouse dies before the expiry of the period provided. 4.10 p.m.

It seems to me that if legislation is going to specify that you can be a citizen after being married for a specific time, which is not specified in the Act, and I guess it will be dealt with either as a matter of discretion or, hopefully, in regulations, if you have to be living with the person or married to them for a specific time, how could you become a citizen if the person dies before the expiry of that period? It seems a bit ambiguous and anomalous there. I would suggest that the draft persons look at that again.

The other comment I wish to make is in relation to subsection (7) which speaks of the Oath of Allegiance for a person who is going to become a Barbadian citizen. That is an admirable provision which is in the Immigration Act, I gather, but for some reason has not been in the Constitution or in the Citizenship Act. I think that is in line with what occurs in most countries which are granting citizenship to persons.

The other section deals with children of Barbadian diplomats and I know that there have been several complaints of diplomats whose children were born overseas and then when they returned to Barbados there were problems having them go to school and getting jobs because they were not Barbadian citizens. I think that also is a good provision.

When we go back to section 3A. And I should have dealt with that before moving to (7), I think it may be an attempt to deal with a problem which I gather has plagued our Immigration authorities for many years and that is in relation to sham marriages or marriages of convenience. I am certain the way it is dealt with here at 3A(b) is not going to address all the problems caused by sham marriages. I would have thought even if this legislation was pulled from a shelf or file or wherever it was, that before bringing it to Parliament that matter which the Immigration authorities have said is one of the greatest problems they have to deal with on a day-to-day basis, would have been addressed in the legislation. Otherwise, we might have to amend it again in a short time so it would have been tidier to have done it one time.

The last section which, like Dame Patricia, I am happy and glad to see is section 4 which says:

“... a person born outside Barbados after 29th November 1966 shall become a citizen of Barbados at the date of his birth if at the date of the birth at least one of his parents is a citizen of Barbados who was born in Barbados.”

The section which this replaces provided that if the father is a citizen, that would have made the person a citizen and did not address the question of whether the mother was the only one who was a citizen of Barbados. That was one of the areas of discrimination against women which for a long time women's rights advocates, and some men as well, had been arguing ought to be removed from the Constitution.

One of the recommendations of a number of people who spoke before the Constitution Review Commission, and I believe some of the Commissioners themselves felt, and which we will see when we get the Report, is that the language of the Constitution should be gender neutral. Even when this subsection is speaking of at least one parent being a citizen of Barbados, meaning the mother, since the father was already provided for, language of a male character is still predominating and I wonder if there is any intention at any time, irrespective of the additional work, that the draft person will make the Constitution gender neutral.

I know, of course, that “he” and “his” in the Interpretation Act includes “she” and “her” but there are

some women and others who would prefer to see the language changed from the traditional “his” to “persons” or “them”.

That apart, the persistence in using traditional language and the question that sham marriages are not addressed adequately in this Bill are two of the reservations I would have. Those apart, I think the amendments are overdue and I would wish to support the Bill.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I wholeheartedly support this Bill and support the views of Senator Newton, but I would like to add that I do not agree with sham marriages and I feel that everything should be done to prevent sham marriages, both by male and female. What some countries have done is to give persons resident status for five years and at the end of the fifth year granted citizenship both to male and female. They have to be together for at least five years or if they are separated or divorced they do not get the citizenship. Perhaps that is one area we can look at for males and females.

Another thing is what I would like to see in connection with implementing all of this is upgrading and expanding the Immigration Department and having objective rules so that people do not make their own rules and frustrate the people who go to the Immigration Department. They need to set down the rules clearly because it could be a frustrating experience. It is long overdue and I am glad that we have come to the stage where we could amend the legislation, but I would like to see it equal to cohabit in Barbados and the time period is not given for men. If you are going to give it for women, you need to give it for men.

I support the Bill.

SENATOR B. R. COLLYMORE: Mr. President, just two small points. The point made by Senator Newton, I suggest should be looked at again. The fact that clause 3A(b) seems to run into conflict with subsection (2) and in addition section 6 of the Constitution would seem to be superfluous in the light of the amendment now being made at section 3A.

Section 6(1) refers to:

“Any woman who, after 29th November 1966, marries a person who is or becomes a citizen of Barbados shall be entitled, upon making application in such manner as may be prescribed and, if she is a British protected person or an alien, upon taking the oath of allegiance, to be registered as a citizen of Barbados.”

The new clause speaks of “person” and therefore is gender neutral yet section 6 still retains “woman”. It seems to run into conflict and I wonder if it would not be tidier to

have another look at this. Noble as it appears to be, we do not want to have it subject to amendments immediately after enactment.
4.20 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, in winding up this debate it would appear that there are some enhancements that could be made to the Bill and I am keenly aware of some of those. Senator Bolden made some comments and Senator Newton some valid points, and I am sure these will be taken into account in the wider context of the Constitution when we come to that later on.

However, I would like to stress that legislation is made to facilitate people and not made to put obstacles in the way of normal everyday life. While we are talking about sham marriages we should not be so blinded about this as to put restrictions in place which would inconvenience the vast majority of normal people who get married, have jobs, children and so on. We have to be careful how we address this issue of sham marriages and not let it assume a largeness of itself that then produces policies that become barriers to the vast majority of the citizens of this country. I just wanted to make that observation.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, 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. P. C. GODDARD the Bill was read a third time and passed.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I call for a division on the third reading.

DIVISION

A division has been called for.

The bell was rung.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put, the Senate dividing as follows:

Ayes: HON. P. C. GODDARD, HON. G. S. H. MURRAY, SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE, SENATOR T. E. BARKER, SENATOR THE HON. Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS, SENATOR Miss J.C. ODLE, SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS, SENATOR G. E. N. BROME, SENATOR Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE, SENATOR D. D. MARSHALL, SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL, SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON, SENATOR C. K. LAURIE, SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD, SENATOR Mrs. V. E. NEWTON, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN – 16

Noes: SENATOR The Rev. L. W. B. ROCK, SENATOR B.R. COLLYMORE – 2

ORDER NO. 7 – PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS BILL, 2000

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, in moving the Second Reading of the Bill for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and related matters, this Bill revises legislation that dates back to 1902. As recent events in the Press might have highlighted, there has been an ongoing difficulty in cruelty to animals including farm animals. We would have seen, recently, that one individual had farm animals that were dying of starvation and thirst, and we know of many instances where people stake cattle out at 5 o'clock in the morning and come back at 8 o'clock at night and there has not been a bucket of water carried to them by anyone.

There are problems in the area of growing evidence of dog fighting, cock fighting and there is an inextricable linkage between cruelty to animals and cruelty to your fellow man. This legislation is aimed at bringing about a redress to ensure that the penalties more fit the crime. For example, it is not unusual for a single bet on a dog fight to be \$1 000. Hence, in this legislation you will see the penalty for organising a dog fight is \$10 000.

This is a comprehensive Bill which clearly defines the animals in section 2 which includes –

"any horse, mare, gelding, bull, ox, cow, heifer, steer, calf, mule, ass, sheep, lamb, hog, pig, sow, goat, cat, dog or any other animal, whether of the kind or species particularly mentioned or of any kind of species or whatever and whether a quadruped or not, which is tamed or which has been or is being sufficiently tamed to serve some purpose of man's use.

"Approved premises" means places as the Minister may by Order designate as approved premises.

"Captive animal" means any non-domestic animal of whatsoever kind of species, whether a quadruped or not, including any bird, fish or reptile."

In this, Mr. President, we have seen where people have been putting exotic birds in very crowded conditions which lead to illness and death – poorly ventilated and very hot conditions.

Section 5 (1) "Any person who tethers or keeps an animal in conditions that ... is likely to cause that animal unnecessary suffering commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$5 000 or to imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both."

In this, the RSPCA and the Police Force will be empowered to take action.

In section 5 (3) – "An officer of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a member of the Police Force or an authorised person may seize and take control of an animal that is suffering as a result of a contravention of this Act."

This allows somewhat to act when the offence takes place to reduce the incidence of suffering. In other words, when we have seen instances where animals were being abused, the officers were powerless to act under the old legislation, and in the ensuing time between the observance of the incident and the ability to take action. Through the cumbersome machinery that we had the animal often perished or had deteriorated to such an extent that it had to be put down.

I would say, Mr. President, that this legislation brings Barbados into a more modern context. We have to recognise that we interface with peoples around the world, we are doing extensive international business, we have a thriving

hospitality industry and we need to present ourselves as a much more civilised people, people that have a care not only for each other but for other living things in this community.

Therefore, this Act, Mr. President, is exceptionally important.

I might add that I have had, as Minister of Health, several meetings with the RSPCA, and I have been in close contact with the Minister of Agriculture under whom this legislature comes. I have been quite active in seeing that this particular piece of legislation comes to Parliament.

I really do feel very strongly, Mr. President, that how we treat animals quite often reflects how we treat other human beings. I am firmly convinced that if children are not taught properly at an early age to respect animals and other life forms, they often develop a disrespect for their fellow man. I think this is a very serious piece of legislation. It is one that needs to be followed up with a tremendous amount of public education. I do not think that legislation should just be punitive.

As I said earlier, I think the ability to levy fines is very necessary. However, I do think we have to have a public education programme that will sensitise our general public to the value of life and the way in which we should treat other animals. Out of that, I think, would come a more civilised and caring society, and it starts right in the home.

Mr. President, I take great pleasure in commending this Bill to the Honourable Senate and I hope this will be the first step in changing the Barbadian general public's attitude towards caring for animals and for proper husbandry, management of animals and other living entities which are in their care or with which they come into contact.

I beg that this Bill be now read a second time.

SENATOR Mr. C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the Government on this Bill. It is badly needed. It supersedes the 1902 Bill which has taken us nearly 100 years to improve. It is rather interesting reading, the other one. There was a part that has been left out where you were charged \$3 if you stuffed the craw of a chicken with lead, obviously, that it would weigh more. There was a \$3 fine for that. I guess those were the bad old days that no longer occur.

Asides.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: This is a very well thought-out piece of legislation. I am the President of the Barbados Kennel Club and my club has been in the forefront of objecting strenuously to the terrible practice of dog fighting. It is now quite a changed practice.

I was talking to an old gentleman the other day who admitted that they would get together occasionally with dogs, particularly bull terriers, this is pre-pitbull days, and they would have a match but as soon as it was clear to all that one dog was dominant the match finished and they were awarded a prize – no money passed.

Nowadays big money passes. A man approached me one day on Broad Street and said, "Could you register a pitbull for me?" This happened on Broad Street. I had never seen the man before. I said, "Where did it come from? Was it born in Barbados?" He said, "Well, why?" I said we need to see the papers, we do not register a dog just like that. We have to see where it came from and so on. He said, "Alright, forget it, forget it!" and he took off down the street.

Another guy was standing nearby and he said, "I can tell you where they came from. They came from Puerto Rico via St. Vincent and landed at Consett Bay." They cost US\$15 000 each, these two pitbulls. This is big money. In those days when you say dominance was an established thing, there was very little damage to the dog, according to this old gentleman. He said that today the money involved in betting is a fight to the death. They do not stop until one dog is dead.

I was walking one day in the woods up by Newcastle and I saw what I thought in passing was like a pig or sheep pen in the forest. I said this is a very strange place. I went up to it and there was plywood all around in a ring. The inside of this ring was carpeted. Then somebody said, "Look at all the blood stains on the side of the plywood." Another person said, "Look here is a hypodermic needle and a syringe."

I reported my findings to the police and the Press but no arrests were ever made. I went to one of the newspapers and said that there is a site, I have not said it to anybody else and the people who know are keeping quiet, send a photographer up there and you will catch these people because they fight on Sunday mornings. He said that it is not worth his life and none of his photographers are going there. 4.40 p.m.

I called a so-called private investigator and told him that the Kennel Club is prepared to pay \$5 000 for pictures taken of a dog fight. He said that for \$100 000 he was not going.

Sir, you know that people are terrified of this clique of people in this island who do it. They claim that there is protection there and if you call the police and say that there shall be a fight behind Portvale Sugar Factory on Sunday morning, nobody is going to turn up for this fight. I know of another case where a woman called me and said she was chased by three pitbulls and as she managed to get through her gate and slammed it, the dogs were on the gate shaking

it and she ran inside and locked up the house. She then called me and asked me what to do. I told her to call the police and she said that these people leave there on Sunday mornings. The man has a special cage in which he puts his dogs and he puts the cage in the back of his jeep and takes off and goes.

Sir, I then called the Police and asked them why they would not go and follow this guy that he could lead them directly to the site because it evidently is a regular Sunday morning occupation with these people; but nothing happened.

I remember doing an interview at V.O.B. with a policeman and the head of the RSPCA, Mr. Wayne Norville, who is very adamant and strong against this thing. The policeman was saying he does not have an Act with which to do anything. We told him that is not exactly so and we tried to point out to him that in the 1902 Act, he had the right to arrest anybody for dog fighting.

Sir, now we have something here that is much better and I am hoping that these penalties will discourage this terrible practice. It is out there and we have the Act but we do not get any prosecutions. There were even rumours of murders being committed at these sites. There were also rumours of a partial murder being committed and when the fellow was lying in the ambulance, they came and finished him off, "bang, bang, bang" over a dog fight, and that was in the newspapers. This is a serious, serious criminal subculture that is there that has to be addressed which I am hoping this Act does.

One of the things I am also concerned about, particularly in my going around looking at small farmers in the villages and so on, you quite often see people have dogs in very small kennels – two feet by two feet. In fact, one day I was in a place looking at some sheep and this guy had an Akita dog which is quite a big dog, in a very small kennel. I asked him why he had the dog in the kennel because the dog could hardly move. His reply was, his girlfriend said that it is the dog or she and if the dog comes out of the kennel, she is leaving the house. I then told him that I will buy the dog from him and I bought the dog and took it home. Sir, this dog had been in the kennel for about a year and could not walk. It took us about six months in a big run before the dog was actually able to run around reasonably and I found a good home for him.

Sir, this is something that Barbadians have to be educated in, as Minister Goddard said, the situation of keeping dogs in small kennels and not only dogs but other livestock. Sometimes you see them crushed into small containers and that is something I do not think people...

Asides.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: ...and tying out animals, I know it is very difficult. They get up early in the morning and tie out the animal. They go to work and the animal has to stay in the sun. They should look for some kind of a bush nearby because the animal will go out of the sun and shelter from the sun. These are areas that we definitely have to look into.

I would also like to say that I hope the Minister of Agriculture will empower the RSPCA under these authorised persons and an organisation called the Ark which is an animal rights group that is started up. It is very closely associated with the RSPCA and works with the RSPCA. I am one of their trustees. They are doing some excellent work. They are very active. They are trying to get a shelter for all livestock.

The RSPCA really deals only with small animals. They do not have space for cattle, horses or things like that but the Ark is trying to address the whole wide range of that, so I am hoping that the Minister will authorise people so that they can act under this Act.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR Miss C.Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I just want to add a few brief comments. Senator Laurie has outlined a number of areas I had identified, but when I was a child, we knew of getting a "guttaperk" and hitting a bird and things of that nature, but indeed, when we reached primary school level, we were taught how not to be cruel to animals during the nature study classes.

I think it is unfortunate that this seems not to be happening in our society. As a result of the cruelty to the animals, it seems as though that is leading to cruelty to human beings as well.

I want to laud the efforts of the Chief Inspector, Mr. Wayne Norville, as was mentioned by Senator Laurie, in his fight, along with many other animal lovers, for the upgrading of this legislation, in order to ensure that the animals in Barbados are not ill treated in the manner that we now often see.

I want to go a bit further than Senator Laurie because I think the violence that might have been included, was as a result of two people in an argument over the dog fight. Where my concerns are, they are to do with the pitbulls that are being let loose. It is not only rich people now who have pitbulls. There are some hungry fellows like me, who have pitbulls. They have never turned a straw against the wind. They are not working for anybody's money, whether it is a white man's money or a poor man's money but they have pitbulls and you can clearly see that the pitbulls are not well

taken care of so they are holding them with a piece of rope or a piece of string and walking the street. What will happen to our children if those dogs should ever let loose, whenever the pitbulls are so dangerously injured, and the young men in particular can no longer maintain them or they do not have the money to pay for the veterinary services? You can imagine, Sir, these wild dogs all over the communities where little children cannot go into their backyards to play because of the danger.

Indeed, we remember last year where an old man who was living alone, his house was broken and entered many times so his son came in from overseas and decided to keep the dog in the backyard for his protection. When that old man went into his backyard for a very legitimate reason, he was almost killed by his own dog.

Therefore, we know of the dangers and I would want to lend all my support to this effort because I can very well see, as we often see on our televisions, the dangers. I know that Trinidad has been plagued with many problems to do with pitbulls recently. People have died. Some have been lamed and disfigured. I really want to commend the Government for looking seriously at this legislation and having it upgraded so that those individuals who are caught breaching these rules will feel it in their pockets, or whatever alternative form of punishment.

I also think that it seems to be common now in a number of communities but I can only speak to the rural district because that is where my emphases are but a lot of young school-aged boys are raising the game cocks and game hens and they too are making money. People that I expect to know better are in the audiences, observing these cockfights, and I think that needs to be stamped out as well.

I support what was said by Senator Goddard that every effort should be made to educate the public but it cannot start at adult level because we have already seen how people's attitudes even towards human life are eroding.
4.50 p.m.

We need to start from the nursery school and from the home, of course, by helping to develop an appreciation for life, especially the life of animals because little children play with the chickens and rabbits and other small domesticated animals and if we can get that kind of appreciation developed there, then it will automatically run throughout life.

However, a lot of adults are the ones who have bad attitudes toward animals. They kick the cats. They drown kittens. They do all kinds of cruel things because the kitten may very well do the wrong thing. It might take a chicken leg out the bowl so they go down to boot hill. Many of us are of the opinion as well that it is a dumb animal and that it does

not have a soul. I have heard so many people saying that. So they treat them unkindly and the animals stay and they suffer.

One other area that I am really particularly concerned about, and this would have been I think in the 1997/98 crop season where large snakes were found in the St. Joseph/St. John area. Clearly, they did not originate in Barbados which means that those animals would have entered the country by another source – not meaning that they swam here but indeed they were brought here by another source – and it looks as though when the owners could no longer maintain them, they just let them loose. There were canecutters on two occasions during that crop season who had to destroy large snakes that were found in the cane fields when they were reaping the canes.

Asides.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Yes, in Barbados. It was registered in the newspaper and we saw the photographs of the large snakes.

I am saying that the same thing will happen to those who keep animals. There are people in Barbados who have alligators in their backyards and they are rearing them in pens and so on. I am not talking about Oughterson Zoo and the Barbados Wildlife Reserve but I am talking about private people who rear these animals and what has me concerned is whether they are registering them. I know that at one point in time in order for us to keep a little “pot-starver” dog or a “salmon-tot” retriever and names like that, we had to go down by the Archives to register them in order to get a little licence. That seems no longer to be important because people are not registering the animals. If we could get a system of policing, I am sure it will help to make the task of the animal lovers easier and it will make the job of those in the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals easier.

My biggest problem is the policing because if the law enforcement agency is contacted and nothing is done, why must we wait for somebody’s child to be killed by a pitbull, be mauled by an alligator or be bitten by a snake. It means that community groups and other organisations within the society must recognise as well that these animals that are harboured for fighting and bringing in money is against the law. It is something that is not in keeping with the nature of Barbadians generally. It is only now that we are hearing of all the cruelty to one another but we are accustomed to being a law-abiding society where people love and were forever caring for each other; but that seems to be eroding.

Therefore, as community group leaders, as church leaders, as people within the schools and other institutions, we need to work toward educating the people in our area to help them to learn to appreciate, love and care for animals

generally and whenever there are breaches, to report it to the authorities and follow it through.

Mr. President, this is my final comment. I have tremendous difficulty with the way in which things are done. The driver of a minibus struck my car on Kadooment Day. He did not stop and he did not look back to see if the occupants of the car were dead. Nothing. We had to run to the police to report that the car was struck and everything else. I am saying if that was a big car that was struck with people in it and you are going to go on, what else then. We keep ignoring things like this.

Mr. President, this for me is a very bold and important step in our history and I want to give it my fullest support. Whenever I see the pitbulls and so on in my neighbourhood, I too shall call the police and register with whom I speak and the time and the date. When we do that, then the officer recognises ... It does not have to be a Senator who does it, but as long as the individual says who he or she is and may I ask to whom I am speaking and register the time and so on and follow it up, I am sure something will be done because the owner of the minibus is going to answer me and answer the Court.

Mr. President, it is with those few comments that I want to lend my fullest support to this legislation and trust that other Barbadians would make the concerted effort of reporting and following through to ensure that the safety of all of us is upheld in this small society we are living in.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I too would like to join in commending those persons responsible for bringing this measure to this stage of fruition. It has been long in coming and I think, therefore, that no praise is too excessive for three of the primary agents in this instance who would have brought this legislation to the Chamber today.

I do not intend to be invidious, but I think that one has to commend the Attorney-General, the Minister of Agriculture, Senator Goddard and Chief Inspector Wayne Norville (who has fought a life-long battle, 33 years of his life working with the RSPCA) for being responsive enough to the pleas, the demands, the beggings or whatever you might call it from the public. I have never seen a person who so empathizes with animals than Wayne Norville. He treats them. He talks about them. He respects them as though they are persons in their own right. He is very knowledgeable about them. He is very passionate about them.

But that apart, it is also within Barbadians’ economic self-interest to pay attention to this legislation, because Senator Goddard hinted at it, but there are persons abroad...

As a matter of fact, as a result of a recent case that was so widely publicised in the newspaper, persons who would have read in the paper and seen on the Internet what has transpired, were getting ready to picket the Barbados High Commission abroad, Barbados Consulates abroad and the Barbados Tourist Board abroad. They wanted to virtually create some kind of embargo on Barbados because they felt that this was not a society that was worthy of their money and of their presence.

There are persons who are very passionate and very committed to animals in the same way that there are persons committed to human rights and we have to respect this. These persons will go to any length virtually to let this be known.

We remember what has happened to us in instances when they were protests about the Barbados Green Monkey and these persons will put you on a black list, so to speak, and they would give you a negative image and rating for many years to come and which can have tremendous impact on economic and tourism investment in Barbados, because they feel that Barbados is not a place that is sophisticated enough or humane enough to be able to accommodate them.

Therefore, I think this is a very worthy step and hopefully given the calls for strong educational thrust, it will help to create a Barbados that is more gentle, kind, humane and caring not only toward animals but toward the society in general. Senator Forde said that very early people's attitudes are formed in these things and we need, therefore, to start the lessons from the home, so that when the children get to the schools they are reinforced in the schools, at work and in the general society, so that there can be a climate of appreciation for life in general which could only inure to the overall benefit of Barbados and Barbadians so we will have a better place to live and make Barbados really the gem of the world, not just the gem of the Caribbean.

I thank you, Mr. President.
5.00 p.m.

SENATOR THE Rev. L. W. ROCK: Mr. President, I would like to add my voice to those who have already expressed congratulations to the Government and to commend them for this very timely bit of legislation. I think that as we reflect upon what the legislation seeks to address, that we also are reminded of the widespread impact that gambling is having in our society and how gambling, as it relates to what we are discussing now, seems to dull the sensitivity of people to animals and draws not the best in us but quite often the worst in us, because people who find enjoyment in the suffering of animals, and I would not say dumb animals because they are not as dumb as sometimes we

think they are, but who are insensitive to the cruelty experienced by animals are certainly persons that seem to lack in themselves qualities of kindness and caring.

I would like to call upon the media to make public and to publicize as widely as possible this new legislation. In agreement with Senator Goddard, we must link it with a widespread campaign in which we try to sensitize people to what is happening. I am sure there are a lot of people in Barbados that do not know about the dog fights and the cock fights and things like that.

We must try to raise the level of consciousness of our people to what is happening and to help them to become more humane in their attitude towards animals. Of course, that change in attitude towards animals cannot help but itself be reflected in the way that we respond to each other.

Reference has been made of animals that are tethered in the fields and there is one other area that I am concerned about which sometimes endangers the lives of motorists. I have had occasion more than once to have had to veer off as I travelled along the street from animals not tethered crossing the street and, therefore, endangering the lives of people. This is an area that we should be concerned about and some attention paid to.

With those remarks, I would like to support this legislation and join with those who call for a massive campaign in public education.

SENATOR Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. President, this piece of legislation dealing with the prevention of cruelty to animals is, to my mind, the sort of modern legislation we would expect to see coming from the Attorney-General's Office. This is a big contrast to some of the legislation which we have seen recently, certainly the one that preceded this and the one last week. It has an explanatory memorandum which says what sections of the existing Act have been amended and shows where the new amendments have been taken from.

All of the new amendments have been taken from the U.K. Protection of Animals Act which is a 1911 Act. It is old and was passed only a few years after its predecessor, the 1903 Act. Notwithstanding, it is a good piece of legislation and I wish to commend the Attorney-General's Department for coming up with this particular piece of legislation so quickly after we have had very distressing instances and pictures on television of animals left suffering in fields and so on.

Now the penalties for the ill-treatment of animals and for abandoning them are stiff; and that is good. It is \$1,000 for each animal in the first case and up to \$10,000 for the

latter. It also deals with cock fighting and bull baiting and these are areas that were urgently in need of attention.

The other area I think we should move as speedily to address, and it is not addressed in this Bill for obvious reasons, is that of the keeping of pitbulls and other dangerous animals. Persons ahead of me have spoken of it, and I would say indirectly that I suffer from the presence of pitbulls in my neighbourhood because I have a neighbour who has five dogs, one of which, I am told, is a pitbull which is sometimes running around outside. I used to go walking in the mornings and I am now afraid to go because this pitbull may be out there. Although he is not, to my knowledge, engaging in any fighting with dogs, there are others like him and their dogs pose a danger to people who are afraid of them because they know how vicious their dogs can be. I would hope that legislation would follow closely on the heels of this one.

With those comments, I will support this Bill. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I beg that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR THE HON. Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Part 1 – Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

Part 2 – Clauses 3 to 15 were called and passed.

Parts 3 and 4 were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, Madam 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. P. C. GODDARD, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Prevention of Cruelty To Animals Act, 2000. 5.10 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, before moving our adjournment I would like to draw Honourable Senators' attention to the fact that Item 1 on today's Order Paper has been postponed: the Resolution to note the Constitution Review Commission Report.

We will go into recess today and we hope to resume on October 11th. We will set out October 11 and 13 for the televised debate in the Senate on the Constitution Review Commission Report and the issues arising out of this suggested change in the Constitution.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly. 5.15 p.m.

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