
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2004

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, June 28, 2000, at 11.20 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Senator the Hon. P. C. GODDARD (Minister of Public Works and Transport) (Leader of the Senate)

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

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

Senator T. E. BARKER, B. A. (Hons.) M.A. (Econ.) (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources)

Senator the Hon. Dame Patricia SYMMONDS, D.B.E., G.C.M., B. A. (Hons.) P.G.C.E., J.P.

Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS, B.Sc., M.B.A., J.P.

Senator G. E. N. BROME

Senator D. D. MARSHALL, LL.B. (Hons.) L.E.C.

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

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON, B.A. (Hons.) M.P.H. (Harvard) S.R.N.

Senator C. K. LAURIE, D.I.C.T.A. (S.T.) FBSTA

Senator Sir John Stanley GODDARD, K.A., B.Comm., C.A., Hon. LL.D. (U.W.I.)

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.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received the following communication from His Excellency the Governor-General dated June 13, 2000:

"Dear Mr. President,

I shall be away from the island from June 14 to July 18, 2000, on vacation leave.

The Hon. Sir Denys Williams, KCMG, QCM will perform the functions of the office of Governor-General in my absence.

As the Honourable the Senate will not be meeting prior to my departure, it will not be possible for a formal Message to be sent down to the Chamber. Will you, therefore, bring my absence formally to the attention of the Honourable the Senate when next it meets.

Signed: The Governor-General."

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received the following Message from the Honourable the House of Assembly on June 20, 2000:

"The Honourable the House of Assembly has the honour to inform the Honourable the Senate that on June 20, 2000, the Honourable the House of Assembly committed the following two Bills:

The Fair Trading Bill, 2000 and The Utilities Regulation Bill, 2000 to a Joint Select Committee of the two Houses comprising six Members of the House of Assembly and five Members of the Honourable the Senate and invites the Honourable the Senate to nominate Members to the said Committee.

Signed: The Deputy Speaker."

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to nominate the following:

Senator Dale Marshall

Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds

Senator Clyde Mascoll

Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard

Senator Philip Goddard

Mr. PRESIDENT: Is there concensus on these nominations?

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PAPERS

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

1. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation) Order, 2000.
2. Report of the Social Investment Fund for quarter ending March 31, 2000.
3. Customs Tariff (Amendment)(No.2), Order, 2000.
4. Value Added Tax Order, 2000.
5. Value Added Tax (Refund) (The Barbados Legion of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League) Order, 2000.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, the Deputy President, has written to me asking to be excused for today's Sitting as he is out of the country. Accordingly, under Standing Order 4, I will invite a motion for the election of a Deputy President for today's Sitting.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to nominate Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Before the business of the Senate commences today, I would like to rise in congratulation of Dame Patricia Symmonds and the Honour bestowed upon her by Her Majesty the Queen. Dame Patricia has dedicated her life to the service of fellow Barbadians and her achievements are long and admirable. She has set an example of dedication, of high personal standards, of attention to detail and selfless service which is matched by few contemporary Barbadians today. She has set a standard by example that many of her students from St. Michael have striven to follow.

She has also set the standard for selfless service in a way that Barbadians do not see because in her activities as a teacher, and as a member of the Barbados Labour Party, she has worked from dust till dawn and well beyond into the midnight hours on many a day and many an evening. Public Service is a hard task master and few appreciate the massive contribution that people make in the service of their country. Dame Patricia exemplifies the best of all that there is in this public service.

I was so pleased to learn of her Honour and it was with great pleasure that I immediately sat down to write to her to compliment her and thank her for all that she has done for Barbados. I am sure that other Honourable Senators will wish to join me in congratulating Dame Patricia, a fellow Member of this Senate.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I rise to offer my congratulations to Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds and to say that since I became a member of this Honourable Chamber that I have learnt of the importance of the English language and I owe that to Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds.

Once you came from certain social origins, you hardly paid a lot of attention to etiquette, particularly in the use of the language as a medium of expression. I have, therefore, recognised from observation in this Chamber that there is more to communication than the simple use of the word itself, and that means understanding and pronouncing the word very effectively. As a public person, when you are

asked to make a comment and you listen to what you have said and it contains any slip by way of mispronunciation, it becomes clear what the importance of proper use of the language is.

I can say that I have learnt a lot over the last couple of years in this Chamber because of the way that Dame Patricia Symmonds practises her life in the form of language. Simple things like putting your tongue between your teeth and making sure that you are saying thanks as opposed to "tanks", or "think" as opposed to "tink", or to say, "if", as opposed to "ef" may seem to be very simple things to be learning at this age but, in actual fact, as I have said before, once you get the opportunity to listen to what you have said and you put it the wrong way, it can be extremely embarrassing.

11.30 a.m.

I, therefore, have great pleasure in saying that Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds, who has taught many a person whom I have come into contact with, deserves this Honour. She has certainly influenced the lives of several people in Barbados, particularly the softer sex. You almost get a sense that the individual has had Dame Patricia as a tutor, at the St. Michael School, or some other educational institution, just by the way of their manner of speech.

It takes you further into the realm of, say a Dame Elsie Payne. It is as if that particular era was responsible for a number of persons who paid particular attention to language. There is a noticeable pattern of speech that has a particular emphasis that one can associate with the scholars from that time period. It is without doubt evident that Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds distinguished herself as belonging to the highest bracket of the exponents of the language called English.

I, therefore, on behalf of myself and the Democratic Labour Party, would wish to express our greatest appreciation for the elevation of Senator Dame Patricia to the rank she has been presently elevated to, and certainly is most deserving of.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: It is indeed an honour for me to rise and congratulate Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds who had the highest honour bestowed upon her. Indeed, it is a credit to the women of Barbados for whom she has been a role model, not only for the students that she has taught, but to others who have come in contact with her, including myself. Not many women have been given the honour of Dame, and I hope that this has broken the barrier

so that others, teachers, and nurses, will be able to reach such heights that they so deserve.

Dame Patricia Symmonds, I salute you for what you have done, especially for the women and the young children of Barbados whom you have nurtured over the years, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. May God bless you and may you enjoy it for a long time.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Like those other persons who have spoken thus far, I too rise to offer my congratulations to Senator Dame Patricia.

As you know, Mr. President, I have been travelling quite a bit and I was not in Barbados when the announcement was made, but you could imagine how I felt, having been given a newspaper on board a plane between Jamaica and Miami – a *Jamaica Gleaner Newspaper* – to see an article making reference to the honour that was bestowed on Senator Dame Patricia and Sir Charles. I could hardly control my emotion, the way I felt, at that time having read the article. I believe it is an honour that could not have been bestowed on a more deserving and finer Barbadian.

Before I came here this morning, my wife made it very clear that I had to say something, not only on my behalf, but on her behalf, because she was a student of St. Michael School and, may I say to Senator Dame Patricia, there is indeed a generation of students that feel extremely proud of the Honour that was bestowed on you. They recognise that the work you did with them is something that has been recognised, not only by that generation, but, indeed, by people today.

I have always been extremely moved by the quiet way, the dedication, the almost dignified approach that Senator Dame Patricia has always approached, whatever the task. I know that we alluded to some of the organisations to which she has given of her time and effort, but I recall the many times that Senator Dame Patricia was part of committees with the Barbados Cricket Association and so on, and you can be sure that the effort that she was going to put into anything was going to be the finest and the best.

It obviously speaks to the kind of person that we are talking about, the kind of person that continues for a lot of persons, to be a role model. Indeed, may I say to you that those students whom you taught, continue to see you, indeed, as a role model. People like yourself represent the kind of role models that we need in our society today.

I, too, must say to you that, like Senator Mascoll, that when we are ever around Senator Dame Patricia, we always make sure that our syntax is correct because we know that she is there and quietly marking us. I wonder sometimes

what kind of grade she would give each and everyone of us. She has done volumes for the promotion of good English, both written and spoken, and certainly when history is written she will remain high up there among those persons who have gone, particularly far, at the highest level in terms of their own profession.

I, like all the others, would like to extend heartiest congratulations on behalf of myself, wife, and all those other students of St. Michael, and hope and pray that you will have good health and long life.

I thank you.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I also want to add my congratulatory remarks to Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds for the Honour that has been bestowed on her, which I consider to be extremely deserving. I have known Senator Symmonds for many years. I was attracted to her through my last sister who was a student of the St. Michael School where Senator Symmonds functioned as the Principal.

I thought that it was an interesting relationship because in Barbados many of us see people out there and people out here, there are "them" and there are "us", but Senator Symmonds fostered my last sister. The pastoral care that she placed, not only on my sister, but on many of her students, I thought was exceptionally good. We were very poor people and Senator Symmonds had that extra touch, that extra concern and interest in those students.
11.40 a.m.

I also want, Mr. President, to make mention of her involvement at the Association for the Teaching of English. I was encouraged as a young teacher to be very involved in the activities there. I do not know if I am being successful in getting anywhere near Senator Symmonds, and the speech that I know she would want me to offer every time, but indeed, she has been a tower of strength for me in training me to be a part of that organisation that has serviced so many teachers and the parents in Barbados. Of course, that redounds to the benefit of the students. Senator Symmonds was very active as President and she encouraged many young teachers to be a part.

I do not think the organisation is in existence, but I would like to recommend to all Barbadians in the Teaching Service, to get it revived again so that others can benefit because it had a lot to offer, but a lot of that was to do with Senator Symmonds' involvement.

At present she still examines scripts for competitions. She prepares quizzes, she examines other scripts for

handwriting and a number of other areas and I think that that is testimony of the commitment that she has. Even though she is a retiree (already pass her threescore) she still continues to assist in the development of the English language in Barbados which is very necessary.

I like the way that Senator Mascoll put it just now. Senator Symmonds knows what is accepted and she sticks to it. There are many Barbadians who have developed the language, but they choose to speak in another way that misleads our young people. When Senator Symmonds sits right next to me and I am writing, she would point out to me the little errors I am making. I am happy for that. You have to be a strong person to be able to accept it, but it is what I would want. I would want someone to guide me and to give me the correct language to use. If I am in any way expressing myself incorrectly, I would want the language to be the acceptable and be the appropriate language. So Senator Symmonds, I thank you for that. Even though they were small things, it made me a stronger and more knowledgeable person as a result of your guidance. I would want more senior citizens to follow in your footsteps and continue to give contributions to the country, even though they are retired.

Senator Symmonds has written books, and I remember in particular, I hope I have the right title for it, "Longer Lasting Than Bronze", of which I have some copies on my bookshelf. I have been sharing with many others. I think Barbadians really need to use the resources of other Barbadians. We do not always have to be foreign in our approach when we want to get really good literature to read. Senator Symmonds' book is also one that encourages and educates all of us.

I know that she is a family person. She loves her family to the core, particularly her sweet niece Donna who is the cricket commentator. Senator Symmonds is a cricket enthusiast and every time Donna is on the radio she is always very excited. I would have been happy if I had a niece or nephew who would have been doing it because it is uncommon in Barbados to really have female commentators. Senator Symmonds loves Donna and, of course, Peter, in the area of his tennis. She has a memory out of this world.

I know that this honour is really deserving for you Senator Symmonds. You have done so much. You have served Barbados with distinction, not only at the educational level but, indeed, at the political level where you have served as the General Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party.

All of this happened in her retirement, Honourable Senators, as the General Secretary from 1986 to 1988. Indeed Senator Symmonds still plays a very active role in the Barbados Labour Party where she serves on numerous committees.

Another outstanding feat that Senator Symmonds would have performed has to do with the National Commission on the Status of Women in the late 1970s. Senator Symmonds, as the more senior person, was able to work with the women and members of that organisation, to point them in directions where women in Barbados have been given a better opportunity to be able to function as citizens alongside our males. So I want also to thank Senator Symmonds for that role that she has played in it.

Mr. President, in closing, I want to say that it is always a great pleasure to know a Barbadian like Senator Symmonds who quietly performs her actions, and does them without any fuss, they are recognised. I think that the organisation should be lauded for recognising her.

I always support any venture that goes towards honouring people when they are alive. I always hear the statement that says: "Don't give me the rose on my chest when I am in my coffin, give it to me when I am alive that I can smell it." This is another opportunity where another Barbadian, among others, has been given an opportunity to live and to celebrate the honour that has been bestowed upon her.

Mr. President, I would want to publicly extend sincere congratulations to Dame Patricia on behalf of my family, particularly Denise and myself, and ask that God will continue to bless you knowing the kind of role model you are, set up as an example so that other Barbadian women can follow in your footsteps feeling assured that some day the good that you are doing will be recognised and the honour will be bestowed upon you whether it be at community level, or at national level. All Barbadians who have done outstanding work of your kind need to be recognised at some level. I am happy for you and hope that God will continue to bless you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I rise to offer my sincerest congratulations to Dame Patricia on her elevation. Indeed, Sir, it is an honour in which all of us here can share and I want to say that I met Dame Patricia in the political sphere because I was not a student at the St. Michael School because, thankfully, I went to school in the days when there were single sex schools.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The point is, Sir, that I met her in the political arena and it is there that our association deepened.

I want to stress, Sir, that her devotion to and activity in the Barbados Labour Party is of tremendous importance to the Party and to the nation. I make no apologies for saying

that Barbados has developed to the extent that it has because of a sound political climate which was fostered by the fact that we had political institutions which had tremendous strength. A part of the strength of the political institution lies in the fact that there were people from all walks of life who saw the party as something that they could identify with, and that they could devote part of their life's work to, and that level of sacrifice must be highly commended.

Both of our Parties or all three, however you look at it, will know that come thick or thin, as the saying goes, there are people who they can depend on, people who are not fickle like the weather, but people who whatever happens they make sure that their party can depend upon them.

Dame Patricia was General Secretary of the Party at a time when, in its six years in history, the Party was at one of its lowest ebbs. That was just after the 1986 elections when the clocks stopped at twenty-four minutes to three and it was then that people like Dame Patricia showed her true worth to the Party. She took up the mantle of a General Secretaryship, and she did a lot to make sure that the Party rode out those difficult times and prepared itself for better days which came, thankfully, eight years later.

Sir, her worth to the Party is tremendous and we in this Party thank her for sticking with it, and not only sticking with it, but ensuring that she went beyond the call of duty to ensure its stability and its viability as a political institution. That alone, in my view, Sir, is worthy of elevation.

Sir, we want to commend Dame Patricia for her work and I just want to tell her that her work is not yet completed. I believe, Sir, that as long as there is life in her body she will always be an active Member of the Barbados Labour Party and she will always be there willing to lend a hand in whatever way she can and willing to give advice. A lot of the younger Party Members have benefitted from their association with her and the words of advice she gave.
11.50 a.m.

We want to let her know that we are thankful for the legacy of service which she is leading, be it over and beyond the call of duty and service, without expectation of any reward. That is the kind of service that Dame Patricia Symmonds gave to the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) and that is why I am proud to be a member of the same Party that she sought to join. When she joined the Party, I may not have been even considered then, but that is a party which she probably grew up with as a girl when I was in another world.

I want to offer her my sincerest congratulations and to wish her all the best. I just want to tell her not to give up serving because the people of Barbados need more examples like her.

I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. President, I rise to offer my sincere congratulations to Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds.

That morning when the announcement was made, my husband called me about 6.00 a.m., I was in Nassau in the Bahamas, and I was wondering why was this man calling me at this time.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: I showed my displeasure and he said, I am calling you for a good cause to tell you something. When he broke the news to me, I tried for the next hour or so to get hold of Dame Patricia to offer her my congratulations, but her telephone was busy all the time. It was an extremely happy occasion for me and I am sure for all of the women of Barbados, so many of whom hold her as a role model.

My daughter, Melanie, has also sent her congratulations. She attended the St. Michael School after Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds left, but very early in the game she said to us, when people were telling us that we should probably move her from the St. Michael School, that it is a fine school, there is absolutely nothing wrong with it, she loved it there and she was happy and she believes that she was going to do well, which she did. I think Melanie speaks to the legacy of Senator Dame Patricia at the St. Michael School and there are many others like her.

During the last few months I got to know Dame Patricia fairly well, which is since I joined the Senate, because we move in circles together but what struck me all the time was the courtesy, affection and the respect with which the younger people treat Dame Patricia. Many of them are her students, some are relatives of her students, but all of them felt that there was someone to whom they could look up to and whom they should seek to protect.

I must say that I benefited somewhat sometimes from the kind of service and courtesy that people were extending to her everywhere we went. We travelled together to Canada in October and on that occasion I got to know her a little better as a person, but what struck me most was that here was a person who was completely dedicated to the service of others. No matter how tired she was, she wanted to get that gift for a relative, she wanted to get that birthday gift for a friend. She remembers everybody's birthday and exactly what would please the person and we had to go to just another store because the list was not yet complete.

This is something which touched me a great deal because here was a person who did not have a lot of time

because, clearly, even as a retired person, she has kept very busy, but it was the smaller things in life that she remembered and the things that she knew would bring pleasure to others. Those are very rare qualities.

In fact, I do not think that I have seen that sort of caring in many other people and I am confident that she will continue as she is. After all, there can be no remaking now because others will continue to benefit from the splendid qualities which she exhibits, and I wish her many, many happy and productive years.

I thank you.

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Mr. President, I would like to congratulate two outstanding Barbadians today. The first is an outstanding Barbadian woman, Dame Patricia Symmonds, who is our colleague here in the Senate, and the other is a former member of this Honourable Chamber, Sir Charles Williams. I think they both rendered outstanding service to the country, but today I want to focus on Dame Patricia Symmonds.

She will always be known for her keen interest and her contribution to public affairs, especially when it comes to matters of education and women affairs. To know her, you have to vet her writings. I do not pretend to have read all of her books, but I read this one "On Language and Lifestyles".

I think it will be particularly pertinent at this stage if you will allow me, Sir, to just read a short passage from this book because we are all very conscious of the results of the recent Common Entrance Exams (11+ Exams) where over 30 per cent of the children who wrote the Exam could only get between 0 and 5 out of 30 in the English Comprehension Exam. I think that should worry all of us in this Chamber and in this community. Therefore, I would like to read, Sir, if you will allow me, to read from her book "On Language and Lifestyles" by Patricia Symmonds, from page 54, the second and third paragraphs and I quote:

"It is nearsighted and misguided to assume that national and racial pride is inextricably allied to 'nation language.' Most languages in the world have a dialect or a colloquial form. Each of them has, as well, a standard form; a standard expected of educated and cultivated citizens. One can be proud, nationalistic and still well-spoken. This is the message which highly visible and influential members of the community should convey to the younger members of the society.

Parents, teachers, radio announcers and journalists have a duty to the public, and children especially, to see that they themselves maintain the highest standards of English."

I read that today because within the last week, I spoke with a young mother who told me that she was not satisfied with the way her son, who was attending primary school, was speaking at home and elsewhere. She said when she tried to correct him, he said: "Mummy, why are you correcting me? There is a very well known announcer on the radio who speaks like that all the time."

This youngster has established his role model. Fortunately, for us, we have another role model in Dame Patricia Symmonds. I hope that those responsible for the education of our children, and I am certainly not excluding the parents, will pay particular attention to the thoughts and insights that are outlined in this book "On Language and Lifestyles". The two are inextricably linked.

It should not be surprising that when youngsters think and speak in the native language or dialect, that when they are faced with an essay or prose in standard English, they cannot comprehend it or have difficulty in comprehending it.

Sir, through you, I would like to congratulate our colleague, Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds. Her work in this community has been and, I am sure, will continue to be outstanding. I hope that she will be able to reinforce the importance of our speaking and understanding standard English, especially in this day and age of globalisation when people all over the world are paying particular attention to this truly international language which we have the opportunity and the privilege to speak.

Thank you very much, Sir.
12.00 noon.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. President. Sir, in my sojourn in this Chamber, few occasions have given me greater pleasure than the one in which I am about to indulge now. It relates to my opportunity to offer my congratulations to Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds. I have no qualms here in admitting that I am exceedingly proud of Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds as a person, and to know her and work with her, and now to associate with her in this Chamber.

Sir, it is not easy to overcome the fact that circumstances would have brought me into contact with a person who is a legend. I would have heard of her when I was going to school, especially at Combermere, when at that time there was a very close alliance between the St. Michael School and Combermere. They were virtually brother and sister schools and we were very proud of that. We at Combermere would very often visit the St. Michael School for debates and other activities in the Literary and Debating Societies. Even at that time one could see, sense and experience the influence that Dame Patricia would have

exerted on her charges. As a matter of fact, Sir, I make bold to say that there is a generation of young women in particular who have emulated Dame Patricia that they have quite accurately imitated her manner and tone of speech, and also the discipline with which she enunciates words, and the discipline in which she administers the English language to the extent, that, sometimes, one thinks that one is hearing Dame Patricia speaking when, in truth and in fact, she is not there.

Sir, it is quite appropriate that her honour would have come at a time like Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard said when there is a national concern, and I would say dismay, over the standard of written and spoken English in Barbados. We have already heard of her pioneer work in the now defunct Association for The Teaching of English. I think, Sir, given Dame Patricia's achievements, status and respect which she has rightfully earned over many years of outstanding service to Barbados, that she, perhaps, is ideally placed to use her prestige, respect and accomplishments to lead a national crusade for the use again of standard English as an accepted manner of speaking.

Sir, I would like to think that this will be her next major understanding. There is no doubt that much of Barbadian life has suffered as a result of this falling away of the use of standard English. While this might seem like an isolated part of national life, in truth and in fact it reflects the slipping of standards that pervades the entire national way of living because one of the hallmarks of Senator Dame Patricia must be that in order to be such an excellent speaker and an excellent user of the English language it really demands a considerable amount of discipline.

Like Senator Mascoll said, it is not easy to apply the rules which you have learned in the classroom every hour of the day and every pronouncement that you make with such accuracy and rigidity. That really calls for a great deal of discipline and that has always been one of the hallmarks of Senator Dame Patricia. She basically personifies excellence, and that has come through in her commitment to service to Barbados and Barbadians, to the use of the English language and to her general well-being towards her fellow man and woman. I have never really heard Senator Dame Patricia speak ill of her most fierce political opponent. On a few occasions when I have seen her get close to being angry, there has always been a very controlled, dignified, quiet anger and never the outburst of the average person in my experience. That includes even myself, Sir.

She was lauded for being very devoted to her family. But I can say that she is also devoted to many people and many other families. I know that in my case she has become a virtual member of my family. She was devoted to a niece of mine who had been educated at the St. Michael School

who died quite young and this interest has been transferred even to my daughter. She has always shown great interest in her and made sure that she got certain books. Her latest contribution to her education has been a subscription to the National Geographic Magazine. That is the unselfish manner in which she has approached life.

Sir, what makes the honour even more outstanding is that Senator Dame Patricia would have achieved her many accomplishments as a woman without being a feminist. She has operated very quietly and very dignified as though she accepts that as a matter of course men and women are equal. Therefore, there was no need to burn the bra or tear off her clothes. In fact, one cannot associate her image with the question of burning her bra or burning down buildings and those kinds of militant activities. Through dint of hard work and application, she has shown that it is very possible for a woman to achieve as much as, or even more than a man or men without being a "termerville". I think that was a term I learned at school some years ago.

Sir, I have also known Senator Dame Patricia in the political trenches and she always amazes me that at the time when an exercise like the General Election is going on, she is among the first to arrive and among the last to leave. The energy, application and dedication which she applies to her work really puts to shame many of the much younger persons that you would expect to be much more energetic and devoted to their task. Therefore, that is part of the discipline of which I spoke. I have never known her to be late for an occasion no matter how hard she might have worked the night before. If there is an early morning meeting, she would be among the first to be there and she is always early and setting an example. Sir, I think that is part of the discipline of the woman.

Therefore, Sir, I think that we are fortunate to be able to have this close association and to live and work in the presence of Senator Dame Patricia. I wish that one of her next great tasks on behalf of the nation would be to try to return Barbados to the prior usage of standard English.

It is quite interesting that nowadays one of the phrases one no longer hears is that of being accused of "speaking great". When I was growing up and there was much more respect for the use of standard English, those persons who did not appreciate what was involved in being a communicator at any level anywhere would often accuse those who spoke standard English, particularly in a formal setting of speaking great. I have not heard that phrase probably about 20 or 30 years which, no doubt, indicates how long the rock has settled in our society where the use of standard English is concerned.

I, too, for sometime have been speaking out against the cheap popularity that has been accorded and achieved by some persons in society who have made a living out of this masquerade of what some people would want us to believe is called "national language" but, really, is Barbadian dialect, and it has elevated particularly on the radio.
12.10 p.m.

There is no doubt that people are heavily influenced by what they hear and see but, in terms of the electronic media, you give it a sort of respectability. We knew that you could listen to radio and judge your manner of speech and take examples, not only from Dame Patricia, but from the likes of Alfred Pragnell and Tony Cummings, Marvo Manning, *et cetera*. Those persons are no longer on the airwaves and therefore the whole institution of the media gives respectability and legitimacy to what otherwise would be considered as being invalid or illegitimate. Therefore, one has to be very careful to portray what one promotes using the media.

I think that in the same way society has come around to a position that it is no longer good enough that all versions of dub can be played on the radio and at public places, that some of them are destructive and offensive and not good for the society, a similar attitude has to be adopted towards the standard of English where it is no longer a situation of anything goes, and anything passes, and we accept anything as the norm.

Sir, I join other members in paying tribute in her lifetime to Dame Patricia and look forward to her working very hard and particularly on the undertaking which I have sought to assign her. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I join my colleagues in congratulating Dame Patricia for this signal honour and I can think of no one more deserving. I would like to touch on two aspects of Dame Patricia's life that I have observed and one is in the restoration of Sir Grantley's home at Tyrol Cot. She has worked tirelessly for that project with the Barbados National Trust and I am sure that its success has been mainly due to her particular efforts and her commitment in that particular project. I am sure that the Trust has already said at its recent Annual General Meeting all the nice things that had to be said about her.

The other thing that has always impressed me is that the few times that I have managed to get to Parliament, Dame Patricia has always been sitting in Parliament, something that I think most of us would love to be able to do because I think it does inform you a lot on what is going on, and what is going to happen, and what happens there before it comes here. That has always impressed me that she has taken time out to go and sit in Parliament to follow all the debates there.

With those few words, I congratulate you.

SENATOR THE REV. L. W. B. ROCK: Mr. President, I am proud to be a member of this Honourable House at this time when one of our number in the person of Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds is being honoured and to associate myself with my colleagues in the words of congratulations extended to her.

I am also proud because we share a common membership in the Church, in that both of us are Methodists. Therefore, I am doubly proud because one of our number has been honoured for the sort of Christian qualities and service which are so important for us in character building and which, unfortunately, seems to be undervalued in our society at this time.

Sir, I want to congratulate her and to salute her for her dedication, for her selfless service and for the quiet manner in which she has rendered that service. I want also to state that I believe that what we have evidenced in the quality of that service is in no small way due to the Christian environment and the example which her parents set for her and I am sure that they would be proud of this moment.

In this honour bestowed, our country is honouring the sort of qualities that are needed to continue to make this nation of ours great. I congratulate you, Dame Patricia. I feel very proud of you and pray that God will bless you and continue to use your life as an influence to many as it has been in the past. Thank you.

SENATOR G. E. N. BROME: Mr. President, I rise today to extend congratulations to a great lady, Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds. I respect her as a mother. Very often I call her to find out certain things which I may not be familiar with. She knows everything about the Party. She knows everything that is going on. She is approachable. She is respectful. She is helpful. Even here in the Senate, if I reach her standard, I will feel good. If Dame Patricia tells me that I have done well, I will feel good about myself. It counts a lot.

Dame Patricia has worked all her life with the emphasis on quality and excellence. Excellence and quality should always go hand in hand. She has worked in the days when teaching was not about money, but it was about producing quality and quality students. I believe that there are lots of people today whom she would have impressed. Unfortunately, they are not here in this Chamber today but we hope that she may be able to go out a little more publicly and to extract some of the sentiments and comments that should be offered to her.

I think she deserves every good word said. I think she has earned it. I would hope that more young people will listen to what she has said, understand her philosophies and attempt to walk in her footsteps if they want to be contributors to Barbados and the West Indies.

Dame Patricia, I am proud that you are a West Indian. I am also happy that you are connected to the ruling Party, and I am also happy that you are alive to be able to receive the comments, not only from me, but from all the other Senators. I am happy to make my contribution in your presence.

SENATOR B. R. COLLYMORE: Mr. President, I rise to add a few words to all the sentiments that have been expressed on behalf of Dame Patricia Symmonds.

Many years ago, I used to be a member of the Honours Committee which made the first recommendations to the approving authority for people to be honoured. I set a personal criterion at the time that the main consideration should not be an excellent worker in his or her job but a person who has gone beyond the call of duty to add something to the community in which he or she lives.

On that criterion, Dame Patricia passes with flying honours. I have always been impressed by her dedication to whatever she is involved in, whether it be cricket, politics, teaching, whatever it may be. More than this, the essence of her character was manifested in the politeness, civility and elegance of language, style and whatever she is doing.
12.20 p.m.

I am happy that I can stand here and add those few words to all that has been said about one who deserves this honour and one who deserves it more than what we are able to express.

I thank you.

SENATOR D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. President, I fear that I will have to be accused of perhaps giving the shortest speech in the Senate's history but, having had all of the things said about Senator Dame Patricia, I fear that there is very little that I can add. I feel I must say that the honour bestowed on her by Her Majesty the Queen is only confirmatory of something that perhaps we have known all along and, that is, that Senator Dame Patricia has exemplified the concept and the ideals – what we would call a person who is, in all respects, a lady.

Mr. PRESIDENT: In the five and a half years that I have had the privilege of presiding in this Honourable Chamber, few occasions have given me greater pleasure than the opportunity today to join other Honourable Senators in

congratulating Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds on the award of Dame of the British Empire in the recent Queen's Birthday Honour List.

Senator Symmonds is an outstanding Senator. Her assistance to the work of this Chamber to me as Presiding Officer and to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has been invaluable. She brings, as has been said, to public life all of the time-honoured virtues of integrity, dignity, courtesy, punctuality, loyalty, humility and all the others.

I knew of Senator Symmonds long before I had the pleasure of formally meeting her siblings, cousins, friends, all sat at her feet. Of course, the largest portion of her life has been spent in the teaching profession, particularly in the teaching of English. Although a Presiding Officer is not necessarily the guardian of linguistic purity, there has only to be an unhappy sentence or an inelegant phrase for me to look in Senator Symmonds' direction. Sometimes it is a frown, on other occasions it is a grimace, but it very quickly reverses to a smile. It seems to me that at the point of impact, Dame Patricia Symmonds is instinctively in the classroom but when reality strikes – this happens very quickly – she is in the Parliamentary Chamber and it is at that point that the smile comes.

Senator Symmonds has dedicated her life to the service of others, charitable organisations, service clubs, her church, her family and her friends. She has a plenitude of public energy. It is well-known, as has been said, that she never misses a Sitting of the Other Place and, to my certain knowledge, in the last five and a half years, she has not missed a day's Sitting of this Honourable Chamber.

Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds, you must be in no doubt that Members of this Honourable Chamber, each and every one of us, is delighted at your conferment. We congratulate you most warmly.

SENATOR THE HON. DAME PATRICIA SYMONDS: Mr. President, I do not know if I can live up to my reputation of being articulate today, so moved am I by all that has been said this morning. I would not be Olga Symmond's daughter, or the product of the school which I attended, if I had not learnt lessons over the years which I think I have passed on to the pupils that I taught, largely at St. Michael's and in other places privately, and at another institution, such lessons as caring for people, doing one's very best, having a sense of duty and an interest in community and public life – I will add to that politics.

I am not going to be diffused because I look at the clock and I see that it is late in the morning, in fact, it is afternoon, but I wish to thank you, Mr. President, and all Honourable Senators here for all that has been said for their

unforgettable moving and gladdening laudations. There can be no greater satisfaction than in being praised and acknowledged by one's colleagues and peers.

Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you all Honourable Senators.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF RESOLUTION
TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE BY GOVERNMENT FOR
THE REPAYMENT BY THE BARBADOS TOURISM
INVESTMENT INC. OF \$25 000 000.00
BORROWED BY WAY OF THE ISSUE
OF BONDS, TO BE KNOWN AS
SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT BONDS
AND THE INTEREST ON
THE PRINCIPAL SUM

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the guarantee by Government for the repayment by the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. of \$25 000 000.00 borrowed by way of the issue of bonds, to be known as Special Development Bonds and the interest on the principal sum.

This sum is to be used for the development of the infrastructure of Bridgetown and Speightstown. As you know, Mr. President, the Government of Barbados is committed to the rehabilitation and revitalisation of our city centres. We see them not only as important economy centres but as important social and residential areas.
12.30 p.m.

A city centre without residents is a dying centre. There has been a flight of individuals from living in the city centres of Barbados. By upgrading the infrastructure, by bringing private investment back into the city centre and developing it for social, cultural, as well as commercial activities, we are embarked on a programme of revitalising our important city centre in Barbados.

The evidence of this is already very plain for those to see with the Boardwalk that is going to be handed over this afternoon at a ceremony at 6.30 p.m. The Boardwalk is the beginning of the revitalisation of the Careenage and the Constitution River.

In years gone by, somewhat before any of us were around, the Constitution River was navigable right up to the Globe Theatre. In fact, cargo vessels used to go up to the

Globe, up to what was then called the Roebuck, which would be to the top of Roebuck Street, and offload their cargo. Succeeding years of soil erosion and flooding has filtered up the Constitution River to a significant degree.

On the infrastructural activities within the City, Government is putting in place new drainage, road and lighting systems, and creating an environment which will then stimulate and foster private, local and foreign investment to upgrade the buildings of Bridgetown, to increase their usefulness, to better serve the hospitality industry, the cruise tourism and the long stay cruise tourism for shopping, eating and cultural activities, within the city centre.

This money will be used to improve that infrastructure which then will lead to much greater investment in activities that will earn foreign exchange and provide many a job for countless Barbadians within the city centre. It will also raise the standard and the quality of the ambience of the City. Whereby it is hoped that investment will be stimulated into provision of middle income and upper income housing, as well as housing for lower income individuals.

I remember, as a child, when my grandfather lived a short walk from the city centre. The area of Pinfold Street and Tudor Street had many a substantial residence in those areas. There had a large body of middle class people living very close to the city centre. They walked to work and created no pollution. Today everyone must drive in.

I think that once again we have to stimulate and redirect how the City is developing, both here and in Speightstown so that we can bring the city back to life where we have a rich cultural experience as well as a sound and thriving experience within the city centre.

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

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, it is a bit unfortunate that I have not been given extensive detail on the intention of the Government how they propose to develop Bridgetown and Speightstown. The idea of bringing life back to a city is particularly understandable in a large country where you might have had over time de-urbanisation, that is, people drifting to set up in the rural part of the country.

In a small country like Barbados, in the absence of that detailed information, I am straining to understand the extent to which there can, in fact, be a resurgence of life, that is accommodation for persons to live within the inner bounds of Bridgetown and Speightstown. I understand that an area has been demarked, urban Barbados, stretching from

Holder's Hill, in the north, along the Highway, right up to Rendezvous in Christ Church, which has a population of just over 103,000 persons.

To suggest that we are going to go against the economic forces to provide more jobs, to produce more investment opportunities, for locals and foreigners, then to take space within small Bridgetown and to dedicate it to residential as opposed to commercial use, is very difficult to comprehend from the point of view of the limited space that we presently have, and particularly the kind of cost any available land would be assigned in Barbados today and, certainly, over the next five to ten years. This desire to bring life back to the City is overwhelmingly a political desire on the part of the representative for the City of Bridgetown.

I do not think that sufficient thought has been given to the planning of a residential/commercial area. To a large extent, to me, it seems more like a "pie in the sky" attempt or almost a fairy tale approach to developing Bridgetown at this stage. I just cannot understand. I am being very frank and honest. How we can even begin to conceptualise a plan where we are going to bring low income houses back to Bridgetown? Where will it be situated - the link-up housing in Bridgetown? What areas are we demarking for such development?

The other thing is that history has shown that people move out of the City of Bridgetown. The population census will tell you there has been a steady decline in the level of population in the City, itself, and that can be explained for many reasons. As you know the settlement in this area has been very random. There has not been any major plan in which people settle. In terms of even trying to understand the size of lots, people were able to scotch two or three houses on one piece of land and that created a whole set of problems, legally and otherwise.
12.40 p.m.

As people developed and got opportunities to own land, they moved into the more rural areas, that is why we are seeing the development of St. James in the way we are seeing it and in St. Philip, St. George and Christ Church. It is explained really by development that as people become more in touch with the capacity to earn, as they want to have a better standard of living, they look for houses with a little more land space and something that can be developed. We know from studies that there are many properties in the Bridgetown area which are on very small lots and cannot be developed in the way that the owners would wish to develop these lots.

Sir, there is a natural movement away from the City, what we call "de-urbanisation", as there is development and as people look for more comfortable lots and areas to live in. Now, why would there be a deliverance strategy on the part

of any government to wish to return residential properties to the centre of the City and on what real basis is this decision being made? What would be the benefit? Do we expect that there will be a major hive of activity at night? What kind of investment are we seeking to stimulate?

I really do have considerable difficulty in understanding what is the purpose of trying to bring people back to the City of Bridgetown in a modern Barbados. I have great difficulty in understanding it, especially when we are talking about having limited space, especially when we are talking about a network of roads which is not providing or facilitating the kind of existing transportation that we have in Barbados so that the dream of having Bridgetown developed as a commercial/residential area is exceedingly difficult to even begin to understand.

Now mind you, I am extremely appreciative of the Boardwalk. It is a wonderful addition to Bridgetown. It provides an opportunity for us to go and sit and those who like to do a little fishing, just to put a rod in the Careenage. You would hardly catch anything because of the present state of the Careenage, but fishing is not about really catching fish. It is about patience. It is about releasing stress. It is about relaxing. It is for the most part that, because the kind of catch that you can get in the Careenage would not be in anyway sufficient to put on the plate. It is really about finding other means of relaxation. The concept is a good concept and must be lauded but to understand the wider idea of developing residential areas in Bridgetown, I must tell you I find it extremely difficult.

As we drift north to Speightstown, again population censuses will tell you that for sure in the parish of St. Andrew there has been a steady decline of population. There has been hardly any growth of population in St. Peter and there has been limited growth in St. Lucy, based on information. This is why it is going to be particularly difficult to develop Speightstown in the way in which we want to develop it. There is nothing wrong in attempting to do it, but we must understand what is happening across Barbados. So that again trying to develop Speightstown in itself is not a bad thing, but trying to force residential development in Speightstown, may not be the way to go.

Indeed, the other town that we have called Oistins, has even greater potential for growth because of the population redistribution that has occurred in Barbados where Christ Church, which is the second largest in terms of population, and has a fairly rapidly growing population, presents Oistins as an opportunity to develop even more so than Speightstown. Then you have the attendant information on St. Philip which is one of the fastest growing areas for residential purposes.

I do not wish to suggest that there may be a political motive at Speightstown but, certainly, in terms of the development of a town in Barbados, the logical second town in Barbados would be in fact, Oistins. This is based on several other indicators. When you look at the stretch along the west coast, and we can differ on this, there was some limit of, in fact, to how far north we will go in terms of hotel development, and that was contained in the Hotel Aids Act. There was some limit how far we could go, but I am not at all convinced that we have given full expression to why we are seeking to return residential properties or buildings to Bridgetown and Speightstown. That, to my mind, is something that has to be dealt with before we can begin to talk about returning economic activity to these two towns in Barbados.

Now, tourism is very much in need of special attention at this stage in Barbados. There is no doubt that all we are seeking to do here to encourage activity cannot fail to address the very pressing concerns of competitiveness in the tourism sector. There is no doubt, and I continue to say it, that you are not going to get the kind of investment that you need in tourism, unless you offer a reasonable rate of return on the investment.

There are several examples, most recent is Paradise, where you are not offering the kind of rate of return on the investment, therefore, that property has not been developed in the way in which it would have been developed as has happened in other CARICOM countries by the same investors. They have refused to develop Paradise precisely because the industry is not giving the kind of rate of return on investment.

This explains also, Mr. President, why the St. James Beach, which is one of the Elegant Hotels, is presently downsizing the way in which they are downsizing because they are unable to get the kinds of benefits in terms of the rate of return on the investment that they were seeking. Therefore, there are attempts to considerably reduce the level of staffing at these four properties across Barbados.

Now, some others have suggested other things. We know what transpired earlier with the VAT Unit and the like, and perhaps, there are other reasons, but I do not want to attribute anything that cannot be made public to the demise or pending demise of that particular group. That group constitutes the largest single group of hotel chains in Barbados. So that we need to examine, as I have said before, why it is that we are not getting the kinds of interest and why we are all of a sudden seeing the withdrawal of some of the major investors in the sector.

Sandy Lane, in terms of tourism and encouraging tourism, is a very special case which in itself has to be addressed because it is particularly interesting for a large

entity to replace a top line investment with one that is more modern, but the expectations on the investment are going to be no greater.
12.50 p.m.

You are having a situation in which an investor is replacing a top of the line property, reducing the level of rooms while, at the same time, investing in golf courses and other things.

The same way in which we will be looking dimly at why the largest chain in Barbados is downsizing, we may very well have to look at why there were the kinds of adjustments made to Sandy Lane Hotel in similar light. Since some issues cannot be made public and are not being made public, I do not wish to go in that direction except to say that all the investments in tourism that we are seeking to have can only come about if we are going to be offering the investors a proper rate of return on the investment and this, therefore, has to be carefully analysed.

We have a situation in which the Prime Minister has recently said that no matter what one finds to be the reasons for the reduced level of competitiveness in tourism, he is not prepared to adjust the level of taxation. That creates a very serious problem in that even if you have a situation in tourism where the introduction of VAT has been a major deterrent, and has been damaging the competitiveness of the industry, the Prime Minister has made it quite clear that he is not prepared to adjust either the rate, or the base.

I am calling, Mr. President, for a total analysis of the way in which the VAT has impacted on the tourism industry in Barbados and I know it has been negative. I am saying that if we are talking about encouraging investment, both local and foreign, then we have to create an environment in which people are going to be willing to invest in the way in which we are seeking to encourage them to invest. Do not mind Sandy Lane Hotel.

If I am a billionaire, it does not matter what kind of taxes is imposed. If I have to go to the dealer for a Mercedes and ask the price as a billionaire, it means that I am not a billionaire. You do not want to buy a Mercedes and then ask the price. Whenever you go to a Mercedes shop, you go to pick up the item and move.

Similarly, in tourism, if you are going to go to the high end as high as Sandy Lane Hotel, you are not going to be too perturbed about whether there is a 5 per cent or a 15 per cent VAT on food. That has to be understood. Sandy Lane Hotel cannot be used as an example of where people would come to invest because you are indifferent to prices at that level. It cannot work that way.

I am saying that the recent policies like the bond rates which I complained so bitterly about in terms of the methods of implementation, it has now been proven that the method in which it was done was incorrect for the tourism industry. Therefore, you have to find ways and means of introducing policies to protect both the consumer and producer.

The bond rates were poorly implemented because if you have a situation in which, for example, spare ribs were allowed to come into Barbados, and the local producers still survived, why should you now impose a 243 per cent bond rate on the importation of the spare ribs to push up the price to the consumer, whereas what should have happened is that some analysis should be done on the amount of spare ribs which were imported before, and then a limit of say 100 000 kilograms should have been allowed free entry, and anything beyond that, there would have to be an imposition. It can be done that way because what you are not doing, Mr. President, you are not in any way discriminating against the imported spare ribs when you allow that free entry at the old rate. You are not.

Anyone who cannot argue that such an imposition or method used cannot pass the World Trade Organisation (WTO) arrangement is not a good negotiator in that that method which I am suggesting can in no way affect the importer. In fact, it will help the importers of such spare ribs. It will not affect the local producer but it will have a significant effect on the cost of operation of hotels which has been held responsible for the scaling down of the St. James Beach Group.

It is time for us not to be so hard-nosed about these things. It is time to understand that we can revisit decisions that are incorrect. The same way in which they can say they amended the Property Transfer Tax to be in line with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) arrangements, they can amend other measures as well. Why should they double the property transfer tax on locals and reduce it on foreigners to satisfy the World Trade Organisation (WTO) arrangements and you are incapable, as a Prime Minister, of amending an arrangement that permits you to balance between the consumer expectations and the producer expectations?

It cannot be a case in which you are incapable of doing it because what I am suggesting does not affect the level playing field. It does not affect the local producers but it affects positively the consumers who happen to be both locals and tourists alike, so there is a need to revisit it.

Mr. President, the issue here has to do with encouraging investments. It has to do with providing an opportunity for local investors and foreign investors to come to Barbados and establish businesses. It cannot be the case that a Government is incapable of providing an environment to encourage that investment.

Although, we have to conform to the rulings of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), we are not completely stripped of our capacity to be innovative and to be creative in terms of our policy measures and taxation policies. We cannot simply bend at the knees and accommodate. It is a question of understanding the plight of the various sectors.

If one sees the collection of VAT as a political saviour and they do not intend to amend it at all to improve competitiveness in any of the sectors, what signals are they sending to the private sector, irrespective of what they find to be damaging and detrimental to their investment?

Government is still in a position where they have borrowed in the last year \$350 million to assist them with the threats of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the threats of Free Trade. Now, they are also saying that the revenue which was collected from the bond rates would have been used to assist the private sector during that very turbulent period.

There are three reasons given for having resources that they can put aside to deal with this thing called the World Trade Organisation and Free Trade. It is that they borrowed \$350 million in the last year. They squandered \$150 million last year and said that they financed the deficit. Now they have gone for \$200 million more.
1.00 p.m.

You introduced a VAT that has been exceedingly generous which we do not intend to change the base or the rate to encourage the private sector to remain on the shores of Barbados and you have now introduced bond rates which yield revenue to Government which it does not deserve, but you do not intend to use the revenue to assist the private sector. So there are three different sources of revenue for Government by way of borrowing and taxation which they can now utilize and use free trade as the excuse, but they are not utilizing it. Now we have a loan coming for \$25 million which is saying that we are trying to encourage investment in tourism in Bridgetown and Speightstown.

Well, if it is no longer the case that people invest according to what rate of return they can get, then I can stop practising economics and everybody else can pretend that there is nothing wrong with Barbados and that Barbados has no reason to prepare for the bleak future that is ahead.

We had Bico Company to close proving again that the climate in Barbados is not conducive to investment. It is because of the existing arrangements within our economy, particularly the level of taxation and other things. We have had manufacturing entities pulling out of Barbados.

We have a soft drink sector that has been under pressure and I said that about two and a half years ago in this Chamber that it would happen. Yet we still have a situation in which you are not prepared, although you are saying that you are preparing for free trade, you are not prepared to create an environment to allow these sectors to survive.

Sir, I am at a loss as to really what we have here. We have a loan for \$25 million and I am gathering that it is supposed to return residential areas to the City, which I do not understand. This is a small country. Where in Bridgetown are we going to locate these residents? We go to Europe and North America and we hear about bringing people back to the City and we have now taken on that as a project. Should they live in the Careenage?

Mr. President, I am going to wrap up because I am getting hungry. I must tell you that I understand the need to prepare an investment climate but it has little to do with borrowing more money and more to do with creating an environment in which people can invest resources to get returns on their investments. There are several people in Barbados in the private sector especially, who are aware and continue to support, after eight months the views expressed by the shadow Minister of Economic Affairs and Tourism on the DLP side.

There are several examples where people have now revisited their original positions on VAT and the manufacturing sector. We have heard on the Radio Call-In Programmes where there was a telephone survey. We have had all kinds of suggestions on manufacturing, and when asked if they will pull out of Barbados, about 90 per cent said "Yes", because they understood.

Mr. President, I end on this note. The construction sector, as buoyant as it is, cannot sustain a small economy. When you borrow as heavily as we have borrowed in the last year, \$350 million, and then we boast that we have record levels of reserves, we cannot be happy. We have to ensure that tourism which is now seeking this \$25 million loan is performing. Also manufacturing, the offshore sector which is under threat because of OECD countries and the other things that we know about including sugar and agriculture in general are not performing. All of our major foreign exchange earning sectors are not performing and we are talking about reserves.

We also know, Mr. President, that when you get an inflow of foreign exchange for the Sandy Lane project, that you should not treat that as genuine tourism activity. That money has come in for the construction of the hotel and the golf courses. So that when you try to give the impression that money has come in here because of tourism, we know that it is there to build the golf courses and the hotels, and that it will go out in the form of raw materials for the very

buildings that you are building. It will go out also in terms of having to pay the architects, designers and the workers. You know that it is a temporary in-flow of foreign exchange. Therefore, that should not be misconstrued with a buoyant tourism economy in which you are getting a genuine foreign dollar for a room.

Then we have the situation, even though they do not seem to be able to explain it, that once you get this kind of construction you are going to get a little dent in your VAT because of refunds. If Sandy Lane is presently in construction and brings in a whole set of equipment and things to build, and there is a VAT on it, by rights they are entitled to a refund.

At this point in time, if you think of it, Sandy Lane is not selling any rooms to anybody. It does not have one to sell so they will, in fact, get a refund. There will be zero on the outputs and a lot of money on the inputs. It is a sort of "lump it" thing that happens when once you start to construct.

The little VAT pressure that you feel is understandable, but we are confusing this economy because we are giving the impression, on the basis of construction, by hiring a whole set of youngsters, and the females are highly unemployed, that everything is rosy and well in Barbados. The reality is that we have an economy that has a cancer that is being protected, but it will soon flare up in time.

I end by saying that while this loan on tourism may be good to develop Bridgetown and Speightstown, it cannot be to encourage residential areas in these two towns in Barbados. That is the wrong premise. What you have to do to encourage investment is to create the environment in which people can invest and get a reasonable rate of return on the investment. You should check the information from the BHTA on the rest of the Caribbean. You should check the speeches of the former Vice President of the BHTA, who happens now to be the Minister of Tourism, on the very issues on tourism.

You should check the time when it was said that the pain has been taken out of the industry to understand that less than three months ago we had genuine analysis of the tourism sector based on what we consider to be the contribution of the cruise ships, whether there should be a public or private sector agency in tourism, and what is the contribution of "all inclusive".

We had a detailed analysis when tourism was described as being in its roughest time ever by the then Vice President of the BHTA who happens now to be the Minister of Tourism, and that was only in December 1999. All of a sudden the picture is being painted that there is milk and honey in heaven in the tourism sector. That was less than six

months after because of a simple change of a Minister. We were told that we had the best days in the winter season and the year 2000 would be great. Now you are finding that in the same tourism sector there are kinds of criticisms and complaints being made by the major players in the industry. 1.10 p.m.

It is time for the Government to take it seriously because it has now reached the point where it is beginning to affect the worker. People are being laid off along the West Coast, as I speak.

Tourism is not in the sweet position we think it is. The industry, for the most part, is struggling to survive. The industry needs a helping hand from Government by way of an effective policy. The industry needs a reduction in taxation. The industry is crying out for help. These kinds of initiatives are designed purely for public relations and politics and not for prudent management of a sector that has now been described as the heart and pulse of the Barbados economy.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD:
Mr. President, I move that this Sitting be suspended for one hour. We return at 2.15 p.m.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, unlike the last speaker I am not hungry so I will at least try to make commonsense of the Resolution before us.

This Resolution seeks the Senate's approval of the Government guarantee of an initial bond issue of \$25 million which is to be known as Special Development Bonds to enable the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated, which is a company under the Companies Act, and is controlled by Government, to carry out certain works relating to the infrastructural development of Bridgetown and Speightstown. This is in the Addendum to the Resolution which we have before us.

The rate of interest is very attractive, 8.25 per cent per year and the bonds are redeemable in 15 years' time. It carries a reasonably attractive rate of interest but, at the same time, the BTII would be borrowing funds at less than the market value because they would be borrowing funds at eight per cent, which is a little below the market value, so it is a win/win situation for both the investors as well as the BTII. It will enable them to carry on the impressive work which they have started in Bridgetown.

Bridgetown is the capital of Barbados and as such it must reflect the country as a whole. We all know that for lots of reasons Bridgetown is a bit tacky. There is need for substantial work to be done in order to bring our capital city to the required level.

Housing in Bridgetown, I think we have said that on many occasions, is below standard. We have areas in Bridgetown where in a modern Barbados we think that the standard of housing and the environment is not compatible with what we would like for Barbados. That is why this Government is seeking to redevelop the area known as Cat's Castle. That is part of the plan that the Urban Development Commission has for Bridgetown. That area known as Cat's Castle is to be redeveloped because our view is that Bridgetown must be like other capitals in the world. It must have a residential part to it.

Sir, we know that in the inner city in places like New York and London, they have some of the most desirable housing and Bridgetown, in my humble view, has to be like that. That is why, in spite of all the opposition we had, we made sure that the Government set the lead by building impressive housing in Bridgetown. I think of the London Bourne Towers which was opened a few months ago. That fits in well with the decor of that part of Bridgetown.

We not only take pride in developing the London Bourne Towers but a few years ago, when we were last in Government, between 1977 and 1986, we built Kensington Lodge which today is almost acknowledged to be one of the better estates that the Government has built through the National Housing Corporation.

The irony is we had the plans for Pondsides done. The plans for Pondsides included a much more impressive area, but when the Democratic Labour Party came into power, they were the ones that built Pondsides, but they downscaled the plans we had for Pondsides. What turned out at Pondsides was not really what we in the Barbados Labour Party had envisaged for Pondsides. That, Sir, is a statement of fact and we know it to be true. They drastically reduced the scale of the Pondsides Project. That is why when we came into power, one of the first things we did was to ensure that more houses were built in the Pondsides area.

Sir, it is very important that there is a strong residential component to the redevelopment of Bridgetown. Bridgetown is not only to be about stores, bonds and so on. We feel that people should be living in and around our capital city for obvious reasons. Do not forget, Sir, that historically, a lot of people always lived in Bridgetown. Country Road some years ago was a highly residential area, Bay Street itself and White Park. I am told that places like Nelson Street and Beckwith Streets 50 or more years ago were districts where middle income people lived. Bridgetown always had a strong housing element to it.

What we are seeking to do in our redevelopment of Bridgetown is to ensure that not only do we provide businesses and so on, but we have a strong residential complex. We have done that so far by the State itself going into Bridgetown and doing some housing developments there.

This hue and cry about the residential component to the Bridgetown redevelopment is missing a fundamental point that for Bridgetown to really come to life we need a strong residential component to its development. That is something that obviously we should seek to accelerate as time goes on.

The BTII has some very interesting real estate vested in it like Bay Street. A lot of us in here can remember the whole Carlisle Bay area years gone by. There were just rocks there. There were no beaches there.
2.20 p.m.

In the last 10-20 years a tremendous beach has developed from the Hilton to almost the Pierhead and it is a lovely stretch of beach land which we must develop, not only for ourselves, but also for visitors to enjoy. Sir, that is one of the reasons why the Government sought to close the MOBIL refinery because we felt that that whole area is ripe for development. With a shortage of beach front land in Barbados, it did not make sense to have an uneconomic refinery sitting on a lovely piece of real estate of about 9 or 10 acres in that region.

We see the whole of the Bay Street area, including Carlisle Bay, as an important national treasure. The BTII has invested in a lot of the properties along there. My only hope is that in the redevelopment of this, that we take into account the character of Bay Street. There are some lovely architectural features on Bay Street that we can seek to incorporate as we redevelop the whole area.

The Savoy, the Child Care Board building, and the Welfare Building, are lovely buildings and are some of those that we could have architecturally pleasing so that we can maintain a little of the character of what was many years ago. I was not born many years ago but I am told it was a very impressive area.

BTII is well placed, in my view, because of the fact that a lot of the properties they have invested in are well placed to influence development along that important stretch. In the next 10 to 20 years we are going to see the face of Bay Street change, and probably we can look to redevelop the Esplanade in front of the Government Headquarters and have the charm of some chattel houses, because our chattel houses have a distinctly Barbadian flavour. So we can think of incorporating things like that within the whole redevelopment scheme.

This bond issue will go a long way to help the BTII realise its goals.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Can we bring this debate back to a reasonable level, all Senators, please?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the BTII, we know, came out of the old BTIC and it is a very important arm. We must move away from the view that tourism is about hotels and hotels only. There is that view that the only component of tourism is hotels. That is not true. The environment, whether it be the physical environment or whatever, is as much important in the whole tourism development as the hotels.

I venture to state that not many people come to Barbados because of a hotel. They come to Barbados because of certain attractions of the island, the charm of the island, the people, all of these are more important in attracting persons to the country. That is why the focus by the BTII, on making sure that Bridgetown is in a very pleasant condition, will go a long way towards attracting people to Barbados. For example, I am told that later this evening the Boardwalk is to be officially opened. That is an impressive venture, and that has done a lot to add to the character and to the appeal of Bridgetown.

We think of Swan Street. That Swan Street Redevelopment – I do not know what those who pass there think, but that is going to add a lot. Although it is not yet finished, it has transformed the whole area of Swan Street. We need more of these types of development.

We hear talk about the pedestrianisation of Broad Street and so on. These are plans that from time to time we will put into place because our dream is that within 10 to 20 years Bridgetown will be in a state comparable to any other town in the world. That is why we are ensuring that there are recreational areas in Bridgetown.

A place like Trevor's Way is important. Murphy's Pasture and all of these places within Bridgetown are very important. Bridgetown must not only be a place where you come to do business. It must be a place where you come to

relax, to spend an evening sitting down on the Boardwalk by the benches on Trevor's Way or whatever. In short, Sir, Bridgetown must be a place where a fellow can leave Bagatelle or wherever to say he is going to town for a drive because there is activity there and a relative amount of safety.

When I was a boy, I lived about three miles out and to go to Bridgetown at night to take a cool walk was a pleasurable thing. We need to bring our capital city back to that stage where it used to be.

I was pleased that some people are using the Post Office Amphitheatre. We need to develop these sorts of places. What is lacking in Barbados is somewhere for people to go and feel safe and hear something that is pleasing. We need to do more of that. That is why, Sir, the Government is taking pleasure in the fact that the Central Bank is seeking to redevelop Church Village.

I think that the National Bank has been mandated, as the Prime Minister said at the opening of the National Bank at Independence Square, to help in the development of the areas around them, the Empire Theatre and these places. We have to put money into making our capital city worthy of Barbados. What we are doing here, giving the approval to raise this \$25 million, will go a long way in sensitising Barbadians to the importance of their capital city in the scheme of things.

I am not only thinking in terms of tourists but the 260 000 people who live here. My hope is that these efforts are intensified and that the private sector will be encouraged to see this as an area of opportunity. It makes sense that we ensure that the environment of Bridgetown, *et cetera*, and its environs are aesthetically pleasant and that they are places to be desired.

I give my wholehearted support to this measure. I am sure that the whole of Barbados, including those who spoke before me, would be applauding Government for taking this step.
2.30 p.m.

Sir, you know why this step is important? Because it means that I, Sir, as an individual, can put in \$1 000 and say, I am going to put this money away for 15 years and I know that this money is going to help redevelop Bridgetown. During the year I will get some interest or so but I have made a contribution to the development of my city.

I want to use this medium through you, Sir, to encourage the whole of Barbados that when these bonds come on the market, that they take the opportunity and invest in a worthwhile venture. We have to impress upon people

that they are investing in their own future because an attractive Bridgetown will mean a lot to the country.

Most people in here have travelled quite a lot and we know how this country is viewed by people overseas. We do not feel so ourselves but people outside view Barbados as one of the most desirable places to visit. We have got to ensure that we do our utmost best to make it high on the list of countries to be visited by having a clean environment, a safer environment and an aesthetically pleasing country.

I want to commend this Resolution to this Honourable Senate and ask, Sir, that they support it with all the vigour that they can muster.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Sir, I move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND SITUATE
AT TODDS, SAINT GEORGE, FOR THE PUBLIC
PURPOSES OF THE PROVISION OF
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
AND HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD:
Mr. President, I move this Resolution for the acquisition of 2.33 hectares of land which is an area of land close to St. Judes, Cherry Grove, and Macaroni Village because there is a great need for recreational facilities in this area. This land is being acquired from Todds Plantation, which is owned by CLICO, to provide playing facilities for the residents in this area. This is in keeping with Government's policy of expanding recreational facilities and will also be used to develop community centres with continuous learning components in those community centres.

I move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I am not sure of my geography but I got the impression that St. Judes is well west of Todds, that Macaroni Village is well south of Todds and that Cherry Grove is to the east of Todds. I am totally lost as to the location of this piece of land. I would like to know from the Minister if it is agricultural land or if it is rab land.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, it is my understanding that there was no need for a change of use for this land, however, it is over in the area of Belle Farm and it bounds on that area.

Let me just say that the Honourable Member is correct by saying that Cherry Grove is to the east, St. Judes to the west and Macaroni Village to the south, but as we country

people would know, it is a very short walk to this playing field. It has been taken out of agricultural use by the owners several years ago because of its unsuitability for agriculture.

I now move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS
(RECOMMITTED)

SENATOR SIR JOHN STANLEY GODDARD:
Mr. President, I have two questions to ask the Leader of the Senate:

Question No. 1 re: Barbados Transport Board:

1. Will the Minister state the reason for the late tabling of the Annual Report of the Barbados Transport Board for the financial year ending March 31, 1995?
2. Will the Minister also state when it can be expected that the Report for the outstanding year will be tabled?
3. Could the Minister also give the assurance that in future, Reports of the Board will be tabled in a timely manner?

Question No. 2 re: Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation:

1. Will the Minister state the reason for the late tabling of the Annual Report of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the financial year ending December 31, 1995?
2. Will the Minister also state when it can be expected that the Reports for the outstanding year will be tabled?
3. Could the Minister also give the assurance that in future Reports of the Corporation will be tabled in a timely manner?

Thank you, Sir.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I move that this Honourable 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.
2.40 p.m.

CONTENTS

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, the 28th day of June, 2000 at 11.17 a.m.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. President announced that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General a letter dated 13th June, 2000 advising that his Excellency would be away from the Island from 14th June to 18th July, 2000 and that Sir Denys Williams, KCMG, G.C.M. would perform the functions of the office of Governor-General during that time.

MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Mr. President announced that he had received from the Honourable the House of Assembly, a Message dated 20th June, 2000 inviting the Senate to nominate five members to serve on a Joint Select Committee on the Fair Trading Bill, 2000 and the Utilities Regulation Bill, 2000.

PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD 2

1. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation) Order, 2000.
2. Report of the Social Investment Fund for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2000.
3. Customs Tariff (Amendment)(No.2) Order, 2000.
4. Value Added Tax Order, 2000.
5. Value Added Tax (Refund) (The Barbados Legion of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League) Order, 2000.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTING OF THE SENATE

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD 2

Senator the Hon. Dame Patricia Symmonds was appointed to perform the duties of Deputy President of the Senate, His Honour Senator C. L. Bolden having indicated his absence from the Sitting.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD 2

Congratulations to Senator the Hon. Dame Patricia Symmonds on having recently been made a Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire.

Senator C. A. Mascoll, 2; Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson, 3; Senator J. E. D. Williams, 3; Senator Miss C. Y. Forde, 4; Senator T. E. Barker, 5; Senator Mrs. V. E. Newton, 6; Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard, 6; Senator the Hon. G. S. H. Murray, 7; Senator C. K. Laurie, 8; Senator Rev. L. W. B. Rock, 9; Senator G. E. N. Brome, 9; Senator B. R. Collymore, 9; Senator D. D. Marshall, 9; Mr. President, 9; Senator the Hon. Dame Patricia Symmonds, 10.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR REPAYMENT BY BARBADOS TOURISM INVESTMENT INC. OF \$25 000 000 10

Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard, 10; Senator C. A. Mascoll, 11; Senator T. E. Barker, 15.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND SITUATE AT TODDS, SAINT GEORGE 18

Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard, 18; Senator C. K. Laurie, 18;

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard, 18.

SUSPENSION 15

ADJOURNMENT 18

Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard, 18.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BARKER, Senator T. E.
FORDE, Senator Miss C. Y.
GODDARD, Senator Sir John Stanley
GODDARD, Senator the Hon. P. C.
GOLLOP, His Honour Senator Sir Fred
LAURIE, Senator C. K.
MARSHALL, Senator D. D.
MASCOLL, Senator C. A.
MURRAY, Senator G. S. H.
NEWTON, Senator Mrs. V. E.
RICKINSON, Senator Mrs. P. E.
WILLIAMS, Senator J. E. D.