
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 1999 – 2003

THE SENATE

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, May 24, 2000, at 11.20 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Senator the Hon. P. C. GODDARD (Minister of Health) (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. Miss O.P. SYMMONDS, G.C.M.,B.A. (Hons.), P.G. C.E., J.P.

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE, J.P.

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

Senator G.E.N. BROME

Senator Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE, Dip. Man. (Hons.), J.P.

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

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

Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN

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.Com., C.A., Hon LL.D. (U.W.I.)

Senator Mrs. V.E. NEWTON, S.C.M., B.A. (Spec. Hons.), M.A., LL.B. (Hons.) (U.W.I.), F.L.A. (Gt. Brit.) L.E.C.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

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 in the Honourable the Senate:

1. The Report of the Barbados General Election, 1999.
2. Report of the Accountant General for the Financial Year 1998 to 1999.
3. Report of the Social Investment Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 1999.
4. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (Variety Club Caribbean (Barbados) Order, 2000.
5. Value Added Tax (Refund) (James Collardeau) Order, 2000.
6. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Beta-Tech Inc.) Order, 2000.
7. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Smart Solutions International Inc.) Order, 2000.
8. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 2000.
9. Customs (Amendment) Regulations, 2000.
10. Annual Report of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the Year 1995.
11. Annual Report of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TET) Council for the period April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999.
12. Green Paper on Persons with Disabilities.
13. Annual Reports of the Barbados Water Authority for the Years 1996 and 1997.

14. Annual Report of the Transport Board for the Year 1995.
15. Report of the Public Investment Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 1999.
16. Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Unemployment Fund for the years 1997 and 1998.
17. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (The Tiona Fund Limited) Order, 2000.
18. Exchange Control (Authorised Dealers and Depositories) (Amendment) Order, 2000.
19. Parliament Administration Salaries Order, 2000
20. Value Added Tax Refund (LIAT 1974 Ltd.) Order 2000.
21. Value Added Tax Refund (Personalised Executive Services) Order 2000
22. Annual Report and Accounts of the Barbados National Bank for the year 1999.
23. Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 1999 and
24. The Twentieth Annual Report of the Barbados Port Authority for the year 1998.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P.C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of this day's sitting.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. P.C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I would like to move the First Reading of:

1. The Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
2. The Technical and Vocational Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2000.
3. A Bill to amend the Pensions Act, Cap. 25.

The question was put and agreed to.

OBITUARIES

SENATOR T.E. BARKER: Mr. President, before the start of Public Business I would like this Honourable Chamber to join me in paying respects to one of our former Senators who passed away a couple of months ago. I refer to Mr. Wendell McClean who bestrode this stage like a colossus from the year 1981 to 1986 and from 1989 to 1991. On the first occasion, he was an independent Senator and, on the second, he was representing the National

Democratic Party when they took over as official Opposition at that period of time.

Mr. President, I feel honoured that I am able to speak in this Chamber on behalf of a man who did a lot to help mould my career both as a politician and as a university lecturer. I first met him in 1972 when I was a second year student at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. He taught me statistics. Interestingly enough, that is not well known, but he was my first statistics teacher, therefore, any progress I made in that field, and modesty would not allow me to say that there was considerable progress, but any progress I made, he can take a great part of the credit. Any lack of progress is my own undoing.

It is important that we go back to that era because that was an era soon after Independence and the University was at that time starting to emerge as a dominant institution in this island. The University itself was only a few years old and had not too long moved to its present location at Cave Hill. Economics at that time was one of the growing areas, but social scientists at that period were undergoing a lot of strain. It was almost a national past time to berate and beat about social science. He came to the scene at that period of our history when the discipline had to fight its way in order to gain recognition.

Wendell McClean's contribution to economics and to Cave Hill in general must never be understated. It must always be seen in light of what was going on in the region and in the island at that point in time. That is indicative of the sort of man he was. As far as I know, it was not really his strongest point. He was more a monetary economist by training and by upbringing. There was need at that time for economists to become not only versed but highly skilled in quantitative areas of study, and as far as I understand it, there was no one there who had the training, but he took it upon himself to learn and to re-tool.

I remember, Sir, that when I was doing my mathematics, which I did with economics, he joined the class as a student in order to build up his knowledge in that area. He saw there was a need and he decided that he must equip himself in order to progress both as a lecturer and as an economist. He was not prepared to accept mediocrity but he made sure that he led by example. He set the example where in any area of deficiency he would re-tool.

The teaching of quantitative economics at Cave Hill and to a large extent in the University in general owes a lot to his pioneer work. I will never forget those days when he taught me statistics because it was a learning experience for me in a sense to see a person who was so devoted to what he was doing that he took time out to re-tool in order to make himself more relevant to the needs of the era.

Indeed, Sir, Wendell McClean made himself very unpopular among certain segments of the Cave Hill community because of the fact that he was single minded in his determination to see economics and social sciences occupy the position that they should hold in the emerging nation. There were those who felt that they must control economists and social scientists rather than that to allow them a new faculty, because the Faculty of Social Sciences which came about in 1975 was a result of tremendous agitation and determination, and not accepting no for an answer. It took a lot of effort to get that Faculty established. What has been done today - and I have had the privilege of teaching there for quite a few years - is that that is now one of the growth areas on campus, producing not only economists but accountants, management specialists, and a whole range of them. A lot of that was due to the pioneer work, in the midst of some stern opposition of Wendell McClean and like minded persons who saw the development of that faculty and the disciplines as part of their legacy to the nation which had so supported them and made them what they turned out to be.

In the face of prejudice and in the face of deep-seated animosity, Wendell McClean and Frank Alleyne and others ensured that we had a Faculty of Social Science which would cater to the needs of people.

11.30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: A lot of us here have benefitted from that fight in the early 70s. A lot of here passed through that institution and did well. The fact that they are here, Sir, means that they did well.

Sir, Wendell McClean was also an administrator because when the faculty was first established in 1975 he was the first Dean, it was called the Vice Dean at the time. He was the first Vice Dean and he spent a lot of time ensuring that the faculty got the respect that it deserved in spite of all that was going on. The teaching of economics and the social sciences at Cave Hill Campus which indeed, is a success story owes a lot to the tenacity of Wendell McClean. I am calling on them to remember the hard times that they had and to ensure that there is a lasting tribute to Wendell McClean at that faculty and, indeed, at that campus because he did a lot for the development of economics and social sciences at that Campus and his work must not go unrecognised.

Sir, then there was Wendell McClean the consumer advocate. This perhaps, Sir, is where he gained national recognition. The many fights he had with the utility companies which were basically monopolies and the fact that he felt that the people who educated him should benefit

from their sacrifice. He felt that he owed it to society to ensure that their interests were always protected. Sir, we must remember that his fights with the telephone company and the electric company, especially those two, were done at a sacrifice to himself because there were no monetary gains for him. When he spent nights and weeks pouring over law books and equipping himself in the area of utility regulations, it was a sacrifice and he did it because he felt that he owed the nation something and he was determined that the consumers of this country were never short changed. Sir, the result is that the utility companies had to be very careful in their presentations.

Sir, I will tell you this that he had a legal mind because he was able to hone in on the important legal points so much so that there were those who believed that his true calling was the law, so fierce was he and so devoted was he to meticulous argument. So much so, Sir, that in 1977, when I had just come back from England then the telephone company, I think it was the telephone company, won their case and he appealed. I remember him taking the case to the Supreme Court in an appeal. I think it was Chief Justice Douglas who handled the appeal and the arguments that he put forward were befitting of a man of a Q.C. status, such was the force of his argument. Indeed, a judge that I spoke to afterwards had a high respect for the legal skills that was exhibited by a man who had no legal training. He was fired by a determination to ensure that the people of this country, the consumers, got the best deal from the utility companies.

Sir, whenever we hear about rate hikes and proposed rate hikes, whenever we hear about the telephone company seeking to have metered calls and so on, we immediately think of Wendell McClean. I do not know what will happen, but I believe that somebody will rise up and take on the mantle to ensure that our interests are forever protected. He left a rich legacy of sacrifice in this regard and which can serve as an example to many of us who were educated by him. Indeed, we are told that even on his dying bed he was still worried by the effects that metered rates would have on the social fabric of our country.

Sir, first to begin, I share his views on that matter. Wendell the politician was an interesting character. We first remember him in the early 70s when he was then a Member of the Democratic Labour Party and Frank Alleyne and himself went to the United Nations. There was a special forum on small states and they were chosen as our representatives for this country at that august body, the United Nations. Sir, I want to say that both of them did it with credit and did this country proud.

Of course, Sir, Wendell McClean always called a spade a spade and that did not always endear him to leaders. It was very surprising when he fell out with Mr. Errol Barrow who was the then Prime Minister and around

1974 or 1975 they formed their own Party, the PDN. The break with Mr. Barrow must have been a traumatic experience because a lot of young men of that era saw him as their salvation, if not their Saviour. The events of that period would have been so devastating to him that he felt that he had to take a break. I was in England at the time so I did not have first hand knowledge but the platform of the PDN was something else, to use a Barbadian expression. They were very virulent in their condemnation of what was happening in Barbados at that point in time especially the By-Election in St. Philip North when the PDM ran a candidate, I think it was Mr. Mason at the time, and showed Wendell McClean at the height of his political powers. Needless to say, like most third parties, it did not survive the test of time. Wendell McClean was always a politician because people of that era and that age cut their teeth, as it were, on politics and so he was a logical choice to represent independent thinking in this Chamber after the 1981 General Elections, and he was basically an independent man.

He was a very independent man, independent of thought and he had very firm ideas about the economy and about governance and everybody knew what those ideas were. One thing about him is that he was consistent, his views showed a model of consistency. He was not a weather-vane politician, he had views and he kept to those views come hell or high water. He made a tremendous contribution in this very Chamber during that period. We saw him coming back here in 1989 when the new the National Democratic Party was formed.

He ran for a seat in the House of Assembly on two occasions in 1994 and in 1999 and on those occasions he contested the elections one in St. James South and other time in St. Michael West. Of course, he was representing third parties and history will show that he did not manage to win a seat.

Wendell the politician was a man of strong views.

11.40 a.m.

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

SENATOR T.E. BARKER: Wendell the politician was a man of strong views and was a man not afraid to let his views be known.

Then there was Wendell the family man, who loved his daughters tremendously and he was very devoted his four children, and all those who knew him speak of his devotion to his family. I happen to know his wife reasonably well and some of the children. I can testify to the fact that he was very much a family man. He was a positive man, I never yet saw him down. In spite of all that was going on, he always maintained his composure and

positive character. That is something that I have found out about him over the years in spite of all the difficulties that he might be facing he always maintained that part of his character. Always a positive man and never let things get him down. His students thought highly of him, both as a teacher and as a man, and many of them openly testified about the effect that he had on their lives and on their careers.

Sir, Barbados has produced many great men and many good men, and when the history of our country is written the name of Wendell McClean will go forward as a man who saw service to his country as part of his reason for living. And we in this Chamber join with the many who have expressed sympathy to his family, and I wish that you, Sir, on our behalf, express to his wife, children and family our best wishes and that our praise and thoughts are with them. The nation may feel the loss in one way but they are going to feel it in a deeper and more personal way.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR C.A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the late Wendell McClean and I can say that I can speak from the point of view of the professional side of Mr. McClean, because he was an extremely difficult man to get know the personal side.

There is no doubt that he was, perhaps, the most consistent thinker in the profession called Economist and he was extremely stubborn. Once he held a view you can rest assured that there would be no departure from that particular point of view, but it was not done in any pig-headed way, he was always able to demonstrate by way of argument why he maintains the position that he holds.

As a young student, in the Faculty of Social Sciences, I was particularly impressed with his approach to the teaching of economics because he more or less prepared the average student for life beyond Campus, life beyond the first degree. His approach to the teaching of economics actually brought you closer to what one may expected in a post graduate programme, that is, it involved, to a large extent, the use of mathematics- which deterred some students, which brought the anger from some students - but nevertheless he felt that was the approach that was required so that a thorough understanding of the discipline could be pursued.

I well recall in 1983, a debate on the whole question of the management of foreign reserves in Barbados between Mr. McClean and the now Prime Minister, Mr. Arthur. He was inspiring to say the least. As a young student of Economics I listened to the programme, I think it was then being called the Being of Point at Issue, and the inspiration really came in the form of trying to appreciate how persons trained in the same discipline could so

effectively argue on either side of the fence; but the profession is accused of that. The profession is accused of being on the one hand and on the other hand.

Asides.

SENATOR C.A. MASCOLL: There is nothing wrong with that. There is nothing wrong with having a difference of perspective on the same issue and in fact that was the beauty of the then debate that took place between the two well known Economists of the day.

There is no doubt that there was something extraordinary about Mr. McClean. As Senator Barker said, his capacity to engage in a subject for which he was not known to have any expertise was amazing. It came because he apparently enjoyed a challenge in every sense of the word. There is no doubt that his understanding of the accounting principles far exceeded many trained Accountants. His appreciation for issues pertaining to depreciation, which was very critical to the public hearings in utilities, was something extra-ordinary, but it did not stop there.

I well recall the early 1990's, Mr. McClean getting involved in an area, the quantitative side of Economics called Econometrics, where a discipline emerged called Co-integration. I recall this because several of the Economists, the elder persons in economics, really frowned at this new discipline and dismissed it almost open handedly. It was most amazing that Mr. McClean actually was able within a very short period of time, to not only understand the Principles of Co-integration but to engaged the young Economists who were trained in that area.

11.50 a.m.

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: That fascinated the young professionals in the discipline, because they could not understand how it is that this individual could still be so eager to learn, to understand and to take it upon himself to read and then to be excited by it to the extent where he would call young economists early in the morning around six o'clock having discovered an aspect of co integration theory which he wanted to thrash out. He would call one of my good friends at the Central Bank and a very good friend of his, a young man called Kevin Greenidge, who was his very good friend, so he was able to bridge the generation gap.

It was fascinating that he was so excited by this new discipline because he spent an extraordinary amount of time engaging in discussion. It so happened that within a very short period of time, he was actually teaching it. Only two years ago he was forecasting. He was a person who would have spent his early days in the discipline around the

latter part of the 1960's and early 1970's but still had appetite and desire. He was a special man in that respect. He is to be lauded, of course, for having established the faculty.

He was again with Dr. Frank Alleyne and they were very good friends in the early days and did a lot to promote the profession and to develop the social science side of the University of the West Indies. Let me therefore say that he was an inspiration. He was an inspiration because he made sure that he was prepared for every debate. He made sure that he could not be easily trapped in an argument and he also made sure in a very strange way because he always won an argument. So even when the other side was equally impressive and equally convincing, rest assured that Mr. Wendell McClean did not back off so that it ended as if you could say that he never lost. If anything, he always drew the encounter.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: He cannot be replaced in the public utilities areas and it is not because we do not have people who are capable but we are not and we will never be able to find an individual, even though they may have the competence, who is going to have that kind of willingness to participate in those areas. You cannot be made in such endeavours. You either have to have a commitment, a heart, a willingness, a desire but you cannot be made into the kind of person that he became in terms of representing the interest of the public. No matter how hard we search, we are not going to find an individual to replace him. History does not allow it. It does not work in that way. You cannot replace an individual who has made such an outstanding contribution to his country or even begin to make an individual because it is beyond the capacity to do and it has more to do with your understanding and appreciation of the times and he, in fact, did that without any benefit.

Perhaps there is one criticism that having engaged in that area for so many years, he should have had books or some form of literature left behind for others to follow. I can tell you because I know that he was in fact in the process of seeking to accomplish that but never quite accomplished it.

I end by saying that while I never got to know the individual on the personal side, his very last public utterances demonstrated to me that that individual was equally as soft as he was tough because those of us who were exposed to him never saw that side of him. He was always the individual that required excellence. He was always the individual that demanded effort but he was never the individual who no matter how well you did, would say that you did well because it was a question of expectation. If you did well that is what he expected, so he

was not only about lauding and praising but you can tell from the last interview that he gave the Voice of Barbados that there was this tender side to the individual. I could tell you that when I was listening to it that it actually brought a little tear from the eye because I never knew that side of the individual.

I think we are all like that in that those of us from our school days saw teachers as Almighty persons whom we cannot even begin to communicate with. And then, when we become more mature and we begin to age, we find that those same teachers are so easy to communicate with. It is amazing. So that perhaps constituted a part that I would have wished to pursue with the late Wendell McClean, to get to better understand the individual. I think I understand in some ways his professional pursuits, his desire to know and he stood and represented, for me, an example of someone whom I could not in anyway help but emulate from the professional side.

On that score I therefore say that he will be missed and we do look forward to some form of recognition being given to the late Wendell McClean that he is very deserving of.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I rise to praise Wendell and not to bury him. I do so not merely on my personal behalf but on behalf of the Executive Council and the general membership of the Barbados Workers Union and indeed of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados.

I think, Mr. President that it is about fitting that two of his former student, one representing the Government and the other representing the other side of the Chamber should be the ones who should lead in this debate of tribute to Wendell McClean. I am also a student of the Campus but not a student of Mr. McClean since I happen to predate those two former speakers by a few years.

Asides.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: The late Wendell McClean had not yet joined the staff when I studied the new science of economics. It became a science after a while and no longer an art.

I would wish to say, Sir, that the good God has promised that in every generation, he will raise up men and women to give guidance and leadership to his people. I would like to believe that he was including us, the people of Barbados although I do not share the view that he is a Barbadian.

Asides.

12.00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: In the field of representation, that is particularly relevant when we address the subject we are on to today. I would wish to say that there is the need, the increasing need, let me hasten to say, for persons beyond Wendell McClean to put their hands to the plough in the task of labouring in the interest of those who are less well off than ourselves.

Trade Unions and Trade Unions' representatives do their bit. In fact, one could say that we do more than our bit in these times and in this field by helping those who are not so well off and those who are in many ways marginalised or otherwise threatened by the vicissitudes of this society and the calamitous state in which from time to time we may find ourselves. Although we do our bit and more than our bit, it is necessary that those other persons, those other institutions that are able to do so should join in that effort because we have not been given the privilege nor the talents that have been bestowed upon us purely for our own personal use. We have been given those talents and we have been blessed with whatever goodness the Master has given to us so that we ourselves might make other people less deprived or more blessed depending upon how we are looking at it.

I would wish to say that Wendell McClean was one of those persons who understood that injunction from the Master and he came forward as a rep willing to give of his time and of his energies in this regard. In fact, many others did that during his particular period - the period refer to by my colleagues in the 70's - although there were yet some who were prepared to remain playing dominoes for pennies a pack in the same institution of the university, and while the Caribbean cried out for assistance and for philosophical guidance, there were those who found comfort in games that were less uplifting.

So one has to see Wendell's efforts and those others who worked as he did for the relevance in the time that they gave that effort. It would have been easier for them to relax in the senior common room and to enjoy the comfort of doing nothing, but they were prepared to take on the challenge of trying to build a Barbados that could compete as we are now finding the need there is for us to compete and therefore the relevance and the effort must be seen against that background. I would not say that he was alone doing it but he should be commended for doing it because the climate at that time did not excite all others to do it.

Indeed, I think we must say that it is regrettable that today the relative numbers are still far too few for the effort that we have put forward as a people to educate at no cost to themselves the large numbers of people who are now in

positions where they can contribute much more greatly to the society that we are living in. It is no credit to them but it is a great tribute to the Wendell McCleans of this life that they have been willing to make the sacrifice because they have said that if God has given to them, then they must also share with those who are less fortunate than themselves and those who would need their support.

It is within that context that I would want to believe that we would see his contribution to society and his assistance to politics. I share the view that that was his point of departure in politics which led him to be separated from much of the conventional wisdom of his times.

We see that as being his contribution to the labour movement and we in the Congress of Trade Union and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB) would wish to thank him for his critical reviews and his support and sometimes his not so critical support from time to time. We would wish to see him in his efforts at social protection, particularly protection of the consumer. My colleagues have already said words that are so strong and so accurate in that regard that I would be merely gilding the lily to repeat the work he has done as a consumer protector par excellence in this country.

Our last joint effort, his and mine was when together with Senator Rickinson at my left here, we had the privilege of serving on the Commission of Enquiry which looked at advising on new measures to improve the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH). That is a 1999 project. I saw him agitated then and I do not share the view that he was never agitated. To say that, would be to suggest that he was not human. If we are human and we are consumed with a passion for the people we embrace as our constituents, we must from time to time become agitated.

Though we are not Christ, we must be like him sometimes and even weep for the burden that there is on us, the task that we are given to do and sometimes our sense of inadequacy in being able to accomplish that task. So it would be making him less of a person to say that he was never agitated and that he was always calm and composed and peaceful. That is not the way I saw him.

I saw him as a great and humble person and as a person who could be afflicted by his passion for people and his need to improve those people. That is how we saw him. We did have some fights during the Commission of Enquiry not because anybody was less honourable but because all of us as honourable people were approaching the same subject from different points of view and because as my colleagues said he was a persevering person - I stop short at saying stubborn - but I think the two are synonymous in this context because he was such a persevering person that he wanted to make sure that his position stood.

Those of us therefore who would read the Report of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) Commission will find that he and another persevering person, Senator Rickinson, have got minorities reports to that commission.

He was single-minded and he was willing to be in the minority. I am sure you know, Mr. President, that leaders who are prepared to stand alone are often barraged and berated in this country of Barbados because people are only willing to receive us if we are prepared to continue within the same paradigms that they were before.

12.10 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24, 2000.

SENATOR C. LeRoy TROTMAN: The man or woman who would seek to map out new paths and in those new paths to create the avenue for the development of a better Barbados, that man or that woman is subject to sometimes the most fickle kinds of public abuse and vilification. The man or the woman however who wants to succeed because of the vision he or she has must not be deterred by such kinds of methodology.

Wendell McClean was not that person. He stood firm. He stood resolute. What we will find, Sir, is that the test of his work will be in the fruits that we have all been able to see, to taste and benefit from particularly in the area of consumer representation.

I think that his life should be an example for other persons who lead to be single minded and not to be deterred by unbalanced and biased opinions and those who would only accept what they want for sometimes personal and fickle reasons, but rather to stay true to our vision and to make sure like St. Paul so that at the end of the

day we might be able to say, "We have finished our course, we have accomplished in our mind what the good Lord intended that we should do."

I ask you, Sir, that on our behalf you please convey to his family and to his associates our great appreciation for the contribution that he has made. Beyond that, Sir, you will convey to the leaders of this country our wish that there should be some memorial that would have us remember perhaps at the level of the university the work that was done by this social commentator, by this defender of the under-privileged and philosopher.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I was a member of the Public Utilities Board from 1979 to 1986 and it was in that role that I came into contact with Wendell McClean. He certainly kept us on our toes when there were rate cases. He had obviously made a study of rate schedule hearings and become very knowledgeable. He

always spoke with authority, conviction and at the same time with an absence of arrogance. He was exceedingly impressive. I recall sometimes that he would repeat certain statements for emphasis and I need say no more because so much has been said already of his role. But I thought that speaking from that personal experience that I wanted to pay tribute to him.

Senator Barker has mentioned his devotion to his family. His sister attended St. Michael's Girls School as it was then and also taught there. Whenever I met Wendell and asked him after this particular sister, he could always give me news of her and you could see, in the way he spoke, his love for her and for his family generally.

His mild mannered demeanor hid razor-sharp intellect but I always found him easy to talk to and he was very, very gentlemanly. He was indeed a scholar, fighter and a gentleman. I, too, recall like Senator Mascoll that last interview which he gave. Sir, I had no idea that he was so ill. I was very upset when I heard him and it was so typical that he expressed concern too for the decline of language and was gracious enough to mention my name in connection with the promotion of language. I was extremely touched about that and again it just showed his general concern for his country and all that was going on.

Therefore, I join with my colleagues here and with everyone else in expressing the greatest sorrow at his premature passing and to say that I hope that he will sleep peacefully.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. President, I wish to add my voice to those who have spoken about the many excellent qualities of Wendell McClean and to say that, while most persons spoke of him as former students or as persons who had been associated with him in a work environment, I would wish to speak of him as a friend and as a colleague. I met Wendell in 1968 when we both went to the university at Mona and, in fact, Wendell was my escort at Freshman's Ball. Most people would not know it but Wendell fancied himself quite a dancer. In those few months, I went to social events and he provided quite a bit of amusement for the Barbadian girls. He was quite protective of us for he was a bit senior to us by a few years. But he always made sure that we were all right and that we were seen in the company of persons whom he considered the right ones and so on. My relationship with Wendell lasted from then until his passing.

Sometimes we spoke frequently on his political career and his contribution to the battle for consumer rights in this country and more recently on constitutional matters when he was a member of the Constitution Review Commission. I wish to say that Wendell was a very

complex person. Very few people got to know him well. He was vindictive, kind, soft and very difficult. In fact, he was not an easy man to know or, if you were one who engaged in battle with him, to like particularly. But one thing one always had to say is that he was tenacious in his purpose, quite single minded as other persons have said, and that you always had to admire his tenacity. He had very strong views on most subjects and, whether at the end of the day you agreed with him or not, you had to admire him because he stuck to what he believed in. He was highly principled.

Sir, I will just mention briefly. He managed to master an area in Public Utility Law on which there was not much legal material in Barbados and certainly there were no published decisions of the PUB which were generally available. He consulted from time to time and he wanted the Law Library where I work to order things for him and so on. But what struck me was that Wendell was quite conscious that there was a need for someone like him to make an intervention at the time which he did on behalf of consumers in Barbados. Like everything else he did, he was not afraid to shrink no matter how difficult it was. He made a sterling contribution which I hope, when the history of the PUB is published, if ever, will be recorded and his arguments will be placed in a way that we can all understand what contribution he was making.

Six months before Wendell died, I saw him at a

function. I had heard that he was ill but I thought that he had recovered and I asked him how he was doing. He asked me for my daughter for whom he developed a fairly strong liking because they agreed on many things. I liken her to their being very stubborn. He asked how she was doing and he asked me how I was doing. He said, "You know there is something that I have not asked you for a long time and I had meant to ask many years and it is whether you would consider writing my biography when I am gone." So I said, "Gone where?" He said that either you or Melanie could do it but you do not have much time. You just have a few months and he moved away. It is then that I knew that he was well aware of what was happening in his life and that time was short. In fact, that was probably about three months before he died.

12.20 p.m.

Tuesday, May 24, 2000

SENATOR Mrs. V.E. NEWTON: Wendell spoke of his impending death in the way that he spoke of so many other things. He researched it and had his doctor's opinion. He knew it was coming soon and he accepted it and set about doing things to see whether those pieces of unfinished business could be completed or at least that he

would let people know what they were as far as he was concerned.

As I said, we spoke frequently on a number of matters. I found Wendell, in spite of his very complex character, always very easy to speak to and always very humble and he invariably gave good advice. He was not one who was involved in telling you what you wanted to hear. There are not too many people like that. He would tell you what he felt the situation warranted whether it was pleasant for you to hear or not. As a friend, I miss him and I wish to express my sympathies to his family and may he rest in peace.

SENATOR SIR JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Mr. President, I just want to add a few words of tribute because much has been said about the late Wendell McClean and every bit that has been said has been deserved. He was an outstanding person. I cannot say that I knew him personally very well. He did serve on various committees over the years. I certainly remember him sitting here in the Senate of 1989-1990 and then more recently we served together on the Constitutional Review Commission.

He brought many fine qualities of intellect and character to those discussions and the work of those Committees but the two things I remember best about him, among many things, was the extent to which he prepared himself. He did his homework. He researched what had to be discussed and therefore he could always speak with authority and, as has already been said, with humility.

The second point in addition to the extent of his preparation was his integrity. I am sure we all knew where he stood and the message that he was trying to get across, but you never felt that there was any ulterior motive, that he was playing games, political or otherwise. He was speaking from his heart and conscience and he always had a moral position. I had that honour of serving with him here on that Commission and other committees and I will miss him because he will be a person extremely difficult to replace.

Wendell McClean's contribution to this island has been great and the value of that contribution will be better understood over time. His passing is still too recent for us to truly assess, not only to political life but to the community, as has already been said, to the rate hearings.

I would like to add my voice on behalf of us here in the Senate to pass on our strong feelings and respect to his family and those he leaves behind to mourn him. Thank you.

SENATOR J.E.D. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, I, too, would like to register a few brief comments on the life and work of the late Wendell McClean. I believe that only

Senator Sir John and myself might be the two persons present today who were in the Senate at different points of time with the late Wendell McClean.

I had the good fortune between 1981 and 1986 to be in the Senate and he sat almost in the position where Senator Rickinson is sitting now, and the thing that I remember most about that period and that experience was the words that have been echoed so frequently this morning, that he prepared, he prepared, he prepared. He exemplified how Senators and parliamentarians should take their work and that is seriously. He took his seriously.

I do recall that you could never quote any statistical information that was incorrect. If you were going to do it, you had to make sure that you had your facts correct, if not, he would respond almost immediately. He knew and kept lots of statistics in his head and he knew exactly where to find them if they were not there. That was a lasting experience that I had with the late Wendell McClean.

When I first went into University in 1976, like some of the others, I was a student of Wendell McClean, and I often wondered how he could come to class and lecture only with a duster and a piece of chalk. After many years I understood that it had to do with preparation. It is a remarkable thing to see a lecturer walk in and lecture for a whole hour on the subject of economics with only a duster and a piece of chalk. That, too, was a lasting impression that I had.

People talk about the rate hearings and so on and, as you know, Mr. President, I have had over the years more than a passing acquaintance with telephones and telecommunications, because I have been working in the industry. Let me say that the public saw the work of Wendell McClean but what they could not see from the other side was the preparation that Wendell caused others to do, certainly in one company with which I am very familiar, and I have no doubt that it would have been the same whether it was electricity or whatever. He made sure that you, yourself, once you were going to a rate case had to have your information because he was going to go through everything clinically and you had to be prepared.

I saw many days people sitting down doing their homework and getting their facts because all they would tell you is that we have to come up against Wendell McClean. That, to my mind, is a very powerful statement. People talk about Wendell's character and his strength of character and one thing that always stands out in memory is a former Prime Minister saying to Wendell McClean, "You see, part of your problem is that you only understand it from the top of the hill. You have never worked in business and so on. Maybe if you understood the other side of business, that would complement your understanding and application of economics."

We all talk and remember a number of things but I think we probably forgot that Wendell took on the responsibility to go and work with the National Bank in a very key and critical position and, to my mind, in some respects he was driven by someone saying to him to expand his thinking and get an appreciation for the other side. That was the quality of the person that we talk about.

I am not going to be much longer, Mr. President, but just to say that it was a pleasure and a privilege for me to have known the late Wendell McClean. He is one Barbadian that, to my mind, cannot be easily replaced and I, too, like all the other Senators who have spoken and who are urging for some lasting memorial, would like to add my own wish that that would happen as soon as possible. It could not be done to a finer Barbadian. May he rest in peace.

12.30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24, 2000.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: . . .

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. President. Sir, I join in these commendations of Wendell McClean and I do so aware of the fact and knowing him as I did since our paths would have crossed at Combermere. He was my senior but we still had some years together at the same school just about the same time.

I would best describe him as a reluctant hero. He became a hero but he never sought to be a hero. He never sought deliberately so, the spotlight and the attention which he would have garnered as a result of his various pursuits stemming from his tremendous intellect. Sir, it was mentioned earlier that he was a difficult man to know but having observed him at Combermere this was just the nature of the man. If he was perceived as being difficult, it was not that he became that way later in life but he was always a very intense man. He was a very intense person and unless you appreciated the intensity with which he approached everything he did, you might not fully understand the full measure of the man. Little is known of him outside of his intellectual pursuits but for the record I would like to say that as intense as he was - intense in economics or in pursuing various rate issues - he was also a very intense athlete. While he was not an outstanding athlete, he took the fact that he had a responsibility to his school and to his set to compete.

At Combermere when you have your school sports there are certain things which are known as set points. Each person is allocated to a set and the temptation was only those gifted athletes would seek to earn points for his set but Wendell McClean - I think he was in set F.

Apart from being an athlete he was also a boxer. He also became a reputable boxer at Combermere and you would have thought that he was fighting for the world championship based on the attitude which he displayed in pursuing his pugilistic activities.

He was also a tremendous debater. He was a Member of the school's debating society and what one saw of him later in life, those skills, I would like to think were honed at Combermere School. I would like to think that all in all, had Combermere had a long tradition of deliberately pursuing scholarships in the way that other schools do, he could have been a Barbadian scholar but there was not that tradition, there was not that programme and system of producing scholarship winners in those days but he had a reputation at Combermere that he had the capability and the capacity to be such. I remember him most of all, Sir, for having done so much to shatter the tradition at the University of the West Indies, in those halcyon days as Senator Barker referred to them when the campus in general and the social scientists sector in particular was subject to much public scrutiny and debate, he broke the tradition first and foremost of non-involvement where those persons who worked and taught at University were seen as persons who worked on the hill but had no direct relation with the rest of society. I think that he is the one who did most to dispel that myth and shatter that tradition and became very much involved in society and catering to society's needs.

Sir, to me he gave great respectability to the social sciences faculty and to economics in particular. He made it a subject which persons in the society at large appreciated and understood because he sought to do it in ways that impacted very readily in very practical ways on their daily lives. I would think, Sir, that while Senator Mascoll and others may have bemoaned the fact that there is now no body of work, no volume chronicling his various activities in economics etcetera or even rate hearings, I would still think that the University of the West Indies has a responsibility to perhaps compile what writings and utterances there are of him even in various interviews on the radio because I know that both radio stations have these things on record and even though it might be limited records of his contribution I still think that that is one way of recording permanently some of his contributions to the wider society.

In addition, I would think that the University at some time soon should either name a department or some other such institution after him so that future students of the University will wonder about and get to know what matter of man was Wendell McClean and therefore perhaps seek to emulate him by having a permanent visible tangible reminder of his existence and his contributions to society.

One of his last utterances I like to remember would be the pleasure with which he had received the news that this Government was opposed to the question of metered calls and he felt that that was a victory that he had helped to fight for and help to earn on behalf of all Barbadians. I would think that the Fair Trading Commission, when it has its offices should perhaps name some room or some prominent place in such a building after him or even give some award that would help to perpetuate his memory and his contribution.

Senator Mascoll made reference to the fact that Wendell McClean would have, for want of a better phrase, locked horns with the present Prime Minister on earlier times but I would like to remember, Sir, that he, perhaps is known best to the public for some of the public debates he had with the late Tom Adams. They had epic battles in public on various aspects of economics and I recall with pleasure on many occasions thereafter, Mr. Adams, when he worked with him would often remark that Wendell McClean was right after all. We know that Tom Adams was not an easy debater himself. He was a tremendous debater in the same vein as Wendell McClean and therefore, when he earned that kind of commendation it was richly deserved.

Wendell McClean, Sir, saw service and his involvements in economics not so much, Sir, as exploring various esoteric aspects of the field but he saw it as using it to serve the society for the betterment of society. Hence, therefore, his deep involvement in rate hearings, his involvement in going to apply his practical knowledge that helped to turn around the Barbados National Bank. He saw service to the society as a question of noblesse oblige where he was obligated, Sir, because of what the society had done to produce him, to re-inject some of what he had earned and garnered as a result of society's contribution to him and to put it back into the society.

I myself was a student of his.

12.40 p.m.

Tuesday, May 24, 2000

SENATOR the Hon. G.S.H. MURRAY: I, myself, Sir, was a student of his, in a passing way, when I did a little bit of Economics with him. Senator Mascoll talked about how he introduced Maths into Economics, and that is something I shied away from and he knew that. So, therefore, Sir, when I had the good fortune to get a very high mark in Sociology, I think is something like 87 or 89 in those days, it was regarded, Sir, as the highest first year mark, Wendell McClean sought to pursue me to do a degree in Sociology, and I said that area contains all kinds of Maths and he said that he would personally coach me in these matters to make sure that I passed. I said, "Sir, I

appreciate the offer", but I will probably have to spend so much time on that I would probably fail everything else.

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. G.S.H. MURRAY: He would not take no for an answer. He spent about six months trying to pursue me to do that, but in the end I thought that I should stick to my instincts and I did that. He said that any hour of the day or night in which I had a problem that I could call him. Therefore, Sir, I am saying that kind of commitment was not only to national service but also to individual persons whose path he would have crossed.

I think, Sir, that he has made an indelible mark, not only on society but on our consciousness. I feel that there are many more persons who could emulate him and seek to do good justice to his memory and to his contribution.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. P.E. RICKINSON: I would to endorse what has been said before and I rise to give a short tribute to the late Wendell McClean.

I met him in 1968 at Mona when I was a student there. Wendell was very debonair and loved to chat up the girls and I found him very pleasant in those days. I returned to Barbados and was one of the students of Wendell McClean at Cave Hill, when I studied Economics, but it was under the Bachelor of Arts. It was a sciences degree in those days. I found him to be the teacher par excellence who could take very difficult knowledge and break it down so that we could understand what Economics was all about.

Recently, as Senator Trotman said, I had the privilege of serving on the QEH Commission with Wendell McClean. As we know the QEH is a very complex organisation. I was very grateful for Wendell's support throughout the time that I served. Often he spent time reminding the Chairman about my varying views from those of the medical people because the QEH is so complex. One brought experiences from different angles and he was always there to remind them that I did have views different from theirs and he supported some of my views.

I am sad that Wendell left us so early because he had a lot of work to do. I do not know if the work that he had to do could be completed by someone else, I am hoping that. But what can we say? God knows best.

I join with everyone, hoping that we can have some form of memorial to the late Wendell. I would like to express my condolences to his sorrowing wife, children and relatives.

May he rest in peace.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I should like to associate the Chair with the eloquent tributes paid to the late Mr. Wendell McClean who sat in this Chamber, I believe on two occasions.

In the past 30 years Mr. McClean has been an important voice in any discussion on public issues. He wrote in the newspapers, he was frequently on radio and television, he lectured at the University and in many public places across Barbados. Apart from his outstanding work as a teacher, Economics, he made, I think, a lasting contribution as a consumer advocate and in this sphere he will not be easily be forgotten.

I think the Senate has reached consensus this morning on a number of points, I would just wish to mention two. The first is really a judgement, a judgement that Mr. McClean will not easily be replaced, and the second, I think, is a recommendation that there should be a lasting memorial to Mr. McClean's contribution and I certainly support both of these.

It is sad, indeed, that he died at the height of his intellectual power. It seems that he had so much more to give. I should like to join with other Honourable Senators in expressing deepest condolences to his widow, daughters and to his family. I would now ask all Honourable Members to stand for two minutes silence in tribute to his memory.

Members stood in silence for two minutes.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. P.C.GODDARD: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 1.50 p.m. today.

The question that the sitting do now suspend until 1.50 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to. Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.

12.50 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 1 – THE FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) BILL,
2000

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Fisheries (Amendment)

Bill, 2000. The purpose of this Bill is to make clear the provisions for the transshipment of fish catches to make it clear that transshipment relates not from ship to ship transfer, but from ship to dock to ship. The previous legislation left room for misinterpretation and this is aimed at correcting this.

There are also some amendments to the legislation pertaining to the modification and construction of fishing vessels. This is aimed at improving the sea worthiness and the safety of vessels and to ensure that modifications do not alter the centre of gravity or in anyway disturb negatively the stability of boats.

In addition to this change there is also a provision that will allow for an extension of the period of time for a licence to be valid. Currently, the licences have to be renewed every year and in keeping with the policy of motor vehicles where licences are now extended for a three-year period, this will allow the permission of an extension for fishing vessels.

There is also a provision in this Bill that will allow for permission to be given for foreign fishing licences to individual vessels:

“Foreign vessels most interested in fishing in Barbadian water are the least likely to fly the flag of a country with which Barbados has or is likely to negotiate a contracting agreement. Moreover, foreign vessels in the Atlantic are generally not controlled by owner associations as is in the case of the Pacific where such access provisions apply. To legally exclude the possibility of licensing individual vessels, may unnecessarily limit income from licensed foreign fishing and limit the means for fish harvesting which are permissible within the fisheries management framework. By licensing an individual foreign vessel, it may also be more feasible to introduce and transfer skills associated with new technology or under-utilised species. The amendment will therefore expand management and development options without relinquishing control of the waters of our economic zone around Barbados.”

The Bill therefore is clarifying certain measures of the existing legislation and strengthening our capacity to manage the foreign fishing component within Barbadian waters, and is aimed at enhancing the safety and convenience of the indigenous fishing fleet in Barbados.

It might be noted that under section 13 of the Act, local and foreign fishing licences may be issued for periods of up to five years. This reduces the bureaucratic necessity for frequent re registration and so on.

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

SENATOR MRS. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill, but what I like about it is the provision that it makes for section 5 local fishing vessel licence and for the commercial fisherman's licence as well as others.

What I would like to say is that I hope that personnel will be employed to keep the records necessary for these licences to know exactly who is doing what and where, so that if there is payment or compensation, some people will not be left out. They will have a complete record of what boats have been licensed and what boats have not been licensed and then they would not get the aftermath of people complaining bitterly about some getting and some not getting.

It was a good gesture but a gesture that has gone bad because of lack of different records and I think that the Bill will correct that type of error in the near future.

With that, Mr. President, I support the Bill.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Just a brief intervention, Mr. President. I understand it is the habit of these foreign fishing vessels to lay fishing lines on the 200 line marks outside of our territorial waters and then allow the fish to drift in and then come in about four o'clock in the morning and pick these lines of fish within our territorial waters. It is illegal, it is immoral and it is everything else. The fact of the matter is that we do not have the policing capability of dealing with these people and I am not too sure how we are going to do that. It is something that seems to be well known by the fishermen on the east coast that this is occurring.

I hope that the Government will try and find some answers.

On motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD the Bill was read a second time.

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

COMMITTEE

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 12 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.

2.10 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24, 2000 On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, the Bill was read third time, passed and cited as the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2000. ORDER NO. 2 THE TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL, 2000 SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to introduce the amendment to the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council Act Cap. 43 and the Occupational Training Act Cap. 42. The Bill would

(a) amend the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council Act to make provision for the Council to enter into contracts with employers; - where hitherto they could not do so before - and

(b) amend the Technical and Vocational Education Training Council Act, Cap 43. and the Occupational Training Act, Cap. 42 to change the composition of the Technical and Vocational Education Training Council and the Barbados Vocational Training Board.

This amendment would allow for their respective executive directors to sit on each others board and will bring about greater coordination and assist in the functions which falls under the Board. I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR THE HON.

Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I wish to support this Bill because I think that it is logical that the Board should be represented on the Council and in that regard I wish to say something about technical education. One might say that formal technical education began with the technical institute which was situated at Richmond Gap, St. Michael. It was situated between the two schools which we knew afterwards as St. Leonards Boys and St. Leonards Girls. At that time, the students there took the City and Guilds examinations. It was established in 1953 under the Apprenticeship Act of 1928 and was the forerunner of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP) which was established in 1968. So that the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) Government was always interested in education and was far-sighted in seeing the importance of a grant. Those were the days when the secondary modern schools were beginning to emerge and the institute was equipping people for work. Then in the 1960's, technical wings were established in the secondary schools intending to give students orientation in technical studies and ten workshops were built and equipped for this. Today, in all the secondary schools, technical and vocational education subjects are taught. Technical Drawing is an extremely popular subject, a little more so

among the boys although the girls are also finding this subject attractive, and some students are finding it advantageous when they do their first year in engineering at university. Those who are studying draftsmanship also find it advantageous. Of course there are Electronics and Information Technology and Computer Studies. I wish to stress too that technical education is being offered as an option in the 3rd and 4th forms and the principals have arranged the timetable so well that there is a core of solid academic courses as well as technical subjects. I think it is very important to note that. Some of the school leavers then go on to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP) and the Barbados Community College (BCC) for further studies in this area. Excellent work is being done in the schools in these subjects and one school has an A Level form doing Technology and Design. I think that perhaps it would be a good thing if more sixth form schools could have Design added on to Technology. Some parents see the avenues that can be followed and they support the technical studies. They have recognised that students can make a good living in this area. I think however that there are still some parents who are weary of this subject and they see academic subjects as more advantageous. I think they need to be educated to realise the importance of technical subjects and their worth to society and the region and to recognise that there is creativity in these subjects. If for instance someone makes something out of wood, it has not only a scientific basis but aesthetic value as well. Then there is the Skills Training Board. I did serve on that many years ago and I have maintained some interest in it - which offers a variety of excellent courses. I would, however, like to see a little more emphasis placed on oracy and communications skill because however proficient one may be in technical subjects, one has to communicate more and more. The students are being taught related subjects such as English and Mathematics but they should also be taught social skills as well because, as I have said, more attention needs to be paid to oral work. 2.20 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2000. Continuation of SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: I think that there should be a little more paid to oral work. I understand, too, that cosmetology used to be offered. It is not so any longer and there seems to be a growing demand for it again. I hope that will be added on. Of course, the Ministry of Education recognizes the importance of a well rounded, civilized human being. The fact is that the humanities is essential to people so there must be an interface between these two. Technical education is going to grow more and more and play a significant part in education and, of course, EDUTECH will be the driving force. One cannot stress too often or too much the importance of EDUTECH. Therefore, with those few words, I wish to say again that I support this Bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Williams.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I, too, in rising to support the Bill before us this afternoon would like to raise a number of points that relate to how these amendments are going to impact on both the TVET Council and how it functions as well as the Barbados Vocational Training Board for which I have responsibility as Chairman. But in so doing, I believe that I need to put in context why we are where we are on these amendments. The TVET Council as you know, Mr. President, was set up in 1993 and it really came out of the Third World Bank Education and Training Project. At that time the Government in seeking to get the funds available to it also had to deal with the whole question of putting a TVET Council in place. The reasons advanced them for the Council are equally as important as they are today. The only criticism that I may have is how they went about in putting the legislation together. In so doing unfortunately a number of sections from the Occupation and Training Act that governs the Barbados Vocational Training Board were taken out and they became part of the TVET Act. What happened thereafter was that it was recognized that both entities had difficulties in functioning and it meant particularly that the Training Board was not clear as to the kinds of things it should be engaging its attention. Similarly, the TVET Council did not even have the regulations within which to function. So there was a long impasse before there was clarity in how it was to function and to move forward. I may say, Sir, that to my mind even now there still needs to be a further review of both pieces of legislation if we are to be effective down the road. What this amendment does apart from allowing the directors of the two Boards to sit on the other board, it also allows the TVET Council to enter into contracts with employers. At this point, I want to put a stake in the ground. The Barbados Vocational Training Board up until now has the responsibility to enter into contracts with employers as far as the Apprenticeship Programme is concerned. I think that both the TVET Council and the Training Board must be clear that they are not doing one and the same thing. Firstly, if that happens as far as the Apprenticeship Programme is concerned, it can make both ineffective. Secondly, I think it would be unfortunate because in order for the TVET Council to properly administer the programme as it relates to the Apprenticeship Programme they would have to put in place all the mechanisms and systems to ensure that they monitor the quality of training that is actually delivered to the apprentices. So I do not believe from the point of view of efficiency and cost effectiveness that it makes sense for both the TVET Council and the Training Board to enter into contracts with employers for the Apprenticeship Programme. I believe that both entities can co-exist if indeed the service that they are providing is differentiated. The experience of the Training Board with respect to the Apprenticeship Programme is well known by everyone. It is highly accepted by employers and the quality of output in terms of the graduates is extremely high and I believe to

my mind that is where the Apprenticeship Programme should rest. However, the role of the TVET Council when it was set up was one where it would co-ordinate national policy on training and offer recommendations and advice to the Minister. I think that the Council should remain at that level in terms of advice and making sure that we have a national policy for training, particularly at a time when we are moving into the global environment where we have to be competitive. We must always have a comprehensive national policy on training in Barbados particularly for all of the key critical sectors in our economy. To my mind, Sir, that is the role of the TVET Council. It is only going to become the focus if it begins to get involved in the administration of contracts and so on. I believe that it has to serve us at this critical juncture where we have to know what is happening with respect to our key economic sectors and the kind of skills and competencies of the employee that are going to be required in this new environment. Hence, the very pivotal role of the TVET Council is well placed to do that. Because even by its very composition it is tripartite in nature. It has on it representatives that represent all the key sectors and interest groupings. It has at its disposal the opportunity to be able to get the kind of information fed into it in order to come up with that national policy on training and to make sure that remains current. It is only as useful as it is current. My feeling is that we ought to look at the different training institutions in terms of what was intended for them. For example, we have the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and, of course, that institution was intended to look at training at the craft and technician level. That to my mind should remain its focus. The Training Board's focus, as I said for which I have responsibility, is on skills training. Similarly, technical and vocational training are also part of the overall curriculum of the Barbados Community College. Again, that remains at the technician and degree level and, of course, we have institutions like BIMAP and so on. We should have, therefore, a clear distinction between all of these and to make sure that Government's money is well spent. I have some difficulty with some institutions doing the same thing as others and I think that is a misuse of our resources. 2.30 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Continuation of SENATOR J.E.D. WILLIAMS: If one particular institution has developed the competence to deliver training in a particular area, then it has that particular institution that should continue to improve and fine tune that particular training and let the other institutions get on with what they were set up to do. However, I find, for example, and I would have to be specific, that when I look at the Polytechnic and I look at the Training Board, you will find that some of the same courses offered by the Barbados Vocational Training Board are offered by the Polytechnic. I am saying you need to have two sets of instructors. You have two sets of facilities to do the same thing. I ask the question. Is it the best use of our resources? I feel that with the whole question of technical and vocational education, we need to look at it

from the point of view of policy direction and the best entity to do that is the TVET Council because that is why it was set up in the first place. I think the TVET Council should move with all alacrity to get on with the job. The TVET Council provides that link with the economic sectors and the composition of the Board makes that easier. In terms of developing training programmes for the future, we need to know even in the area of technology. I remember speaking in here about the whole question of call centres. Call centres are things now that are utilising the convergence of computers, information technology and telecommunications. Call centres have the capacity to employ and absorb large numbers of people. Both Barbados as well as other parts of the Caribbean and the world are all focusing on call centres, but it comes down to the training of these people. If, for example, we were able to attract three or four large call centres, I am not quite sure that we have the trained resources at this instance that would be required, but I use that as a case in point to say that it is that sort of thinking that must permeate the TVET Council to understand where the sectors are going and what our needs are for the future. Another point I would like to speak to has to do with this whole question of certification and accreditation. Again, that is part of the remit of the TVET Council. Unless we are prepared to come up with a system that carefully weighs and evaluates the worth of a certificate and some accreditation on the technical side, vis-a-vis people who would have gone through what we call the academic stream, then, to my mind, there will always be this impression, and I believe that Senator Symmonds alluded to it in some respects, the importance or lack of importance of people who move down the technical and vocational lines. If we were able to come up with a system which shows two parallel streams of people, those who go via the academic and those who go via the technical and determine the intrinsic worth of each, it means therefore that you can go via one stream or the other but there would be the same national recognition wherever you go, again, something to my mind for the TVET Council to address. The TVET Council, of course, has funds available for training and retraining. On that point let me say that I know there are a number of companies out there that probably do not understand how they can access those funds for training. Again I urge the Council to address them because I think Government is making those funds available for the retraining of people. The Council has to be part of the facilitation of that. While I am on my feet, with respect to the Barbados Vocational Training Board, let me say that the Board in itself as an institution that is expected to deliver training, continues to do excellent work. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank those persons who continue to work assiduously both at the level of the directorship and those who actually provide the facilitation and demonstration for the students. Over the last five years in particular we have seen tremendous progress. We have gone into new areas of training and new ways of training. For example, when back in 1995 we

recognised that we had to build quality into the kind of training that we delivered, it made no sense for trainees simply to be building something that at the end of the day you would knock down. That in itself did not encourage them to pay the attention to the final product. To build quality into training; we embark on live construction projects. I must say that to date it has been a tremendous success. We have completed two houses. We have also done work for some Government agencies. What that basically did was to create the kind of environment that a trainee is going to face when he moves from the Training Board into the world of work. You would be absolutely amazed to see the amount of workmanship that those trainees produce. We are at the stage now where we are about to complete our second home at Eden Lodge. We completed another one a year or two ago and we are about to complete the second one. I believe we need to do more of this. I want to say that what we do need is to carry training further into the community. We have an excellent facility at Sayes Court. However, what we need are more facilities similar to Sayes Court. I know for a while the Board has been seeking to have a similar facility constructed in the area of St. George and we are somewhere down the road in terms of development of plans and so on but we have to carry training to our young people rather than expect our young people to come to the training. Again, with respect to the Training Board, I am particularly pleased how things are progressing for the Board. 2.40 p.m. Tuesday, May 24, 2000 Continuation of SENATOR J.E.D. WILLIAMS: I also want to say that Government has been particularly responsive to the needs of the Board and on each and every occasion that we have identified projects or areas that could improve the functioning and quality of the training we deliver Government has responded positively. I have no doubt that those projects that we have identified will be pursued with alacrity on the part of the Government and I want to thank the Minister of Finance in anticipation of his response. Mr. President, with respect to the amendment before us I trust that the areas that I have identified that could possibly cause some difficulty in terms of how the two entities, the Training Board and the Council, will impact on the operations, that they will at least be addressed or implemented in a way that that does not happen. With that, I must say that I support the Bill and I am much obliged to you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. P.E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council Act and I am very pleased about it because, in my view, technical and vocational training is going to provide the engine for growth in the next five years or so and we must expand it. I do agree with Senator Williams and I am calling for the rationalisation of training and education for example to stop the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the Training Board from competing for the same resources for training and the same

people. I think that we have reached the stage where we can rely on comparative advantage as suggested by Senator Williams so that we can utilise our resources as efficiently as possible. Mr. President, I would also like to support Senator Symmonds' call for more communication, not only in technical and vocational training but in all areas and I would like to emphasise the need for social graces to be taught in all our technical, vocational and educational programmes. People need to know what is right and what is wrong and we would not have to deal with incidents like bottle throwing etc. We need to teach social graces. They tell you the difference between a civilised society and one that is not so civilised. I think that we cannot emphasise that too much and sincerely hope that more funds will be allocated to the rationalisation of technical and vocational training programmes in this country and to expanding training and to the comprehensive introduction of social graces to all students concerned. Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. J.P. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I just have a few words to say on this Bill. I would like to commend the TVET Council on what they are doing. I think it is necessary at this time. The only thing I want to say is that I have some youngsters who live where I used to live before and who are just liming on the block. I do not think that they are aware that we have something like this in this country. They are not even aware, I believe, that they are being paid. What they want to do straightaway is to get money to spend and they want to look for jobs but in the cases where they cannot find anything because they have no skill I do not think that they are aware that if they get this skill they will be paid some money. That is one of the points that I want to make and that is that the good work that is being done needs to be sent out to the communities so that people are made more aware of what is happening. The other suggestion I would like to make is that I hope that one day the TVET Council will set up technical resource centres in every single community in this country because we are moving into the technological age. The part that EduTech is doing is the part it has to do but I think we also need to set up resource centres so that people in the communities not only learn how to use the computer but learn the use of the computer. We can have cases where persons who want to do E-commerce or E-business at the community level would have the resources to do it if they cannot afford to buy a computer to put it into their homes. Sir, those are the only two suggestions that I would like to add. Thank you.

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

Miss O.P. SYMMONDS in the Chair. COMMITTEE Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee. Clauses 1 to 2 were called and passed. The Schedule was 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 Technical and Vocational Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2000. ORDER NO. 4 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LEASE TO THE BARBADOS OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION INC. OF LAND AT SIR GARFIELD SOBERS SPORTS COMPLEX SENATOR THE HON. P.C. GODDARD: In rising to introduce this Resolution, I would like to point out to Honourable Senators that Item No. 3 on Public Business will not be dealt with today as an amendment has to be made to that Resolution. The Resolution to approve the lease to the Barbados Olympic Association Inc. of land at Sir Garfield Sobers Sports Complex, Wildey, Christ Church is a parcel of land which is the property of the Crown situated at Sir Garfield Sobers Sports Complex and is by admeasurement 8 667 square metres. It is described in the First Schedule to this Resolution and:

1. The lease shall be for a period of twenty-five years with an option to renew for a period to be determined.
2. The rent shall be at the nominal rate of \$100 per annum to be reviewed at the end of the tenth and twentieth years of the term."

Mr. President, the reason for this lease is for the development of meeting rooms, a library and a dormitory which will offer reasonable accommodation rates to visiting teams, a museum and a sports cafeteria. 2.50 p.m. Wednesday 24, 2000 Continuation of SENATOR THE HON. P.C. GODDARD: Mr. President, the reason for this lease is for the development of a dormitory for meeting rooms, offices, a library and dormitory which will offer reasonable accommodation rates to visiting teams, a museum and a sports cafeteria in keeping with Government's policy and making sporting facilities self-sufficient and profitable. These facilities will help to enhance the development of sports in Barbados. This will encourage visiting teams from the region and from outside of the region to visit Barbados to develop their sporting skills and also to compete against local teams. I think that this is an admirable development that will encourage development of a wide range of sports that are conducted at the Sir Garfield Sobers Sporting Complex at Wildey. I beg that this Resolution do now pass. The question was put to the Senate and agreed to. ORDER NO. 5 TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT

ALLEYNE'S LAND, BUSH HALL, ST. MICHAEL FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF THE EXECUTION OF A PILOT PROJECT FOR THE URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAMME.

SENATOR THE HON. P.C. GODDARD: Mr. President, in moving this Resolution to acquire these 14 parcels of land of approximately 8 203 square metres at Alleyne's Land in Bush Hall, St. Michael, this is to facilitate the execution of the Urban Development Commission Pilot Project. The parcels will be used for the relocation of five tenant residents, the creation of lots for sale to tenants who are being relocated, transfer of title, provision of footpaths and roads and the conversion of 51 pit toilets to water borne systems and general upgrading of the tenancies. This acquisition not only facilitate the general upgrading of Alleyne's Land but transfer of title to those persons who qualify to purchase lots under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. The acquisition is therefore essential to the Urban Development Commission in carrying out its mandate for urban renewal. The relevant survey plan is available for Honourable Members to inspect should they so desire. I move that Resolution do not pass.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I wholeheartedly support this Resolution but I would like to enter a plea about the need to insure that when the lots are sold there is transparency in selling the lots to the various people. I will tell you why I say that. There are many persons who are nurses and who receive a small salary and they have been trying very hard without any success in getting little plots of land either to put a small chattel house or to build a small home because the salaries are so meagre that they really do not qualify properly for mortgages. I would like to see that special attention be given to such workers so that they can buy some of these lots. I would like to see you acquire some more land as well so that enough lots are made available for those low income earners who really cannot afford to pay the exorbitant prices that people are asking for. I would like to commend this action too, in particular with turning the pit toilets into water toilets. That is an action that is to be commended. Mr. President, the general trend is that it is much more healthy to have a water borne toilet than to have a pit toilet where one has to go outside and the flies go into the toilet and go onto the food etcetera and transfer all sorts of germs. I would like to see much more of this happening because it augurs well for the future and for the development of a more satisfied society and also helps to cut down any form of illnesses that might develop from lack of proper sanitation that is needed. With that, I support this Resolution.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I rise to give my wholehearted support to this Resolution which would allow Government to compulsory acquire the land at Alleyne's Land, Bush Hall for the purpose of the execution

of a pilot project for the Urban Renewal Programme. This is something, Sir, which is long overdue. This Government must be highly commended for the approach it has taken to the whole process of urban development. Sir, we know that a lot of St. Michael and parts of Christ Church are full of urban tenancies of which Alleyne's Land is one of the bigger ones. It is a very lovely area, not far from Bridgetown, very densely populated and it is a good area in which Government can execute this pilot project. This pilot project would necessitate the purchase of the land from the land owner for resale to the people who are already living there. It is already an established tenancy with a lot of avenues and so on. The people are already living there but they have been paying rent from the turn of the century. From the time I knew myself and I suppose Senator Murray who is from the area would attest this - from the time we knew ourselves the people were paying rent and the area has been enhanced by Government's action. Even although it is a private tenancy Government has put in all the roads and all the services so that all that is needed now is for the people to own the land. 3.00 p.m. Tuesday, May 24, 2000 Continuation of SENATOR T.E. BARKER: If you recall, Government announced its policy on the urban tenancies by saying that the occupiers of the land will pay \$2.50 per square foot for the land, and not the market price which is two or three times as much. The occupiers of the land, those who are already there will pay \$2.50 per square foot, which is about 1/3 of the market value and the Government will pay the difference. It is going to cost money but it is obviously a well needed and a welcomed programme, because it means that the people then have title to the land and they can then go to the bank and access funds to improve the house. This is the urban counterpart to the revolutionary Rural Development Programme which this party, when it was last in Government, did in the early 1980s. The rural programme has revolutionised the standard of housing in rural Barbados. That is a fact. People were then able to buy the land, it was 10 cents a square foot at the time, and the improvement in rural Barbados was tremendous. The standard of housing went up by leaps and bounds. But sad to say the urban sector has not moved as fast. They have lagged behind in the housing development, so it is important that we pay special attention to the urban tenancies. Especially those in the inner city where there is still a number of substandard houses. You have to pay attention to these in order to improve them because we cannot have two Barbadoses. We must try to improve the standard of living for all our people regardless of their geographical location. This project, which the whole of Barbados will look at to see how it is executed, will be repeated throughout the urban corridor. I am not sure which area they will go to next, but we know the tenancies. There are tenancies in Eagle Hall, Bank Hall and the inner city. So over time what we did for the rural tenancies we will do for the urban tenancies. The whole idea is to ensure that the people in these areas have the chance to improve their environment. This Government

must be highly commended. We know that the people, the landowners will cooperate with Government because it is in everybody's interest that we get these things executed properly. We are proud of our country but we are also conscious of the fact that we need to do more to make sure the everybody share in the economic pie, however big or small. We have to ensure that all our people have a stake in the development. My belief is that when a person owns the land, he has a deeper interest in the land and he is going to say, look I am not going from here, this is my land now, therefore I will do all in my power to protect the make environment and the environment more congenial. I can foresee that this could have a positive effect on the level of criminal activity. Because if you own the land, you know that if the area becomes notorious then the property value will suffer as a result. Therefore it is in your interest to make sure that the conditions are there for improvement in the whole social, as well as physical environment. So by making a man a landowner, those of us who understand sociology will understand these points. Those who understand these things know that when a man's surroundings is improved and so on, he takes a greater interest in what is going on around him. Sir, I want to commend this Resolution to this Honourable Chamber and note that it is a pilot project which we hope will be mirrored so that in a short space of time the question of a landlord, especially in the urban areas, will be a thing of the past. And we move from landlordism to landownership which is a desirable social goal. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR C.A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, this is an interesting pilot project which has its genesis in the debacle, if I may call it that, in Straker's Tenancy area. At that time the occupiers of the land were being asked to pay in excess of \$5.00 per square foot by the landowner even though that Straker's Tenancy area had not been thoroughly surveyed. The then representative for the area met with 24 occupiers of the land and through a public submission, requested that the occupiers be allowed to purchase the land between \$2 and \$3 per square foot. It was then suggested that the Government would be responsible for the difference between that paid by the occupier and that received by the owner. That came about because it was felt that the same way that rural tenancies were earmarked for privileged treatment, 10 cents per square foot, that urban tenancies should receive some form of benefit, even though, of course, the history and the sociology would differ across the tenancies. We are all aware that the plantation tenancies owed Government a lot of money, that is whole plantocracy for whatever reason, and that there was a kind of quid pro quo which informed the Plantation Tenancies Act, whereby occupiers or potential owners be granted such land at much less than the market value. 3.10 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2000 Continuation of SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, there is nothing wrong, in fact there is everything right with the Government attempting to make landowners out of urban tenants, but it

goes beyond the ownership of the land to what kind of house it is possible to put on this land that will be acquired. The approach should have been a holistic approach. The National Housing Corporation was supposed to make money available to Barbadians and of course this particular set of landowners will be given priority since they will have the security of the land. The National Housing Corporation was supposed to give or make available loans for persons to build houses but the National Housing Corporation has simply run out of money. The National Housing Corporation is unable to lend because it does not have anything to lend. The National Housing Corporation has been simply badly managed. The National Housing Corporation as I speak requires about \$72 million to put it out of the red. Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am suggesting that this pilot project was not only intended for the occupiers of the land to become owners of the land but that they be given the resources necessary to take them to the next level. Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Yes, it is laudable and you would convert a pit toilet to water toilet but that certainly is not going to enhance the value of the land from the perspective given by Senator Barker. The sociology is critical in terms of crime but certainly to become owners of land would not cause a reduction in crime either, and therefore an increase in the land values. Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, it is difficult to stretch that argument in the way in which Senator Barker attempted to stretch it. Yes, it can improve the overall quality of this area and perhaps improve the overall values but it is not going to happen just like that. The other thing is that this land is not isolated. This land is surrounded by a whole set of other districts and it would be remarkable that the simple provision of a water toilet would serve to enhance the value of the land, independent of its existing location and all the other parameters that inform the changes in land values, as I understand them in the Barbadian estate land and property markets of today. Sir, it even goes further than this. The same way in which you are going to make provision for ownership of land, you have to educate the land owners who eventually would be hopefully home owners as well of the need to have adequate insurance coverage. Again, you have to make sure that you not only provide the education but that you provide the resources to guarantee that these potential homeowners will also be allowed to safeguard their assets by way of being able to insure them at reasonable values. I am saying that that would constitute part of a more holistic approach to the whole question of home ownership and would in fact provide these potential land and property owners with a far safer haven in which to operate. We also are aware, Mr. President, that there are several other tenancies in the St. Michael's area that require equal and

critical attention from Government. In fact, in the bye-election of St. Michael North West in 1996, it was identified that the Danesbury area was supposed to be poverty stricken and that what is being suggested here in the Alleyne's Land area should be tried. In fact that becomes even more complicated because of the very random way in which houses have been placed on the land in the Danesbury area, but that there is certainly a need for the Government in some ways to acquire that land, and this would make for better provision for housing and other amenities within the Danesbury area. It cannot be said by the Prime Minister that he was unaware of the level of poverty in Barbados until he visited Danesbury and then took so many years to even begin to improve the living conditions of people in that area. Mr. President, I am speaking of the several areas in that small square mile in Pile Bay where an unfortunate representative was seeking to put the Prime Minister in the same kind of condition that obtained at Six Men's, St. Peter and where a little higher up, as I said, in the Strakers tenantry area, and then you have the Danesbury and in some respects Spring Garden Avenues. Sir, we need to ensure that this pilot project really is successful to the extent that it can be replicated across St. Michael particularly in the constituency of St. Michael North West where poverty was identified for the first time and it has not been addressed. The question of the proper provision of housing in those areas has not been addressed since 1996. Sir, I am totally supportive of this Resolution to implement a pilot project in the Alleyne's Land area. I also understand the sort of affection that Senator Barker would have for this area having once pretended in the area to become a Representative for the constituency of St. Michael Central...

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not relevant in this Resolution, Senator. Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: But, I understand his affection for the area and I would wish for the Government to understand my affection for the St. Michael North West area which contains so many of similar tenants who are in dire need of assistance. I think that the first step that the Government can make is to at least conduct a proper survey of the existing area to ensure that the title deeds, when they become available are clear to the potential landowners and will be done in their interest and in the interest of the overall development of the area. This area lies close to a hotel property that has been abandoned and has been allowed to appreciate in spite of the owner's ability to access, and that is the Paradise Beach Hotel of which I am speaking. 3.20 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2000 Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you are in fact extending the boundaries of Alleyne's Land. That is beyond the scope of this Resolution. Please keep within the four walls.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I am saying that notwithstanding the name difference that the conditions obtaining at Alleyne's Land are very much similar to those in other parts of St. Michael. In that regard or context, I figure that I am entitled to speak to these other areas as well. So, I just wish to suggest that we are looking forward very much so for this effort to be replicated in the not too distant future in the constituency of St. Michael North West. I thank you.

SENATOR D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. President, it is with great pride that I rise to support this Resolution for the acquisition of land at Alleyne's Land, Bush Hall, St. Michael. I believe it would be fair to say that the history of Barbadian settlements in the region of St. Michael have been marked to some extent by a fair degree of disorderliness and I am only speaking in terms of the way in which the actual settlements are laid out. We can think of places in Barbados such as Cats Castle and many other areas where settlements have grown up within the parish of St. Michael and in some cases in parts of St. James and Christ Church. I believe that one common feature of these is the very small size of the lot and the fact that the tenancies themselves have not been laid out in accordance with any sound planning principles. It is with this in mind that I believe that the Government's responsibility comes to the fore. I also submit with great confidence that this is what characterises the administration of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) and its approach to such things as urban renewal. The fact is, Mr. President, that in today's world we have to be very conscious of something called sustainable development. We had the SIDS conference in Barbados and it seems as though those now famous bywords have left our vocabulary. Our reality is that land in Barbados is in finite quantities and we have to make as best use of it as possible. Mr. President, Alleyne's Land is an excellent project and I believe that the Government deserves the highest commendation for acquiring it. Alleyne's Land consists of 110 tenants and I have to say that I do not know if any nurses lived there but in terms of the Honourable Senator's comment who spoke before me about nurses and so on, given the nature of this particular settlement I do not believe that it would be possible for people who do not currently live there to move in with a view to buying any lots. This is a situation where that land is going to be developed - and we have already started the work on it - for the benefit of those 110 tenants who currently lived there and not necessarily for the benefit of anyone else who might be looking for some place to live. There is one very interesting point in relation to the provision of pit toilets. There are considerable problems in the Alleyne's Land area in terms of ground water and drainage. The experience of the people who lives in Alleyne's Land shows that the cost to dig a well for a water toilet can be phenomenal and because of the high water table, the pit toilets keep collapsing as you build them. So what the Urban Development Commission (UDC) has had

to do is to take over the responsibility of building these pit toilets because as you dig you have to be continually casing up the sides. It is not that the people of Alleyne's Land would not want to build pit toilets with their own money but given their resources they simply cannot afford to spend the thousands of dollars that it would take to dig such specialised toilets in the area. The Urban Development Commission (UDC) has so far spent about \$600 000 in road works there and they have also done repairs to houses for the elderly and the marginalised people in the Alleyne's Land Tenantry. I believe the number to date are about 30 houses, so that the Alleyne's Land pilot project is exactly that. This similar approach will be used in Cats Cattle and many of the other tenancies across Barbados. Garden Land which is nearer to town have about 140 tenants and that area cries out for the same sort of orderliness and so on. I believe the learned Senator mentioned Strakers Land in Black Rock, St. Michael but we can go as far up as Oistins with Parris Tenantry which has about 23 tenants and nearer to home to Pleasant Hall Tenantry which has a fairly significant tenant community. The approach of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) administration which this country has the good fortune to have at this point in time is one where we are seeking to maximise the use of the resources, but we recognise that part of that process does not call for us to abandon human settlement and relocate people to other parts of Barbados as has been done in the past. What is critical is that the people who have lived all their lives in these areas be allowed to remain in areas in which they have developed ties and with which they have developed some social connection and that we develop those areas by providing all the infrastructure that is needed; but it is more than that. The work at Alleyne's Land will also involve input from the Urban Development Commission (UDC) in terms of their small enterprise programme. The work of that Commission also has to be lauded because it is not just dealing with housing issues, but it is also administering the small enterprise programme since 1997 when the Commission came on stream where people have been able to come and borrow sums as small as \$600 to develop small enterprises. Those are the kinds of things that are being done by the Urban Development Commission, (UDC) not just in Alleyne's Land but all across urban Barbados. The lot of the urban people in Barbados has increased and has improved significantly since 1994. It has improved because the Government has taken an approach, which has not been previously taken in this country, to consult with the people who are going to be affected by these decisions long before the works actually start. Thousands of man hours have been spent in Alleyne's Land doing social surveys so that we understand exactly what the needs of these people are and exactly what their aspirations are. We know who lives in the houses: we know what level of education they have reached. We know the areas that they work in and so on. These social surveys have proven to be an important guiding light to how the development is being done. To

reiterate, we recognise that the people for whom we are doing these developments have to have a significant input into how they are being done and we can only do them effectively if we consider the special needs of these people. With those few comments about Alleyne's Land and the other work of the Urban Development Commission (UDC), I again wish to reiterate my strong support for this Resolution.

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Mr. President, I certainly support this Resolution because I am very pleased to see tenants becoming land owners. From a social point of view it is a very progressive step. Recently, I had to do some research into the cost of land and the cost of building and I wonder, Sir, if I could share this information with you and my colleagues here in the Senate, because as we know land ownership has become a very sensitive issue. All Barbadians like to feel that they can own a piece of the rock but an increasing number of people feel that they are unable to afford a piece of the rock and a home on it. I got this information from people who are considered as experts in the field and these figures quoted are subject to correction. I am told that the price of raw land in Barbados today - that is land that is not developed - is anywhere from \$3 a square foot up in the interior of the island and it is much higher as we get closer to the coast, but the development coast is running between \$8 and \$5 a square foot and that is with water and roads. I am told that the asphalt for the roads is a very high component of that cost. 3.30 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2000 Continuation of SENATOR SIR JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: So you are coming up too close to \$10.00 per square foot for developed land and I am talking about coast land. Then we are talking about building cost. My research suggests or indicates that you are looking now at a minimum of \$130.00 per square foot. Depending on what finish you want, that can escalate to \$200.00 to \$300.00 per square foot. Of course, we have the mortgage interest in addition to the repayment of principal and, as has been mentioned earlier, the cost of insurance. This is creating a problem for more and more people who feel that they cannot afford this. I believe the Government is going to have to revisit the question of density per acre because Barbados only has 166 square miles and that is not going to change. We have had economic growth for the last seven years and we hope that will continue. We now come down to the question of supply and demand. As long as the supply is not increasing but the demand is increasing, the prices will go up. One way of dealing with that question of density may be to build two, three or four stories of housing areas knowing very well that we live in the hurricane zone, therefore, we really cannot afford to go any higher and that will mean cultural changes. All of us, I think, like to walk outside of our houses bare feet to feel the earth and grass under our feet but that will have to mean a cultural change. I have heard comments about Government's land bank. I do not know the size of it. It has been suggested that it is in excess

of 500 acres. I do not know. I believe that Government in addition to looking at the density problem will have to see if and how it can make land available to people especially in the lower socio-economic group so that they do not feel alienated from land ownership. They can feel that they have a reasonable chance of owning a piece of land on which to build a house for their family. Sir, I am hearing more and more concern expressed in this area. I have heard people saying that expatriates are coming and buying the land on the coast and that is putting the price up. But I have also heard that it is the returning nationals who are buying and putting the price up. It all comes back to supply and demand. I raise this point just for your information, Sir, and my colleagues that this is a problem. I hear this problem expressed in other areas where I am involved. It is not a problem that the Government can close a blind eye to and we have to find a solution. I do not have any solution to put on the table, Sir, but the question of land ownership and the ability to buy and build a house on a piece of land is a growing social concern, and I would just like to leave those remarks for everyone to think about. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Murray.

SENATOR The HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to say a few words on this issue for the record because where the question of Alleyne's Land is concerned and where the intent of this initiative is concerned, it is more to me than just a theoretical situation or some project which looks good on paper. As Senator Barker has indicated, this area contains some of my roots because it is a natural extension of Spooners Hill area and I think that it runs into Senator Trotman's area also but certainly not as far west as Danesbury or Straker's Tenantry. Therefore, this is part of my stomping ground. I have played many a cricket match in Bush Hall and various avenues of Bush Hall. I know also Bedford Land very well. Sir, this is something that means a great deal to me personally because this represents a progressive step which will make a big difference to the quality of life of these persons. Quite incidentally, I have driven through part of the area and some of the sites I see now are quite vivid in my memory. I am, therefore, not dealing with this from a historical point of view alone but also from a most recent experience. I can assure you, Sir, that when this act of finality is taken whereby persons actually have the land papers in their hands, it will trigger in them the same reaction that has existed and obtained in the rural tenancies. Persons now have a sense of ownership and a sense of belonging. It is also going to trigger in them that element in the Barbadian psyche where to own a piece of land or house is monumental in our culture. I am sure that they will take every advantage of all of the facilities offered by Government and private sector to improve the quality of their housing. I have no doubt that in a few years time these persons will transform his area and make it a shining light which can be adopted by other persons across

Barbados. Sir, in our Manifesto of 1999 under “New Life In Our Urban Areas” on page 26, it speaks about the work of the Urban Development Commission which was established in 1997. It said that the Urban Development Commission identified some 3,000 qualified tenants comprising 220 tenancies. It goes on to say that the Barbados Labour Party will subsidize the price of urban land so that low income groups will pay no more than \$2.50 per square foot for land in respect of open market value. It will provide funding to ensure that landlords receive the difference between the fair market value and the statutory price of \$2.50 per square foot. Therefore, Sir, it is clear that Alleyne’s Land is a pilot scheme which stands for ready replication across urban Barbados. Once it is successful, and I have no doubt that it will not be, because great care and attention have been paid to the conceptionalization, planning and implementation, I have no doubt that it will help to rid urban Barbados of some of the urban blight that has stunted development of our people and has retarded their progress in many ways. Sir, this Government intends that Barbados be a property owning democracy and this is another step in that direction. I have no doubt that people will respond to this in many ways and we will learn some lessons from this pilot. I am sure not everything about it will go perfectly well and there will be lessons to be learned which will make a great deal of difference as we extend this programme across the 220 territories comprising 225 acres of land. Therefore, Sir, I am very glad to be associated with this measure. I have some family in Third Avenue, Alleyne’s Land who for a long time have wanted to own their land and I am sure that in their old age, unless something happens in a hurry, before very long they will be able to hold their papers in their hands like all other Barbadians and be proud of the fact that they now own a piece of land on which they can have their 14 by 9 made into whatever else afterwards and that they have a stake in the future of Barbados. I thank you, Sir. 3.40 p.m. Tuesday, May 24, 2000 SENATOR THE HON. P.C. GODDARD: In winding up this debate, I must say that this is an exceptionally worthwhile project and there have been some very interesting observations and contributions made in this debate and, as usual, Senator Mascoll has seen a half-full glass. This time, he is not seeing it half-empty but he is seeing it three-quarters empty. It is not surprising. However, the details that were given by Senator Marshall clearly indicate the extent of planning and research and the careful and measured way that this Government is approaching the urban development and redevelopment of Barbados. It is very clear that this Government has embarked upon a path to ensure that all Barbadians participate in the growth of our economy. I think you have to understand that what we are doing is setting the framework that will create a development long after we are gone and the proof of the pudding is in the example of what has happened in rural Barbados as a result of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act that was passed in 1979, twenty odd years ago. You

just have to go back to Macaroni Village or Claybury Tenantry and see how a place that was totally populated by chattel houses is now predominantly wall houses and not just wall houses but with beautiful gardens and landscaped areas where people that have pride in their community. Parks are flourishing which are the initiative of the residents of those areas and it has changed the whole attitude towards life. You bring that into urban Barbados now and it has to have an effect on criminality. It has to change people’s perspective of who they are and what they are. This is part and parcel of one wedge of our social pie, so to speak. It is a tremendously important one. I take on board the comments made by Sir John Stanley Goddard about the increasing cost of land and the cost of building. However, there are creative ways to overcome some of those obstacles. When you talk about building costs, quite often that is with an architect, the contractor and the workmen that come in through some contractors. I know of people from all walks of life who build their own homes and they can cut their building costs substantially. I think we should take a lesson from other folk and see where people can come together and build their own homes and make sure that they have the quality building that they want but with the help of neighbours, family and friends. I think that we have to take a broader view of how we achieve our objectives of urban development and in this measure I think that this Resolution for the purchase of this land which is clearly identified as a pilot project is one into which much study has gone; and I commend the Government for its wide consultation with the residents of that area. The way in which this whole thing has been done is highly commendable. I think that if the rest of the urban development programme goes in the way that this Alleyne Land programme will go will redound to the benefit of all Barbadians and not just the recipients in those areas. ` With that, Mr. President. I move that this Resolution do now pass. The question was put and agreed to. ADJOURNMENT SENATOR THE HON. P.C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now adjourn sine die.

Senator C.K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I would like to take a couple of minutes of the Senate’s time to speak on the Adjournment and make some comments on the recent Report which has been released to the public on the National Heroes’ Square and Gallery Development Committee. A major part of this Report concerns the development of the courtyard at Parliament and the future of the West Wing of Parliament. I would have thought that this section of the Report at least would have been laid in Parliament for our comments before being released to the public. While a number of the suggestions in there are excellent, I think they have shown a lot of work has been done by that Committee and there are things in there that are worthwhile reading and I recommend that all Senators should read it; but I think it is not really in the best interest of Parliament for a non-parliamentary committee to tell us

what will happen to our buildings. I would like to suggest that a special committee representing both Houses of Parliament should look at the accommodation needs of the Houses of Parliament and take into account the space in both wings. That Report specifically looks at what is happening in the West Wing. That Committee prioritised the establishment of a National Heroes' Gallery as was laid down in their terms of reference. However, since it is a parliament building that we are talking about, surely the needs of Parliament should come first. While I think, and we all agree, that the history of our National Heroes needs to be put in a permanent exhibition, this should be a part of a museum of Parliament and even that committee Report stated that the core theme of the gallery would be to illustrate the growth of the nation from colony to independence to the year 2000. Since none of our national Heroes predates 1800 and since our Parliament's history starts in 1639 it is clear that this gallery must also illustrate the work of those parliamentarians who fought the colonial Government of the time to obtain the parliamentary privileges that we take for granted today. What about some of the things we need which are not addressed by that Report? I think first and foremost we must have a parliamentary library. We have been talking about it in here. I came in here and found people talking about it. We have talked about it for the last six years that I know of and we have got nowhere. I think it is absolutely necessary for parliamentarians to have somewhere where they can do research and allow them to participate meaningfully in some of the debates we do here. We need a members' lounge there. We have put a large television in there and it takes up nearly half the lounge. In this lounge when we go for tea, as you all know, there is standing room only. We cannot even sit down and I think that we surely can do better and look at the utilisation of space in these two buildings to make things a little more comfortable for us. I think a members' lounge should be big enough that Members of Parliament could invite people in to meet with them and so on, you know, have tables and chairs to sit around and if you want to meet with somebody to discuss something you are going to do, you can invite them there and on days when Parliament is not sitting you would pay for your refreshments or whatever but, of course, on days when Parliament is sitting they would be free as usual. We need some sort of tastefully decorated room leading on to the courtyard. The plans are to develop that courtyard and I think we should exclude all traffic from it. They are going to tile it and so on. It would look beautiful, and official receptions of Parliament CPA meetings, receptions and so on could be held there and it would be nice to have a room looking onto the courtyard rather than that asphalted parking lot that we have now. There are a number of things like that. Down below this very room here there is a room full of pictures and books and memorabilia all relating to Parliament. Do we have some inventory of what is there? No. We do not have it. Somebody else has it but we do not. Somebody else did take it and it is somewhere else.

Parliament does not even know what it owns. That is not good. What I am asking, Mr. President, is for you and Mr. Speaker to look at the possibility of setting up some parliamentary committee to consult with all members of Parliament to identify what they think their needs are, and that those suggestions that are worthy of consideration be given priority in the future development of our Parliament buildings. Thank you. 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. 3.50 p.m.

CONTENTS

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. P.C. GODDARD.....1

1. The Report of the Barbados General Election, 1999.
2. Report of the Accountant General for the Financial Year 1998 to 1999.
3. Report of the Social Investment Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 1999.
4. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (Variety Club Caribbean (Barbados) Order, 2000.
5. Value Added Tax (Refund) (James Collardeau) Order, 2000.
6. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Beta-Tech Inc.) Order, 2000.
7. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Smart Solutions International Inc.) Order, 2000.
8. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 2000.
9. Customs (Amendment) Regulations, 2000.
10. Annual Report of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the Year 1995.
11. Annual Report of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TET) Council for the period April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999.
12. Green Paper on Persons with Disabilities.
13. Annual Reports of the Barbados Water Authority for the Years 1996 and 1997.
14. Annual Report of the Transport Board for the Year 1995.
15. Report of the Public Investment Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 1999.
16. Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Unemployment Fund for the years 1997 and 1998.
17. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (The Tiona Fund Limited) Order, 2000.
18. Exchange Control (Authorised Dealers and Depositories) (Amendment) Order, 2000.
19. Parliament Administration Salaries Order, 2000
20. Value Added Tax Refund (LIAT 1974 Ltd.) Order 2000.
21. Value Added Tax Refund (Personalised Executive Services) Order 2000
22. Annual Report and Accounts of the Barbados National Bank for the year 1999.
23. Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 1999 and
24. The Twentieth Annual Report of the Barbados Port Authority for the year 1998.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. P.C. GODDARD.....2

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. P.C. GODDARD.....2

1. The Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
2. The Technical and Vocational Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2000.
3. A Bill to amend the Pensions Act, Cap. 25.

OBITUARIES

SENATOR T.E. BARKER.....2

Senator C. A. Mascoll, 4, 5; Senator C. LeR. Trotman, 6, 7; Senator Miss O. P. Symmonds, 7; Senator Mrs. V. E. Newton, 8; Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard, 9; Senator J.E.D. Williams, 9; Senator The Hon. G. S. H. Murray, 10, 11; Senator Mrs. P.E. Rickinson, 11.

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 1 – THE FISHERIES (AMENDMENT)

BILL, 2000.....12

Senator The Hon. P.C. Goddard, 12; Senator Mrs. P.E. Rickinson, 13; Senator C. K. Laurie, 13.

SENATOR THE HON.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS.....13

Senator J.E.D. Williams, 14; Senator Mrs. P.E. Rickinson, 16, 17; Senator Mrs. J.P. Alleyne, 16; Senator The Hon. P.C. Goddard, 16, 17; Miss O.P. Symmonds in the Chair. Committee Madam Chairman, 17; Senator T.E. Barker, 17; Senator C. A. Mascoll, 18, 19, 20; Senator D. D. Marshall, 20; Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard, 21; Senator The Hon. G. S. H. Murray, 21; Senator C. K. Laurie, 22.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ALLEYNE, Senator Mrs. J.P.

BARKER, Senator T.E.

CHAIRMAN, Miss O.P. SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE Madam

GODDARD, Senator SIR JOHN STANLEY

GODDARD, Senator the Hon. P.C.

LAURIE, Senator C. K.

MARSHALL, Senator D. D.

MASCOLL, Senator C. A.

MURRAY, Senator the Hon. G. S. H.

NEWTON, Senator Mrs. V. E.

P.C.GODDARD, Senator the Hon.

RICKINSON, Senator Mrs. P.E.

SYMMONDS, Senator Miss O. P.

TROTMAN, Senator C. LeR.

WILLIAMS, Senator J.E.D.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

Prepared with the transcript; for checking against the recording and the Minutes.

EDITORIAL QUERIES

Points noted while preparing this report from the edited transcript. The text has not been altered except where stated.

Q1. Masthead. The session is not stated in the source, so no session line is printed.

Q2. Dates in the text. The source gives ‘Tuesday, May 24, 2000’ (24 May 2000 was a Wednesday). The weekday and date do not agree; printed as in the source.

Q3. End of record. The source ends in mid-sentence during Senator C. K. Laurie’s speech on the adjournment (‘I think a members’ lounge should be big enough’). The question on Order No. 5 and the adjournment of the Senate are not in the source. Please supply or confirm.

Q4. Orders Nos. 1, 2 and 4, run-on text. In the source the third reading of the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, the heading and opening of Order No. 2, the Committee and third reading on that Bill, and the heading and opening of Order No. 4 are run together into continuous paragraphs, so that some speeches (Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard’s) appear without a separate speech heading and the Committee proceedings appear under a garbled label beginning ‘Miss O.P. SYMMONDS in the Chair. COMMITTEE Madam CHAIRMAN’. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 4, Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard. Around the take-slip ‘2.50 p.m. Wednesday 24, 2000’, the sentence beginning ‘Mr. President, the reason for this lease is for the development of meeting rooms, a library and a dormitory’ is given twice, in slightly different words, within the same paragraph. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Order No. 5, Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard. The Leader closes his opening speech with ‘I move that Resolution do not pass’, presumably ‘do now pass’. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 1, Committee. The procedural line puts ‘MADAM SYMMONDS’ in the Chair, but the report to the President is made by ‘Mr. CHAIRMAN’. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Papers, item 4. The title ‘The Value Added Tax (Refund) (Variety Club Caribbean (Barbados) Order, 2000’ has unbalanced brackets. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber on Wednesday, 24th May, 2000 at 11.20 a.m., with Mr. President in the Chair; prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah. Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard laid twenty-four papers, among them the Report of the Barbados General Election, 1999, the Report of the Accountant General for 1998–1999, the Green Paper on Persons with Disabilities, the Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for 1999 and the Annual Report and Accounts of the Barbados National Bank for 1999. Standing Order 45(2) was suspended, and the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2000, the Technical and Vocational Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2000 and a Bill to amend the Pensions Act, Cap. 25 were read a first time.

Before Public Business Senator T. E. Barker invited the Senate to pay tribute to the late Mr. Wendell McClean, a Senator from 1981 to 1986 as an independent and from 1989 to 1991 for the National Democratic Party. Tributes followed from Senators C. A. Mascoll, C. LeR. Trotman, Miss O. P. Symmonds (who had served on the Public Utilities Board from 1979 to 1986), Mrs. V. E. Newton, Sir John Stanley Goddard, J. E. D. Williams, the Hon. G. S. H. Murray and Mrs. P. E. Rickinson, recalling his work as an economist and teacher, on public utilities and in politics. Mr. President associated the Chair with the tributes, and the sitting was suspended until 1.50 p.m.

Senator Goddard moved the second reading of the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2000, which makes clear that transshipment of fish catches means transfer from ship to dock to ship. Senator Mrs. Rickinson welcomed the licensing provisions and asked that proper records be kept, and Senator C. K. Laurie raised the practice of foreign vessels laying lines outside territorial waters. The Bill passed through Committee (clauses 1 to 12) and was read a third time as the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 2000.

On the Technical and Vocational Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2000, Senator Goddard explained that it would allow the TVET Council to enter into contracts with employers and change the composition of the Council and the Barbados Vocational Training Board so that their executive directors would sit on each other’s boards. Senators Miss Symmonds, Williams, Mrs. Rickinson and Mrs. J. P. Alleyne supported it, Senator Williams raising how the changes would affect the Training Board, and Senator Mrs. Alleyne the young people ‘liming on the block’ and access to computers. The Bill passed all stages.

Senator Goddard announced that Item No. 3 would not be taken because the Resolution needed amendment. He then moved the Resolution approving a lease to the Barbados Olympic Association Inc. of 8 667 square metres of Crown land at the Sir Garfield Sobers Sports Complex, Wildey, for twenty-five years at a nominal rent of \$100 a year, for meeting rooms, offices, a library, a dormitory for visiting teams, a museum and a sports cafeteria; it was agreed to.

Order No. 5 was the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of 14 parcels, about 8 203 square metres, at Alleyne's Land, Bush Hall, St. Michael for the

Urban Development Commission's pilot project, including the relocation of five tenants, sale of lots and the conversion of 51 pit toilets. Senators Mrs. Rickinson, Barker, Mascoll, D. D. Marshall, Sir John Stanley Goddard and the Hon. G. S. H. Murray spoke in support; Senator Mascoll traced the project to the Straker's Tenantry dispute and was told by the President that one point was not relevant. The source then moves to Senator Laurie's speech on the adjournment about the National Heroes' Square and Gallery Development Committee's Report and the need for a parliamentary library and members' lounge, and ends in mid-sentence.