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THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2003

THE SENATE

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, February 14, 2001, at 10.15 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

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

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

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

Senator the Hon. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS, G.C.M.

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator G. E. N. BROME

Senator Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE

Senator D. D. MARSHALL

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

Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN

Senator LeR. H. McCLEAN, B.Sc. (Hons.)

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Sir John Stanley GODDARD, K.A.

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

Senator the Rev. L. W. B. ROCK

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

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Leader of the Senate has advised me of his intention to move a motion to end today's Sitting at one o'clock. This will facilitate those Honourable Members who wish to attend the opening of the Heads of Government Conference this afternoon.

PAPERS

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

1. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Terra Remote Sensing Inc.) Order, 2000.
2. Report on the Social Investment Fund for the quarter ended September 30, 2000.
3. Annual Report of the Community Legal Services Commission for the year 1998 to 1999.
4. Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the period April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999.
5. Annual Reports of the Barbados Vocational Training Board for the periods 1994 to 1995, 1995 to 1996, 1996 to 1997 and 1997 to 1998.
6. Green Paper on Telecommunications Sector Policy.
7. Road Traffic (Car Parks) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000.

8. Annual Report of the Transport Board for the year 1998 to 1999.
9. Annual Reports of the Barbados Tourism and Investment Inc. for the years 1998 and 1999.
10. Annual Report of the National Petroleum Corporation for the period 1996 to 1997.
11. Annual Reports for the Enterprise Growth Fund Limited for the years 1998 and 1999.
12. Annual Report of the National Conservation Commission for the period April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996.
13. Financial Statements for the National Conservation Commission for the period April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996.
14. Annual Report of the National Conservation Commission for the period April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997.
15. Financial Statements for the National Conservation Commission for the period April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997.
16. Annual Report of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the year 1996.
17. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1999.
18. Annual Report of the National Cultural Foundation for the year 1999.
19. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exception) (Barbados Shipping and Trading Company Limited) Order, 2001.
20. Annual Report of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the year 1997.
21. Annual Report of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited for the year 1999.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

The question was put and agreed to.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I beg to move that the following Bills be read a first time:

1. Electronic Transactions Bill, 2001.
2. Police (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
3. The Tenancies Freehold Purchase (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
4. The Vicariate in Barbados of the English Province of the Order of Preachers (Incorporation) Bill, 2001.

The question was put and agreed to.

NOTICES OF RESOLUTIONS

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions:

1. Approval of vesting in the National Housing Corporation of land at Lancaster Plantation and Hope Plantation in the parish of Saint James to be utilised by the National Housing Corporation in its housing programme.
2. Approval of the compulsory acquisition of land at Culloden Road, Tweedside Road, Eagle Hall, Black Rock, Westbury Road and Roebuck Street, St. Michael for road improvement.
3. Approval of the compulsory acquisition of parcels of land at Thyme Bottom, Wilcox and Fairy Valley, Christ Church for the expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport.
4. Approval of the compulsory acquisition of parcels of land at Warrens, St. Michael for the public purpose of road construction.

The question was put and agreed to.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the Clerk of Parliament for this Memorandum which we have had for the first time. It is a very useful document.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, your point has been noted.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate be suspended for five minutes to facilitate technical work on the sound system.

The question that this Honourable Senate be now suspended for five minutes was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
10.25 a.m.

RESUMPTION

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 4 – FIRST READING OF THE VICARIATE IN BARBADOS OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS (INCORPORATION) BILL, 2001

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to move the said reading of the draft Bill to incorporate new Trustees of the Vicariate in Barbados of the English Province of the Order of Preachers.

The Order of Preachers, otherwise known as the Dominican Order, was founded by St. Dominic in 1221. It is a religious organisation of the Roman Catholic Church consisting of men and women who take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The Vow of Poverty does not allow members to own anything personally, and any property is used by the owner for the spread of the Christian gospel.

Members of the Order of Preachers have been active in church work in Barbados since 1957 and are Members of the English Province of the Order. In the past, members of the Order of Preachers comprised persons who were assigned to the Catholic Church, usually from England, for a set period of time. Gradually, however, residents of Barbados joined the Order of Preachers with the consequence that is fast becoming established in the island.

It has therefore become necessary to create a legal entity which has the necessary authority to accumulate and disburse funds, as well as receive gifts on behalf of the members of the Order of Preachers.

This draft Bill, therefore, provides for the incorporation of new Trustees and for the incorporated Trustees to help hold and dispose of property, both real and personal, and to discharge any liabilities incurred.

The body of the Trustees will consist of:

1. the holder of the office of the Superior of the Order for the time being;
2. the holder of the office of Bursar of the Order for the time being; and

3. such other persons as may be appointed by the holder of the office of Superior of the Order for the time being.

The present Trustee in legal and administrative matters is the Roman Catholic Bishop of Bridgetown.

This Order facilitates the work of this very worthwhile establishment in Barbados. I now beg that this Bill be read a second time.

The question was put and agreed to.

Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 7 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. 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.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING COR- PORATION OF LAND AT LANCASTER PLANTATION AND HOPE PLANTATION IN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I beg to move the Resolution to acquire the vesting in the National Housing Corporation situated at Lancaster Plantation and Hope Plantation in the Parish of St. James for the purposes of public housing. This includes land measuring 16.62 hectares inclusive of 4.08 hectares in gully, and 0.01 hectares in right-of-way which is adjacent to a disused public road on Blowers Plantation on lands adjacent to Bishop, Wilhelmina Henry, Archibald Wilson, and St. Clair Boyce respectively; on lands now or late of Charles Harris; on lands now or late of Simeon Goodridge.

On the Second Schedule, all that land which is the property of the Crown situated at Lancaster in the parish of St. James in this Island, containing 4049 square metres. In addition to that land at Hope Plantation in the Parish of St. James of 1010 square metres.



This land is being used for the purposes of public housing and low cost housing. It has previously been acquired by the Government of Barbados and is now being transferred to the National Housing Corporation for development at this time.

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

SENATOR Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I have sat in this Chamber since 1999 and it is now the year 2001. I sat with bated breath waiting to see when I would hear of land being vested in the National Housing Corporation for the parish of St. John. I have waited and waited, Sir, and up until today I have not heard anything coming forward. I asked why no land is being allocated for housing development in St. John and was told that the Representatives of the constituencies are the ones who are supposed to forward to the Ministry of Housing, names of areas which can be allocated for housing projects within their constituencies.

I would like to implore the Representative for the constituency of St. John to try and find the areas because there are areas available in the constituency of St. John where we can have housing projects. We are in a dire need of houses in the constituency of St. John. I would like today to implore the Representative to submit names of areas to the National Housing Corporation so that we can get housing in St. John.

I thank you, Sir.
10.45 a.m.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I do not know to what extent a person can rise in support of another person sitting in Another Place, or to what extent one can lodge a side on that person, but certainly I have to agree with the Honourable Senator that there is a dire need for land for housing purposes in St. John. Where I would tend to disagree is with the assumption, or the accusation, that the Representative for the constituency has not made recommendation. I know for sure that land has long been identified in, for example, Gall Hill for the purpose of housing.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I am reluctant to interrupt. I did not interrupt the other Senator who spoke before you because I was giving her an opportunity to address the Resolution. I would permit a limited response in the sense in which you seem to be doing it, but certainly I think that the Debate is off on a wrong start today.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I would just end on that point, Sir, and just to make the point that I think the comments were not justified in total.

On the matter of the Resolution I would like to say that there is a tendency, or we have observed a trend, in terms of the acquisition of land and the... Here we are vesting land more so than acquiring it, but the National Housing Corporation (NHC) seems to be under the direction to develop specific areas which are for purposes other than the equitable distribution of land for housing resources in Barbados. I would like to say, too, that I am concerned that, very often, the land which is acquired seems to be coming from small land owners, rather than from persons who could afford to dispense with some of the land that they are currently holding, I would just briefly say that I hope that the trend of selective acquisitions in terms of geography and the selective acquisition in terms of owners will be reconsidered on the part of the Government. I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I want to speak on this Resolution and I would have a difficulty, though, understanding which "poor man" there would be in Barbados to have his property acquired that would have 16.62 hectares of land. It really is not at all possible.

Mr. President, I want to say, Sir, that the Project at Lancaster is a worthy one: the plan of the Government is to offer 50 lots for housing and it is expected to be a joint venture.

We are aware, Sir, that there are quite some properties in Barbados to be developed, but then, we have a lot of land that is in for agricultural use and many of us – I would say, that all of us – have a concern if good agricultural land is taken out of use and put for housing and so on.

Gall Hill, St. John received some 20 houses last year, but I would want to speak more so on what Government's plans are in connection with the same housing development. At present, the plans are moving smoothly for the Arch Hall Development, consisting of 46 lots; for 79 lots near Deans' Town; 42 lots at Hoytes Village; lots at Walkers, St. George which is now called Odles Development; lots at Grazettes; nine lots at West Terrace; some other lots at Six Roads, St. Philip; and lots to be acquired in St. Lucy.

I am not involved in housing in my present capacity, Sir, but indeed, everyday, Barbadians are asking for housing lots. Many too, are asking for lots where they can develop their own agricultural lots to be able to meet their demands, as well as those for the interest of the country.

What I think Barbadians need to recognize is that few young persons want to stay at home with their parents any more. They have plans to own a piece of the rock, and I agree and support those persons, and, therefore, the National Housing Corporation is being bombarded 24/7 in order for these individuals to get the lots.

I support any venture which Government makes for Barbadians to acquire land and houses and I trust that the Government's thrust towards, not only the National Housing Corporation constructing these houses, but indeed, getting involved in joint venture exercises would go a long way because we have many contractors who can assist in the growth and development of Barbados by working hand-in-hand with the Government agencies to be able to meet the housing needs of people and these needs are tremendous.

We know that there have been plans afoot for 100 per cent mortgages; the Mortgage Finance is now processing the documents for many persons and indeed, for me, it is a healthy exercise to see the growth of the housing stock is developing. We all know that everybody does not like to rent a housing unit like those of the London Bourne Towers or Deacons Farm Housing Area, and, therefore, if persons have the money and the stability in their employment and they want to buy a house, I do think that facility should be made available to them.

The only other comment I would like to add, Sir, is that, for whatever plans are being put in place in these various areas, particularly those with the 55, 76 and 79 lots, there be other lots allocated for recreational activities. Too many of our housing developments and housing units are being constructed and no proper planning seems to have been taking place where individuals have proper recreational facilities and, therefore, I would just like to invite the Government, when planning these various communities, to ensure that facilities are made available so that young persons can use their energies positively in the environment or in the communities in which they live.

I am not going to make a case for community centres at this time, Sir, because we have them all across the island and some of them are being under-utilized, particularly some of the pavilions. But I would, indeed, want for the recreational facilities to be made available so that residents can feel comfortable in environments that meet the needs of human beings. And so, with those comments, Sir, I would like to lend my support to the Resolution and to commend the Government for taking advantage of the opportunities for meeting the needs of Barbadians.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rickinson.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Sir. I rise to support the Resolution wholeheartedly. I am glad for the information which was given by Senator Mrs. C. Forde of the potential lots which are being made available.

What I would like to say is that nurses have found it very difficult to get housing lots, and I am putting in a special plea ... in fact, Mr. President, in a Manifest for Health by the Nursing Assistant Aids Association, we called on

Government that, when Government does have these lots, they specifically devote one or two lots to nurses. It is being done in other countries, like Jamaica, and these lots are allocated to an organisation which allocates them to the various nurses. It is also an incentive in trying to keep nurses in the country and, as we know, there is a shortage of nurses worldwide. We have to do all that we can to entice them to stay at home, and this is one way that we will show the nurses that we really want them and that we are trying to help them. I would like to see that at least one or two lots are devoted to the nursing fraternity.

Mr. President, we all know that Barbadians all want to own a piece of the country and I think that the National Housing Corporation will have to do a bit more educating and publicity in order to convince us that the allocation of these lots is being transparent, and there are ways and means of doing this. They can use the Barbados Government Information Service (BGIS) and other areas so that some persons would not feel that they are being left out.

With this, I would like to congratulate the Government for continuing its struggle to find as many lots as possible to be allocated to persons who really cannot afford to service heavy mortgage payments so that they can attain their goals by owning a home.
10.55 a.m.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I had not intended to speak to this matter but some of the things which have been said before, have triggered the need for me to go on record. Sir, I hope that you would permit me, first of all to go on record as saying that I am very pleased that God has spared her to be able to be back with us. I refer to Senator Forde who was under a cloud with her recent illness. I am very happy that she has been restored to good health.

Asides.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: I would wish, Sir, not so much to you but to the ladies, a happy Valentine, and I know that you would join me in doing so - Happy Valentine's Day! Not to wish them a happy Valentine, because I think that there were some questions regarding his orientation.

Sir, on the matter of the acquisition of land in St. James, there cannot be any doubt that we would want to support the measure before us, but I think that there are some things which I would want to place on record yet again, and I am speaking for the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados. I have, from time to time, made the point that there must be a clear and transparent land use policy for all of us in this country to be able to see and to recognise and to relate to. I have no doubt that any agency that is attempting to acquire land, and to apply that land to

one kind of use or another, would have given some study to it and would have officials examine it and so, I am not going to suggest that we are, or that we ever have been, under a situation where Governments have not been giving thought to what they are doing when they are doing it.

The problem I have is in being satisfied that Barbados has a long-term objective regarding the very limited land space that we have, a very finite amount of land space, regarding what we are going to do about the unlimited demand which there will be for land. Sir, we will keep having new families coming along and each family, as Senator Forde has correctly said, is going to want to have that family's own little plot of land on which to raise its own family. Then, in those circumstances, what we must be able to do is to have a clearly identified position, clearly articulated for all and sundry, clearly set out and easily discovered. One that is easily available – that is the word I am looking for – easily available for everyone so that we can know, not just a Government official, but that the masses of the country can know what the policy is and that that policy be so transparent that we do not run the risk continually of having to hear accusations, many of them possibly ill-founded, about the basis for selection, and the basis for selection of persons seeking houses as well. I think it is important that this be done.

Sometime ago, the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados wanted to put this position even more clearly, when the Government was trying to determine what is the extent of our problem in Barbados regarding the purchasing of land, and regarding the indigenous nature of the land owners. I think it is still something we need to be very careful about and I would wish to see it revisited.

Mr. President, the reality is that today anyone is able to purchase a piece of land anywhere, as I understand it in any country, so that a Barbadian is able to purchase land in Manhattan, but when land in Manhattan is so expensive that the former President Clinton, in order to get an office, was being asked to pay US\$800 000 a year, I think that tells us that Bajans cannot go to the United States and hope to purchase land. I do not know where you can go and buy land, except possibly in the bayou or in one of those places where you get the snakes and crocodiles, and where Bajans would not be exactly comfortable.

In our circumstances in Barbados, people can come here and purchase land and the reality is that several very poor people – possibly in St. Thomas, possibly in St. John but certainly in St. James – certain people are finding themselves with very small plots of land which have been part of their ancestral rights and traditions for many years. They find themselves in a quandary, brought about by two things. The pressure being placed on them by having people make them extraordinary offers in terms of United States

dollars for that little plot of land; and the problem they have of deciding whether to take that land or to take the other side of the quandary, which is to have to pay the phenomenal increase in taxes. This results from the fact that, on either side of them, monstrosities of buildings may have been put down by people who could afford to do so and their ancestral lots, for which they possibly paid only BDS\$200 a year in land tax, suddenly find themselves attracting thousands of dollars in land tax.

They know they cannot themselves afford to put anything on that property which would compare with what has been constructed by their neighbours. They know that the land, at the time of purchase, was not seen by them as being able to attract thousands of dollars in tax, but they have the problem now that they have a tax and if they try to live on in the area and the neighbours continue to build houses that are of the kind of the new orientation for the districts, they find themselves owing the tax man increasingly larger amounts of money. So much so that before too long, they will lose their property. If they do not lose it one way, Mr. President, then they are likely to lose it the other way.
11.05 p.m.

The question that we have to ask ourselves is, what can be done in circumstances where a government in a small country like Barbados is bound by the rules and regulations governing liberalized trade under the dictatorship of the World Trade Organisation?

To what extent is Government able to assist this country? I offer for consideration, the view that Government will have within the new land use policy the ability to set down clearly what its transparent position is, in such a way that it puts land outside of the possibility of rapacious acquisitions by persons who might be entering into our country or who are in the country and purchasing for non-nationals in such a way that Bajans would be excluded from the purchase.

I offer further that Government might need to increase the level of its land bank acquisitions. The only way by which we can guarantee that there is going to be land available futuristically for our people is if the Government increasingly becomes the landowner, even if it establishes the policy thereafter where it does not sell that land at the \$2.30 per square foot we heard about recently, but endeavours to put something closer to what it would perceive as a reasonable commercial value on that land. Then it would be Government land, determined by Government policy, available to nationals of Barbados rather than private land which might be acquired by non-nationals at their choosing when they know that the amount of money they would offer is money that the local owners cannot refuse.

It is very important, Sir, that we are able to recognise that we have to start fighting back against the problems

which beset us because of the new direction imposed by the New World Order. We cannot bury our heads in the sand and argue that we should not join the World Trade Organisation, which is one of the positions put sometime ago. We cannot argue that liberalized trade is something that we should reject, because the rest of the world has moved in that direction and, if the rest of the world has moved in that direction, we are part of a system where we are either going to join and try to change within or the changes will take place nonetheless and we would be found on the outside.

What is necessary for us to do therefore, is to establish within the rules of the games, as it were, those measures and those systems which Barbados can effectively utilise within the regulations of the World Trade Organisation that will make sure that our land is still land that will belong to our people. Since we are looking at those matters, we have to recognise that the tax element which we spoke about, is a major concern.

In this same area of St. James that we are talking about, there have been several developments which have had the effect of putting significant pressure on neighbouring householders, contiguous house spots, house lots or land areas, resulting from this kind of arrangement.

We also have to recognise that even acting in good faith where administrations moved to put down housing, we can end up with the kind of problems which, according to popular view – I know we cannot quote from the Press, Sir, – might be the sort of problem we have now coming out of the Westmoreland Development – still in St. James, Sir, – where the impression is being given that, because that land cannot be used by the foreign house owners to their exclusive benefit without having incursions onto that land by nationals, that they therefore are offended to the extent that they may wish to sell their properties. Somewhere along the line there is a problem with which we in Barbados have got to come to grips.

I believe that this particular item before us allows us to reiterate the view that we would wish to welcome any people (suggesting 'any person' or 'anyone') to Barbados. Within our rules for acquisition of land by private citizens and their purchase of private property, we would want them to feel very much at home and comfortable and as a part of ourselves as Barbados.

It would be wrong for anybody to come to our country and believe that we are going to be party to an arrangement as a people, where we start segregating this country into areas where foreign interest can exclude the locals at will; that we would now be setting up things like private beaches and private golf arrangements and that people of our ilk and orientation must not be allowed to be there because they have built up a new nation in our country with their own

passports; that we would have no jobs to do except to go through the back door to be maids or to be the people who push and pick up the golf balls – caddies, I understand is the word for it.

I believe Mr. President, that the message we have to get across very firmly is that we are friends of all and yardfowls of none. I believe that the Right Excellent Sir Errol Barrow said satellites but I think it means the same thing.

Mr. President, I believe that this matter of land increasingly is going to become a divider of us as a people. A few months ago I had the good distinction and honour to be asked by the Minister of Education to serve on the National Reconciliation Committee and I said yes, I will serve on it, as indeed some of my other good colleagues in this Honourable Chamber did, and we addressed this question of land, and as we address the question we recognise that one of the greatest factors likely to develop animus in this country, likely to divide the people of this country, likely to make for a venomous syndrome which will reach proportions that will cause an outpouring of anger in this country, is the question of land, land acquisition and rights to land and rights of access.

Those persons who have land and who know that that land ancestrally has been able to provide access for others, then for persons to cut off that access at the stroke of a pen, without notice, goodwill or how do you do, those persons are in for a rough time in this country unless they review their positions.

Equally, Sir, if we continue to have a situation where we begin to see large estates owned by people of one colour frame, or owned by people who are able to put up extraordinary structures right next door to ghettos, where the people in those ghettos do not have enough room to recreate or to own anything, as the Senator said, or to develop the one roof that they had before, then we are creating a climate of divisiveness that is unbelievable to the extent of damage that it can do.

Therefore, it is very important that when we move towards what I call *ad hoc* arrangements for land acquisition, that we must pause for a moment and examine the bigger picture and the implications to the thousands of Barbadians who are constantly demanding a share in the pie and that we look for ways and means by which we can accommodate them and make them feel that they belong and that they are not being increasingly excluded by the filthy examples of richness and of disinterest that are beginning to present themselves in this country. I need say no more, Mr. President.

11.15 a.m.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, let me say at the start of this debate that the width of the debate might have excluded me but the depth that has been demonstrated by the previous speaker has caused me to become part of this process.

I am exceedingly concerned about this vesting of the land for different reasons. I have completely lost faith in the capacity of the NHC to carry out the work of the Government in the area of the provision of housing. I am concerned because this land happens to be on the left-hand side if you are going towards the north on Highway 2A and I wish to suggest that, given the example set so far by the National Housing Corporation, it is going to be particularly difficult for them to build houses and sell at prices that would be affordable to lower income Barbados.

We cannot pretend that the land on the left-hand side of the Highway when you are going north has become a haven for the well-to-do in terms of the purchase of land and that the appreciation of land values has, in fact, encouraged even more speculation on the western side of Barbados. It is a good thing, sociologically, to encourage average Barbadians to want to live among the well-to-do but I somehow suspect that the economic forces are going to dictate to the NHC that the prices of land and houses in this area would be beyond the reach of the average Barbadian.

There are several examples so far of land that is next to Queen's College which has been sold for as much as nine to ten dollars a square foot. There is land just beyond Husbands bounded by the Venezuelan Project and old Husbands and Haynesville that has been sold for an extraordinary amount of money by the National Housing Corporation.

I have stated already in this Chamber that the Government should have intervened in the land market about four years ago to make land available, and certainly to prevent the escalation of land prices that we have experienced over the last five years in Barbados. I stated then that, just as there is intervention by central banks in exchange rate markets to protect the value of a dollar, that there was nothing wrong with Government entering the land market as a means of creating a wedge between the capacity of the well-to-do and the average Barbadian citizen in terms of the affordability gap that exists between those two groups. That wedge would have allowed the average Barbadian to have access to land in Barbados and, to date, I think we can all honestly say that ability is being eroded almost on a daily basis so that, whereas 20 years ago a lower middle income Barbadian might have been able to have access to land, it is now even beyond the reach of middle income Barbadians because of the influence of foreign purchases of land on the West Coast and beyond, as I speak.

The National Housing Corporation is now in the red to the tune of almost \$20 million and that is a fact. The

National Housing Corporation has so poorly conducted its financial affairs that it is now in deficit to the tune of almost BDS\$20 million for one given financial year.

The National Housing Corporation has certainly demonstrated an inability to manage even the smallest of projects. We have seen the headquarters on Country Road taking as much as three years and we have seen excessive spending and the failure to complete that project and no one can be blamed but the National Housing Corporation. We have seen the VAT Office, which is supposed to be built at Warrens, being years behind schedule. Those two examples alone demonstrate that we need definitely to look beyond the National Housing Corporation for a corporation or an entity that can truly conduct the affairs of Government in a way as to suggest confidence.

I have grave difficulty with the continued use of the National Housing Corporation as an agency in the provision of housing in Barbados. It has not proven to be effective or efficient in the provision of housing and we definitely need to look very closely at the way in which the dollar is being spent by that Corporation because the evidence is there to show that it is being spent far too inefficiently. So I have little confidence that the objective stated – to provide houses eventually for average or low income Barbadians – would be met.

It goes beyond that. If we were to go to the Barbados Mortgage Finance at this stage to acquire a mortgage of \$100 000, the first thing you would have to do is to qualify on the basis of your gross income, which has to be \$2 700 per month or less. You can get a maximum loan of \$100 000 if you happen to be earning \$2 700 or less. It therefore means that your take-home pay is going to be around \$2 200 per month or less.

A mortgage of that amount at six per cent per annum would be \$653 per month in repayment. You will have a remaining \$1 500 to take care of everything else. What is unfortunate about this is that that income level does not constitute really middle income Barbados and, once you go over that amount, you now have to be looking for a similar mortgage and to pay a nine per cent interest rate on it. That, therefore, means that there will be considerable increase in your monthly payment so that, through no fault of your own, if you happen to be earning \$3 000 or \$3 500 per month in Barbados you cannot qualify for a mortgage at six per cent from Barbados Mortgage Finance. Through no fault of your own, almost immediately your interest payments or your overall costs will increase by 50 per cent. There is nothing magical about \$2 700 per month.

What makes it more difficult is that unless they are going to be building matchboxes at Lancaster, given the location of the land and given the cost of building in

Barbados, it would be impossible for the National Housing Corporation to provide a three-bedroom home for less than \$100 000 in that location. The terrain there is not ordinary terrain. It is not flat. It is sloping land which, therefore, as you know, increases costs. It may also increase opportunities to develop a basement because of the terrain and that does increase the cost of construction.

When we talk about getting a mortgage for an individual and you talk about providing easy access to finance and about 100 per cent mortgages, we fail to recognise that in acquiring a 100 per cent mortgage, an individual has to pay a one per cent stamp duty on that, which is \$1 000.

11.25 a.m.

The Attorney's fee could reach as high as \$2 800 on that \$100 000 mortgage, and added to that is 15% VAT. I am saying that by the end of the day, a simple so-called hundred percent mortgage moves from \$100 000 to almost \$120 000 for an individual because of the imposition of additional taxes and the like.

What you are seeing here is Government saying on one hand that it is going to be building houses for low-income earners but, when you check the overall cost to the individual, you can see that it will not be possible for a low income person – who is defined according to the Barbados Mortgage Finance as a person earning \$2 700 or less per month – to be able to acquire land and houses built by the National Housing Corporation.

Mr. President, there is stamp duty imposed on a mortgage, there is a value added tax that you have to incur and there is the Attorney's fee. This particular taxation explains why the suggestion made by an Honourable Member of the Other Side is so very important in today's Barbados, that is, if you are going to have a situation where a poor landlord has to sell to an individual and then has to look for land elsewhere, what we are forgetting is that in the first instance the landlord is a vendor and, in the next instance he is a purchaser.

Therefore, while you may be saying that he may get as much as \$30 000 for a piece of land you are forgetting that there are several deductions that will have to be made on that sale and the net effect is that his income from the transaction is much less than the so-called price of the piece of land. Then, when he has to enter the market, he will therefore be unable to acquire a similar piece of land at the same price because, as far as land transactions go, the burden that you bear as a vendor differs from that as a purchaser. So you cannot simply extrapolate and say that, if the individual gets \$40 000 for a piece of land, he can just simply go and purchase a similar piece of land some place else at the same price, because we are forgetting that he is in the first instance the seller and in the second instance the buyer.

In short, therefore, I am saying that Government seems not to be focused on precisely where it wants to go as it relates to the provision of housing. There seems to be no settled plan. They are reacting to what it perceives is required by the general public. If we had planned better in the provision of housing, we should be far more advanced at this stage than we are because we have been debating now for the last six years whether Government is fulfilling its objective in the provision of housing and whether Government is really meeting the demand.

We know that Government will never be able to meet the full demand but it has not performed well enough to even suggest that there is a glimmer of hope in terms of providing adequate housing stock for Barbados; and the situation has been seriously compounded by the appreciation of land and property values in Barbados. Therefore, it puts out of the reach of individuals and the Government, the desire to build low income houses.

What really is a low income house now in Barbados? It cannot be on the basis of what was defined five years ago. When we defined a low income house five years ago at \$60 000, if I may recall, how would we now classify that house, given the appreciation of land values and given the increased cost of building in Barbados over the last five years?

Mr. President, the fact of the matter is that we have not seen anything close to a commensurate increase in incomes of average Barbadian workers. No one is suggesting that we need to go back to the years when people got 30% increases at the bottom and 20% increases at the top. What we are seeing is that we are trying to remain competitive. We are holding down salaries and wages based on productivity gained, which is admirable in the context of what we are experiencing, but the reality is that those precious assets which we all want to acquire are now going way beyond the reach of the average Barbadian worker. Then, when you listen to the officials talk about prices and say that we have had negative growth in prices and disinflation, you have to ask yourself what are they really measuring. Are they measuring imaginary happenings in Barbados or reality? Mr. President, everyone in this Chamber knows that there has been a substantial increase in the cost of land in Barbados. Everyone in the Chamber knows that there has been a considerable increase in the cost of services provided by masons, carpenters and the like and that in recent times the cost of a building block has increased, that electricity and diesel costs have increased to the extent where manufacturers have been pushed out of business within the last two or three months.

Mr. President, I am suggesting that, while I understand the need to vest land, what I would really like to see debated is the output, that is, what will happen after we have vested

this land in the National Housing Corporation. I am suggesting that the performance of the National Housing Corporation over the last six years does not bring any confidence to me at all that they can meet the expectation and I therefore have grave concerns about whether or not we can really deliver in the provision of housing. We have not seen any major attempt on the part of Government to intervene in either the land or the building markets to adjust prices in accordance with the ability of the average and middle income Barbadian to acquire such houses. We have a major problem in that we continue to set targets or expectations based on the agenda we established six years ago without revising in any way the overall cost of the provision of these houses. As a result, Mr. President, we are going to fall very short of our ability to deliver in the area of housing because we have not made adjustments for what has happened in Barbados over the last five to six years.

11.35 a.m.

It is sad that there appears to be an accumulation of wealth all over Barbados that is fully concentrated in the hands of those who already have. There is no evidence that the so-called accumulation of wealth has been spreading to the average citizen, and no one can dispute that. No one can dispute the evidence that we see daily on the west coast; no one can dispute that Barbados has become a real estate economy where people are refusing to get involved in manufacturing or the offshore sector. The people are speculating in the market for land and property and they are doing it at the expense of the average Barbadian citizen and that becomes a major problem. What is the purpose of Government if it is not seeking to enhance the wealth of a nation by ensuring that people have long, productive and creative lives and can look forward in anticipation to a better life? That expectation that Barbadians had 20 years ago, to look forward to a better life, is in reverse.

We cannot say that the future looks brighter in the area of the ownership of housing; we cannot say that the future looks brighter in the ownership of land; we cannot say that the future looks brighter in the ownership of business; and we cannot say that the future looks brighter in the area of the security of the people of Barbados. Therefore, that is where the paradox lies. As much as we boast, as much as we paint a rosy picture, when we truly try to assess the future of Barbados, we cannot say with any real degree of confidence that tomorrow will be better than today, and that is the hard part of this experience in Barbados.

Where we should be able, as average citizens, to say that we can participate in the increasing wealth accumulation by way of ownership of home and land access, we are not in a position, even at this stage, to say that we can do that because everything has been allowed to get out of hand. Everyone has been allowed to come to Barbados and indulge in the speculation. Everyone is being allowed to convert

tourism entities to land and property entities. They have sought to exploit the stability of this country, they sought to exploit the comfort that they are able to enjoy when they come to Barbados and they come to Barbados and participate with the dollars without understanding that they are social dimensions to the development and the growth of Barbados as a country.

The foreign investors are simply exploiting Barbados to the detriment of the average Barbadian and there is no better example of it than in the area of land and property development in Barbados. We cannot be comfortable because we cannot feel a sense of growth on the part of the average citizen and that is why I am concerned. The National Housing Corporation in which this land is being vested has not shown any capacity to deal with the new developments in the land and property markets in Barbados.

On that score, Mr. President, I am happy that I was able to participate, not only in the width, but the depth of this debate.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, in wrapping up the debate on the Resolution, the Honourable Senator who just spoke looked at the scene with a telescope but I am afraid that he looked but with the big end of the telescope to his eyes.

I would therefore like to make a few comments about the land use policy in this country and the market forces. I would like to draw to the Honourable Senator's attention that many of the monstrosities that have been built are built by Barbadians and they are in the heights around St. George, St. Thomas and St. John and they are largely owned by Barbadians. It is clear that land values have increased, largely, because of the expanding wealth of many Barbadians and the growth of the middle class.

It is very clear that Honourable Senators would prefer to be xenophobic rather than realistic. I have to say that there are examples on the west coast where foreigners have built very large residences. I would not necessarily call them monstrosities. The singular lack of architectural excellence that litters the landscape can be seen from the highway going to Grantley Adams International Airport down to end of Highway 2A. These residences are largely commissioned, designed and owned by Barbadians.

I think that when we talk about the value of land prices, we have to recognise that there is a combination of factors, the least of which has been the phenomenal economic expansion that has taken place in this country over the past eight years, and the politics of envy is alive and well in this Honourable Chamber today.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: I would say that this land transfer to the National Housing Corporation will benefit those in society who are the most needy and they will directly benefit. It is very clear that the National Housing Corporation has to develop this in conjunction with private sector entities to gain the maximum efficiency, and that was stated earlier in the debate. I am fully confident that this land would be put to good use and will directly benefit those in our society who are the neediest.

Mr. President, comments were made about the lack of social conscience of many people who come to invest in Barbados. Those people invest in Barbados, not to the detriment of our society, but to the benefit of our society. They employ vast numbers of artisans, support staff and contractors on an ongoing basis. They provide income in Barbados by renting their properties out and paying significant taxes on those rentals.

11.45 a.m.

By renting out those properties, those persons are creating a new hospitality industry with high consumption individuals who also, in turn, pay significant taxes in this country through their consumption habits.

Mr. President, we should not see these investments as exploiting Barbados and I would also like to draw that to attention of this Honourable Chamber the tremendous amount of benefactors that we have had, who live in this country on a seasonal basis and have contributed millions of dollars to social enterprises and social activities which Barbadians, themselves should be supporting to a greater degree.

I would like to start by recognizing one of the earlier investors in this country, Mr. Ronald Tree, the founder of the Barbados National Trust. He raised the consciousness of Barbadians. We have to remember the good that people do and, therefore, it is not in our best interest to neglect the positive things that people do in order to gain a quick, political advantage.

I really do have to draw to the attention of this Chamber the fact that persons have, over the past twenty-five odd years, given substantial sums of money to the health care systems, to the rehabilitative systems in this country, to education, and have on-going scholarships in this country year in and year out, that have benefited Barbadians from all walks of life and have educated, helped and allowed them to progress and to develop their own business activities and to more fully participate in the building of our society and the economy.

Therefore, we should recognize the fact that those persons who come to this country do invest in this country.

Yes, because of our stability; yes, because of our rule of law; and yes, because we are a tolerant society and we should not want to recoil from this in any way. By and large these persons live here with Barbadians in the same miotic arrangement and we should not cast all the blame of escalating property prices on these foreigners, because Barbadians themselves outbid each other and help to push prices up. I would also like to say, Mr. President, that we have talked about the fact that the broad masses of persons have not benefited from the growth in the economy, and that is absolutely wrong because, as I pass village after village in Barbados that I recall, in my younger days, were full chattel house constructions, I am now seeing wall houses, two-storey houses, bathrooms, water closets, running water and electricity in every home: tremendous improvement in the housing stock and plant in Barbados and this is a direct result of the widening economic pie in which more and more Barbadians are participating.

Mr. President, it is with those few remarks that I honestly support this Resolution and look forward to the development of these sites and to these housing developments which will benefit the lower end of society in Barbados, and I move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 7 – TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LANDS AT CULLODEN ROAD,
TWEEDSIDE ROAD, EAGLE HALL,
BLACK ROCK, WESTBURY ROAD
AND ROEBUCK STREET,
ST. MICHAEL FOR ROAD
IMPROVEMENT

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, in rising to move the passing of this Resolution that Parliament approve lands at Culloden Road, Tweedside Road, Eagle Hall, Black Rock, Westbury Road and Roebuck Street, St. Michael for road improvement. These lands are necessary for the development of the by-pass road around Bridgetown. This is an on-going programme which will facilitate the traffic flow around Bridgetown and will also develop appropriate sidewalks, better drainage systems and slightly widened road conditions around the Bridgetown area.

Honourable Members are keenly aware of the problem on Pine Road, for example, where it is almost impossible for pedestrians to transit without being in fear for their lives. This road is very heavily travelled.

This road improvement programme is critical to alleviating our very severe traffic problem in this country and will relieve much of the traffic flowing in and out of

Bridgetown, as it becomes more convenient to use this bypass road which will then run from the top of Spring Garden Highway to the area around the Garrison in order to completely by-pass that area.

Attached are the schedules of the various parcels of land around the roadways that run from the 1st to the 31st Schedule. Also attached is a plan which the Honourable Senators can look at, if they so desire.

This is a continuing road building programme which is feeding along in Barbados and which will improve, not only the ease with which traffic passes, but also the safety of the pedestrian and vehicular traffic in this country. I now move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, again I want to reiterate a point which must be made time and time again with respect to the policy of land acquisition.

One cannot be critical of the need to improve the road network systems, particularly in the St. Michael area and more particularly Bridgetown. It is absolutely necessary to have these improvements and, therefore, I can only support the efforts being made by Government in this regard.

Some of the parcels of land which will be acquired, seem to be very small and, therefore, I would assume that in some cases it would just be the removal of a portion of land, and not necessarily the acquisition of the entire lot.

We know that in St. Michael, particularly in the areas described, many of these parcels of land are already fairly small and we have some degree of congestion. It would mean, therefore, that it would be making these lots smaller and significantly reducing their economic value. I would, therefore, like to suggest that in cases like this, Government should seek to acquire the entire parcel of land rather than leaving persons with very small areas and Government can then find alternative use in improving the aesthetics surrounding the roadways which are going to be constructed. There is a serious lack of greenery around Bridgetown and some of these areas could probably be utilised to enhance the appearance of the City and the surrounding areas.

I would also hope that the Government could widen the policy - and I say widen because I understand that they have now seen the wisdom of doing it - of giving the option for land, rather than payment because this matter of just paying persons for land can cause some serious hardships in some regards.

11.55 a.m.

For example, I know of a couple cases where persons owned land and owed nobody anything for it. The land was acquired, and the Government paid them what was deemed

to be the economic cost of the land. But then, to replace that land, they now had to get a mortgage to get land to replace what they previously owned.

It is not enough to pay the person the economic cost for the land in the particular area. One must consider what hardships that person would incur in acquiring land somewhere else. Certainly, we do not want to engage in a process of dispossessing people.

Sir, we saw another example where a school was constructed in the Clapham area and several small parcels of land were acquired for the purpose of constructing that school. Unfortunately, in what is now an industrial area, you now have a school sitting right next to the gas works and a major car company, while at the same time the government-owned 500 acres at Wildey Plantation. Sir, rather than utilising that area, they acquired several small parcels from smaller persons, paid them, and then the persons had to look for alternative land.

I used that as an example, Sir, to bring out the point that very often we cause serious hardships to persons by acquiring the land that they owed nothing for and then, in order to acquire land with the same money that you give to them, they end up being at a disadvantage.

It is also my understanding, Sir, that whereas the Government is making an effort to improve the road network in the St. Michael area, and you would assume that this is to reduce congestion and improve the traffic flow, the Government proposes to construct a primary school somewhere in the Welches area which would virtually be adjoining the same ring road that you are proposing to construct. It is my understanding that the Carrington Primary School will be relocated somewhere in the Welches area. Certainly, one cannot understand the wisdom of such a venture, considering that you want to reduce traffic flow, Sir. So why put a school now in the heart of the area that you are trying to get traffic away from and therefore adding to the congestion.

Sir, because we know that, whereas the Carrington Village school may be catering now to people predominantly from the immediate environs, as long as a new school is built anywhere and the facilities are improved, persons from all over are going to take the opportunity to bring their children there. Therefore, we would be increasing the traffic flow, and we would be adding to the congestion, the very congestion that you are seeking now to reduce. Added to that, to acquire land again in that area would mean having to take up small parcels of land from, as the Senator said earlier, using the term 'poor people'. I never said whether they are rich or poor. I made reference only to the size of the plot of land. I do not believe that we should continue this process of taking up small parcels of land, rather than look

for areas which are larger, Sir, because if you are going to have to take land from ten people in order to carry out a project, certainly it would be better to have that land coming from one or two people rather than dispossessing ten people because, generally, those ten would be the ones who can least afford it.

Sir, on this whole matter of land acquisition, we keep hearing of the importance of land. We have heard some excellent presentations so far today on the matter of land and how dear the ownership of land is to the hearts of Barbadians. We keep hearing these statements and we keep hearing persons making reference to the need and the desire on the part of Barbadians to own a part of this country. So why should we then have conflicting policies, policies which, rather than ensuring that people continue to own the land, are going to be removing that land from one set of people, either to give to another set or for the Government to carry out a project, when in fact, the Government continues to boast of over 600 acres of land in a land bank?

I have always made the point that, whereas money earns interest and increases when it is in the bank, land does not and the only thing that is going to happen to the land is that by the Government having such a large quantity of land out of circulation, it continues to put pressure on the land market. I must support the call for the Government to intervene by making more of that land available, whether it is for projects of this nature or for housing so that there would be some impact made and therefore a contribution to the reduction in the cost of land in this country. Because one cannot deny that Government policies, in fact, have contributed to the increase in the price of land in this country.

Any time that something is scarce, as we know in simple economics, the price is going to get higher and it is generally because of the scarcity and unavailability of land in this country that we are having the escalating prices. It is the role and responsibility of Government to provide shelter or the means by which people can acquire shelter in a country. If a large number of people are without the means to have this shelter, then the Government needs to play a more active role in so doing.

It is not only a case, Sir, of building houses of a particular category. Every time we hear the Government is building low-income houses or the Government is acquiring land for the purpose of building low-income houses. The person who loses this land because the Government has acquired it for the building of the road or houses, very often would not qualify for one of these houses that the Government is going to build.

Mr. President, I want to emphasise the fact that whereas the Government is embarking on a project now for

the improvement of road conditions, they should not, on the other hand, contribute to congestion by adding confusion to the St. Michael area or the greater Bridgetown area by the construction of a school in a place which would be totally inappropriate, Sir, because what is going to happen now is that, rather than reducing congestion, you are going to be increasing it.

I thank you, Sir.
12.05 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, in winding up this debate, I have to remind Honourable Senators that when Government acquires land for road expansion, we have no alternative but to buy the land which is on either side of the road. Therefore, we cannot use land that might be in St. Thomas to improve roads in St. Michael.

However, we are also keenly aware that land acquisition could spoil the value of a particular lot. In that case, the entire lot is usually acquired but an evaluation of this is done before we bring this to Parliament – so that evaluation has been done. In those instances where the portion of land of a particular lot would be excessive, then the whole lot is included in the purchase.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 8 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF PARCELS
OF LAND AT THYME BOTTOM, WILCOX
AND FAIRY VALLEY, CHRIST CHURCH
FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE
GRANTLEY ADAMS INTER-
NATIONAL AIRPORT

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, this issue arises out of the Government's move to protect the approach to the runway at the Grantley Adams International Airport. It has established an inner object-free area which is 1 000 feet wide and extends 2 450 feet from the end of the runway to the west. There is also a 2 000-foot wide area extending 3 200 feet beyond the runway as an area of controlled activity.

It has been recommended to Government that we acquire the land with the object of a free area and to relocate the houses. There are several reasons for this, Mr. President, the least of which is the noise pollution that may damage the hearing of anyone living in that area, particularly the young children who have their whole lives to live and who may escape the deafening noise of the minibuses and other places of entertainment where the decibel level is in excess of 140.

Noise pollution is a significant problem in our society. It is not recognised by and large by the wider public how this can adversely and severely affect hearing loss in later years.

This Resolution seeks to implement the recommendations to acquire this area and seeks to acquire 9.478 hectares in Thyme Bottom, 3.819 hectares in Wilcox and 4.064 hectares in Fairy Valley for a total of 17.631 hectares. This will affect 68 households. Two sites at Lead Vale and Fairy Valley in Christ Church have been developed to accommodate the relocated individuals from Thyme Bottom. In total, some 94 lots have been created at these sites with lot sizes varying from 3'000 to 10'000 square feet.

In relocating these individuals, we recognise that market prices may not be the appropriate valuation because of the nature of this site and that what we would have to do is to apply values to the property which will allow for the reconstruction of a similar house in another location and this valuation has been taken into account. In other words, the residents of Thyme Bottom should be compensated according to the reinstatement cost and this is provided for under section 11(5) of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 because there would be no general market demand for houses in that location.

This is also important because of the growth of traffic at the Grantley Adams International Airport and the new and larger aircraft that are on the drawing board and may be in service transiting Barbados within another few years and which also demand that we have a wider clearance area on the approach side of the runways.

The properties outlined are from the First Schedule to the 48th Schedule of the Resolution and I now move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR THE HON. DAME PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I just want wholeheartedly to support this Resolution and to point out that all that is being done for those people who are to be relocated is in keeping with a Barbados Labour Party government's policy that, wherever or whenever people are to be relocated, they are to be better off than they were before, and that opportunities are being provided so that these people will have stone structures, and the building code will be observed, which is very important.

We have been blessed. We hear people saying all the time that this is God's country, that God is a Bajan and that sort of thing, which is all very well and good, but I think that sometimes we take things for granted and are a little too casual. Even when there is a hurricane warning or something like that, not everybody takes the trouble to see that their places are secured. I remember coming home to Barbados from university in 1955, and even planning a little party on

my birthday, only to be confronted with Hurricane Janet. I drove around with some friends and noticed the devastation that took part in the south. They did not expect the hurricane to hit there. Recently, we have been hearing of terrible disasters in other countries ever so often because of the lack of a building code, or a neglect of it in some cases, and sometimes because of unscrupulous builders who do not observe those rules. I think that it is very important that Government has taken the initiative to see that these houses will be built according to the building code.

Therefore, with those few observations, I wish again to say that I support the Resolution.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: This Resolution seeks to provide land to improve the Grantley Adams International Airport. In this regard, I would like to raise the question of what appears to be a long time in getting the radar at the Airport functioning again. Whereas, we are providing areas to improve the security, it is important that we continue to remind Government of the need to get the radar at the Airport functioning as quickly as possible.
12.15 p.m.

I do not care how long that it has been said that it has been dealt with, because we are accustomed to hearing that things have been dealt with in this country, only to hear a few days after that we are in a worse situation than before, for example, the dialysis machines. To say that it has already been dealt with does not satisfy me or the general public that the radar will be functioning in a short time.

Sir, in addition to the land acquisitions, make sure that you improve the security and the environs of the airport. I hope that you also do the same thing with the radar system.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, in rising to wrap up the debate on this Resolution, I would remind the Honourable Senator that a radar system is not something that you walk into K-Mart and buy off of the shelf, and that it has to be constructed given the particular topography of the area where it is going to be sited and the use to which it is going to be put. That process has been started quite sometime ago and I expect that the new radar installation would be proceeding very shortly, before the second quarter of this year.

However, allusion was made to the dialysis machines at the hospital and I cannot let that pass because of an unfortunate comment in the public arena which indicated that the condition of the dialysis machines was about to return to the status to which they were before new machines were purchased. This was clearly refuted by the physician who heads up that department. It is unfortunate that this has

gained currency in the wider domain but the reality is that there has been no degradation of patient care.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I think that you have made your point. I should be glad if you would return to the Resolution. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Okay, Sir, it is in keeping with the fact that Government's capacity for changing things has been demonstrated. Those things have been changed to the benefit of all who are using the particular facilities that we may be talking about.

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

The Question that the Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 9 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COM-
PULSORY ACQUISITION OF A PARCEL
OF LAND AT WARRENS,
ST. MICHAEL FOR THE
PURPOSE OF ROAD
CONSTRUCTION

SENATOR The HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, this Resolution is for the acquisition of three parcels of land measuring 2 220.93 square metres at Warrens, St. Michael for road construction. This is to be acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 – 1 018 square metres and 998 square metres property of Allied (Investments) Limited and 204.93 square metres, property of Falicer Enterprises Limited.

In addition to this acquisition, Mr. President, I would also like to highlight the fact that additional lands have been contributed to the Government to also improve this same area. The donation of land to Government is from Barbados Shipping and Trading and its subsidiaries and from the properties of Mr. E. K. Thorington and Mr. M. C. Thorington.

I think quite too often, Mr. President, when we talk of these acquisitions, we neglect to recognize the fact that there are many public spirited Barbadian corporations and/or individuals who recognize that the use of their property that benefits the common good also benefits themselves. Quite often they donate these properties for the use of road improvement and road construction. Therefore, when we talk of the acquisitions that we have, we should also recognize the fact that there are many who donate land for the common good.

I move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR The HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, in light of the Bills that are before us, I propose that we should debate those at the next Sitting of the Senate and I would also like to propose that we debate Item No. 1 on today's agenda on the Sitting after, so that Honourable Senators will be prepared to debate the Disabilities Resolution week after next.

12.25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: In light of that, I move that the Honourable Senate be adjourned until Wednesday, February 21, 2001.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, February 21, 2001 was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I thought I caught your eye. I want to speak on the Motion for the Adjournment.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You may, Senator.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I am rising to support the Motion for the Adjournment but I want to make the observation that these meetings of this Chamber are very important and serious exercises in which we are trying to assist the national development. The records, therefore, of these meetings are of equal importance and, though I am a representative of workers, I wish to express my concern about the quality of the scripts.

I am willing to offer my services to see whether we could help in this exercise before I make a stronger observation, but I believe that this Honourable Chamber and the Other Place need to be concerned about this and there is no point our burying our heads in the sand and believing that we are being kind by being quiet. I want to be as kind and, at the same time, as gracious as possible but I believe that our country cannot be properly served in this manner.

I do offer myself, Sir, but if I cannot find that there is some measure of improvement then I shall have to speak much more strongly to the matter.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I want to support Senator Trotman on what he just said about the quality of documents in the House. I have never corrected one that has been sent to me and I have no intention of correcting any that have been sent to me. I believe that we have reporters and I see that we have recording instruments *et cetera* and it should be possible that

the two together should be able to make a transcript of what has been said.

I sat as Speaker in the Other Place and I noted at that time that persons were correcting their speeches to things which were not said while they were on their feet and therefore I have never corrected any of mine. For years I have been asking this Honourable Chamber to go to machine transcripts and for some unknown reason we fail constantly to look at modern day technology in what we are doing.

I was in Kenya many years ago to a CPA conference and it was amazing that a conference would end at 4.30 in the evening and by six o'clock your day's speech was being pushed under your room door. It was all done by machine so that you could not deny what was said.

I believe that it is time that Parliament take a very serious look at its reporting because this is history being created and when we are all long past and gone persons will still be reading Hansard as to what was said at a given time and what a particular Member said. That is why I refuse to correct my speeches.

I, therefore, join with Senator Trotman to draw attention to the need for better transcription facilities of speeches made in Parliament and hope that those who are responsible will take an urgent look at what has been said today.

Thank you, Sir.

The question was put and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
12.30 p.m.

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2. Report on the Social Investment Fund for quarter ended September 30, 2000.
3. Annual Report of the Community Legal Services Commission For the year 1998 to 1999.
4. Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the period April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999.
5. Annual Reports of the Barbados Vocational Training Board for the periods 1994 to 1995, 1995 to 1996, 1996 to 1997 and 1997 to 1998.
6. Green Paper on Telecommunications Sector Policy.
7. Road Traffic (Car Parks) (Amendment) Regulations 2000.
8. Annual Report of the Transport Board for the year 1998 to 1999.
9. Annual Reports of the Barbados Tourism and Investment Inc. for the years 1998 and 1999.
10. Annual Reports of the Enterprise Growth Fund Limited for the years 1998 to 1999.
11. Annual Report of the National Petroleum Corporation for the period 1996 to 1997.
12. Annual Report of the National Conservation Commission for the period April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996.
13. Financial Statements for the National Conservation Commission for the period April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996.

14. Annual Report of the National Conservation Commission for the period April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997.
15. Financial Statements for the National Conservation Commission for the period April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997.
16. Annual Report and Statement of the Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1999.
17. Annual Report of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the year 1996.
18. Annual Report of the National Cultural Foundation for the year 1999.
19. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Barbados Shipping and Trading Company Limited) Order, 2001.
20. Annual Report of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the year 1997.
21. Annual Report of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited for the year 1999.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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Standing Order No. 45 (2) was suspended for the remainder of the Sitting.

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1. Electronic Transactions Bill, 2001.
2. Police (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
3. Tenancies Freehold Purchase (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
4. The Vicariate in Barbados of the English Province of the Order of Preachers (Incorporation) Bill, 2001.

NOTICES OF RESOLUTIONS

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2. Approval of the compulsory acquisition of land at Cullogen Road, Tweedside Road, Eagle Hall, Black Rock, Westbury Road and Roebuck Street, St. Michael for road improvement.
3. Approval of the compulsory acquisition of parcels of land at Thyme Bottom, Wilcox and Fairy Valley, Christ Church for the expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport.
4. Approval of the compulsory acquisition of parcels of land at Warrens, St. Michael for the public purpose of road construction.

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