

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2004

THE SENATE

Friday, November 9, 2001

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Friday, November 9, 2001, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

Senator the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, FRCS, J.P.,
(Minister of Health) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator P. C. GODDARD

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

Senator T. E. BARKER, B.A. (Hons.), M.A. (Econ.)
(Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development)

Senator the Hon. Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS,
D.B.E., 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 D. D. MARSHALL, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C.

Senator D. L. HAYNES, S.C.M.

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

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

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

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 Senator T. E. BARKER.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: Since the last meeting of the Senate the following communication was received from His Excellency the Governor-General, dated 3rd October 2001.

"Dear Mr. President,

I should be away from the island during the period 7th October to 12th October 2001 attending the Conference of the Heads of States of Caribbean Countries in Grenada.

In accordance with the provisions of section 29(1)(a) of the Constitution, it is proposed that your Honour Sir Fred W. Gollop, K.A., President of the Senate should perform the functions of the office of Governor-General during my absence.

As the Honourable the Senate would not be meeting prior to my departure it would not be possible for the usual formal message to be sent down to your Chamber. Will you, therefore, please bring my absence formally to the attention of the Honourable the Senate when next it meets?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have learnt that the Chaplin of the Senate, the Reverend Errington Massiah, has been hospitalized following an accident earlier this week. I am sure that Honourable Senators would join me in wishing him a full and speedy recovery.

I have received from the designated Leader of the Senate, Senator Jerome Walcott, the following letter dated 2nd November, 2001.

Dear Mr. President,

The Government of Barbados is desirous of having live radio broadcast of all debates in the Senate. These would be carried primarily on Radio 100.7 FM but other radio stations are not excluded.

I am seeking your permission for the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation to enter the Senate and do all that is necessary to facilitate the broadcast of these debates.

I have given permission for the broadcast which will begin today.

I have received the following message dated 27th September, 2001 from His Excellency the Governor-General. It reads as follows:

His Excellency the Governor-General to the Honourable the Senate.

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable the Senate that:

- (a) In accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister under section 39(1) (f) of the Constitution the seat in the Senate held by Miss Cynthia Yvonne Forde, J.P., was declared vacant with effect from 4th September 2001.
- (b) In accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, Mr. Jerome Xavier Walcott, J.P. has been appointed under section 36(2) of the Constitution as a Senator with effect from 28th September, 2001.
- (c) In accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister under section 39 (1) (f) of the Constitution, the seats in the Senate held by Mrs. Joycelyn Patricia Alleyne, J.P., and Grey Egan Newton Brome, Esq. B.C.H. were declared vacant with effect from 1st October, 2001.
- (d) In accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister Mr. Kerrie Druard Symmonds and Mr. Desmond Leo

Haynes, S.C.M. be appointed under section 36(2) of the Constitution as Senators with effect from 1st October 2001.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There is an additional pleasure which I have and that is to invite two of the new Senators who are here to take their seats.

Will the Marshal please escort Senator Walcott and Senator Haynes to their seats?

Both Senator Walcott and Senator Haynes were escorted to their seats by the Marshal.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is my distinct pleasure to welcome the two Honourable Senators who are joining us today for the first time, Senator Dr. Jerome Walcott and Senator Desmond Haynes.

Senator Walcott, I believe that your professional training and experience provide a more than adequate background to the wider public duties which you have recently undertaken. I wish you well and look forward to your contribution to the work of the Senate.

Senator Haynes, I am sure that you would bring to this Honourable Chamber the same qualities of intelligence and commitment which have made you not only a distinguished cricketer but an outstanding role model. I welcome you most warmly.

The rules of the Senate are, of course, contained in the Standing Orders and I urge you to become familiar with them.

The rules of Parliament are important because it is in Parliament that decisions are made which affect the lives of all the people. I am sure too that you would uphold the time-honoured traditions of this Honourable Chamber.

Again, a very warm welcome to you both.

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, it is indeed an honour for me to accept your invitation to sit in this august Chamber. I am truly overwhelmed having been given the opportunity to serve in this Honourable Senate.

I intend to abide by your rulings at all times and to observe the Standing Orders of this Senate. I certainly would try to endeavour to display the expected decorum when I conduct my duties.

I am certainly looking forward to debating with my fellow Senators and interacting with them on the myriad of issues which we are expected to be discussed over the

coming years. I certainly hope that it will all be for the best of Barbados and all Barbadians and I thank you for your very kind remarks.

Thank you.

SENATOR D. L. HAYNES: Mr. President, this is also to me an honour. I know that I have served my country before in cricket and I know that this is completely different but as the saying goes, there is no greater honour for a man or a woman than to be called upon to serve his or her country. It is also my intention to protect and uphold the rules, traditions and conventions of this Honourable Chamber.

Once again, I thank you very much.

PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following documents before this Honourable Senate:

1. Report on the Social Investment Fund for Quarter ended June 30, 2001;
2. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Barbados Military Cemetery Association) Order, 2001;
3. Value Added Tax (Refund) Barbados Military Cemetery Association) (No. 2) Order, 2001;
4. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Juphil Inc.) Order, 2001;
5. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Leon Burgess) Order, 2001;
6. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Maureen Surfleet) Order, 2001;
7. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Inter-School and Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Barbados) Order, 2001;
8. Value Added Tax (Refund) (The Barbados Legion of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League) Order, 2001;
9. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Barbados Yachting Youth Training Association) Order, 2001;
10. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Dixton Investments Limited) Order, 2001;
11. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Stewart West Indies Trading Company Limited) Order, 2001

12. Report on the Operation of the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund under the Sugar Industry Act for the year 2000;
13. Annual Report of the Barbados Vocational Training Board for the year 1998 – 1999;
14. Report Prepared with Regard to the Queries Raised on Operations of the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture in the Auditor General's Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2000;
15. Third Annual Report of the Rural Development Commission for the year ended March 31, 1999;
16. National Emergency Economic and Financial Programme (NEEFP)
17. Annual Report and Financial Statements of Caves of Barbados Limited for the year ended December 31, 2000;
18. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of Barbados and Cable and Wireless/BARTEL Limited and Cable and Wireless/BET Limited;
19. Green Paper on the Sustainable Development of Tourism in Barbados – A Policy Framework.

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

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: I beg to move that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting so that we may discuss the Money Laundering (Prevention and Control) Bill and also the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.
11.25 a.m.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of the following Bills and move that they be read a first time:

Money Laundering (Prevention and Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2001;

Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 4 – THE MONEY LAUNDERING
(PREVENTION AND CONTROL)
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2001

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, the matter before this Honourable Senate is a Bill to amend the Money Laundering (Prevention and Control) Act, 2000.

There are a number of Acts and Treaties making up the anti-money laundering legislative framework in Barbados and amongst these the most important would be the Money Laundering (Prevention and Control) Act, the Proceeds of Crime Act and the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act.

The first of these, the Money Laundering (Prevention and Control) Act, is indeed the principal Act which is used in Barbados to control this country's anti-money laundering programmes. This Act was, in fact, proclaimed in April last year and, over the past year, the technocrats have had the chance to see it in action and to see its workings. They have identified a number of inadequacies and deficiencies in this Act as it now stands and I am thereby seeking this Honourable Senate's agreement to make certain amendments to this Act in order to strengthen it.

Mr. President, the sad events of September 11th this year have transformed the world as we knew it and it probably will never be the same again. We do not know the extent of the repercussions and they certainly may be inestimable. Certainly, we in Barbados are even now more aware and conscious of the whole idea of terrorism even though we experienced it some 25 years ago. However, this time the attack was on the American mainland and certainly, whether we agree with it or not, the stakes are definitely different.

Unfortunately, it resulted in the deaths of over 5 000 persons, included among these being five Barbadians, and Government has sympathized with the relatives and offered prayers for them. This horrible act has been traced, we are told, to the al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden. The American State Department, in conjunction with some foreign agencies, has formed the opinion that the financing of these individuals who performed this heinous act is related to a network of money laundering throughout the entire world. This puts small developing countries like ours in a vulnerable position.

You are aware, Mr. President, that the OECD had been placing certain demands on us even before September 11th. Certainly, they were of the opinion that small countries like ours which offer offshore services were easy conduits for money laundering and for those who are in the habit of tax evasion. Money launderers, as we all know, earn their money illegally and then try to get it deposited in legitimate bank accounts without alerting anyone or arousing any suspicion.

Once this money is deposited in a legitimate account it can then be transferred easily around the world by electronic means. In other words, a bank in Barbados can transfer money to a bank in Paris overnight by using the services of a corresponding bank, mainly crediting accounts in one bank and then debiting an account in another.

An easy way of getting these illegal funds into the banking system is to identify banks where they can easily be deposited, where not many questions are asked as to the origins of these funds. Certainly, for several years Switzerland proved a tax haven for many of these lucky money launderers. However, in the late nineties, because of pressure from other European countries, they have tightened their rules and regulations and it has been felt that, justifiably or unjustifiably, the easiest place to do this sort of business now is in the Caribbean.

There are several international agencies, the Financial Stability Forum, the Financial Action Task Force coming out of the United Nations and, of course, we know the OECD, which have been investigating money laundering problems in countries throughout the world and have been making recommendations and have even blacklisted countries which are seen as being lax, and easy of access to these so-called money launderers. Certainly, the Financial Stabilization Fund published a list last year which named a number of countries in our region – Antigua, Anguilla, Bahamas, St. Kitts, St. Vincent and St. Lucia – as being countries that were extremely lax and easy targets for money launderers.

Some countries in the European Union as a result of all of this have suggested that all transactions of banks in these countries should be banned, based on the conditions that exist in them at this point in time. Other countries have argued that international aid and loans should be contingent on these countries having honest banking systems in place. Sir, we certainly do not want to be characterized, as Monaco was characterized by Somerset Maugham, as a "sunny place for shady people". Mr. President, the Financial Action Task Force is a multi-disciplinary body encompassing the policy-making power of legal, financial and law-enforcement agencies and these are able to monitor members' progress in implementing anti-money laundering measures. They also review and report on actions that are occurring throughout the world of money laundering. They look at the new techniques and the counter-measures that can be put in place. All in all, they promote the adoption and implementation of Financial Action Task Force anti-money laundering standards globally.

In the Caribbean, we have the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force which is set up similarly to monitor countries in this region and to monitor the progress of members in this region, similarly looking at the implementation of anti-money laundering measures by a series of mutual evaluations. Countries may be blacklisted

or they may be given a good report. A mutual evaluation is to be done in Barbados next week, from the 12th to the 16th. Hence the urgency of having this Bill passed.

During the previous Caribbean Financial Action Task Force evaluation in 1997, they were specifically paying attention to the suitability of the legislation at that point and Barbados was given a satisfactory report. Since September 11th, however, the emphasis has changed and attention is being focussed on the effectiveness of the laws, the systems and programmes in place.

After a year of this Act and training of our technocrats by the same Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, it is obvious that our Act has some deficiencies and, indeed, we might be in danger of failing the evaluation if we do not proceed with these amendments.

Mr. President, Section 2 of the principal Act defines "financial institution" by description rather than by action. As a result, some institutions like the postal service and Western Union are excluded, and we all know that they are frequently used to send money out and to receive money. Certainly stock brokers and the Barbados Stock Exchange were excluded. In the amendment, the definition is now being changed to include these entities. The amendment is also important when there is hard evidence to show that in a number of the islands the dealings of drug lords are basically paid for using some of these entities.

Section 6 of the principal Act dealt with the powers and duties of the Money Laundering Authority. This limited the Authority to receiving reports from financial institutions but prohibited it from conducting investigations into money laundering other than for ensuring the compliance of these financial institutions. In addition, it was illegal for the Authority to receive information of which it could act for the Police and other entities.

This principal Act made no provision for the reporting to the police of any criminal activity that might have been discovered, other than the proceeds of a crime. The new section 6A would correct these anomalies and allow the Authority to receive and exchange information with other Government departments.

Mr. President, our Financial Intelligence Unit, the executive arm of the Authority, was not given the capacity to exchange financial intelligence with other similar bodies in other countries when the Act initially was in place. The new Section 6B corrects this with the provision that the Unit must be a country that has a similar arrangement with Barbados, making exchange of information reciprocal, and there must be a guarantee that information would be confidential.

Barbados is also seeking to become a member of the Egmont Group which is an international body comprised of financial intelligence units. To become a member of this group we must have this sort of free flow of information between bodies. For quite some time the Financial Action Task Force and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force have been advocating that all countries put systems in place to monitor trans-border transfer of currencies. The new section 8(h) which is being proposed makes currency transfer of more than \$10 000 reportable except where permission has been granted under the Exchange Control Act.

Mr. President, the forfeiture of assets without criminal conviction has been introduced in some countries, and this is thought to be necessary as it is difficult to establish that an offence has been committed although no other explanation may have been found. This cannot now be enacted as it would be in contravention of our Constitution, but the burden of proof has now shifted from the prosecution to the accused where the person is charged with money laundering or related offences. This is the effect of the new section 20A. This has been a controversial section.

In closing, Sir, I must make it clear that Government is committed to cooperating in the fight against international terrorism and specifically in the fight against the financing of terrorism. As a result, we are prepared to put in place the mechanisms to deal with the implementation of these standards agreed to by the international community. We intend to maintain our stature as a well-regulated, offshore, financial centre. Certainly, Sir, there will be grave, economic and social repercussions for vulnerable developing countries like ours if our right as a sovereign state to operate well regulated, lower tax, fiscal regimes is not respected.

Mr. President, I now commend this amendment to this Honourable Senate and beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I rise to support the amendment to this Bill, having participated in an entire debate in the Lower House when it was first brought to Parliament. There is no question that we in the Caribbean need to ensure that our image is enhanced, maintained in some cases and to ensure that the financial services sector is not compromised in any way. Therefore, there is substantial merit in introducing legislation and amending legislation as needed to guarantee that the good face of the Caribbean is maintained.

I have really very little to say on the Act because, having participated then, we had demonstrated to the Government of the day that there were some amendments that had to be made to the legislation to make it even more powerful. I think that the subsequent amendments have shown some degree of cooperation on the part of this

administration, so that it would not be necessary for me to repeat what I said then or to be antagonistic at all in this debate since I see these amendments as necessary and, even though they may not be sufficient, we would look to the future, having monitored the international business sector and financial institutions on the whole to guarantee that no loopholes are available for any financial institutions or any individuals to undermine the good face that we have had so far in our offshore sector.

Let me just say that I commend the Government in this instance for making the necessary amendments to the legislation and to say, on a very light note, that I look forward to the debates with the new Senators. Both people are persons whom I respect and regard for their different strengths and I have known them for quite a long time and therefore just let me say I welcome the two new Senators to this Chamber.

Thank you, Mr. President.
11.40 a.m.

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Mr. President I would like to commend the new Leader of Government who made his first presentation today. Sir, he started by setting a very high standard and I want to commend him for making an excellent presentation on this Bill.

I have always found it useful to give a background and my research indicated that money laundering was supposed to have been started in China 4000 years ago. It came about when officials tried to hide, move and invest wealth that belonged to their leaders and rulers.

In the twentieth century there were tremendous amounts of cash made through illegal means and the owners of that illegal cash had to find some means of using it. They put most of it into illegal gambling and even into laundries and this is how the term 'money laundering' came about, by the investment of those illegal funds in laundries.

The best definition I have seen of money laundering is the process by which illicit money is introduced into an economy and used for legitimate purposes. This purpose has not changed over the last 4000 years and people continue to hide, move and invest wealth to which someone else has a claim.

It is implied that only money which is the proceeds of crime can be laundered but that is a fallacy. Money that has been legitimately obtained can be laundered when it is disposed of in such a way as to evade lawful taxation to which it is subject. By way of illustration, an individual taking a sum of money out of the business is a contravention of the law because the money extracted has created grounds

for criminal action and the amount laundered is the tax on the amount extracted. Sir, this is all part of money laundering.

Money laundering can take place within the community. Last year there was a case in Barbados where funds were moved from one bank to another by an employee of the bank and that person was charged under the Money Laundering Act. Money laundering can also take place with illegal money coming in from overseas and being laundered locally or it can be illegal money made locally and sent overseas to be laundered.

Sir, we all agree that drug trafficking is the main source of illegal funds that are laundered. We must realise that an increasing number of drug traffickers do not directly manage the laundering or conversion of their proceeds. They rely predominately on professional money brokers. Such brokers are increasingly drafting new schemes under which to launder these funds.

Money laundering is not restricted to narcotic trafficking or illegal drugs. There is a proliferation of financial crimes that are not limited to drug money laundering. They include new variations of common types of financial frauds depicting the use of fictitious letters of credit, counterfeit or stolen bonds and other monetary instruments offered as security for loans. Sir, the range of scams is almost endless.

Mr. President, to give some idea of the global dimension. In 1998 a study was undertaken of a model to deal with money laundering on a global scale and it was estimated that the amount involved in money laundering globally was US\$2.8 trillion. Most of that is heavily concentrated in Europe and North America, so you can imagine the negative economic impact of the cost of that type of illicit transaction on legitimate business. It also has corruptive effects on Government and on civil societies throughout the world.

Sir, I submit that the illegal drug trade, money laundering and terrorism, which are often closely associated with HIV/AIDS, are probably the greatest scourge facing mankind at this time in history.

The principal Act was passed in 1998 and today we are dealing with the amending Act. Section 4, to insert powers in respect of information gathered, that is fundamental. Money laundering is an international game, racket or whatever you choose to call it. Therefore, Governments must be powerful in respect of information gathering. They must also have powers to communicate information to foreign states, the same way that we expect to get information from them. Also, information sharing between regulatory authorities within the country.
11.50 a.m.

The amount of \$10 000 that appears in Section 5 seems to create some controversy. It is the same amount that is in the principal Act of 1998 where records of transactions over \$10 000 have to be retained for a period of five years.

Sir, my reading of this section, as a layman, seems to suggest that there is some discretion. I am referring to Section 5 subsection (a) and subsection (2) which says "shall monitor and report to the authority all currency exchanges of \$10 000 or more, and all instructions for transfers of international funds of \$10 000 or more, whether by telegram or wire into and out of Barbados where the transaction appears to be of an unusual nature." I must stress that point "...where the transaction appears to be of an unusual nature."

Sir, some jurisdictions, I am told, use the word suspicious rather than unusual. I am told that the practice in the banking community in Barbados is that where there is an unusual transaction, it is subject to investigation within that bank. However, if the investigation shows up an element of suspicion, the transaction is then referred to the Financial Intelligence Unit.

It is not mentioned in the amending Act, as far as I can see, that a case of a Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) has to be taken into account. My understanding is that large amounts of money come into the country for a short period of time, pass through the banking system, it is above board and is completely legal. I am sure the regulatory authorities would take note of that.

I also note that Section 6 inserts, as a section 8A, Reports of transfer of currency into and out of Barbados. It seems to me that the collateral benefit of this section could be improved, enforcing of foreign exchange regulation by the Central Bank of Barbados.

Section 7 deals with amendment of the Constitution, section 18 subsection 2 of the Constitution. We all know that we came along dealing with our system of governance and that there is a presumption that everyone is innocent until proven guilty. Sir, money laundering is such a heinous crime, I think that if there is any room for an exception, it is for this amendment. Where there is sufficient evidence to suggest money laundering, I have no difficulty in supporting the presumption of guilt by the alleged offending parties and ensuring that they must establish their innocence in a court of law.

Money laundering poses an international challenge. With respect to Barbados, we are only one of the many countries that are faced with the same problem and dilemma. Our challenge here, as it is in other countries, is to ensure that every bank can account for its customers; that every Government has laws which ensure the prosecution of

financial crime and that every society sets a moral ethical standard for the conduct of commerce.

Sir, before I sit, I would like to share with you and my colleagues in this Honourable Chamber two web sites that I use in doing some research. There are www.moneylaundering.com and www.coumtermoneylaundering.com. There is a wealth of information that I found very useful in preparing for this presentation.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill and give it my wholehearted support. I would like to draw to the Honourable Senate's attention that this puts us squarely into international business. This Bill strengthens our hand in the conduct of international business in Barbados. Not offshore business but business which is conducted in Barbados of a global nature. This can be as small as the Silvertones getting up a website to market their products around the globe, or there could be a website for General Electric to market their turbine engines out of Barbados through an international business entity.

It is important that we have well-regulated financial systems and the strengthening of this anti-money laundering Bill is a vitally important aspect of that.

The events of the 11th September heightened our awareness of a need for being able to know how funds flow around the globe and what they finance. We are targeting international terrorism but there are other reasons for strengthening our money laundering Bill today. Sir John rightly said that money laundering is a threat to legitimate businesses. In other words, people who are laundering money will invest in a business and consciously make a loss in that business to cleanse the money. Those businesses are competing with legitimate businesses and will drive them out of business. It is in this context that money laundering is a threat to legitimate businesses which are run for hardened, ethical and legitimate people around the globe. Sir, no nation is immune from it.

Sir, if we understand that salient fact, then we understand the importance of restricting, controlling and, hopefully, eliminating money laundering. It is going to be a vigorous task. It is something that we will now have to invest in to ensure that we have the mechanisms, individuals and expertise to make this legislation work. The Government of Barbados is committed to developing that expertise and the investment in people to ensure that this money laundering Bill does work.

It is in that context of good governance, which this Government is committed to, that we are bolstering Barbados as an international business centre. Therefore, we are strengthening our economy while we are fighting the scourge of money laundering.

12.00 noon

While we talk about terrorism and are focussed on the al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden, there is also the scourge of narco-terrorism. Narco-terrorism is both local and international, and illegal money garnered through the trade of narcotics and weapons is also an issue to us here in the Caribbean. It is a vital and important issue to us here in the Caribbean, as is that of the al-Qaida in the United States. Therefore, I would like to see that the engagement of terrorism on a global basis also takes into account narco-terrorism. We should clearly understand that this is one of the major threats to stability in this region and in this country. People tend to see something and not see it, or live and let live, but when they start to understand the dangers of narco-terrorism, the threats that it presents to the local business activities in Barbados, and of that which Sir John spoke, the corrupting influence of officials and individuals in our society, we then come to recognize how this can destabilize our country and the region. Therefore, Mr. President, I wholeheartedly support this Bill. I also wholeheartedly support the provision where the money launderer, who is suspected of having illegal money, has the burden on himself or herself of showing proof that that money has been obtained by legitimate means.

Mr. President, I congratulate the Government on being swift in the development of this legislation and for bringing it to Parliament in a timely manner. I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Williams.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, I am heartened to note that, based on the contributions we have had so far, there is indeed no political divide, at least on this one. Senator Mascoll who, on this occasion was rather brief and to the point, did indicate that he fully supported the efforts of Government, and I await the contribution of his other Senator where we will see whether or not that is also in sync, because one can never be sure whether two and two will ever agree.

Mr. President, the scope of money laundering is, indeed, an enormous one and is something that is endemic to any financial system. In that regard, it is a problem that requires the full international support of all jurisdictions. We, in Barbados, cannot afford to get this one wrong. We have spent a long time trying to develop an offshore financial and business sector and we have to ensure that we are able to

move that sector onto a new plateau of integrity and transparency.

To that extent, this amendment is particularly timely because it focuses further attention on the rooting out of money laundering in all forms in our country. It goes beyond that, because it seeks to allow us to work with those international institutions to ensure that whatever support we can give as a country, we so do. Money laundering, therefore, is both illegal and is also immoral. We must remember that oftentimes money that is legally earned by the actions of persons can therefore become illegal, for example, while attempting to get around the foreign exchange controls within a country.

Mr. President, this is a matter that engages the attention of all international groupings. It is engaging the attention of the G7, G8, G20, the European Union Ministers of Finance and Justice, the United Nations and many departments within the UN, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Recently, the Head of the IMF did say to us that his institution was looking at the regulatory frameworks that exist within countries to ensure not only that they have the legislative framework but, indeed, the human and other resources necessary to combat the threat of money laundering. Therefore, it is on the Agenda of these groupings. Of course, as we know from recent experience, it is also on the Agenda of the OECD.

Mr. President, the world is now awash with a number of aids for restructuring the international financial architecture. Each one of these groupings is coming up with ways and means they believe can be adopted to deal with money laundering.

As I said, we cannot afford to get it wrong, because things like a money laundering scandal in a country can really sap that economy. It also has the potential to destabilise countries. Of course, it is not something that we ought not to address and, indeed, we must address it in the fashion that we have started.

Senator Sir John is correct; the question of money laundering is nothing new. The historian *Sterling Seagrave* wrote a book, *Lords of the Rim: The Invisible Empire of the Overseas Chinese*, and in that book, as he said, over 3 000 years ago the traders in China sought to use methods to hide the profits that they had gained from trade.

Therefore, we are dealing with an activity that is as old as the hills. The technique, therefore, of converting money into readily moveable assets, both inside and outside of the jurisdiction, is used in a rather sophisticated way these days by money launderers. Illegal money, therefore, can be moved around by means that embrace all financial institutions.

The Leader of Government Business has indicated that the things we have to look for these days are the simple ways of facilitating this kind of activity. Hence the need for the legislation to embrace our postal services, central banks, stock brokers, *et cetera*.

It is indeed the high volume of legal funds that move around the globe that allows a money launderer the opportunity to use the system to launder his or her dirty money. Mr. President, the reason why you will find institutions like the Financial Action Task Force in all countries is that a money launderer can attempt to place money in an offshore entity of a large national bank and because, of course, of the interaction and the internal communication between a bank in one country and another, he is able to move it, possibly, from a jurisdiction that has very low regulation back into one where it is highly regulated. This is simply because you can move money from one bank branch in Barbados to anywhere in the world, and use that as a means of laundering your money and getting it into the jurisdiction that you want.

12.10 p.m

The problem, as Sir John Goddard explained, is a very big one. It was only as far back as 1996 when the Financial Action Task Force was able to estimate that approximately between 2 per cent and 5 per cent of the total world economic output is money laundered. Now, that in itself, at that point in time, was equivalent to between \$590 billion and \$1.5 trillion. But by 1998, it had reached an estimated sum of \$2.8 trillion. It is a massive problem that we are talking about. One can only imagine between 1998 and 2001, what is the size of the problem we are talking about, in dollar terms.

What we are saying, therefore, is that in terms of the banking system, bankers now have to ensure that they not only know the name and the address of their customers, but they must become more intimately aware of the activities of those customers. That, in a sense, will permit them to glean and understand when inconsistent transactions take place, where those suspicious of inconsistent transactions can then be registered with the relevant supervisory authorities.

We know, for example, in the United States of America (USA) that they use a trigger of US\$10 000. I see now that when we are coming into our own country, we have to fill out a form indicating whether we are carrying that kind of money, but in the USA that is used to trigger the system. Suspicious-based reporting is something that was going on within the European Union (EU) for quite a while and it is now being adopted by the USA as well. Of course, we all make reference to the events of September 11, 2001 where, again, that is something like a watershed for all of us. Again,

you will find that with the passage of legislation subsequent to September 11, 2001, the situation has become even tighter.

I am saying therefore, Mr. President, that the criminal seeks to move money between banks, between financial instruments and in and out of tangible assets such as businesses and properties. They use all ways and means to launder the money and to change the shape and size of the financial holding.

There is also the use of shell companies. There are really not entities that have any physical presence at all, but they merely exist to create invoices which can then receive money for non-existent services, simply in the process of laundering money. Money laundering, in essence, is a global problem and it is one that impacts all jurisdictions and no one is really immune. It harms societies in a very real way because, for example, in the area of the insurance companies when we have insurance fraud, it impacts on everybody and our insurance premiums go up. When people seek to get around the tax system, the remainder of the society, indeed, pays more and the degree to which one has to pay is inflated by the degree of corruption that exists. We are saying, therefore, that those who pay more, do so because of those who try to evade the system.

There is also now the issue of what is referred to as cyber laundering. The Internet, of course, has opened up another opportunity for people to move information quicker. There is a feeling that one now has to look at the Internet in terms of ensuring that it is not used by the money launderers as part of the mechanism of getting around the system.

I am hoping though, of course, after the events of September 11, 2001 that we are not going to find now that we are going to use that as a means of trying to have stricter control of the Internet as a system. As you know, there has been lots of discussion over the years in terms of regulating the Internet. Some people may wish to use the suggestion of cyber laundering as an excuse for greater regulation of the Internet. I must say that greater regulation, Mr. President, could lead and work to the disadvantage of poorer nations, and it will possibly exacerbate the divide between rich and poor nations. As I said, I do hope that the September 11, 2001 experience is not used as a reason for greater control of the Internet.

Therefore, only a globally considered effort can effectively deal with money laundering. In the absence of international cooperation, there is no realistic chance of the world defeating or significantly curbing money laundering. We have seen the work of the Financial Action Task Force in seeking to develop minimum standards that countries should follow. Reference is often made to their 40 recommendations but, of course, that is more a

brand name than the actual number of recommendations. Indeed, this is used as a way of saying to countries, these are the things that you have to do. Small countries depend on financial services to diversify their economies and that is why, for example, it is so important to us.

We have spent a long time trying to develop that sector in Barbados and we have to do everything possible to ensure that nothing happens to injure that sector. Governments who fail to establish financial intelligence units risk the possibility of being branded as uncooperative. We see that the Financial Action Task Force is prepared to put a number of countries on the list. The implication of this is significant for us because they could very well instruct the financial institutions in their respective countries on how they would expect them to deal with a jurisdiction that is deemed uncooperative. That could be devastating and catastrophic for small countries like our own.

There are a number of countries that are deemed to be tax havens and some of those countries are within the Caribbean. Those countries that do not seek to eliminate what is deemed harmful tax practices could be hit with a financial blockage, which includes tariffs or, ultimately, severe restrictions. For example, the taxes and transnational levies destined for a particular country could be withheld. So the consequences are indeed great.
12.20 p.m.

I must say that September 11 is now, basically to my mind, causing entities like the United Nations to structure legislation that in truth and in fact is so wide-ranging that it actually impacts on the national sovereignty of countries. Of course, these things are done in an effort to curtail the evasion of money laundering. However, as I said, one has to ensure that in all of this, the sovereignty of nations is not impacted upon.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries sought, to my mind, to reform the tax regimes, as they say, in order to compete for investments. The unfortunate thing is that out of September 11, rather than the OECD countries now being required to do those things that will make them truly competitive vis-à-vis lower tax and lower cost jurisdictions, I think you are going to find now that they are just simply going to impose their own regimes which in many instances are really regimes that have high tax policies.

In reality, therefore, Mr. President, it could mean that jurisdictions that presently do not, for example, have personal or corporate tax regimes could be forced to introduce such, and if that happens then that will remove any tax advantage that may exist to the investor.

Mr. President, I believe that what we are doing today is simply ensuring that our systems can never, ever from hereon in – one can never say never – become more difficult for people to use our statistics to launder money and to get around our systems in Barbados.

Mr. President, I believe that this piece of legislation is indeed timely and I am heartened to see that on this occasion there is basically no divide on this issue.

I am obliged to you, Mr. President.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I rise to raise two points on the matter. It is quite clear that money laundering is now a major matter affecting the economies of the world, therefore, at some time or the other it would be necessary to bring legislation to control this activity.

But in drafting the legislation, I think that we have to be conscious of how an Act which is designed to control the big spenders in the big movement of money will affect the smaller man. In this particular Act, Mr. President, the amendment to section 8 causes me some problems and concerns because the addition of the new section 8 seeks to impose the condition where anything over \$10 000 must be investigated. The strange thing about this is that it says, if one looks at the paragraph following 8A, the latter part of subsection (b):

“The person shall make a report in respect of the transfer in accordance with this section unless permission was obtained under the Exchange Control Act for the transfer.”

Now, I am not dealing with the offshore banks *et cetera* but I am looking at the Barbadian nationals who lived in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. I know that the Bill has exempted Attorneys-at-Law from declarations temporarily, but BDS\$10 000 is just a little bit above £3 000 or US\$5 000. Now this means that if a man in England wants to send £10 000 to his cousin here to buy a motor car or something of the nature, then that will fall under this section.

Now, the complexity of it is that to get the permission of Exchange Control you have to collect a form from the bank and take that form to the Exchange Control Division of the Central Bank of Barbados to be stamped. But which comes first? How are you going to get the exemption from Exchange Control before you get the form from the bank? But then you will fall under the investigative part of the whole Act.

Now, I will go further. Look at the section which amends the Constitution. It says quite clearly under section 7 which amends section 20(a) that:

“Where a person is charged with an offence under section 20, and the Court is satisfied that the property in his possession or under his control was not acquired from income derived from a legitimate source, then it shall be presumed unless the contrary is proved, that the property was derived from the proceeds of crime.”

What we have done here is bringing us under the French-type legislation where you are guilty until proven innocent. But in our laws, and at the present, if you are prosecuted in our courts in Barbados and you are not convicted you do not recover your cost against the Police.

Now, we have to be very careful when we are passing these laws and when we are dealing with other countries. Are there reciprocal laws in those other countries as they are asking us to pass here? Because I know that Britain has recently passed the Cost in Criminal Cases Act whereby an accused person who is not convicted can recover his cost from the Crown. Is Barbados going to pass a similar Act? Because the moment a person is brought under this section and he is prosecuted by the Police, if the Court cannot prove that he is wrong he is out of pocket because he has been prosecuted by the Crown. So how does he recover his expenses? I think it is absolutely necessary that there is a corresponding Act to counter these problems.

I want to raise another thing, Sir. Britain has not been prosecuting people under their Foreign Exchange Act for a very long time and I know that there are people who have been walking out of Britain with large sums of money in suitcases and coming to this country. Now, that is why I asked whether there will be, or is in existence, reciprocal legislation in these countries because we are being forced to pass these bits of legislation where money laundering is an everyday exercise in the developed countries and they may not have these very laws.

I remember flying through the United States of America one day and sitting next to a person who, for some reason, glanced at the book I was reading and told me he was a member of a high office in the United States. The question of prosecuting for drugs came up and he said to me in clear and unequivocal terms that they have to get us to do it for them down here because if they attempt to take out a search warrant against somebody in the United States and did not find what they were looking for, they would pay the penalty. 12.30 p.m.

I am asking whether we are not being used constantly to clean up somebody else's mess and whether there are reciprocal laws in the other countries that we are following,

or whether we are being forced to pass laws to correct other peoples' errors. As I said, the poor Barbadian in Britain or the United States of America who is coming home and wants to start building a little house somewhere and sends out a little £10 000 or £15 000 is going to be caught under this regulation. He cannot register it before he comes and the banks will ask where it came from.

We still have people who keep money under their beds and they do not put it in banks, particularly those Barbadians who went abroad back in the fifties and sixties who will still tell you that they keep large sums of money tucked in their homes because when they are ready for it they do not know if the bank will have it to give to them.

Mr. President, that is my contribution to the debate. I am saying that the Act is necessary but I am still saying that we have to be rather careful how it is going to affect the smaller man in the street who has little or no idea about money laundering but is seeking to transfer legitimately earned money back to his homeland to provide a resting place for himself in his retirement.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I would like to assure the Senator who said there is no political divide on this matter that he is in fact correct. As I rise to support the amendment to this legislation, I would like to say that in making this presentation the Honourable Leader of Government Business in the Senate, whom I welcome to this august Chamber, created a sort of nexus between money laundering, the OECD and these other self-proclaimed regulatory organizations and there was also the connection with the September 11 attack on New York. I think we are making an error when we believe that what the OECD is doing has anything to do with money laundering in the same way that we see money laundering.

The OECD is purely concerned with the economics of the situation that, rather than money being invested in small countries like ours, it should be invested in their countries. As was pointed out by Senator Bolden, the vast amount of money laundering that takes place in the world takes place in the developed countries: London, Isle of Wight, Isle of Man and in some states of the United States of America where there is more money laundering taking place than anywhere else in the world. I think that both Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard and Senator Phillip Goddard created the correct framework in which we, the small countries, need to look at this matter of money laundering.

Money laundering is simply the external manifestation of what is really happening, the more serious problem that we have to deal with. As was quite rightly pointed out, it is a threat to legitimate business in our country and it is even a

threat to the economic fabric of small economies such as ours because so much money could be involved that persons are in positions that they can actually influence what is happening in your economy by using these informal money markets. Even those persons who have made money legitimately have been able to use that money to influence what is happening in countries.

The point that we need to pay attention to is this whole matter of what is happening with respect to the illicit drug trade and how this is tied into money laundering, and Sir John Stanley Goddard did an excellent job in making the connection and giving the history of the whole activity.

Only a few years ago, Sir, in Jamaica, this was an extremely serious problem where there were reports of houses called "money houses", where drug dealers actually stored money, would take a bedroom in a house and money would be stored there. In order to get it back into the economy, a fellow would give a prostitute \$10 000 which she would go and deposit on the bank. When asked where she got the money from, she would say she is a prostitute and was paid this by somebody. That \$10 000 is laundered in that way. Fellows would gamble and lose large sums of money and their buddies would go and deposit it on the bank because they won it through gambling. In this way, you would find that it causes a significant impact on what is happening in the formal economy because all of this money is being siphoned off.

Before I go on, I would like to draw attention to section 4 where it says that there are certain powers given to the Authority to involve certain Government departments, the Central Bank, Customs Department and Immigration, *et cetera*, in investigations. I think that we need to go beyond this. Rather than simply getting information or records from these institutions, we need to use some of these institutions in order to get at some of the persons who are involved in this kind of activity.

We know that in the sixties one of the ways that the authorities in the United States got at the gangsters was to use the IRS. I think that under the laws of Barbados, the Inland Revenue Department is entitled to go and audit a person and that person would have to give some account of the money they have. You have right now in this country persons who operate one-door establishments and when you go into them you see more attendants than customers, yet these persons are living in some extremely large houses, driving very expensive motor cars and living large. When you look at what they are doing in terms of their business and the lifestyles that they enjoy, you wonder where they are getting all of this money from.

It is true, Sir, that all of us who have had to go into constituencies and "beat some tar" observed certain activities

where there are persons, who have no gainful or obvious means of employment, who are owning some of the most expensive vehicles and living at an extremely high standard and one cannot make the connection between what is their legitimate means of income and the lifestyle they enjoy.

Therefore, Sir, I think that in this regard the legislation is timely, and I think that we need not only to have these things on the Statute Book but we need to enforce them. I believe that attorneys-at-law have some responsibility. I do not believe, with all respect to members of that honourable profession, that anyone in this country is a sacred cow. Therefore, we, as Barbadians, have a responsibility to ensure that what is happening in our country is in the best interest of all of us if we are going to create or maintain an environment that our children can feel safe in.

Whereas I believe that attorneys-at-law have a right to defend or transact business on behalf of their clients in a professional manner, they also have a moral obligation to avoid certain kinds of clients if they believe that they are at all involved in any kind of illegal activities. I believe that in Another Place the Attorney General has issued a word of caution to members of that profession. Therefore, I do not need to go any further with that.

Mr. President, this matter of money laundering in Barbados is extremely serious and, whether we want to believe it or not, there are persons in this country who are prepared to undertake large transactions and do not want a receipt. There are people who go and buy properties out of their pockets. There are also persons in this country whom you never see in any bank, making banking transactions, but you see them carrying on transactions which are non-banking but very substantial financial transactions.

I am glad, too, Sir, that they are paying attention to the post office because for many years there have been persons who have used the Post Office in order to circumvent the laws in respect of exchange control. You would get six members of a family in this country going to the post office and purchasing the maximum amount that can be purchased. They will move off from that office to another and do the same thing. All of these things have to be paid attention to. There are some of them who spend their hours going from gas station to gas station and hotel to hotel in order to purchase foreign exchange because they do not deal with banks. If persons have to do things like this, one must ask the question why do they have to undertake these kinds of activity. I am saying that the root of much of it is the need to get foreign exchange to engage in their illicit drug activities. If we do not pay careful attention to that we will find ourselves in serious problems and, therefore, I am glad that earlier speakers have made this connection between money laundering and the drug trade. It is that aspect of money

laundering which is of even greater significance to countries like ours than that associated with terrorism.

Right now, the greatest terror that we face is the fact that there are persons who can use this drug money and are so strong and powerful that they run the risk of influencing what is happening in our country. Whereas persons have always focused on politicians – and I think sometimes that we are our own worst enemies, because we are very quick to accuse each other of all kinds of corruption – those of us who have had anything to do with the Government service know that there are other persons within and lower down who are better placed to be corrupt than any politician is.

I am going to make the point here that I believe, Sir, that it is time for legislation in this country which would require that persons declare their assets when they hold certain jobs in this country, because there are people in this country working in Government departments, working for \$2 000, living in houses that cost \$500 000 and can change their cars every year. I say that anybody who is working as a policeman, a soldier, working in Customs or Immigration or any of those departments should be made to declare his or her assets when they go into that job and there should be legislation which would permit investigation of any wealth that is acquired over a certain period of time to ensure that they are not getting it through illicit means.
12.45 p.m.

We have to face the fact that one of the means through which persons have been able to carry out a lot of their illicit activity is by bribing some Government officials. People are afraid to say this but it is a fact of life. If a law-abiding citizen goes before some Government officers, they will squeeze every cent possible out of that person; but you will hear another person say that a particular officer is his friend because the officer has certain people he likes to deal with. But when they deal with the law-abiding citizen, they have to overcompensate because the public is not to point a finger at them.

Sir, we know these things happen in this country and we need to have legislation to deal with issues such as these. If this is not done, people will want to live above their means and expose this country to all kinds of difficulties and we do not want to be seen as a country where corruption is possible and people can come through the cracks easily. So, we need to pay attention to this.

I also want to join with Senator Bolden with regards to some of the comments he made. There are persons in Barbados who acquire wealth but for some reason or other they do not have confidence in the banking institutions and we need to educate those persons about the correct ways of doing things. There are also several persons who are

involved in informal trade who do not see it necessary to go to Central Bank of Barbados to do the necessary paperwork and they travel with large sums of cash, which is contrary to the law. Sir, they do not see it as breaking the law but simply as a means of convenience, but we need to educate those persons and also make the system user-friendly and remove that suspicion so that people can conduct their business legitimately. There are ordinary looking people who have large sums of money which they have acquired legitimately but we still need to know how it is obtained.

Sir, I am not talking about people who are involved in informal trading and who have the means of obtaining the money but I am concerned about the people whom we cannot see with the naked eye, the means by which they have acquired the wealth and how they are living large.

Sir, I believe in that regard it is important that we not only put legislation on the statute books but that the legislation is policed and enforced so that there is respect for and compliance with the laws of this country.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: I beg to move that the Senate be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2.30 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
12.55 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I thought that I should make an intervention in some instances and put some historical context where this matter of money laundering is concerned. There was a time when the phrase money laundering had, and still has, a very odious connection to it. It was one that was associated with the so-called Banana Republics, some exotic far-away places where the law did not matter; where people were prepared to wink their eyes at a legal authority, whether it was gunrunning, money laundering or murder. The history is that money laundering has been more an industry of the developed world than anywhere else. Sir, you would have heard instances of reference to some of the major capitals of the world where money laundering is not really a pass-time and might be seen as some persons who are idle rich and just looking for ways to siphon off money. It is an industry where people would go to work every day, working and trying to beat the system.

Therefore, I think that places like Barbados, the Caribbean and other parts of the so-called developing world or third-world countries have suffered unfairly because they were tainted by a label which largely originated in the developed world, for whatever purposes.

It is well known that Paris, New York and Miami do very well in this trade. As a matter of fact, some months ago it was discovered that when one of those African dictators was overthrown, he had about five billion pounds in an account in London and the London authorities were not too concerned about it, because they wanted the business. We are seeking to redress that situation. I am glad that where Barbados is concerned, while we are trying to meet a deadline and trying to put everything in order by the time the evaluation takes place later this month, we are not being forced to or we are not trying to play catchup. Neither are we pressured because of the events of September 11.

Sir, while that has added some impetus to other parts of the world, Barbados has always played it by the book where money laundering and the offshore sector are concerned. From the outset, we made it clear that we are a tax haven but we will not be a no-tax jurisdiction. We have scrupulously guarded our reputation. It is known that, under both Administrations, the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party, several entities who wanted to come and establish themselves in Barbados were refused because they were not willing to comply with the rigorous examination that one has to go through in order to be able to operate in Barbados.

Therefore, this is in keeping with Barbados' reputation of being fair and playing by the rules. Barbados has always had a tradition of high respect for the law. It is no accident that Barbados has, I think, the second oldest organised police force outside of London. There is no accident that Barbados has the third oldest Parliament in the Commonwealth. These things indicate that there is a deep ingrained respect for these institutions and the desirability of them where Barbadians are concerned down through the generations.

Sir, where money laundering is concerned, we have to remember that we are dealing with a very insidious, complex and sophisticated activity. Honourable Members would have heard it mentioned the many ways and the alacrity with which money is able to move around the world at the flick of a wrist, so to speak. Barbados, while it might not have all the infrastructure, technology and money to throw behind it, has established a regime to ensure that we have kept to a minimum any instances of money laundering that can taint our very valuable reputation.

Sir, this Act is in keeping with a long history where money laundering measures are concerned. The original

Anti Money Laundering Act of 1998 was passed in November 1998, and the Money Laundering Prevention Control Bill, 2000 was amended to vest responsibility for money laundering matters in the Honourable Attorney General. On April 25, 2000, the Money Laundering Prevention and Control Act was proclaimed. The Anti-Money Laundering Authority was appointed in 2000.

Sir, the amendments to the legislation that we are dealing with today did not come about as a result of pressure from the OECD or from other international agencies who are seeking to enforce these measures. These amendments have emerged out of the experiences that Barbados has had over the few years since the Anti Money Laundering legislation. The authority has established a committee which had gone through the whole spectrum of this legislation. I think that committee was headed by Mr. Jeff Cumberbatch, who was a law lecturer at the University of the West Indies. He did a review of the Act. Another review was done by a Graham Pinner, who was a consultant to the authority. These people made some recommendations and we have come to inform on these decisions.

Sir, these recommendations go back to the year 2000. While we may be taking action in the year 2001, I want to establish quite clearly that the action that we are taking was not triggered by the pressures of the outside world as a result particularly of the recent events of September 11. They came out of Barbados' internal experience and review of the system where it was felt that certain amendments were necessary if the legislation were to be as effective as it should be.

Sir, these recommendations which this document reflects have been in existence since July, 2001, which predates September 11. The recommendations include the creation of the Financial Intelligence Unit Act to give statutory authority to the Financial Intelligence Unit, Sir, that the Financial Intelligence Unit should have legal authority to share financial intelligence; that consideration be given to identifying other kinds of transactions that should be mandatorily reported – currency exchange and the monitoring of all international funds transfer instructions, whether it be by telegraph, in and out of Barbados. Failing to make reports to the authority should be an offence with an appropriate sanction and there should be a statutory safe harbour provision that protects persons who pass information to the Anti Money Laundering Authority or the Financial Intelligence Unit, and financial institutions should be defined by reference to the entity rather than by its general description.

Therefore, this Bill has come out of Barbados' own sense of rectitude and the desirability to make sure that the operations of the money laundering are keeping pace with its own desires to maintain, as far as possible, a pristine

reputation and an image that can only inure to the benefit of Barbados. I thought that it was important to put that context to make it clear that we are not being beaten around the heads or the ankles by any international agency or agencies into having to do these things. This is something that has been a voluntary act of Barbados.

There has been a series of amendments seeking to make the operations of the anti money laundering activities better and this is just another step. I am sure that, as technology develops and people who perpetrate this kind of activity become more ingenious, there will be other amendments down the line that will be necessary to keep pace with those changes.

Therefore, I want to commend the authorities in Barbados for maintaining their own sense of balance, correctness and making sure that we have the cleanest jurisdiction.

It gives me great pleasure to give this Bill my fullest support.

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I want to thank all the Honourable Senators who have taken part in this debate. I have taken note of Senators Bolden's and McClean's concerns. However, in closing I want to remind Honourable Members that as indicated in section 20, of this Bill, it seeks to amend section 82 of the Constitution which provides that every person shall be presumed innocent until he has been proven guilty.

Accordingly, under section 90, of the Constitution, this Bill cannot be passed unless at a final voting it is supported by not less than two-thirds of all Members of the Senate. On that note, I now move that this Bill be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT, the Bill was read a second time.

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 9 inclusive were called and passed.

SCHEDULE

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: I beg to move that the Schedule becomes the Schedule to the Bill.

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

On the motion of SENATOR the Honourable J. X. WALCOTT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to HIS HONOUR the PRESIDENT the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR the Honourable J. X. WALCOTT, the Bill was read a third time.

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I move that this Bill do now pass in accordance with section 49(a) of the Constitution and be cited as the Money Laundering (Prevention and Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

A division has been called for. The bell has been rung. The Senate dividing as follows:
Ayes:

SENATOR the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY, SENATOR T. E. BARKER, SENATOR the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, SENATOR C. K. LAURIE, SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE, SENATOR the Hon. Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS, SENATOR D. L. HAYNES, SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS, SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON, SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL, SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN, SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD, SENATOR B. R. COLLYMORE, SENATOR Mrs. V. E. NEWTON, SENATOR D. D. MARSHALL.

Total: 15 Ayes. 0= Noes.

ORDER NO. 5 – SECOND READING OF THE MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2001

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, Barbados has signed and ratified the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, also known as the Vienna Convention.

Since the activity of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent UN Resolution No. 1373 regarding terrorism, it has now become necessary to extend an application of the above Act to any country which has a bilateral Treaty with Barbados in respect of mutual assistance in criminal matters and also to any country which is a signatory to this same Vienna Convention.

This Amendment simply seeks to facilitate the apprehension and trial of criminals and, at this time, terrorists, who are wanted or face criminal charges in other countries. Again, Mr. President, the impact of our visitors will show that Barbados is willing to play its part on the world's stage against terrorism and other illicit criminal activities. With that, I move that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT the Senate resolved itself into Committee, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to HIS HONOUR Mr. 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. J. X. WALCOTT the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POST OF CLERICAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, this is a rather straightforward matter that has to do with provision in the office of the Prime Minister in a manner sufficient and adequate to allow it to function in the way it should.

It has been found that at this time of the year when there is an upsurge of our Independence activities and things of that nature and, secondly, as a result of the other departments having come under the Office of the Prime Minister, there has been a commensurate upsurge of the multiplication of correspondence, *et cetera* – things that would seem mundane but are still very necessary to the good governance of the country. Therefore, the Prime Minister's Office is now fairly swamped with dealing with correspondence, *et cetera* and, it has now become necessary for the creation of a post of Clerical Assistant to the Prime Minister.

This person will be a member of the Prime Minister's personal staff. It is a political appointment and, as such, the

person would be eligible for a gratuity payable in accordance with the conditions in the second schedule which are applicable to all posts on a contract of that nature. Therefore, approval is being sought for the post of clerical assistant at Z38-24 from the 8th October, 2001 and for the payment of a gratuity to the holder of the post, as is set out in the second schedule.

2.20 p.m.

This is not going to be any additional burden on the Treasury because the post of personal assistant to the Prime Minister is not filled at the moment. Therefore, there are savings in that regard and this is one way of helping to finance this post. We are not asking the Treasury to pay any additional sums of money towards the creation at this post, but it will be paid out of existing money which has already been allocated by Parliament in the 2001–2002 Estimates.

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

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, it would be good if we could know some of the conditions attached to this post but, in making his presentation, the Minister did give the impression that the bulk of the work in the Prime Minister's office is seasonal, that particularly at this time, there is an increase in the amount of work. Therefore one needs to ask, if this increase in work is seasonal, why the need to establish a person or create a post for a person to come into a position that is seasonal. And, could a person not be drawn from the public service to carry out the functions in the Prime Minister's office, rather than having to go the route of creating another post? One therefore has to ask if this is merely a means of providing, should I say, compensation, or dispensing some political largesse.

We think, Sir, that in the public service, or when using the mechanisms within the public service, there should be no problem in reassigning a person from the wider service to fill this position in the Prime Minister's office. I think the alarm bells should go off when we see this kind of thing happening, particularly in light of the fact that even now we have heard union leaders questioning the whole method of appointment of persons in the public services, in some cases where people are coming into the service and immediately moving into positions ahead of persons who may have been acting in those positions.

It would be interesting too, Sir, to find out from the Minister, what really is the situation with respect to the position of personal assistant to the Prime Minister at this time.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I am going to support this Resolution because the Leader of the Resolution said that it was necessary for the good governance of the country, and I am in favour of anything that is necessary for the good governance of the country. I note that the salary scale is similar to those of health aides, in that the health aide is Z38-30 and this one is Z38-24.

By the same token, I also feel that we could have some more health aides for the good governance of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) and I will make an appeal for that cause. Mr. President, I am very serious about this because if there are things that need to be done and matters need to be carried out, I think people should be appointed and given the opportunity to carry them on. I think that we need more health aides for the good governance of the QEH.

I support this Resolution and I thank you.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I rise to support the establishment of the post of clerical assistant to the Prime Minister, but I wish to ask whether or not this has to do with the recent positioning of the Ministry of Culture under the office of the Prime Minister.

I ask that question because I somehow believe that the assumption of the Ministry of Culture by the Prime Minister has very far-reaching implications. I say that because I have been looking at the whole issue of Crop Over, the question of Independence, the use of Sports and Culture in Barbados in recent times. I am, therefore, beginning to recognise a pattern that has taken me to this point, where I need to query the establishment of the post, not because I do not find it a useful post to establish, but because it seems to me that, as I said, the importance which we are seeking to attach to the Ministry of Culture is now going to be taken to the highest level in the land and that cannot be by accident.

There is no one that can question how this Ministry could be used because it has assumed major proportions over the last couple of years. I have been thinking about the politics of the Ministry of Culture. I have been thinking about simple things like the Lighting Ceremony which we recently had in Bridgetown that attracted thousands of people, and the way in which this Government has succeeded in making these small minor matters of a lighting ceremony, a very major programme in the whole question of creating an aura around Independence at this time.

If it is the case that the Prime Minister intends to take the whole question of culture way beyond its present level, I can very well understand the need to have a post of this type. It may not be the case, as was said earlier, that the events are at all seasonal. I somehow suspect that the

intended work, in the Ministry of Culture, may be very much an all year thing and, therefore, may require even more than a temporary post or a post of clerical assistant to the Prime Minister.

I am saying this not lightly at all, because there is a pattern in which this administration has been operating, where almost every event has been given maximum public exposure. Every event has been carried to its limit in terms of the political implications of the event. No one can at all fault the Government in its ability, over the last seven years or so, to take Barbados to a level of recognition in the area of culture.

That is why I said at the start that it is perhaps not at all an accident that the Prime Minister has decided to take the area of culture under his wings because I think that we have finally recognised that culture is no longer a minor matter but is indeed a very major area of economic opportunity and social concern and perhaps a major area of political opportunity. Therefore, in that regard, I do believe that the establishment of this post is justified. But I would wish to expose an apparent plot by this Government ...
2.30 p.m.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: On a point of order. Mr. President, I believe that the word 'plot' suggests something devious and underhand and I believe that it is imputing improper motive on the part of this administration and I am asking that the Senator withdraw that word.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, would you like to rephrase your sentence?

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, given my exposure to Shakespeare, Chaucer and other noted authors it is exceedingly difficult to find a more appropriate word because I am more or less looking to see the vision that the administration is unfolding before us...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I, therefore, rule. I have given you an opportunity to rephrase and I am asking therefore that you withdraw it in the sense that it has perhaps a sinister connotation.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Let me end on this note, Sir. I have been aware that the Leader of the Opposition in the Other Place has been asking for a research assistant for the longest time and I am hoping that the same kind of expediency that has been brought to bear on the establishment of the post of clerical assistant to the Prime Minister would attend the intended post of research assistant for the Leader of the Opposition.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I would first like to deal with the comments of Senator McClean, particularly where he made reference to the supposedly seasonal nature of this post. It seems as though his memory or his comprehension is almost seasonal or partial because I said that at this time of the year there is an upsurge of activity, which is obvious. I also said that with the coming over of a number of other departments in the Prime Minister's Office that that in itself has triggered an upsurge of further activity. So it is not only the activity but, I think, his memory that is partial.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Senator McClean spoke about the unions quarrelling about appointments and swifter appointments and what not and that there seems to be some act of patronage. This is a very straightforward political appointment and has nothing to do, therefore, with the unions. These appointments are not bound by the same rules as if you were a regular public servant. It is a political position. If he had known as much about the operations of the public service as he often pretends to do, he would understand that from the time he sees the offer of a gratuity, and unless it is a contract, it means that this is not a regular civil service job that is governed by the union. A civil service job that is governed by a union does not have a gratuity attached to it. The emoluments are very straightforward. It is a post of Clerical Assistant with a salary of \$16 628.40 per year. It is a political appointment that is at the behest of politicians.

You are not yet in a power to make these positions...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, please address the Chair. When you say 'you', it can only be a reference to the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: That is definitely not you, Sir. I am speaking in the context of Senator McClean.

A personal assistant is like what it said. A personal assistant to the Prime Minister is at the behest of the Prime Minister and is a personal appointment by the Prime Minister. So the real position of the personal assistant to the Prime Minister can only be spoken of by the Prime Minister.

If he wants to ask me about the personal assistant to me, I can tell him about that because it is a personal appointment and that is as much as that is.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, there is nothing underhand, devious or tricky about this

appointment because it is a straightforward appointment which has come to the highest Chamber in the land for scrutiny and that is as straightforward as you can get. I am not sure if Senator Mascoll is supporting this Government or condemning it for treating events with the importance that they deserve. He complains about small minor matters. As a Combermerian, and one who should have done better at Combermere in English, he should know that a small minor matter is not becoming.

He made reference to the lighting ceremony and to Independence. If his party so downgrades Independence that it becomes just another bank holiday or a day to go to the beach, that is his problem. The point is that this Government has recognised the central role of Independence in the life and psyche of Barbadians and has given it the same respect and due regard as it has done with Emancipation and the National Heroes. We do not feel that for an event to be important it just has to be a bank holiday or be called somebody's day. We know that Independence is one of the greatest achievements in the history of Barbados and we treat it with the national importance it deserves. Therefore, we make no apologies for taking Independence back to the people. The people have obviously embraced it and they have responded to a situation which means something to them and, therefore, that is as far as it goes.

Therefore, there is no question then of any expediency in this regard. All that has happened is that from time to time there will be changes in the configuration of offices. There is a change in the dynamics of the Prime Minister's Office where work is concerned and it is felt that this position is totally desirable, necessary and important for the Prime Minister to carry out his functions.

Therefore, Sir, I have no hesitation in moving that this Resolution do now pass.

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

**ORDER NO. 1 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF
A RESOLUTION TO VEST IN BARBADOS
TOURISM INVESTMENT INC. A PARCEL
OF LAND AT CHEAPSIDE IN THE
CITY OF BRIDGETOWN**

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, the Resolution before the Honourable the Senate seeks permission to vest 211.2 square metres of Crown land at the corner of Cheapside and Temple Yard in the City of Bridgetown in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. in order to facilitate the restoration and redevelopment of the Old Town Hall site. The property was acquired by the Crown

in 1999 and a two-storey building which occupied the site was subsequently demolished in view of its dilapidated state.

Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. has now in fact replaced Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation and this carries out the functions formerly assigned to that entity. In accordance with a Cabinet decision, a total of 12 properties out of 20 have been vested in the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated. These include the old Harbour Police Station, the old jetty and open window opposite Jemmotts Lane, the old Eye Clinic on Jemmotts Lane, Fort Willoughby on Cavans Lane, Trevor's Way on Princess Alice Highway, the old Town Hall at Cumberland Street, the Savoy at the corner of Wellington and Bay Street, the car park near Furniture Limited and the Old Spirit Bond in Bridgetown.

All these properties will be involved in the Bridgetown Redevelopment Plan which we have all heard quite a bit about and it is figured that the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated will restore the Old Town Hall site as it is planned to be the site of art exhibitions and open air cafes in an attempt to beautify Bridgetown.

With these remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution be now passed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, in these difficult times, it would be remiss of me not to support any initiatives to enhance the tourism product in Barbados. I am well aware of the intended Bridgetown Development. I am not so aware as to whether the private sector side of it is going to follow through. We need to have more recent information as it relates to the development of wider Bridgetown.

However, there is little doubt that there are several sites across Bridgetown that are in need of repair and, in addition to repair, I hope that we intend to put a system in place that allows for the continuous upgrading of these sites. We have already called in this Chamber some time back for Government as a whole to look at the maintenance of buildings across the public service. I do not think that it is too late to ask for the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated to have a system in place that would allow for the upgrading of these buildings over some period of time.

Too often public sector initiatives have run aground because of the failure of Government to put in place on-going measures that would not only create the new entity, but also sustain it. In this regard, it would be worthwhile for us not only to know of the plans in place to upgrade buildings throughout the Bridgetown area but for us also to be aware of what are the intended sources of financing to allow for the on-going development of these businesses.

The other thing that is particularly important is that already there is evidence in Bridgetown of some slow-down of business. I have been made aware that the very duty free sector that we placed so much emphasis on in the past is now in fact on the down turn to the extent where a very popular duty free enterprise in Broad Street would be closed by the end of the year, December 31st, with as many as 44 persons losing jobs. That came as a surprise to me, with all the discussions and all the emphasis on the importance of value added in duty free shopping in Barbados, that less than four years after major initiatives were put in place to guarantee that we add value to our tourism product we have already started to see casualties in that area.

I think we are well positioned to know of its history and that significance was placed on the duty free sector and particularly in the Bridgetown area. Now we are very much aware of the first casualty right next to the Barbados National Bank, just opposite the taxi stand, and I will not call any names but it is a major duty free entity in Barbados.

I am therefore asking as well for the Senate to know what are the types of services that will be delivered from these new or renovated buildings in Barbados and whether we have done a study to determine the financial viability. It is one thing to continuously upgrade the City, just to put paint and change a roof or put some windows in place, but are we going to be able to utilise these areas effectively for economic purposes and to give the average Barbadian the opportunity to become owners and entrepreneurs?

We are well aware that the Pelican Village area which has been open now for many a year has not taken off and that the craftsmen in that area continue to struggle to maintain a reasonable standard of living. While I can laud the Government for this initiative in terms of upgrading a number of derelict buildings in the environs of Bridgetown, I wish also to know of the business side of this initiative and whether or not we are in a position to say to the average Barbadian that opportunities would abound in the next couple of months as a result of the refurbishing of these derelict buildings across the length and breadth of Bridgetown.

It is one thing to make the place look physically appealing and one thing to enhance the environment, but it is another to provide the average Barbadian with greater opportunities to become business owners and entrepreneurs in their own right.

I, therefore, would have little difficulty in supporting the initiative, but I am saying that there is a bigger picture which we have to address and that is one of ensuring that the area of the space created in Bridgetown can be effectively utilised for business purposes. It is nice to see greenery and I am all for the environment and for the proper upkeep of

Bridgetown. I am all for the abundance of trees that we have been seeing across the length and breadth of Bridgetown. But of equal importance is for the Government to put in place an environment in which the average Barbadian can get the opportunities that, perhaps, they were denied in places like the Port. I know that that particular comment may inspire some debate but it does not matter at this stage. What is most important is that all resources are fully utilised in the interest of the average small Barbadian giving them the opportunity not only to survive but to prosper in this country.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I am very happy to support this Resolution and I wish to speak particularly about the Old Town Hall and the possibility of its restoration. It is an old historical building with a fascinating history and I think we have a duty not only to look at the financial benefits, but to preserve and cherish the beauty of our environment and maintain those distinguishing man-made features of Barbados which illuminate the character and history of our people.

To me, Mr. President, it has a special significance and my experiences of it are personal and vicarious. My mother worked at what was then called the Parochial Building for a short while, years ago, before I was born, and was one of the first of two female aldermen at the Bridgetown City Council. She, along with Nurse Eunice Gibson – I know that Senator Rickinson would be pleased to know that there was a nurse who was one of the first female aldermen – were both very proud of that fact and that the Town Hall was the seat of the Vestry and the seat of local government and it was also the place where the sanitary inspectors had their offices and where taxes and rates were collected. The vendors sold under the balcony. There were also city weddings held there and outside – what was called the Lower Green – village choirs sang at Christmas time. There were mass political meetings there and I have attended many a meeting there and the gardens were as beautiful as they hope in this restoration to have those gardens beautified again.

Miss Nell Manning of the Civic Circle was most active there. People recall seeing her with a very broad hat supervising these gardens which were kept by a paid gardener. I understand, too, that St. Mary's Church's wall will be part of that renovation and I need not remind Honourable Members of the historical significance of St. Mary's churchyard where the Right Excellent Samuel Jackman Prescod is buried. Sometimes people forget that he was also the editor of the *Liberal* newspaper, which was considered very radical in those days, in which he ferociously clamoured for the rights of blacks and fought for the underprivileged.

I think that it is fitting too that the bottom as it is envisaged should retain its old appearance and that there should be a museum set up there in which there will be a display of the old Vestry and City Council system and of memorabilia.

I want to go a little further and think of that Boardwalk. I have walked on it and it has given me a feeling of elation. I think it enhances pedestrian access and enjoyment. Therefore, Mr. President, I look forward immensely to the continued beautification and development of the City of Bridgetown and I think that Government is to be highly commended for the transformation that is taking place and I wish to say that I support wholeheartedly this Resolution. 2.55 p.m.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I have no difficulty with supporting the Resolution but we also need to pay some attention to what is happening with several other buildings of historical importance in this country which have been allowed to run into a state of dilapidation. One of those buildings is Marshall Hall which was purchased about 20 years ago by Government with the intention to house the offices of the Barbados Development Bank. Subsequently, there was a change in plan, the building was destroyed by fire and those persons interested in the architecture of Bridgetown at the time lamented the loss because of the architectural significance and history of the building.

Sir, there is also Herbert House on Fontabelle which has been unoccupied for a considerable period of time and that has gone into a bad state of dilapidation.

Sir, this is a real problem that we face because we are finding that even recently constructed buildings because of lack of preventative maintenance seem not to be in the best of shape.

The old Treasury Building is not an old building but we seem to have a problem with it. The original National Insurance building also seems to have a problem.

Sir, I want to draw Senators' attention to the old Welfare building on Bay Street. This building also has significance and has been allowed to run to ruin. Then there is Verona House which is still in use but is only partially being used and not much attention is being paid to the building. Persons working there will soon be relocated and the building will go the same way as others we have seen.

There are also the buildings in the complex which used to house the Tercentenary School. We need to pay attention to this complex in order to preserve the old architecture of the country.

Sir, then we have the house of the late Frank Worrell. I have heard much debate about this property recently and I understand that Government plans to do some work on it. I hope this will happen soon so that this important landmark would be preserved.

Sir, I believe that even though we are looking at vesting properties in the BTCI for development along those lines, we need to pay attention to the number of buildings that are going to waste. When we allow a building to reach the state of disrepair that it cannot be occupied, it must certainly be a waste of our limited resources.

If we put a plan in place for the continued maintenance and upkeep of these buildings, we would be able to save Government a considerable amount of money. While these buildings continue to deteriorate to the point where they cannot be used, Government has to rent accommodation from private persons and these buildings are lying in a state of disrepair.

We need to pay attention to this and try wherever possible to restore or maintain these buildings.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I rise to wholeheartedly support this Resolution and note that it is part of Government's plan for the redevelopment of our capital city.

Sir, it is not an exaggeration to say that we have not paid as much attention to Bridgetown over the years as we should have. It is only in recent years that this Government took the opportunity to focus on Bridgetown, noting the tremendous economic potential of our capital city and the part which it plays in the psyche of the Barbadian person. So much so that we are seeing, slowly but surely a transformation of Bridgetown. We can think of Swan Street and how it is so well situated. The Boardwalk by the Wharf adds significantly to the aesthetic of Bridgetown which is the vision of this Government, especially the Honourable Member for the City.

We note that work is now going on at the Old Spirit Bond which was an eyesore. All of us know, in past days, the activity that went on there and we were aghast to see that it was allowed to go into a state of disrepair and we are now rejoicing that work has started on that project.

Sir, the Cheapside Market is now being redeveloped and when it is completed in a year, it will add to the transformation of that part of Bridgetown.

The new General Post Office which was built by the last Democratic Labour Party administration was a

tremendous idea. Sir, the entire area would add tremendously to the beauty of Bridgetown and when the Old Town Hall is finished in a year or so, the lower part of Bridgetown will be a joy to behold.

Sir, this Government is also committed to the redevelopment of housing in Bridgetown because no town is complete without a significant housing component.

Sir, all these are plans which are surely but slowly evolving. An example of our vision is that we designed and built London Bourne Towers on the other side of Bridgetown with first-class accommodation for Barbadians. We took criticism for that because it was felt that the land could be better used for tourism but our people deserve the best. We are determined that all of our people, regardless of their status, should feel that they are part and parcel of what is going on in this country of ours and London Bourne Towers is testimony to our vision for Bridgetown where all of us have a stake. Sir, the provision of marketing space in the Town Hall building is part and parcel of that process.

When we commend this Resolution to this Honourable Chamber we do so knowing that a lot of planning has gone into it and that it is part of a greater design for this wonderful capital city of ours.

Sir, I would like to be around in the next 20 years when all the plans we have would have been realised.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I want to join in the discussion on this Resolution and bring a little historical knowledge to what is happening. When I formed part of the Cabinet of the Barbados Labour Party, 1976-1981, we had a vision of rebuilding the entire Bridgetown and the old part of Barbados. We followed the views and vision of the then Town Planner, Mr. Luther Bourne, who recommended that we rebuild the entire Bridgetown and bring back housing into the city. He said that when you bring people back into the city, you reduce the number of crimes which were committed in the city. 3.05 p.m.

Sir, we went on, not only to look at Bridgetown proper, but we wanted to bring a new look to Barbados and we created the concept 'Housing the Nation by the Year 2000'. Out of that came our involvement in the cement plant and that Portland cement plant is the first of its kind of that size, which was created because of the size of Barbados.

I have always contended, and I told the then Prime Minister, Tom Adams, that we should do something parallel to what the now late Errol Barrow had said. We should go to the bond market and raise enough money to completely renew the old part of Barbados, and it does not rest with Broad Street, Swan Street and the Lower Green. It stretches up to Bank Hall, Bush Hall and Deacons Road. When you

drive around Barbados and pass through Christ Church, you see a lot of dilapidated buildings which are bound-up in family wills or which have fallen into disrepair because the owners are incapable of restoring them to the pristine condition they were in.

We have fallen into a trap where the Barbados National Trust has gone around Barbados and stuck a number of plaques on buildings and they tell you that you cannot do anything with them. Keeping these buildings in the condition that they were in is very expensive to the owners. If you want to retain Barbados in a particular light, you obviously have to subsidise the renovation of these buildings.

Sir, we have now come into a period where we have what is called 'sick buildings'.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I am sure that the Leader of the Senate understands what I am talking about. I am surprised that other Honourable Members do not understand.

A few years ago we had to close a section of the Supreme Court because people were getting sick. The National Insurance Building, Fairchild Street, is also a 'sick building'. People have lived in them for so long, and there are so many viruses in the walls, that the people get sick. These buildings need to be renovated. Sir, even the hospital that was built in the 1960s, the air conditioning units in that building were making people sick. We have to understand what is happening.

Unfortunately, the Democratic Labour Party has never repaired a single building in Barbados in their term of office. They cannot name one building that they have renovated in this country.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I remember, in the Other Place, when the late Errol Barrow said that he had no problem in mortgaging away the lives of the unborn children of Barbados because they must not come and find everything paid for by present generation. It is a beautiful statement, because if we borrow money or take present day money to repair a road or a building in Bridgetown, our great grand children will come and enjoy it. Sir, what he meant was, if we raise loans today to repair roads and buildings, they will last for several generations to come and those people must understand that they must contribute to their existence.

I think that it is time that we look at Barbados as it is today and look at Barbados in the period 1910-1920, and ask ourselves, are we going to continue to pull down and replace

or do we want to preserve some of what we have? Sir, whatever decision we come to, it cannot be done in any five-year period. When an election comes around, the Opposition is going to say that there are old buildings in the court, they are making the people sick and nothing is happening. Mr. President, the Opposition has done nothing to improve the situation. We might as well bite the bullet by borrowing the money and get the job done.

Mr. President, from the time we started the reconstruction of Bridgetown, we still have more work than we have workers. Therefore, the unemployment rate will be kept at its lowest ever. We will then be able to have modern buildings that would be available for leases to businesses and we will have general returns. We will not be losing any money. I heard someone rumbling that we are borrowing too much money.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I support the Resolution.

I was Speaker of the House of Assembly from 1982 - 1986, and we started the renovation of these Parliament buildings. The one on the west side that was to be repaired and become offices for Parliamentarians is still an unfinished, semi-dilapidated building. If the Government had gone out and borrowed money to complete that building, even the returns of taxes from the people working on that building would help pay the interest on the loan. Since 1982, to 2002, the building is still in the same condition. I believe that everyone has moved out of that building. You have gracious looking walls and a building standing doing absolutely nothing. We have to determine, what are we going to do with our Government building in the first place? Secondly, how are we going to renew properties in Barbados?
3.15 p.m.

There are a number of wooden properties across Bank Hall, Bush Hall, *et cetera*, that are now falling into disrepair and it is pointless renewing a wooden building because to renew a wooden building every five or six years ... whenever anyone starts changing a board here and one there, he is literally renewing a wooden building. Sir, we might as well use the concept 'Housing the Nation by the Year 2000', that was developed when the BLP was in power, and use the cement plant to create employment, *et cetera* and have a worthy Barbados. I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard.

SENATOR THE HON P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution. It would be remiss of me not to mention that the renovations that are taking place around Bridgetown are ones that are

closely associated with various members of my family who have worked with them over the past century, starting with the Cheapside Market, where my grandfather – and also Sir John's grandfather – had a butcher shop; moving on to Broad Street, where the Barbados National Bank (BNB) was completely renovated in the Harrison's building; and the work at the Ice House, which is now a completely new building, which was upgraded and renovated by the Bank of Nova Scotia.

This property that we are talking about, Mr. President, was an area where my father worked as Deputy Mayor of Bridgetown in concert with Ernest Deighton Mottley, the then Mayor. Therefore, there is a connection with my family and Bridgetown.

Finally, I cannot leave out the Roebuck, where I first started to work at a place called Johnson and Redman, which is now the Barclays Card Centre. We can see that Roebuck has been neglected for a very long period of time, though with the establishment of the Central Bank and the Insurance Corporation of Barbados building there is now a Revitalization Committee in that area. Therefore, what we are seeing, Mr. President, is a changing aspect of the Careenage, a revitalization of the Customs House which, as far as I can recall, is in a semi-ruined state. Now there is the revitalization of the Town Hall, and the Parliament Buildings, though it has been slow, are under renovation. The roof is completely replaced and solid and now we are in a position to go into the building itself and start renovation. However, those renovations are going ahead and, in fact, there is going to be an announcement within the next few months about the completion of the West Wing of Parliament.

There is the Pierhead Development Project which is on track, which is a private sector development, where we will see the construction starting in the Year 2002.

Mr. President, it is a very clear demonstrated commitment of this Government, over many years to redeveloping Bridgetown, redefining it as our Capital City. This is something that we have spoken about in this Chamber for the length of time that I have been in this Chamber. We have talked about the housing component of the City and the fact that housing has to be upper, lower and middle income, so that there is diversity of the population in the city centre.

I think this particular acquisition is going to beautify the Lower Broad Street area, around the St. Mary's Church, which is a church that the previous generations of my family went to. I think that this particular redevelopment will be of significant interest, though the one question that I have is that this has been a bit too slow in happening, because the

private sector was interested in participating with Government in this project. Time is elastic, but somehow the wheels of Government turn very slowly and we have now managed to put this in place, therefore, I have to say better late than never.

I can see, Mr. President, that this is a great part and parcel of a grand, strategic plan that we all too often forget. We come into the city every week or every month and fail to see the incremental changes that are taking place before our eyes. But it is the visitors that return to Bridgetown and say, "My goodness, what have you done over the past three years? How much better it looks!"

Mr. President, housing has changed. Look at Broad Street. This will soon have the same uplifting look as Swan Street. Now Swan Street is in a position where the private investment in those buildings will now start to take effect and to upgrade the overall city aspect.

Finally, Mr. President, Senator Mascoll had queried whether or not the business plan for generating the revenue to pay for these investments is there. He noted that the duty free shopping was not all that it was cracked up to be. I will have to say that Senator Mascoll will have to recognize that consumer patterns have changed. In fact, Waterford Wedgwood has just announced that they are laying off fourteen hundred persons worldwide, mainly in the United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States. Therefore, what we are seeing is a changing consumer pattern. However, this does not mean that holiday shopping or destination shopping is not alive and well. We have seen the growth of the art industry. We have seen art galleries opened up and we have seen new types of shopping taking place. Also, what we too have seen is the fact that both local artists and potters are producing material and products which are sought after by the visitors. In other words, the visitors now are more interested in historical and indigenous products from the countries which they visit.

3.25 p.m.

We are also having a change in pattern in the visitor that we get in Barbados. There is a significant upmarket movement in the long stay visitor and, at the same time, the per capita income of the cruise ship passenger has declined dramatically. On one end you get the mass market cruise ship passenger with a certain consumer profile and then you are getting the upmarket, long stay visitor who is more discriminating and has much more disposable income. Therefore, I think that destination shopping will thrive and survive in Bridgetown, but it has to reinvent itself and come up with a different business plan and a different profile. In this regard, Mr. President, I am convinced that the investment that we are making in Bridgetown will stand in good stead, not just for this generation, but for the next one, and the succeeding one. Therefore, I do think that this

particular project is one that is worthy of note. I applaud the Government's long-term commitment to the overall redevelopment of Bridgetown, which will enhance our community, strengthen our national profile and have really commercial benefit to Barbados.

Thank you.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I just want to correct a few mistakes made by Senator Bolden about the Barbados National Trust running around, slapping plaques on people's buildings willy-nilly. As the first Vice President of the Barbados National Trust, I should like to explain that we choose buildings and honour them by putting a plaque on them.

These are buildings of national heritage, architectural interest and so on but it in no way controls what the owner does with that building. However, there is a list of buildings that come under the Town Planning Act on which the Barbados National Trust will be consulted by the Town Planner. When the Town Planner puts a listing on a building, then there are severe restrictions of what the owner can do with that building. We have said many times that we would like to see a fund started by Government to help owners who are put in a disadvantageous situation by this listing. But, it certainly is not a Barbados National Trust function.

Sir, in passing, there was mention of the West Wing of Parliament. I would hope that before some decision is made on the use of this West Wing of Parliament, we parliamentarians have an opportunity to say what we think should happen with it. I know there was a Committee appointed by the Government to look at it but when one looks at the Members' Lounge here and we break for tea, even the Senate cannot get in there, far less the Lower House. It is a jammed up situation and it is rather a disgrace that a Senate of this size should have to meet in such a tiny, squeezed up room. Sir, I do hope that we would get an opportunity to, at least, participate in the decisions on the West Wing.

Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution wholeheartedly, but I have a few comments to make. I enjoy the Boardwalk. In fact, I walk there quite often on evenings. It is beautiful, relaxing, scenic, *et cetera* but unfortunately, Mr. President, it is not being maintained properly. I have stumped my toe on several boards on the Boardwalk that are sticking up when I am walking. They need to get a carpenter to nail down those planks. I am saying so because, usually, I walk up and down that Boardwalk six times every evening so I know. It is wonderful, it can be used but we need to keep maintaining it

properly. I congratulate the Government on having it but please, send a carpenter to look after it.

I do accept that it is very expensive to maintain and refurbish the old buildings but, Mr. President, there is one building of very historical importance called the Nightingale Nursing Home which I feel needs dire attention. Its architecture is very antique and it needs repair.

Senator McClean mentioned the Tercentenary School of Nursing which is in a state of disrepair and needs to be refurbished. The School of Nursing had to be moved to the Barbados Community College. Then, it had to be moved to Erdiston, and there is no resting place for the School of Nursing. Sir, these are Government buildings. I know it will take a little money, but I think the time has come where you need to look at those buildings that can be repaired and used, rather than just taking people out of the environment into other environments, and letting the buildings go into a state of disrepair.

Mr. President, I will accept that there are some buildings that need to be repaired in Bridgetown, but what I do not accept is the dirtiness of Bridgetown. Mr. President, it is dirty and some parts of it smell and that need not be the case. It need not be so unhygienic. For example, nearby on the swing bridge, when they finish selling the fish and you are walking in the evening along there – and I stroll around Bridgetown nearly every evening – it smells.

Then, there is grass that needs to be weeded. You just need one or two people employed to weed and sweep it and keep it clean. I am not talking about washing down the streets. You need to fine-tune the cleaning of Bridgetown. Also, Sir, in the redevelopment, in particular the Town Hall site, I sincerely hope we will put some toilets for the use of the public. We claim to be a tourist country. We are spending millions of dollars and we are advertising for tourists to come here, but when they want to go to the toilet, there is no place really, unless they go to a store and beg them. We need to have toilet facilities not for the tourists but for the local people. They are needed in Bridgetown and they need to be kept clean so that people can use them.

I was wondering if something had been identified for its use and I am glad that the Town Hall site is going to be used for art exhibitions. We have a lot of artistic people and artists in Barbados and I sincerely hope that it will be big enough to allow our local artists to go and display their products. Some of them are displaying their art on the bridge and when it rains they have to cover them with plastic and it is not really up to standard. If this building can be made available to those artists who display their art, and some of it is very good art, it would be a step in the right direction.

Sir, I am glad that the Cheapside Market is being developed but I sincerely hope, Mr. President, that it is an open market because it seems as though Bajans do not like to go indoors. Look at Pelican Village. It is dead. Look at the market. They want to just take their trays and put them in front of the markets.

I would like to see, as I have seen in Africa, just a covered open space where people could put their wares, and have their little stalls, so that everybody can see what is available. If you are going to put them in rooms, Mr. President, they are not going to use the rooms. They are very undisciplined, so it is better to cater to the market type personality and have open markets so that the people can use them and the tourists can enjoy them.
3.35 p.m.

With these development plans for Bridgetown, it would be good if we can take our slot machines and put them in these areas rather than in residential areas. It is not nice to let slot machines go in areas where people spend their money to buy homes for their retirement. They can go into Speightstown or in any of the various towns but not in areas where people buy homes for retirement. It is not nice to put them there. It shows a lack of planning. It might be legal but it does not show the right type of planning. It is wrong and it needs to be changed.

I would like to talk about the overall plans. We have been hearing about bits of plans for the redevelopment. I am not so sure, I plead ignorance. I do not know if there is some place where I can go and find them to have a look at them. I would like to be enlightened about it because we need to know what the Government's plans are and what they would like to do so that we can give them the support that is needed to help with the development of their plans.

I would like to congratulate the Government on obtaining this building site for renovation. I know it is going to take money and time but the Government is on the right path and I wish it every success.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I too rise to give my wholehearted support to this Resolution for the restoration of the Old Town Hall site.

Mr. President, this restoration is one of the initiatives that are squarely in the hands of the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated (BTII) as the agency to execute the urban rehabilitation programme. The Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated is an entity that has, if I could refer to it, a niche responsibility to promote and to market specific investments of private/public sector type properties with respect to tourism. They also have responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of incentive programmes and to attract

investment in the tourism and hospitality sector in Barbados, which as you know, Sir, is still our cornerstone.

For many years we have rested, if I could put it this way, on the surf and sand element of our tourism but the day has long passed when we can rely exclusively on that one part. Therefore, the whole issue of investment in the tourism sector is one that the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated has on its agenda.

Sir, they also act as a liaison between investors and key government departments and agencies engaged in the investment and approval process. Of course, one such agency would be the Town and Country Planning Department. Sir, part of their work, of which this Resolution forms a part, is the whole urban rehabilitation programme.

When we think about Bridgetown, much has been said already in the Chamber today from a historic perspective by some Senators who would have, by their own admission, fond memories of this particular building and other buildings in Bridgetown, many of which now have gone into misuse and some are in such a state of disrepair that they are no longer a feature on the landscape. So I feel very excited when I think about the restoration of this particular property.

The history of it, as Dame Patricia has already outlined, goes back so far as moving it from a residential area to the office of the Vestry to the office of the Mayor of Bridgetown. That is something I myself intend to do a lot more research on with respect to Barbados' history.

Sir, if we look at the building now we will see that at one time it had a significant, excellent magnificence. This restoration project is intended to return it to its former glory by maintaining that Georgian style in which it was constructed with the arched windows and balconies of times in the past. Nowadays, we are inclined to want to tear down and put up a lot of glass, mirror and concrete and so on. I think it is wonderful that we are able in this day and age to recognise our heritage and our history and to keep as much of our landscape as historical as possible but at the same time having an exceedingly functional use. So this building is no exception.

In preparing the plans for this restoration, the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated took into consideration the surrounding area, the Lower Greens which now is a bus stand. Others in this Senate who are much older than I am would remember when indeed that was a far more lush place where one could sit. I believe it was called the Jubilee Gardens then.

The restoration that is going to take place calls for the removal of the buses from the Lower Green bus stand. Part of the initiative of the plan will be to redevelop the bus stand

as a public plaza. Sir, I have already indicated that it would house a museum and some other commercial concerns. It will also house, as it is a two-storey building, the office of the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated. This work is expected to commence, all things being equal, during the first half of 2002 and it is expected to last approximately 18 months.

Of course, we would hope that this would not go the same way as the other building of Parliament across the way from where we speak, which has taken far too long to complete. I heard other Honourable Senators speak to that. So I am hoping that this restoration would not take that same kind of time to complete. It is expected that this restoration and development project would cost about BDS\$6.8 million.

Sir, I am excited because in thinking about that project and being informed of some of the other projects under the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated portfolio for Bridgetown in particular, and this is all under the urban rehabilitation programme, there is the intention, and this has already been submitted to the Town and Country Planning Department, to construct a food court along the new Princess Alice Highway bus stand to replace the bus stand in the Lower Green. That has already gone to the Town and Country Planning Department since 2000. I hope that they would not sit on this for an indefinite period and that permission would be granted, so that at least if we are not ready to move forward immediately, we can move on as part of the strategic planning.

There are also plans under this programme for the redevelopment of the outer and inner Careenage which would include the construction of a new Chamberlain Bridge lift and foundations and this would replace the Swing Bridge. I believe the thinking is that it would allow for more usage and for easier passage of boats and the like in and through that corridor into the inner basin.

We already have, as was alluded to by other Senators, the Boardwalk. That Boardwalk, in conjunction with the private sector arrangements, will carry us all along the south coast up the Bay Street area toward what would be the new Hilton Hotel, and that comes under the responsibility of another one of the areas which this Government had the foresight to create, and that is the Needham's Development Project.
3.45 p.m.

This Government, certainly in my view, is one for the future and one for now in terms of its foresight in creating an entity such as BTII, the Needham's Development in terms of making it a reality and bringing back to life once again what is now Barbados Golf Club and also the Barbados Conference Services Limited. These agencies came out of the former BTIC. This Government recognized the need not

to lump everything under one portfolio but to create an entity that would have as its major responsibility the marketing and promotion of these areas of niche marketing which would tie in so beautifully with our tourism product.

Sir, we must never forget that on the domestic side every single Barbadian stands to benefit once our tourism product is expanding in these various types of ways because, of course, we know that it will bring more visitors, a wider cross section of visitors, for business purposes, hence the investment component. I think that this Government stands to be commended for the work that it has done in this regard and I say also, Sir, that not only the Bridgetown and the Needham's Development, as I have already indicated, will receive attention but Speightstown which today is more like a capital city as well.

At one time, Bridgetown was the only capital that could see as much investment and development. Speightstown is really and truly now the centre of the northern part of the island. St. Lawrence Gap as well, as we move to the other side, has a tremendous amount of improvement happening there, never mind that there is quite some discomfiture. But in order to move from one position to the next, sometimes the passage is not always easy. To improve we have to be in discomfort just a little bit and I expect that sooner rather than later the dust will be gone, the roads will be clean and St. Lawrence Gap and other elements along the southern side of Barbados will be benefiting from these major improvements, and all the businesses in the area stand to do greater business. I, like the other Senator, cannot wait because it will certainly allow for easier and freer passage through that neck of beautiful Barbados and through Christ Church West in particular.

Sir, with those few words, I would want to commend the Government on its initiatives to date in this regard and to urge all Honourable Senators to do likewise. Thank you.

SENATOR SIR JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Mr. President, I will be very brief. I certainly support this Resolution. It is very pleasing to listen to all that has been said by Honourable Senators. We all have great hopes for the improvement of Bridgetown, our national city, for the restoration of the old buildings, the boardwalk, the proposed Pierhead development as have been referred to. All of this is good for us and for those who will come after us; but, Sir, all of this will come to nought if we do not deal with the question of traffic. I have heard no reference made in any presentations today with regard to traffic. I am referring to vehicular traffic, parking and pedestrian traffic. Persons who have to come into the City centre on a daily basis know what it can be like.

I do not come in every day but if I leave my home in St. Philip at 7.30 a.m. it will take me an hour to come into

the City. If I leave before 7 o'clock, it takes me half an hour and the same applies to getting back home in the afternoon. You can avoid that rush-hour traffic if you come in before or after.

Sir, I support all that has been said. We all want to see Bridgetown uplifted, upgraded and improved and take great national pride in this capital city but I hope that the powers that be pay very special attention to the traffic and improving traffic patterns and traffic flows because, without that, fine buildings will not mean very much.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, Sir, I think from the debate that has gone on so far it is quite evident that we have a lot of lovers of Bridgetown. While many people do not come out and say it more explicitly, from all the sentiments expressed I think that people recognise the need for and the efforts that are being made to revive and resuscitate Bridgetown. In that context, I think that it is only fair that we pay tribute and compliments to those entities, largely private sector, who have been leading the battle and the charge in the implementation of the plans in response to this Government's initiative.

On the question of Government, I think Senator Barker made reference to what was called the Old Customs Building and is now the Immigration Building. There is no doubt that that building now looks 300 per cent better than it did a few years ago. It has been freshly painted, has lights on it and is very picturesque, especially if you see it from across the sea. As a matter of fact, from all reports on what is going on inside there with the Immigration Department it is even almost as pleasant internally. It looks good, not only internally but externally; and internally it has been doing a great job as far as the public sector reform is concerned, providing a better service to the public.

As to the building in instant, when this is completed, there is no doubt that it is going to add tremendously a fillip to the whole aesthetic grand looks of that area. It will fall in line with some other plans for that area, the moving back of St. Mary's church wall, the renovation of the Cheapside Post Office and, in addition, will fit in very nicely with what is happening at the lower end of Broad Street where the building now occupied by Caribbean Commercial Bank is – and the old Plantations Building complex and the new City of Bridgetown building. It is also interesting and instructive that the Mutual is now moving back into its old building across the street which used to house Barclays Bank downstairs for many years. The Mutual Bank Building which is one of the grandest buildings in Bridgetown is now being revived and they are moving back into that and that will uplift that area.

I think that we also should commend the Caribbean Commercial Bank for being bold to adopt the existing Jubilee Gardens. The work to put it back in shape was done by the National Conservation Commission and now CCB has maintained it for the last three or four years. There is no doubt, from observation and what CCB has told me, that the public has responded very well to their attempts and there is very little vandalism, very little littering, because it seems that once you make an attempt and people see that you are intent on upgrading the aesthetics and the sanitation of a place, most people will respond in kind. The same thing is happening in Fountain Gardens in the National Heroes' Square where the staff of the Inland Revenue Department has undertaken that as a project along with the assistance of the NCC.

There is no doubt that when the fountain is working it provides a very welcome air of relief and greenery for not only Barbadians but visitors alike. It seems that the only person who vandalises it for lack of appreciation of what is happening is "Ninja Man". He is the only threat. You can see people taking photographs. It is wonderful at night. You see people not only relaxing there during the day, but at night also; not only on the Boardwalk but around Fountain Gardens. It is really a step in the right direction.

I also want to note that there is justifiable stricture of Government for its lack of maintenance for so many of its buildings but at the same time some good things have happened in some buildings and I would like to think that one of those buildings is Government Headquarters. Government Headquarters was opened March 28, 1956 and there is no doubt that it is still a fine looking building, highly functional. No grand sums have been spent but it was done step by step. What has been happening is that we have brought on a maintenance coordinator whose daily job is to make sure that things are fixed and you do not have to depend upon Public Works to come and change a light bulb or put in a nail. He coordinates and makes sure that things are done day by day. That has really made a difference in the overall appearance of Government Headquarters and that whole complex stretching from the old Bay Street GIS building right down to the Town Planning building.

It shows that it can be done and that there is a willingness on the part of Government to do it and there is an appreciation for our man-made culture which I am glad to see in terms of our buildings. And I think that overall we have reached a stage in our development as a society where we have a greater appreciation for buildings and see them, not only as mortar and sand and blocks, but that they tell a story of Barbados' social history and they are testimonies and monuments in time to what has gone on and what the society stands for.

Therefore, I think when you combine this with the Central Bank – if people look at the history of that area

which was run down – there is no doubt that the Central Bank, now called the Tom Adams Financial Centre, has spilt over to Roebuck Street and had an influence on that area. I can only wonder what Barbados would do without the Frank Collymore Hall. It adds to the spirit and personality of Barbados.

3.55 p.m.

One of the areas with which I am most pleased is the emergence of the Bayshore Complex which occupies the old Harbour Police Station. It seemed as though that would have suffered a fate worse than death and I am glad to see that a group of Barbadians has responded to Government's initiatives through the Special Development Area legislation. It will be officially opened next November 16, 2001, and it has fitted in well with the other properties of a similar nature. There are still a few eyesores left there – like the former car dealer building and buildings selling lumber – but we hope in due time to take care of that and Barbados will become a richer place, not only in terms of prosperity but in the richness of the spirit of Barbadians; and that we will have a city which we can be proud of during the day and night.

Sir, when people live in a city, they bring activity and character to the city at night and Bridgetown has suffered because at 4.30 p.m. the city closes. With all these developments, particularly what is planned for the Pierhead and Needhams Point, the entire area will be transformed and the magnificent stretch of beach which is the finest stretch of beach in Barbados today will have its fullest appreciation.

Sir, I am pleased to be able to support this measure.

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE UNDER SECTION 28 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP. 228 TO THE BARBADOS RED CROSS SOCIETY OF A PARCEL, OF LAND SITUATED AT WARRENS IN THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND CONTAINING BY ADMEASUREMENT 2101.6 SQUARE METRES MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE OF THE RESOLUTION

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, the Resolution before the Senate seeks permission to lease a parcel of land, property of the Crown at Warrens St. Michael, to the Barbados Red Cross Society. The Barbados Red Cross Society is a member of the International

Committee of the Red Cross based in Geneva which is approximately 100 years old. The Barbados chapter, apart from dealing with first aid, also provides classes in home nursing, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and provides a Meals-on-Wheels service.

In February 1999, there was a fire at their headquarters in Jemmotts Lane and since then the Barbados Red Cross Society has been housed in an eight by twenty foot area in the Ministry of Health. Several discussions have been held over the past two years between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Housing and Lands and it has finally been decided that the Barbados Red Cross Society is willing to accept a portion of land just south of the polyclinic at Warrens which they can develop as their headquarters.

It is proposed to lease it for a twenty-five-year period with an option to renew the contract at \$100.00 per annum. As part of the contract, the Barbados Red Cross Society is expected to be responsible for the development of the site, for the maintenance and upkeep of the property and the payment of all taxes, utility charges and insurance on the property.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, in giving support to the Resolution I would like to pay some recognition to the work done by the Red Cross across the world. Most recently we have seen the tremendous amount of work done by the Red Cross at the disaster in New York on September 11th.

We have for years associated the Red Cross with relief from serious disaster and I think that this organisation has come to the help of people wherever there is tragedy. Even at sporting events there is always the familiar sign of the Red Cross to assist, if needs be.

Sir, I hope that Government at some later stage would see the wisdom in providing relief from these taxes and other charges which the Red Cross is being called on to bear.

Since it is a non-profit organisation which basically relies on donations and is part of our emergency relief system, in the same way that we spend money to build up other organisations we must see this as an investment in an organisation that will come to our assistance when needs be because the Red Cross does not set parameters in which it should operate – as long as there is a disaster, they are there to help. Therefore, this is one organisation that should be free of taxes when attempting to carry out its work.

I hope at some later stage we can provide this organisation with the necessary tax relief in order to allow it to function adequately.

Sir, I do support the Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, Senator McClean and the Leader of the House have already mentioned the fact that the Barbados Red Cross Society was originally linked to the British Red Cross but I also want to pay tribute to Florence Daysh who worked at the British Red Cross headquarters during the Second World War and, on her return home, started the Barbados branch of the Red Cross. She was its first director and originated their Meals-on-Wheels scheme. It was an autonomous body although not fully integrated. It was formally integrated in 1969 and became a member of the International Red Cross. I understand there are presently about 300 volunteers.

4.05 p.m.

I want to point out that it receives a subvention from the Government which was started by the Barbados Labour Party administration under the then Prime Minister, Tom Adams. This subvention will be increased in 2002. It also works with the Barbados Boys Scouts' AIDS prevention campaign. This campaign has been ongoing.

Mr. President, the Barbados Red Cross Society has also been innovative over the years in the areas of blood collection and home help, until these areas were taken over by the Government. The Barbados Red Cross Society has an ambulance service which assists the national ambulance service.

Sir, there are links in eleven schools where the students receive instruction in first aid by teachers and volunteers. Regrettably, the response is not as great as it ought to be owing to the unavailability of more volunteers at times suitable for schools. Learning lifesaving techniques and to assist in emergency situations underscore concern for others and the willingness to help those in trouble. It also encourages responsibility and a sense of civic duty. I think that it makes children sensitive to the plight of others.

However, one has to be realistic and recognise that extra-curricular activities, although emphasised by schools and education authorities, do not flourish to the same extent that they did a few decades ago. Children have more demands on their time and they have other interests. Nowadays, people tend to be singular in their interest.

It is noteworthy that there are people like the members of the Barbados Red Cross Society who are willing to serve and give of their time to help children to look outside of themselves, and develop compassion for the needs of others. Sir, because of this, I am very pleased about this Resolution and I wish to give it my total support.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution. I would also like to draw to the attention of the Honourable Senate that this is somewhat of a departure for an NGO. The Barbados Red Cross has been traditionally given housing by the Government. When the disastrous fire took place, the building in which they were housed was ruined and eventually had to be demolished. In discussion with the Government at the time, it was pointed out to them that they ought to stand on their own two feet and not just ask for another government premises to occupy. Sir, it was pointed out that they should find a location that suited them rather than suited a donor.

Mr. President, this set the Barbados Red Cross to looking for a location that would suit their activities – Meals-on-Wheels programme, an outreach programme, central location and being able to respond to different emergencies. Located near the ABC Highway was a logical spot for them.

Government's policy was to enable them to find the optimum location for their new headquarters and then to assist them financially to achieve this, and to set them on the road to greater independence and self-reliance. It is this philosophy that has resulted in their locating this piece of land and Government's support now comes in the form of a peppercorn rent and other fiscal support.

I hope that the wider Barbadian community will now join hands and support them financially in the development of their new headquarters, and the development of their activities.

Senator Dame Patricia has spoken of the need for more volunteers and I wholeheartedly support that call. I hope that the wider community will come together to help them in their activities. I will embellish one area of activity that they have been extremely successful in. This has been in the training of peer educators of the ages of 16 – 22 to support the HIV/AIDS programme, where they have gone into schools and youth groups to educate them about the need for safe sex, prevention, and reduction of promiscuity in the reduction of HIV/AIDS transmission.

The Barbados Red Cross has been having a very good programme in this area, which has been supported by the British High Commission and other donor agencies. They have done an exceptionally good job and all Barbadians should give the Barbados Red Cross their fullest support in a very worthwhile effort that they perform for the community.

I support this Resolution, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I also want to join in this debate by commending the Barbados Red Cross Society for the work that it has been doing. Senator Goddard just made reference to the peer counselling programme with the HIV/AIDS. Some weeks ago I had the great privilege of opening a conference dealing with HIV/AIDS that would have been of benefit, not only to Barbados but to a number of persons across the Caribbean. It was a very successful conference. I also had the opportunity to advise the Barbados Red Cross Society, this is confirming something that Senator Symmonds said, that they are going to be getting a substantial increase in their subvention from the 2002-2003 financial year. This information has already been communicated to them and they can look forward to a better financial position from which they can operate on a day by day basis.

I think that a lot of the work of the Barbados Red Cross Society and the fact that they have managed to endure, in spite of great difficulties, fire and all, a lot of it has to fall at the feet of Mr. Edmund Bradshaw, the present Director, who has worked tirelessly to keep it afloat. He has worked very hard to ensure that they can get a new location. I hope that it would be a modern complex.

4.15 p.m.

Sir, from speaking to them they are hoping that the new location on the Highway, which has what the late Errol Walton Barrow would call a high visibility quotient, would allow a lot of people to see it and help boost their image. It will attract greater attention to their activities in a way that was not possible.

At their last location they were virtually hidden away from society and many persons did not know of their existence. Therefore, for them to be able to successfully compete for the attention and support, not only of volunteers but of donors, they will have to have a way of cultivating an image to let people know that they are still around.

Sir, I know that they have been waiting a long time to see the completion of the parliamentary and legal process, so that they can take possession of the land and build on it. They are expecting that, not only the Barbadian society, but also benefactors from the regions around the world, will make a significant contribution to the erection of the new Headquarters which will enable them to offer the Barbadian society an even more up-to-date service than they are now doing.

One of the things I have noticed about the Barbados Red Cross Society is that it is not stuck to the past, but it has been able to adapt itself to the demands and current activities of societies in the world and are prepared to adapt and tailor their activities in order to be able to contribute, not in a nostalgic manner, as Barbados used to be, but that they stay

on the cutting-edge of Barbadian social life and are therefore able to respond to the demand of society in a very ready fashion.

Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to support this Resolution and to urge all Barbadians, particularly when the time comes where the Barbados Red Cross Society will actively and vigorously be seeking funds and other means of support, to give them their fullest backing. I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rickinson.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I thank you, Mr. President. I rise to support this Resolution wholeheartedly because the Barbados Red Cross Society, like other organisations such as the Salvation Army, has been the mainstay and backbone of certain aspects of our society that are not as flamboyant and glamorous as other areas of tourism, *et cetera*.

I feel that the Barbados Red Cross Society's programme in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a programme that has gone a long way. In other words, it is a first aid system that, if one has a heart attack, first aid can be given to that person. I feel that every nurse should go through that programme and have a certificate. Also each school child should be taught CPR and first aid as well, because these are skills for daily living. If one works in certain areas, I feel that the time has come in the Year 2002, with heart disease as one of the leading causes of sickness, that we should do all within our power to prevent these conditions as much as possible and to give first aid and prevent early deaths from them.

One way of doing this is to make sure that possibly every citizen is trained in the area of CPR and first aid. How can we do this in the schools? Mr. President, for many years I have been calling for nurses in the schools. I will also continue calling for nurses in the schools who will assist the volunteers and the Barbados Red Cross Society personnel to help our young people in the schools, because the teachers do not have time to teach this. Sir, there are so many persons wanting to go into schools to teach drug prevention, HIV/AIDS, *et cetera*. What they need is a curriculum with healthy life styles which will incorporate all of these areas, which can be taught in the schools by the nurses.

Mr. President, I would also like to congratulate the Barbados Red Cross Society in the area of training people for home nursing. This is an area that they are still doing where these persons are being trained, whilst attached to the Geriatric Hospital, where they can get their practical experience to enable them to help their families and also members of the community. What they must not do is try to function on their own; they need to work under the

supervision of a registered nurse or doctor. But the Barbados Red Cross Society has done an excellent job in training these persons, where some of them move on to become nursing assistants, staff nurses and sisters, once they have entered the system of health aid and training.

Over the years, the Barbados Red Cross Society has also spent a lot of time in giving clothing to the needy, and also selling clothing very cheaply. They are also still involved in the lending of equipment such as wheelchairs, crutches, *et cetera*. If one is sick and needs any of these pieces of equipment, it can be readily acquired from the Society. Sir, on occasion I have had to use some equipment for my late husband, which I got from the Barbados Red Cross Society. The good thing about the Barbados Red Cross Society is that one does not always have to have money in order to use their equipment. They will lend you the equipment and say that all they would like the borrower to do is to return it at the end of the day. Therefore, I think that persons in this society should give generously to an organisation that carries out such functions as does the Barbados Red Cross Society.

The Meals-on-Wheels has been a great saviour. Recently, there are other foundations that have arisen to give Meals-on-Wheels, but the Salvation Army and the Barbados Red Cross Society are two organisations that have been doing it for many, many years. They cannot do it every day, because they neither have the funds, nor the volunteers to collect the food in their cars to take to these various persons in the community. That is a service which our needy people readily accept and appreciate very much. Therefore, I am hoping with the upcoming Estimates that the subvention of \$25,000 will be enlarged substantially, because anyone can see what the Barbados Red Cross Society is doing. They can be seen everywhere. The ambulance can be seen carrying out people. When one goes to social functions, like the upcoming Remembrance Day Parade, one will not only see the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, but also the Barbados Red Cross Society. When one goes to Kensington Oval, one will also see them there on duty. They are always there and are not paid, because a lot of them are volunteers.

In the training in first aid, where persons are given certificates, these persons go out and perform first aid functions. Some of them do it better than nurses and doctors themselves, because nurses and doctors go too far; but a first aider will give better first aid because they know what they should do. They do not go into the 'whys' and 'wherefores' that these other knowledgeable people do. That is a credit to both the Barbados Red Cross Society and the St. John's Ambulance Brigade as well; they both train persons in first aid. Sir, going into this century, I believe that every person should be trained in the area of first aid, because one never knows whom one might have to assist.

4.25 p.m.

We cannot keep relying on Government to do everything. We have to get up and help ourselves. In this international year of the volunteer, I sincerely hope that we will be able to convince people to give more of their time and energy in assisting the Barbados Red Cross Society and the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

Mr. President, with these words I would like to support this and I wish them all the best in their future developments of health.

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, we do not propose to proceed with Item No. 6 on the Order Paper today, so this means that we have concluded our business for today.

I therefore move that the Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

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

4.28 p.m.

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