
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2004

THE SENATE

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, 13th February, 2002, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Fred GOLLOP, K.A. (President)
Senator the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, FRCS, J.P. (Minister of Health)
Senator the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY, B.A. (Hons.) J.P. (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)
Senator T. E. BARKER, B.A. (Hons.), M.A. (Econ.), J.P. (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development)
Senator P. C. GODDARD
Senator Dame Patricia SYMMONDS, D.B.E., G.C.M., B.A. (Hons.), P.G.C.E., J.P.
Senator Miss J. C. ODLE
Senator C. A. MASCOLL, B.Sc. (Econ.) (Hons.), M.A. (Public Finance)
Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN, B.A. M.A.
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 B. R. COLLYMORE, C.M.G.
Senator D. D. MARSHALL, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C.
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.
Senator K. D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B.
Senator D. L. HAYNES, S.C.M.

Prayers were led by Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received communication from His Excellency the Governor-General dated 8th February, 2002. I will ask the Clerk to read it.

Message No. 1/2002, from His Excellency the Governor-General to the Honourable Senate.

“His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable the Senate that he will be absent from the country during the period 10th February to 12th February, 2002 on a private visit to Miami.

His Excellency further has the honour to inform the Honourable the Senate that in accordance with the Provisions of section 29(1)(c) of the Constitution of Barbados, His Honour Sir Fred W. Gollop, K.A., President of the Senate has been appointed to act as Governor-General for the period February 10th to February 12th, 2002.”

Governor General,
Government House.

8th February, 2002.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received a letter from Senator Bolden, Deputy President, seeking leave to be excused from today's Sitting.

I have also received apologies for the absence of Senator the Reverend Leonard Rock and Senator J. Williams.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Grantley Adams International Airport Incorporated) Order, 2001.
2. Annual Report of the Community Legal Services Commission for the year 1999-2000.
3. Annual Report of the National Insurance Board for the year 2000.
4. Annual Report of the National Insurance Board on the operation of the Unemployment Benefits Scheme for the year 2000.
5. Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Conservation Commission for the Financial Year 1998-1999.
6. The Chairman's Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust Limited for the year ended June 30, 2001.
7. Response by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Auditor General's Report on the Accounts of Barbados' Overseas Mission for the Financial Years 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 and Audit of Programme 330 -Direction, Formulation and Implementation of Foreign Policy, Sub-programme 330 - General Management, Co-ordination and Overseas Missions for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2000.
8. Annual Report of the Urban Development Commission for the year 1998-1999.

REPORT FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I beg to lay the Report of the Joint Select Committee on the Family Law (Amendment) Bill, 2002 and its Appendices.

MOTIONS

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President,
consequent on the absence of Senator the Hon. C. L. Bolden,

I beg to move pursuant to Standing Order No. 4 that Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds be elected Chairman of Committee for today's Sitting.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 45 (2) be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I have said before in this Senate that I am not at all happy when we suspend Standing Orders. I think it is only fair that if there is going to be a suspension, the Senate should be taken into the confidence of the Government and told why the suspension is necessary. It is not just because the Government has the majority that they can come to the Senate and suspend all of the Standing Orders. Then, we would be in serious trouble. Standing Orders are put there for a very good reason and I think we should have the courtesy of telling the Senate why it is necessary. I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, this is to allow us to deal with the Property Transfer Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I beg to move that these Bills be read a first time.

1. Family Law (Amendment) Bill, 2002.
2. Crown Proceedings (Amendment) Bill, 2002.
3. Property Transfer Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, with your kind permission, I would like to move a motion of condolence to the family of the late George Brancker. This is the first occasion on which the Senate has met since his sad demise.

Mr. President, we were all shocked in early January by the sudden and unfortunate news of the passing of

George Brancker, former Clerk of Parliament. Sir, I am sure that not one of us was prepared for this loss. My first memories of Mr. George Brancker were those from the perspective of the school board. Many evenings after leaving the Lodge School, I ventured into the gallery of Parliament to listen to the Debates and was always struck by the calm, dignified manner of this gentleman in his long, black robe, who always seemed to be so calm, cool and collective, always assisting and advising Parliamentarians, making notes, hurrying into and out of Parliament and who seemed generally busy. In spite of all this, in times of the most vicious Debates going on he would sometimes glance up, look over his spectacles with a smile on his face and continue as though nothing was happening around him. I certainly remember his being cool, calm and seemingly in complete control at all times.

This gentleman who gained a coveted Barbados Scholarship in 1956 went off to the University of Liverpool where he studied law. From all reports, he had a brilliant undergraduate career which culminated in his being elected President of the Students Union. I have gathered that he was, in fact, the first black president of the Students Union in Liverpool.

He has been described by his contemporaries who had the good fortune of sharing quarters with him at that time, and if I may quote: "of being a great organizer and manager, being meticulous and thoughtful. Was generous in spirit, intellect and with his money."

Mr. Brancker did not care much for the practice of law, he preferred academic law. As a result, after qualifying as a Barrister, he taught law at the University of London College. On returning to Barbados he chose a career in Administrative Parliamentary Service, an area in which we all know he excelled and became the most respected Clerk of Parliament throughout the Commonwealth. He came here, started in 1970 as a Deputy Clerk of Parliament until 1998, I believe, when he became the Clerk of Parliament, until his retirement. We all know that this retirement was more in theory than in practice because he continued to be here working as a consultant to Cabinet Office on Parliamentary matters.

His help and resources were sought by all, not only locally but also regionally. In matters concerning parliamentary law, he was unmatched and his advice was always fair and objective. Certainly, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Patrick Manning said of him, "George was a person who provided invaluable advice to me on Parliamentary Practice on numerous occasions."

Sir, when I became a Senator in October last year, I was advised to meet with this gentleman. I met with him one Friday evening and it was a truly fascinating Friday; for three

hours he took me on a procedural and historic tour of Parliament and Parliamentary process in Barbados. Issues which I found difficult to digest by reading, he made pellucidly clear by using his language. It was clear after speaking with him and spending hours with him that this was a man who was a voracious reader and also one who adored the use of good language.

Without his assistance and guidance, when I first entered this Honourable Chamber in November, as Leader of Government Business, I would have been totally lost. He was there the morning before I came in assuring and advising me that everything would be okay and for this I shall be eternally grateful to him. But there was another side to this man. About two or three years ago, at a Christmas luncheon we had a good time with the normal after-lunch drinks, and he was the post-lunch speaker. At that function it was clear that he was a *raconteur par excellence*. His wit was unimaginable and was always wrapped up in the most delightful language. It was a joy to listen to him that evening and this certainly was a function that I will never forget.

Mr. President, our Parliament has lost its manager, overseer, part of its history, its memory and certainly part of its archives. Barbados has lost an institution. Mr. Brancker was a special person and no one would easily follow his path.

On behalf of my fellow Honourable Senators, I would like to extend sincere condolences to his wife, to Lady Brancker, and the rest of his family.

May he rest in peace.

SENATOR P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, George was a friend and an important part of this institution. I first met him when we both returned, very close together in 1971, when my father introduced me to him. His father and mine were also very good friends.

The Parliament of Barbados is a most important institution; this is the one that maintains our democracy and our way of life; it was George that supported that institution and added value to that institution. The Clerk of Parliament is not a very visible person in the public life of Barbados, however, he is a very valuable person, one who brings value to the highest institution of the land. It preserves our way of life, our development and the freedom that we all cherish. George was steeped in parliamentary law and philosophies of democracy. He was a champion of democracy.

George also liked the finer things in life. He appreciated fine cooking. He appreciated a fine brandy. His love of fine things probably was reflected in his love of the
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that he used. It has also been, as the Leader of the Senate has said, was a *raconteur par excellence*. He knew so many things about the intricacies of Barbadian life, both the political and social life of Barbados. He could spin a yarn that would keep one captivated for hours. George was truly a unique character; one with great intellect and a tremendous sense of humour. He loved the fun of the language. He loved to tell a story and he excelled at recounting the many unknown or little known facts about the lives of Parliamentarians and the particular things that have happened to them in their political lives.

George always gave excellent counsel to those who sought him. He was never intrusive but was always there for those who needed help in understanding the complexities of legislation coming before Parliament or the mechanisms by which Parliamentarians use Parliament to further the business of Government.

George will be sorely missed. It is unfortunate that he did not live longer so we could have developed more the history that he knew so well.

I extend my deepest condolences to George's family and I know that all of us will sorely miss him. May he rest in peace.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, George Eustace Theodore Brancker, to me was more than a Clerk of Parliament; in my opinion he was a custodian of Parliamentary Procedure. He would never tolerate any wavering on Parliamentary Rules and Procedures. He was a traditionalist who was not afraid of change because he would not allow it to blur parliamentary standards.

Mr. President, I stand here today to pay tribute to George Brancker. Without his help, it would have been almost impossible for me to function in an environment of a legislature that was steeped in rules, regulations and traditions.

Sometimes I could hear his voice in the background, eloquently saying, "let us try this again, we must get this right. It is not my way or your way, it is the right way." And I found that very comforting.

Sir, I am taking licence here today when I say that maybe George was born to be a Clerk of Parliament. For sometimes in the 1940's, primarily on Saturdays, the politicians of the day, obvious those from the BLP and headed by the late Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams and the late Sir Theodore Brancker, would visit our home in Church Street, Speightstown, for the usual black pudding-and-souse, political colloquium. Quiet, shy and unassuming, George came along with his father, the late Sir Theodore. It

is on reflection that I believe not even George himself knew that sitting at the feet of these great statesmen, listening to the pudding and souse talk mixed with political rhetoric, would have had a profound effect on his distinguished career as Clerk of Parliament.

I always wondered what became of George, Mr. President, for at a very early age, I travelled to the United States of America to pursue my studies in nursing and for some unknown reason our paths never crossed. I must admit that I heard about George Brancker, the Clerk of Parliament but never associated him with the George of my past.

Our paths crossed again when I was appointed to the Senate in 1994. Of course, we had a good laugh, for this time there was no pudding and souse. I had a problem which I felt might be insurmountable. As a rookie Senator, I missed Senate sessions because I had to take my husband overseas to receive medical treatment and I was therefore in complete disarray. Upon my return, George took time out of his busy schedule to coach me and to transfer the skills which I required to function as a Senator. One of the most important things that I learnt from him is that one could do virtually anything if one understood parliamentary procedure and had a grasp of the Bills being presented to the legislative body.

11.35 a.m.

He gave me examples of the techniques used by the great debaters of Parliament and Senate. George was like a walking encyclopaedia and easily accessible. At no time did he try to influence my thinking but he would give me some historical background that would allow me to make intelligent choices. Mr. President, there was still a lot of work for George to do and his untimely departure is a great loss to Parliament, to the country as a whole and to me personally. His contributions are so great that, in my humble opinion, I believe he earned the right to have the outside wing of Parliament, now under refurbishment, designated the George Brancker Wing.

On behalf of the late Arnold and Aida Thompson, my family, I extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife, his children, his relatives and stepmother Lady Brancker; and to George, I say to you goodbye, but not farewell, you will always have a place in my heart. May your soul rest in peace.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, to say that George Brancker will be sorely missed is almost an understatement. To parliamentarians for the past 30 years, George Brancker symbolised Parliament. Like

those who have spoken and I am sure those who will speak, I owe him a special debt for his kindnesses and for the way he smoothed my path on entering Parliament.

During the seven years that I got to know him as Clerk I was able to appreciate his outstanding and exceptional qualities. The first-rate quality of his intellect, his Atticism, his wit, his humour, his command of language and of literature. He was also a debonaire and cultured person, cultured in the Matthew Arnold sense, acquiring the best that has been known and said in the world.

As has already been pointed out, he was an avid reader, a love which I share, and ever so often, because he knew that, he would send me copies of articles which he thought would interest or enlighten me, newspapers and magazines on a wide range of subjects, including those on parliamentary matters. Sir, about two weeks before he took ill, someone rang me to obtain information about some statistics and I was checking in some booklets that I had and then I said to myself, how stupid can I be, when George Brancker is there for me to call. His dear wife Grace will attest that I rang and without having to think, he gave me the information because his phenomenal memory was another gift.

I should also like to say that it was through him that I became a member of the Good Book Guide and became acquainted with many other authors, some of which I had not known before. He was also a member of the Royal Commonwealth Society Barbados Branch. In that way, he would have had a link with Parliament. He was always very supportive of it and late last year he gave a talk on Parliaments in the Commonwealth, and that talk was exceedingly well received. He was so informed and enlightening.

George Brancker was writing a book about Parliament and from time to time I would ask him how far he had reached and I kept urging him to finish it and he would say, "Yes, I am writing but I am so busy at the moment". I hope that he did reach the stage where it can be completed by someone of his calibre and if it cannot be completed, I am sure that even what is there would be valuable, in fact I would go so far as to say, invaluable.

In the words of Shelley, George has "outsoared the shadow of our night", and to Grace, Nicholas, Melanie, Gwen Lady Brancker and to all his relatives I express again my deepest condolences. He certainly will not perish as though he had never been. He has left a memorial which will stand as long as there is a Parliament, democracy and a Barbados. *Requiescat in pace.*

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a man that was, to say the least, outstanding in his time. I am sure that one cannot pay tribute to the late George Brancker without repeating many of the

things that have been said and perhaps some of the fondest memories of this great gentleman have already been stated.

I would always, for the time that I have been in this Chamber, Sir, be glancing in that direction, looking for George Brancker. Many a day, one gauged the state of debate in this Chamber merely by glancing over and seeing the expression on George's face and you could very often read whether you were making sense or not making sense, from the expression on George's face.

George Brancker, Sir, for one approaching him for the first time, had an expression and demeanor that was intimidating. However, if you approached him correctly, immediately a wide smile broke on his face and all of that intimidation disappeared. However, I have seen persons who approached him in the wrong way and with his wit or his great command of the English language, he was able to literally scorch a hole in persons' garments in a very mild manner but in a very sharp, or should I say, not an abusive but very subtle manner, he would really put persons who were out of order in order rather quickly.

I think, Sir, that George Brancker was the ideal public servant or as close as you can get to the ideal public servant. I really do not think there is anybody, probably outside of George Brancker's immediate family, or very close circle of friends who could ever tell you that George Brancker supported political party A or political party B at a given point in time.

11.45 a.m.

I have seen him deal with persons from every sphere of political activity in this country and he has always dealt with everyone in the same manner. Apart from seeing him from the Gallery, my first close experience with Mr. Brancker was in 1986 where I remember him having all the parliamentarians, many of whom were very new at that time, and literally taking them through the paces as to exactly what they should do and what is required of them when they enter this Chamber.

When I was appointed to this Chamber, I recalled meeting with Mr. Brancker and going through all of the necessary steps which I was required to know on entering this Chamber, in fact, not only what I did in the Chamber but what I do before entering the Chamber.

In politics, very often you are not paid compliments. Indeed, we are not here necessarily to try to gain compliments from anyone but I think the greatest compliment that I have ever received was from George Brancker because he was a man that set such high standards

that if he approved of something that you did or said, he would cherish that memory. Indeed, you must have done it fairly well for him to even suggest that it was something worth complimenting. So I believe that this country has lost a great servant of the people.

Mr. Brancker has been described as an outstanding scholar and a good speaker. One cannot forget, as Senator Goddard said, that he loved fine things, particularly fine brandy. I recall at another time seeing Mr. Brancker in the lunch room literally caressing a glass of brandy and drawing to persons attention that they needed to...

Asides.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: My apologies. I do discredit to him when I use the wrong term.

But I recall him explaining that you needed to bring the brandy to the correct temperature if you are going to enjoy it or if you are going to truly appreciate that fine beverage.

Asides.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: I am not a connoisseur as Mr. Brancker was, so you will forgive me for that.

So I think that we have lost a great Barbadian and one who made an outstanding contribution to the parliamentary life of Barbados, the Caribbean and the entire Commonwealth. I know that he has written some articles which were extremely useful to Commonwealth parliamentarians and his advice, as was mentioned before, was sought after by many persons far and wide. I believe that this Chamber and this country will be poorer after the loss of George Brancker.

We wish God's blessings on his soul and on behalf of my family and the Democratic Labour Party I would like to extend my deepest condolences to all of his relatives, his friends and all those who have ever been touched by George Brancker because once you have ever been touched by him, you cannot forget the man.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I, like all those who have spoken already, can only speak of the likes, the pleasures and the benefits of having an association with George Brancker. My association with him would have been spent over the years during the time I was a practising journalist but this association developed and multiplied when I entered this Chamber in 1994.

What had started off as a rather pedestrian and probably an official relationship developed into a much more

closer affinity after his official retirement from Parliament when he was able to grace the halls and walls of Government Headquarters where he served as a consultant to the Cabinet of Barbados. By working out of Government Headquarters, a building which I also share as an office and a building in which he soon became very familiar, striding along the corridors in his elegant manner and also becoming very popular with all who worked there, we would often spend time discussing various matters relating to Parliament and other issues relating to parliamentary procedure.

We also shared a passion for and an appreciation of fine newspapers and we would share and pass between us copies of the really good overseas newspapers, the broad sheet type not necessarily the tabloids, particularly *The Times* of London and papers of North America of that calibre and we would often delight at the pleasant relief these newspapers brought to readers when one considers the normal things that you are exposed to where newspapers are concerned. So we had that much in common and we would, like I said, pass between each other issues of these various newspapers.

I also was able to use my journalistic background to assist him in his various publications, particularly on matters relating to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I worked very closely with him when we were preparing a number of documents that had to be published in time for the last major Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting that was held in Barbados. Out of that work, we would also discuss ideas which he had for further publications of various types.

I was also able to call on his service when I persuaded him to write a piece called "Towards Adult Suffrage, the Social Transformation of the House of Assembly" in the 2001 Annual Conference booklet of the Barbados Labour Party. It was a piece which I had requested he write because from our discussions and from his research it was clear that it was because of the coming of adult suffrage that the right to vote was accorded to persons who qualified by age. That meant a transformation of the composition of the House of Assembly in every possible term, socially, politically, and economically. I thought it would be useful if that kind of change and what it meant for the future development of Barbados were to be recorded as a piece of quality work and he provided it quite readily. We had to edit it for want of space but the original version is much more ample, more detailed and much more enriching.

I think, therefore, that it will be a very useful guide for persons who are studying not only the history of Parliament but the social history of Barbados to be able to see the role that the coming of adult universal suffrage brought to

Barbados not just in the right to vote, to change or to elect a Government but how that was the trigger and the mechanism for upward social mobility in Parliament and other spheres of national life in Barbados.

I think for one who has spent so much time and effort in researching, narrating, revealing, explaining, and expounding on the history of Parliament and the history of politics that whatever we say here should not be left to be recorded as pleasant rhetoric suitable to the appropriate occasion, but that like Senator Rickinson has suggested, my suggestion would not be as grandiose as that, in the same way that there are brass plates in this building which record the names and length of service of the Speakers and Members of the House of Assembly that a similar section of the Parliament Buildings whether here or in the refurbished one be devoted to all classes of persons of Parliament so that it becomes a repository of the history of Parliament and that George Brancker's name obviously would have to figure very prominently in such a place and his outstanding service would be recorded. That, in itself, would trigger people's curiosity as to what would have been his service and contribution. Therefore, I would agree that there be some lasting memento in some form or fashion that would go to ensure that his contribution does not just become a footnote in the history of Barbados and the history of Parliament.
11.55 a.m.

George Brancker was also outstanding because for one who was so well endowed, not only with intellect but with good breeding and good manners, he was able to be self-assured without being arrogant and he could mix with the best of them when he had to, but he always respected persons as persons and he had no cause to lord it over persons for whatever reason.

I also admired him for how he would cringe at the abuse and misuse of the English language. He was not only an elegant speaker and a master of the use of the English language but he would also visibly shudder and cringe and be hurt almost in the way that I see often reflected in the reactions of Dame Patricia Symmonds when persons either in this Chamber or elsewhere mutilate...

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: He was upset that persons could do such damage to a language which had such potential for great use and which in itself could be made a pleasure and a delight. Therefore, I will also now have to look at Senator Symmonds' reactions in the future to see how somebody is behaving in their use of the English language. For that he will be sorely missed, because it meant that once they saw his reaction, persons were shocked into realising that they should not repeat such a misstep in the use of language. He was a barometer in that respect.

Therefore, I join in paying tribute to George. He will be long remembered. His work will stand the test of time and I therefore join with fellow Senators in conveying my deepest and greatest condolences to his family and grieving relatives. I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, the tributes today and in the Other Place have been wide and varied and we have heard of our various personal experiences with George Brancker, I see and think of this tribute as a tribute to George's life because absolutely and totally without doubt even though he is absent from this Place I am satisfied that he will live on in the hearts of each and every one of us.

George touched us all in many different kinds of ways. I remember the first time that I met him. I would have to say that I was definitely a young girl because it was in the early seventies and it was at the then Seawell Airport. I did not know who that man was but I could see from the way he was handling things – my uncle was then a Member of Parliament – and George was handling the delegation going off on a mission. I could see that they were absolutely in no doubt as to who was in charge by that very calm, quiet and dignified way that George always carried himself.

Like others, he saw fit to ensure that as new members of this Place we were equipped for the job in so many different kinds of ways, much of which has taken a long time to digest. I believe that one will never truly get a grip of but must continue to strive for the sort of excellence that George indicated we had to have and had to display not only in our language but in our demeanour as well.

I recall when I was invited to my second election overseeing mission I was a bit surprised and I wondered how come I had gotten even the first chance and furthermore a second chance. I had a quiet conversation with George and he said, "I have heard things." That made me feel good, because this domain is as one of the former speakers said, not the place where you look for compliments; but sometimes it helps you to build self-esteem to realise that indeed you do have something that somebody thinks is worthy. George gave me that inspiration on that occasion to go on. He also gave me a tremendous amount of reading material to use while on the plane and it came in exceedingly handy and ensured that I was able to do the job as required in a decent manner.

George made time for each and every one of us, even in what must have been an exceedingly hectic lifestyle, a hectic schedule, albeit with that calm, dignified exterior that I spoke to before. He always made time to ensure that if you
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any query, any concern, he would take the time to research the information or not go far for the research. Senator Rickinson spoke to his being like a reservoir, a walking library or encyclopaedia, he always took time to ensure that you had whatever you needed to get on with the job.

We will miss George desperately in this Place. Some said earlier that it was a shock and surprise. Death always would be a surprise and a shock but sometimes we tend to know that there is a change taking place in a person's life. I lost my father a couple years ago and in hindsight I can recall when the change began to take place. I always felt as I approached George at the bar downstairs during a lunch break that he had that distant, long-knowing look. Sometimes I wondered if he was seeing perhaps more than we were seeing at that time.

I want to say that his spirit is going to live on and I shared with his wife a couple of weeks ago the fact that George perhaps even now as we speak is in this very place with us overseeing what we do and that we should never be afraid and never feel that we have lost him because indeed he will always be here in our hearts and in our minds in so many different and special kinds of ways and the assurance that once you believe in the Almighty that those who are no longer with us in body certainly live on with us in spirit. He will be gone from us in this Place but he will always live on in our hearts and I want his family to hold that always and hold him there. You will never feel that loss and that loneliness. I wish you all our sympathies and God's richest blessings.

SENATOR Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. President, I rise to add my voice to those persons who have already spoken about the remarkable person that George Brancker was. I think we have to look at his passing and our attitude here today must be one of celebration for the life of a person the likes of whom we hardly ever meet in this life.

I first met George in 1976 when we both sat on the governing body of a secondary school. I was quite young at that time and quite unsure of myself in dealing with procedural matters and I found George to be one of the kindest persons I had ever met. He was helpful and gave of his time unstintingly. He was never impatient. He always gave me a ride to the school which was most of the time because in those days I did not have my own car and my husband never had the time to take me. All in all, it was a very memorable and cherished experience.

From time to time after that, during the eighties, we spoke largely to do with matters relating to Parliament and other research that he was undertaking or I was undertaking, and again George was always there for you. He was never too busy and never too selfish to share of his vast knowledge and information. You could ask George about anything that

happened in Parliament in the past 30 or 40 years, and if he could not remember instantly he knew exactly where you should go to find the information. A person such as he was will be extremely hard to replace in the history of Barbados' parliamentary procedure.

Persons who spoke before me mentioned the fact that he was so well known in the Commonwealth and I think sometimes we forget that his contribution to parliamentary life might have extended beyond what we knew of him here. About three months ago I was in India, and a former parliamentarian came up to me and said he heard that I was from Barbados and he asked how was "Mr. George". I knew exactly whom he was referring to. He went on to speak about the tremendous amount of knowledge George had of parliamentary procedure in the Commonwealth and how helpful to persons, even beyond our shores. This particular gentleman recalled being at a conference with George at some time and how he had a private lecture from George on some aspect of parliamentary procedure about which he had shown publicly that he was wrong.

I also wish to state that I worked fairly closely with George when he was asked to conduct research for the Constitution Review Commission. Regretfully, the proceedings of those meetings have never been published but George was one of the persons who prepared an excellent paper and his paper was on the right to recall because at that time many of the persons who appeared before the Commission were very anxious that provisions were made to recall parliamentarians who forgot what their constituents wanted as soon as they were elected.
12.05 p.m.

Therefore, George was asked to prepare a paper. He did one which looked at the provisions in those countries of the Commonwealth and elsewhere which contained the right to recall and showed how they operated. It was a very scholarly and thorough work which is so characteristic of anything that George produced.

In some respect he was a person whose vast intellect, up to the time of his death, was largely untapped. We knew what he was capable of and we often saw evidence of it but every time you spoke to George you often felt that here was a man who had more to offer. It is of great regret that to date he was not able to put his writings together in a publication but this can still be done as someone else can do it. I hope that when that time comes and I am still around that I will be given the opportunity to make a contribution.

It is difficult to conceive looking across the corner of the Chamber to my left and not see George, who after ceasing to be the Clerk of Parliament would slip in quite unobtrusively, sit down in the corner to see what we were

doing and give a little nod here and there as the proceeding went by. I hope he will not be forgotten by this institution.

I was heartened by the call of a previous speaker that something tangible should be done to remember the contribution that he made. I would like to propose at this time, that the library of Parliament which is now being reorganised, would be named the George Brancker Parliament Library.

Mr. President, with that suggestion, I wish all the best to George's family and friends and give my condolences at his passing.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I want to personally associate myself with the comments that went before about the life and times of an outstanding Barbadian, the late George Brancker. We all know that he had special qualities which separated him in a sense from the ordinary man but yet which endeared him to all those who came into contact with him.

I found him very helpful when I came to this Chamber in 1991 when I was on the Other Side. It is never an easy job being two among twenty-one and having to face twelve persons who are determined to ensure that you learn the hard way. There were many occasions when I received some good advice from George Brancker which helped me to become the man I am today in parliamentary terms. His advice was always sound and he gave important pointers which I may not have used as effectively as he would have liked but I want to say it was not because of his advice but because the person taking the advice might not have had the necessary skills to make full use of what was given.

Sir, what also impressed me is that whenever I went overseas, especially to CPA conferences the name of George Brancker was almost a household name. He was well-respected within all the Parliaments of the Commonwealth. His advice was always sought after because he could be relied upon to give sound, unbiased advice, based on experience, common sense and a knowledge of the law, especially constitutional law.

I have not found anyone with his knowledge of constitutional law. Sir, as you know, we are revisiting our Constitution and I found that George was always able to tell you the details of the Constitution of New Zealand or the Fiji Islands because he was so well versed in the various constitutions that he could always find an example of other jurisdictions and how they handled a particular issue.

I found it always to be inspirational talking about these matters, especially when they related to the Constitution and to the rules and various structures of Parliament. Sir, he will be tremendously missed but all of us who came into contact

with him would have been better for knowing him. I want to associate myself with the commendation which goes from this Chamber to his family. His work will not go unrecognised.

I rejoiced within when a few years ago he was made a Commander of the British Empire and it was fitting that he received a Commonwealth honour because his work is well respected in all areas of the Commonwealth.

Sir, I thank you.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, let me first apologise for not having the skills to do justice in a tribute to this fascinating man called George Brancker. In fact, I became so in awe of him that I called him "My Lord" rather than George or Mr. Brancker so whenever I wished to have a word I would use the expression that lawyers know so well "My Lord" to refer to him. It was simply just out of respect for an individual who demonstrated in his language the kind of power that you associate not with the average Barbadian but with a character out of the works of Shakespeare. It was not just the lofty way in which he delivered himself but the way in which he syncopated the language.

When I first came to Parliament, I was like any other Barbadian not brought up in a particular type of household where you dot all your I's and cross your T's and certain simple words which, by way of habit, you would mispronounce or not do justice to the language. By way of example, simple words like "ef" rather than "if"; "tink" rather than "think"; "tought" rather than "thought". Although it might seem to be humorous, I must confess that you were not aware that in this Chamber there was so much respect paid to the language itself and not just the content of your speech so I learnt from his counselling.

Then perhaps I made my greatest error one day in the Other Place when I wore a black shirt with a very colourful tie, I must admit. But it immediately drew the attention of Mr. Brancker and, in his subtle way, he made a very colourful comment about my black shirt and, of course, I never wore it again.

12.15 p.m.

Certainly, his manner of either delivering advice or praise was as subtle as you can get. I am prone to be emotional and I suppose like most individuals sometimes you can wear that emotion on your shoulder. In the Other Place, Sir, it came in the form that was not quite acceptable to "My Lord" and he drew it to my attention that it does not require for me to make a substantive point and become highly emotive. That advice was also given to me by a very

senior member on the Other Side. I must confess that my short life as a parliamentarian even when I sum these years to the years in the Other Place had perhaps its highlight in the 1997 Estimates debate having come from the Other Chamber with a burning desire to engage. After a debate that took place around 9:00 p.m. on the employment statistics in Barbados, the very next day at lunch time this fascinating man told me that he had enjoyed that piece of debating and that it reminded him of the period when Mr. Tom Adams and Mr. Errol Barrow engaged in debate in the Chamber. I found that particularly praise-worthy and indeed that brought an emotion from me.

Sir, let me say that this individual who had acquired linguistic skills and had become the cultured individual that he was, to my mind, could have only done so as a result of the exposure gained in Britain. Perhaps we need to find a way not only in Barbados but throughout the Caribbean to ensure that apart from the exposure which the younger Caribbean people may receive at the University of the West Indies campuses that we find an opportunity to send them beyond the Caribbean.

I am convinced when I look at the quality of the elder statesmen in our midst that it is largely as a result of having had the opportunity to gain that kind of exposure in none other place but Britain. There is something to be learned from this and there is a lot to be gained. I must confess that given that reality it is going to be almost impossible for us to find another individual of the calibre of George Brancker to conduct the affairs of Parliament, not because persons may not have endowed skills but they may never get the kind of preparation that he had for such a task.

I, therefore, say that this fascinating man is fascinating on many levels – his language, attire, wit and subtle method of delivery even when giving praise. Like other Members of this Chamber, I do hope that some respectable way is found to bestow honour on “My Lord”.

I end by expressing condolences to his family on behalf of my family and a former Senator who happens to be my better half in addition to the family called the Democratic Labour Party. I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR D. L. HAYNES: Mr. President, I too would like to say a few words about Mr. George Brancker even though I might be repeating a lot that has been said in here today. As was expressed by many, his passing is a great loss to all of us. To all of us in Parliament, he was and always will be an idol. The example that he has set will long continue to influence and inspire all of us. He was a man of understanding, sympathy, learning and integrity. It was quite difficult to find words to express my regret at the death of Mr. George Brancker. I, too, when appointed as a Senator met with Mr. George Brancker at his office in the Prime

Minister’s office. The unfortunate situation was that I made arrangements to meet with someone in about three to four hours. After listening to Mr. George Brancker for three or four hours, Mr. Kerrie Symmonds turned up and he was late.

That meeting went on for another three or four hours in taking down some notes and trying to understand as much as possible about parliamentary procedures. It was very fascinating when he was giving us the background on a lot of the other Senators throughout the world. He spoke to us about the Senator in Canada who is appointed and he is a Senator for life. I remember that very well.

Sir, at the end of our meeting which took hours, I said to him that he should write a book and I think that Senator Symmonds also agreed. What a pity that we cannot go into the library or purchase a book on the life of Mr. George Brancker. I hope and pray that he will not be forgotten and some statue or building will be named in his honour. He was a splendid man of great intellect. We can only pray to the will of God, the Father of us all and say to ourselves:

“Is there beyond the silent night an endless day? Is death a door that leads to light? We cannot say. A tunnel-less secret locked in fate, we cannot know. We watch and wait.”

May he enjoy his eternal rest and rewards that he has earned. May his family derive some comfort in the knowledge that we all in Parliament share the grief with them.

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

SENATOR B. R. COLLYMORE: Mr. President, my association with the late George Brancker was not just one in Parliament. When I began as a Senator I believe he was going out as Clerk. Many of you would know that George was an associate parishioner of St. Lucy Parish Church and therefore I would have known him all of his life. Other speakers have attested to his various qualities, his style, language and penchant for literature, *et cetera*, therefore I need not to repeat those.

I would only say that his sense of humour and great intellect would be greatly missed by those who have known him through the years. Many of you might not know but George was an excellent cook. It was not only in language that he got out in great taste; it was in the kitchen. I am sure he would not want us to dwell unnecessarily long on his great achievements as Clerk of Parliament. I think he would want us to remember him as a person of great humour, one who was generally helpful to those with whom he came into contact.

A former parliamentarian once told me that there was a complaint in the House about the sameness of the meal during the Estimates Debates. George was asked to speak to the caterer and the next day, George in his usual style said, "ladies and gentlemen, I have great pleasure in informing you that the split peas will be in soup today, laced with dumplings." And that is the kind of person I would like to remember him as. George was able by his wit to soften the harshest moment while, at the same time, gave a great correction by using simple and effective words. I have great pleasure to be associated with the comments here today and to extend to his family and friends all those condolences which he so deserves. Thank you.

SENATOR D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. President and distinguished colleagues of the Senate, the recent passing of George Brancker, I believe has touched all of us in different ways. I am certain that the loss to his family is tremendous and I would like, at the outset, to pay condolences to them and to wish them a comfortable period of mourning.

Sir, my association with George Brancker could probably only be counted from having been appointed to the Senate in 1999. I immediately found George to have a very engaging personality and I seized every opportunity that I could to so engage him in conversation and beverage in the luncheon room.

Sir, I believe George's performance as a Clerk of Parliament has been so outstanding that people refer to him as a lawyer only in passing. My fondest memories of George comes in both capacity. In 1999, the law firm of which I am a partner invited George to speak at our annual Christmas luncheon. It was a room filled with many of our clients and also an unusually large number of lawyers. We felt that we should have developed the tradition of only having lawyers speaking and therefore when we thought of George one of our associates said that he did not know Mr. Brancker was a lawyer; that somehow his being Clerk of Parliament is not associated as a member of the legal profession. Nonetheless, we hastily assured the members that he was in fact a lawyer.

Sir, I have to say that George's performance that day at that luncheon outshone that of all of the other persons who participated with us at the luncheon. He spoke on a wide range of subjects but especially of the history of Parliament and the foibles of parliamentarians in Barbados.

I have always found that George's language was very colourful. On one occasion on the veranda outside, I heard him refer to someone as being the "cheapest man in Christendom". "Christendom" is a word I have not used since studying history in primary school. I now have to say that I have now taken that term to myself when I have to compliment anyone I use the same term. I once had an experience with an individual who was trying to make the point that there was a distinction between the word "oral"

and "verbal" and George stood by very quietly and one could not tell what was going through his mind. When the person left, George whispered to me, "Dale, that is nonsense, the person clearly does not have an entire volume of dictionaries which go down to the letter "V". Such I believe was the wit and the inviting manner that George had; but I have found that on no occasion was he impolite. On no occasion could one tell that there was any anger in him. I cannot say that there are many persons who greet you with such warmth or who give such warmth as George Brancker.

He spoke at our lunch in 1999 and we again invited him in the year 2000. He was absent on that occasion and when I saw him in January I chided him for not attending. He said to me that he was unable to attend because he was deeply buried in writing a book. I believe that may be the answer to many of the questions we have here; whether George has ever put any of his compendious knowledge down in writing. Recently, not long before his passing, I asked him how the writing was coming and he told me that these things take time, that he was still working on it. Sir, I sincerely hope that within the very near future we will see the publication of George Brancker's memoirs. I believe that it is a publication which will be a legacy to all Parliaments in the Caribbean and to all parliamentarians in Barbados especially.

His passing was, in my view, too soon. I would have loved to have George around to confer with on matters of parliamentary procedure but also on the lighter side of life, I believe we are very much the poorer for George having left us at the inopportune time at which he did. My condolences to his family.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, much has been said about George this morning and I do not need to repeat the appreciation of the life of George Brancker. Let me assure his family and his friends that all parliamentarians join them in their loss. George was a very special friend and will be missed very sorely. May he rest in peace.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, distinguished Honourable Members of the Senate, I rise to associate myself with the sentiments of all those Honourable Members who have spoken before me.

I would want to pay a special condolence to the members of George's family. I say "George" very guidedly because since first meeting him, I have been allowed to refer to him as "Uncle George". Sir, I asked the question how one so young as I could properly go about paying tribute to both the life and contribution of one who is so esteemed as George Brancker was to me. But I would want to say that he stands out in my mind because one day in 1986, while being a student at school, I came to the precincts of this Honourable Chambers almost as a matter of course, along with some other colleagues of mine. Sir, keen as we were

to listen to the debates and to follow the titans of the day in their contributions in both Chambers, I rushed up to him and said, "Excuse me, Mr. Brancker, what time is Parliament supposed to start today?" He said to me, "Young man, Parliament is never supposed to do anything. I think what you are groping for is the word 'scheduled'." He then went on to explain the difference between the scheduled meeting of Parliament and the impropriety of the use of the word "supposed" in that context. That, I think Sir, will live with me for ever. It is a small example of the precision in the language, it is almost military-type precision in the language that he used and with a certain flair of which I heard Honourable Senators speak associated with George Brancker's facility with the English language.

Sir, apart from that, he stands out in my memory because he was a repository of knowledge and information. Sir, as I said, after having been invited not to be so formal with him because of the fact that he has known my family for a long time, I was then able to call him from time to time and on a number of occasions when I would have wanted to write on matters relating to constitutional reform in Barbados or even just to discuss an opinion with him along those lines, he was always very willing, ready and able to give of his generous stretch of information, the likes of which I would have to say I do not know there are that many persons, either at the practising Bar in Barbados or those persons who are just students and those who have just taken a more than casual interest in the law, I do not know that there are that many who are able to give of that depth and breadth of information on matters pertaining to the Constitution.

He was, in many ways, a national treasure and I would want briefly to trespass on views previously expressed by other Honourable Senators that it is something, again speaking from the perspective of comparative tender years, it is something of a loss to our society that there is not much more writing done, even if not by great contributors to the building of these different aspects of our social fabric but then about such contributors. Sir, here in this Senate, without in any way seeking to ingratiate oneself, we have the likes of Senator Rickinson and Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds. I believe that there are past prime ministers in Barbados. Sir, one fears that a compendium of knowledge slowly slips away from our society with each passing day, week, month of the year. Sufficient, in my view, is not done to tap into that reservoir of knowledge and information which many persons out there have and which my generation would be usefully guided by greater access to.

If I could distill anything from George Brancker's life, I think we all could learn a lesson that when we first entered this Chamber, we were exposed to that wealth of knowledge that he carried in his head. With the absence of George Brancker from Parliament and from advice to those who sit in Parliament, it means that we are significantly at a loss.

The absences in other areas of life from persons of a similar endowment as George Brancker, and there are those persons out there, will mean that our society, collectively, is at a greater loss. Sir, I would urge that we leave no stone unturned from whatever walk in life to try to tap into that wealth of information that resides around Barbados.

The life of George Brancker has indicated to us that our human resource is our richest resource and we ought not to let that go by.

I would want again to indicate my deepest condolences to the members of the Brancker family. On a personal note, I extend my condolences to those scholastic colleagues of mine who are members of the Brancker family and I would want to say that in Nicholas and Melanie, there are two fine persons that one can find around Barbados and my heart goes out to them in their grief. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wish at this time to recognise in the visitors' gallery and to welcome to this Honourable Chamber, Mrs. Grace Brancker, George's widow; his daughter, Melanie; granddaughter, Nadia; and his stepmother, Lady Brancker. Nicholas is regrettably out of the island. I believe he is represented by Paula today. They represent two generations. As is well known, the elder Brancker, Sir Theodore, presided in this Chamber with distinction and prior to that he served in the Other Place for more than 30 consecutive years. The Brancker connection with this Parliament is therefore well established.

George's passing following a very brief illness on the second day of the year became an occasion of tremendous shock and sadness. The very generous tributes paid to him today have focussed on his several accomplishments, his glittering academic career, his vast knowledge, his encyclopaedic memory, his mastery of the written and spoken word and, of course, his dignity and unfailing courtesy.

12.45 p.m.

I first met George Brancker in London in the Winter of 1961, more than 40 years ago. We remained close friends. As a young man he was an exemplar for those of us who were a shade younger. He eschewed mediocrity and aimed at excellence in all his undertakings. There was always about George, a certain gravitas. One never trifled with him in argument.

As the late John Wickham said many years later, quoting Oliver Goldsmith,

"And still they gaze and still the wonder grows
That one small head could carry all he knew."

On the basis of a long association, there is much I can add to confirm what has been said today such as his preeminence in the culinary department to which, I believe Senator Collymore referred, but George Brancker, the consummate student of parliamentary practice and procedure as he was, would perhaps wish me to observe the Rules of the Senate, especially Standing Order 39 which frowns on tedious repetition of points made by other Senators.

In the more than seven years, I have had the honour of presiding in this Chamber, I have had, as you well understand, occasion to interact with George in his professional capacity, as one of the finest parliamentary officers in the Commonwealth, some say the finest.

I have benefited tremendously from his wise counsel. He had a detailed response to every question and never failed to provide an abundance of supporting documentation. As joint President of the Barbados branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, I can attest of his immense contribution to that worldwide organisation. His work was recognised and appreciated in the four corners of the Commonwealth.

George Brancker was a great exponent of the Westminster model and to that extent he was, as Senator Rickinson said, a traditionalist in the very classical sense. I would like to make three points in regard to George Brancker's professionalism based on my own association with him in the year since I became a presiding officer:

1. Despite our personal friendship and despite my early protestations, George never, even behind a closed door when there were just two of us in the room, addressed the other, other than formally.
2. George never, by word or gesture, spoke disparagingly of any other person, even of those who merited his censure.

There is a third point to which I think Senator McClean adverted.

3. If there was a partisan political bone in George Brancker's body, I never sensed it.

This is not only during my period as presiding officer but in all of the years, it has been my pleasure to know him.

I endorse Senator Newton's suggestion that the new Library of Parliament when completed, should bear his name. It would indeed be a fitting memorial.

George Eustace Theodore Brancker, as the Senator Leader said, was an institution. He made an outstanding contribution to the work of Parliament in Barbados and indeed the wider Commonwealth. He has left the kind of

solid contribution spoken of in Ecclesiastes to which I think Senator Symmonds referred:

"He was a man of dignity and charm, a scholar and a gentleman."

It was a pleasure and a privilege to have known him.

I join with other Honourable Senators in extending our sincerest condolences to his family. May he rest in peace.

I will now ask all Honourable Senators to stand in their places as we observe two minutes silence in tribute of the memory of George Eustace Theodore Brancker.

Senators stood in their places and observed two minutes' silence.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
1.02 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

FIRST READING OF BILLS (RECOMMITTED)

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, earlier today, I laid before this Chamber, the Report of the Family Law Council. The Standing Orders of the Senate, particularly Standing Order No. 66 require that I also seek the adoption of the Report so that it can be debated at a later stage. I now, therefore, move that the Report of the Joint Select Committee on the Family Law (Amendment) Bill, 2002 be adopted.

The question that the Report of the Joint Select Committee on the Family Law (Amendment) Bill, 2002 be adopted was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – THE PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2002

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, this amendment provides for the payment of
p r o p e r t y

transfer tax on half of the capitalised value of a lease when it forms part of a leaseback transaction.

Under the existing provisions of the Property Transfer Tax Act, Cap. 84A, an individual transferring a property as a vendor in a sale transaction is liable to pay transfer tax. If after the sale has taken place, the vendor then decides to lease back the property from its new owner, as the law stands now, this is the second transaction, it will normally be subject to a transfer tax.

In an effort, therefore, to encourage this whole concept of sale/leaseback transactions, it was decided that this tax structure would have to be adjusted. In August last year, the Minister of Finance in his Financial Statement on the Economic and Financial Policies of the Government, said, and I quote:

“To facilitate the use of sale leaseback transactions as a form of financing, the property transfer tax payable on the leaseback of the property will be computed on half the capitalized value of the lease.”

It is proposed with this amendment that this will leave the vendor in the leaseback transaction to pay tax at the effective rate of 5 per cent rather than the 10 per cent as presently charged under the current legislation. It is figured that this would encourage the whole concept of the leaseback.

I have been informed by my colleague, Senator Goddard, for instance, that if someone had a business and would want to sell the business to get liquid cash and they sell it and lease it back they will have some liquid cash that they can utilise.

With these few words, I beg that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, it is good to note that the Government has finally come around to the view that certain aspects of the property transfer tax were inappropriately enacted. In fact, when this measure was put in place a few years ago, the local vendor had to pay 10 per cent up from the original 5 per cent in the previous legislation.

It was always thought on this Side, that measure was seeking to facilitate foreign ownership of land in particular and assets in general and then we were informed that in fact...

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: On a point of order. Mr. President, when the previous Bill was passed it referred to all vendors not just local vendors and there was no discrimination between a local vendor and a foreign vendor.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, the fact of the matter is that the measure had indeed increased the tax liability to local purchasers or sellers of land. The justification given at the time by the Government was that it was simply facilitating a condition under the World Trade Organisation Agreement in that you could no longer use discrimination as a means by which you could formulate such a policy. So knowing that non-discrimination is a major tenet of the World Trade Organisation, the measure, therefore, was simply to bring the vendor, local and foreign in line with each other as was not obtained before. So this is certainly a very useful amendment in the circumstances.

However, I must confess that I still have a difficulty, particularly with the imposition of a property transfer tax in the case of shares where in difficult economic times a company for whatever reason may seek to transfer shares from one business to another only to be saddled with the burden of a property transfer tax. So I do think that particular measure has to be addressed in light of the fact that you are asking businesses to become far more flexible in their investment portfolios.

If it is the case that the market demands businesses to make adjustments and get into new areas of economic activity, then I obviously feel that they should be permitted to transfer shares far more easily than is presently the case. So I look forward to an amendment that gives expression to that particular need where you can actually facilitate the moving of shares between large companies in particular and small companies.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. President, I rise to make a few comments in relation to this amendment. Property transfer tax has been with us, as far as I can tell, since the late 1960's and some people view it as a bit of a trade-off.

We do not have any capital gains tax in Barbados which is a method of taxing transfers of properties and which is well used in foreign lands. What we have is a different kind of tax, the property transfer tax, which is still payable on the transfer but it is not really based on the capital gain.

We have from time to time over the years amended, and by we, I mean the Government of Barbados, this legislation in many ways. This represents another amendment which is being done with a view to adjusting or taxing legislation according to the various needs from time to time.

There are two specific matters I would like to deal with however. The first one is that I would like to flag the

perception that there may be an inconsistency in terms of how we deal with leases. We understand that it is a fundamental role of legislation to achieve social goals and in this particular instance to encourage and facilitate business and new forms of transactions so that people are not penalised for being creative in adjusting their financial affairs.

However, it may be considered by some that the transfer tax payable on a simple lease arrangement is computed in a different way to the transfer tax payable on a leaseback arrangement. It is a fundamental principle of all taxing statutes and tax administrations that any Act which may achieve perhaps an incorrect tax position may be disregarded by the Revenue. It is called the fiscal nullity rule.

So it is arguable that this particular amendment allows an individual to get the benefit of capital in their hand and the benefit of a long-term lease of the premises without paying to the Government its proper due and clearly this amendment is directed at remedying that particular situation.

However, from my preliminary reading of the legislation, the transfer tax payable on a long lease would be calculated somewhat differently to the transfer tax payable on the sale/leaseback arrangement. An individual who, therefore, rents his property as a commercial venture to an entity or to someone may find himself paying a different rate of transfer tax in a long lease than an individual who having sold his property sells it on the condition that he himself rents it back from the new purchaser.
2.10 p.m.

The other issue which I would like to flag is one of the administrative processes involved in the Department of Land Valuation and actually valuing the capital value of a leased premises. This is of particular concern to practitioners and it has been noted on many occasions that where properties are sold and these properties have been leased, the position taken by the Commissioner of Land Tax is often that the value is not going to be simply what the property has been sold for but it is going to be some combination of what it has been sold for taking into account its long-term lease income. On behalf of the practitioners who have had to deal with these kinds of situations, I would like to make the plea that the departments involved speed up the process of valuing these premises.

I have been involved with a transaction which took well over 12 months to have the valuation concluded and what this meant is that the person who sold this property had to have a fairly significant sum of money. I believe it was over half a million dollars held in escrow for an extremely long period of time, simply because of the administrative processes in terms of getting the valuations. Valuation is more an art than a science and clearly there are lots of things

which have to be factored in. This call, Sir, is for the administrative process to be put in place whereby valuations of all kinds can be delivered to the affected parties within a relatively short space of time so that their transactions can proceed apace and without undue delay.

That is the extent of my comments on this legislation, Sir.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the first question I would like to address in looking at this amendment is to ask who exactly benefits from this measure. I have heard it said that one of the reasons for introducing this Bill is to make it easy for those persons who have probably run into financial difficulties in business and would see it fit to sell the property and have the benefit of continuing the business activity at the same location with minimum disruption. You can sell the property, get the necessary capital and then lease back the property.

This, obviously, would not be a measure which would be employed by the average small businessman in Barbados or even the medium-sized businessman in Barbados because chances are that property might be so tied up with all kinds of commitments that they might find it difficult to undertake such a measure. Therefore, it is clear that this would benefit a particular type of business person.

The main beneficiary for a system like this I believe would be a business that has significant capital to gain and has decided that they are not in the business of property management and therefore do not need large properties. In fact, it might very well be that the business is not in any financial difficulties but it might be just a straight business decision to offload the responsibility for management of the property, sell the property to somebody and lease it back.

We have seen this option being taken up by a company like Cable & Wireless, a company which certainly has no financial difficulties as far as I can see. One must wonder, therefore, if this is not one of the other arrangements made with Cable and Wireless for some of the things that have been agreed to recently.

For example, I do not know if a Julie'N can benefit from this but I am sure that Julie'N was not the company that Government had in mind when they decided to undertake this measure. It is clear that the average Barbadian business that is now under severe pressure...

SENATOR P. C. GODDARD: On a point of order, Mr. President, when the Government makes policy it does not make policy on the basis of one company. It makes policy on the basis of all corporate activities taking place in

Barbados and therefore it is unreasonable to suggest that the Government is making policy just to accommodate one company in Barbados.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Goddard, I think you are making a speech. You will have the opportunity to do that later.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, we all know that there are what are referred to as special interest groups in a community which would from time to time make their suggestions to Government. In fact, sometimes the suggestions are solicited as we have heard recently the Minister of Finance asking certain business entities what can I do for you in the upcoming Estimates and Budget.

We know, Sir, that there will be other persons who are better able to articulate their case and who can see the benefits much better than others can and would therefore lobby appropriately and accordingly to get the things that they need. We also know that it is not the average small businessman who has the lobbying skills or the access to the powers that be in order to get these things done.

I go on to say that there are other instances of property transfer tax and property taxes in general which one needs to look at. For example, the situation of a parent transferring a property to a child, and we all know that you cannot just put a nominal value on a property for the sake of transferring. In other words, if I had a property, I could not transfer to my daughter and say pay me five dollars for the property just to say that I have sold it to you. We know that cannot be done, because Government reserves the right to value that property and determine the tax that would be made in the transfer. It would mean therefore that a parent who wants to give a child a property could end up having to pay significant sums of money in order to transfer that property to the child. This, I believe, Sir, is something that has to be examined because if a parent wants to give a child an opportunity to get a head-start in life, perhaps that child is a young professional or a budding entrepreneur who would need certain assets to use as security in order to get the necessary financing to establish himself either in a profession or in a business it would mean that it is an added burden and certainly would not be of any benefit particularly if the parent does not have the resources to pay the transfer tax that is required. It is a significant cost to a parent who wants to give a child a property which I believe, Sir, is not something that should exist.

When we look at taxation generally, Sir, the average worker in Barbados, the workers of the public sector in particular, those who cannot escape the PAYE, have to pay PAYE up front. Then they have to pay VAT on everything they purchase. They borrow some money and buy a piece of land and once they have purchased that land they have to pay taxes. I understand it is almost to the tune of 40 cents in every dollar. After the Government has taken as much taxes

as they can take from you, they tell you they understand that you now own a piece of land and they want some taxes for it.

2.20 p.m.

Sir, you purchased the land after what was left back from PAYE, VAT on everything you purchased, the legal cost for acquiring the land, the interest on the loan you acquire and then Government says you still have to give more taxes because you now own this piece of land. You suffer a little further and manage to put a house on it, and Government then tells you that the value is now improved so I will take some more taxes even though you have paid VAT on all the inputs in the house. My question is: what are you paying Government the taxes for?

Sir, in my view it is as though you are being punished for trying to advance. There must be some kind of philosophical base on which taxation is imposed. Also, taxation should not be seen as punitive, it must be developmental. In other words, Government should be collecting taxes for the purpose of developing a society and not just collecting taxes to raise revenue at will, which now seems to be the case.

Sir, it is part of Government's responsibility to provide the opportunity for persons to have shelter. If an individual is able to acquire shelter, he should not be punished with the level of taxation which is imposed on people in this country at this point in time.

Many people would agree that the level of property taxes in Barbados is much too high. Only recently a teacher told me that she bought a piece of land for \$44 000 and she is still paying for it, but she has already received her first land tax bill for \$300 although only grass is growing on this land. Rather than being able to save money towards the construction of her home, she has to pay Government \$300 for rent each year for the land for which she has a loan and is paying interest thereon.

Asides.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Basically, you are paying Government rent for the land you have.

Sir, there is need for some kind of tax reform in this country and the land tax in particular needs to be addressed. We cannot have a situation where you are paying direct taxes, indirect taxes and property taxes as well. We should not have all of these at the same time. You should either get rid of the indirect taxes and put the emphasis on the direct taxes and property taxes or if you retain the direct taxes then

you have to give significant ease on the indirect taxes and property taxes.

Mr. President, I heard an old lady on the radio recently making mention of some promises that Government made about easing the tax burden on Barbadians where property taxes are concerned. This has not yet happened but from time to time Government will lower the rate of taxation on properties but at the same time raise the value of the property so that although the rate is lower you are paying either the same taxes or more taxes for the property.

Sir, I will conclude by saying that we must take a serious look at taxation in this country. I do not believe that any citizen in this country expects to escape paying taxes but certainly we must have a situation where people believe that the tax system is not a burden.

Furthermore, people need to feel that something meaningful is being done with the taxes they pay. You do not want to pay high taxes but cannot get simple medication at the hospital. You do not want to be paying taxes and there are no proper roads; and if you are paying taxes, these taxes should not be handed out through certain agencies as some kind of largesse to gain political advantage.

Sir, the time has come for significant tax reform in this country.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, Senator McClean like some people in this country would like to have benefits and not pay for them. He keeps asking what we get for our taxes. He has been the beneficiary of free education as has been generations of Barbadians. We have the most liberal education policy where tertiary education is free but he also attacks the land tax rather than property transfer tax which is what we are debating.

People have forgotten that the property transfer tax was introduced by the Democratic Labour Party in 1969 and it has been the Barbados Labour Party that has continually reduced the quantum of this tax. We have adjusted it so that today if you have an improved value of \$125 000, you do not pay taxes and if you have a land tax value of \$25 000 and under you do not pay taxes. There are buffers in the system that recognise the reality of different levels. We must recognise that a tax policy must have a range of taxes that would make it flexible.

This property transfer tax will promote a level of investment in this country which will allow many Barbadians to participate in that investment and get revenue from it from businesses that do not want to tie up their capital in bricks and mortar but would like to trade. This could be so for a

telephone company, a supermarket, a department or a restaurant. This could be for any type of business where the business owns a particular property and would like to transfer that ownership to an investment company which thousands of Barbadians would participate in. They in turn will get revenue from the leaseback and the company will have a cash flow which will enhance its operation and employ Barbadians. Sir, this entire process creates business activity and jobs and I do not know how Senator McClean could be against that.

Sir, this particular piece of legislation is beneficial to our economy, creates investment, business activity and jobs. It also moves to reduce the particular transfer tax that would apply in that process. We are talking about a reduction of tax that would stimulate economic activity.

Mr. President, I could not support this more. As I have said, it will benefit thousands of Barbadians and not a few as some would have it appear.

Mr. President, I support the Bill.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I heard something here today that amazes me, that we do not pay tax on a plot of land that is worth more than \$25 000. I know for sure that I am and have been paying taxes for many years and many farmers out there as well are probably continuing to pay tax. Nobody has told them to stop paying taxes. I am very thankful to Senator Goddard for making this very clear to me.
2.30 p.m.

The other thing that amazes me is this. We are talking about this being a financial matter where the property tax, the sale and leaseback are concerned. I do not know what your experience is, but my experience is that if you were depending on this to get you out of a financial hole, you would die. The lawyers are going to take two to three years to do this property transfer anyhow. You would be in debt long before you could solve your problem.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I would like to rise in support of this Bill which will allow businesses the opportunity of finding a way of putting investment in goods and services rather than on property.

Sir, a point was made by Senator McClean about the level of taxation and it reminded me of the fact that the Opposition will become even more strident in their cause for lower taxation primarily because within a year or two they expect to be on the platform. The point is that I want this Honourable Chamber to remember one important point. You cannot talk about the level of taxation unless at the same

time you talk about the reduction in the level of services. It is clear that there is a strong relationship between the level of taxation and the level of services.

Sir, on the one hand, you are complaining for more services. You want better hospitals and you want better roads. At the same time out of the corner of your mouth you are calling for lower taxation. I do not understand how you can argue for lower taxation and at the same time argue for a higher level of public expenditure on services and goods. It cannot work that way and I remind you, Sir, of 1986.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, on a point of order. I have not made that connection. So I do not know why the Honourable Senator is associating me with what he wants to say. I never made that connection and I do not understand where he is going with his speech.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, that is precisely the point that I am making. He has not made a connection because he is trying to mislead this Chamber. You must make the connection.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot excuse the Honourable Senator of misleading the Chamber. I ask you to withdraw that.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, what I would say is that the Honourable Senator is inadvertently misleading this Chamber if he talks about the reduction of the level of taxation without at the same time not talking about a commensurate reduction in the level of services provided by Government. In 1986, we had the same problem when we had an election won on \$1 500 promise and within 9 months this country was visited with the highest level of taxation ever. The record is there and it is clear.

Sir, the point is that this legislation which they are complaining about will seek to offer the entrepreneur a new way of helping to finance his operation and to keep it going. Government must be commended for looking at ways of using fiscal measures to effect these changes that they would like to see within the economy.

We all talk and in some cases it is only lip service, but when concrete measures are put in place we find all sorts of things to say. But the point is that any government must be proactive in seeking ways to keep the business community afloat, because obviously we know that one of our greatest social problems remains in finding jobs for people. That has always got to be at the forefront of our deliberations. We have got to put in place measures to ensure that employment generation remains at the forefront of Government's economic and social policy. Everything we do must be geared towards ensuring that the level of unemployment is severely reduced.

Sir, even though we have had impressive gains within the past few years, my argument is that one person unemployed is one person too many. It must be our long-term aim to ensure that there is no person in our community who would be actually seeking a job and being unable to find one. That must remain our goal and this Government must be highly commended in this regard. We will continue to use fiscal measures judiciously to ensure that the economy remains vibrant for the good of all our people.

Sir, regarding the level of taxation in this country, again we are going to hear that it is too high. For some people any level of taxation is too high, but it must be related to the level of services within the country. For anybody to say that the level of services is declining is flying in the face of reality and the truth. They are not paying any attention to the truth. It is clear that the level of services within this country is increasing and anybody who would gainsay that might be regarded as a stranger to the truth.

Sir, we will continue to use these measures to bring about the sort of changes we want to see within our community. I want to support this piece of legislation and commend it to this Honourable Chamber. I will not associate myself with unfounded remarks about the level of taxation which will not stand up to scrutiny. Those of us who teach about taxation must know better than to just look at the level of taxation without looking at the other aspects of the equation.

Sir, I am obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rickinson.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a short comment. I am not opposing the Bill. I am going to support this reduction in taxes, but I would like to see it go further and not only on leaseback transactions. I would like to see it extended to persons whose properties have escalated because, Mr. President, there are multi-millionaires who come and invest here and when the Bajan has a property next to the multi-millionaire the price of the property shoots up and the taxes. I would like to see Government look into the areas, in particular, where there are Barbadians owning properties usually on the beach. Keep it at the same level as it once was. I am not saying that people should not pay taxes. Everybody should pay taxes because they are needed in order to provide the other social services. But we need to see some form of transparency that one can accept regarding the various tax situations. It is obvious that Government has not accepted the level of taxation for these people. That is why they are reducing this tax. I would like Government to transfer that to the ordinary citizen who was bred and born on the beach and who would like to stay there and not have his or her property sold. I thank you, Sir.

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 for further consideration of the Bill, SENATOR THE HON. DAME PATRICIA SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT, MADAM CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the PRESIDENT, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Property Transfer Tax (Amendment) Act, 2002.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND SITUATED AT BRITTONS HILL NEW ROAD AND FORDE’S ROAD, CHRIST CHURCH FOR THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, this Resolution before this Honourable Senate seeks permission for the acquisition of two parcels of land measuring 2576 square metres and 3511 square metres at Brittons Hill New Road and Forde’s Road, Clapham, Christ Church for the provision of recreational facilities and housing development respectively.

Sir, in June 1999 the Minister of Housing and Lands, parliamentary representatives for the areas and Government officials visited the parishes of St. Michael and Christ Church. They identified sites at Brittons Hill New Road and Forde’s Road for acquisition. These recreational facilities are being provided primarily for the residents of Bonnetts, Liverpool Road, Manchester Road, Reservoir Road, Reece Road and Lower Villa Road. It should be noted that when the Bonnetts Housing Area was constructed some years ago space was left for the provision of recreational facilities. But during the course of time, that area was then used for further construction of more units depriving the young people of recreational facilities. As a result, they had to travel along the dangerous narrow road to Valery and as far as Clapham. Indeed, some of them went behind the Hospitality to indulge in football tournaments. I should

mention that the young people in the area are already using this piece of land. Certainly, the young men from the “Persian Gulf” are using this land to play football and I would caution that in the development of this area for recreational facilities we should be mindful of not just erecting a hard court in the centre of this land but making some provision to locate it to the north of the area so that these young men will be able to indulge in their football and not necessarily to build kiosks.

Sir, in the case of the Forde’s Road area for housing, it really only provides six house spots. This is certainly not enough. There is a perennial shortage of land for housing in this area. We all know that it is a highly densely populated area. The National Housing Corporation has been inundated with requests by hundreds of people and certainly this is an area that needs to be addressed urgently. Recently, there were some developments of lots at Simmons Road but these were only twelve or fifteen. This is clearly insufficient. Again, we must compliment the NHC but we must look in the future because of scarce land resources available to develop condominium-type, residential facilities for these people. We must gradually move away from the feeling that everyone is entitled to his own backyard because we do not have the necessary land.

Sir, as I said, the population density requires housing development to take cognisance of the pressure. With these few words, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Sir, one certainly cannot oppose any attempt to provide recreational facilities in the area which is described nor can you oppose any attempt to provide housing for people. However, the Minister made mention of the fact that the National Housing Corporation is inundated with requests for housing and the implication is that this Corporation is unable to meet the requests. We would hope therefore that the Minister would at least let us know some of the difficulties which National Housing faces in terms of meeting the demand for housing in this country.
2.50 p.m.

Certainly, if one considers the state of that organisation at this point in time, one must at least pay some attention to what they have been doing over the years. For example, when the National Housing Corporation was allowed to access a considerable amount of money which was provided from the National Insurance Scheme, one would have thought that this money would have been used to ease the housing shortage in Barbados, because as the Minister said, the Corporation is inundated with requests for housing. Obviously, one would expect that a National Housing Corporation, having access to money, the first thing they would do is address the problem of housing but

not so with this Corporation. Sir, this Corporation sought instead to embark on office construction. Not only offices for their own administrative purposes but the National Housing Corporation sought to become commercial landlords, and rather than building houses for people, they decided that they will provide office space, and what has happened?

The building in Country Road which was started before the Insurance Corporation's building remains incomplete. The other one that they have embarked on, and as I said, this is money that they could have used for housing but they used it to build offices in Warrens. Only God knows when that will be completed and we now understand that is a matter which, disputes arising out of that construction, is now attracting the attention of the courts.

How could one address, or make any mention of the National Housing Corporation without paying Barbadians the courtesy of at least letting them know what is happening with the institution or the organisation which is responsible for providing houses in this country. If you are going to say that there is a difficulty with providing houses, then let the people know why there is a difficulty.

We all know of the problem with the shortage of land. Yet we hear of the Government having about 600 acres of land in a land bank, and now we hear the Minister saying that Barbadians must get accustomed and understand that not everybody can have their own backyard. Again, only certain people are supposed to have a backyard but the average Barbadian should not have such aspirations.

Sir, the Government seems to be embarking on a policy of putting people in Barbados in little boxes, stacking them up one on the other.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, on a point of order. I believe the Honourable Senator is misleading the Senate to suggest that the policy of the Government is to put people in boxes. Sir, I believe the example of any high-rise housing in Barbados and the testimony is the London Bourne Towers which suggest that they are not box like. They are very amenable and the tenants are very comfortable there, Sir, so I wish he would not mislead the Senate in this manner.

Thank you.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I am simply addressing what the Minister said, that is, that Barbadians must understand that not everybody can have their own backyard. Therefore, I can only assume that the Government's future housing policy would not make allowance for backyards. The only way I can see it is that you are going to stack up people, one on the other in the

boxes.

The fact of the matter, Sir, I heard one referring to condominiums but the condominiums have tennis courts and swimming pools. I do not think that one can even make the comparison between the condominium facility and the facility which the Minister is talking about because the fact of the matter, Sir, is that there is a dire need for housing for the middle class and the lower class in this country.

People believe that as long as you have a job in Barbados you are able to own a house, but we know that is not true today. First of all when you look at the cost of a piece of land in this country and the impositions that you are faced with after acquiring that land, as we have discussed earlier, then if you attempt to build a house, with the cost of houses nowadays, we know that it is not easy for the average worker in this country, particularly public servants to own properties. The Government must come clean with the people of this country and let them know what is happening in the National Housing Corporation, what is happening to the millions of dollars that have gone to waste in that building at Warrens, money that could have gone into housing for the working class people of this country, rather than experimenting in a venture which has clearly turned out to be a disaster. There are millions of dollars to cost overruns already and you cannot see any end in sight for the building.

Sir, also the building in Country Road which probably in another year might be completed, was supposed to be opened in 2000. I recall the Prime Minister making a statement that that building should have been opened in November or December in the year 2000 and that was after it was overdue for over a year. This is 2002 and we still cannot see what is happening to the building.

The other one is a national disgrace and all of this when we talk about people in this country paying all these taxes and we hear of the pressure on the National Insurance Scheme, yet we are going to see a Government agency taking money that could have been better utilised and squandering it on a project. You hear that this building is behind time because of problems with the foundation, like the one in the Glebe. Every building in this country now that the Government cannot complete is because something is wrong with the foundation.

Sir, you are not doing the ordinary soil test now to determine what you have there to build on and everybody knows the area in Warrens where that building is going up. Immediately below it is an area called Cave Hill. Do you think you call it Cave Hill for fun? Yet, as far as I understand, if the Government had spent \$80 000 to do the

necessary soil test, they would have known that they would have encountered some sizeable caverns in the subsoil and therefore they would have had difficulty in erecting a building of that type on that land. Sir, rather than spend a few dollars up front in order to ensure you know what you had, the Government went ahead, again – typical of this Government – without proper planning and started to build a building. Sir, like the man who built the house on the sand, they built a house on a cave. Now, we have billions of dollars of the taxpayers' money being wasted by the National Housing Corporation and people still cannot get houses, yet the money has gone down the drain.

We are now going to hear that Barbadians must understand that not everybody could get a backyard, so if not everybody can get a backyard, then who will be entitled to a backyard? Apparently, even a backyard now is going to be a measure of social status in this country: "Do you have a backyard? No, I have one."

3.00 p.m.

Coming from somewhere outside, I hear the word "pathetic", Sir, and that aptly described what is happening with the state of housing in this country at this point in time. I would only hope that the Government would pay closer attention to what is happening to the plight of people in this country and that they will take some of the land that they have in the land bank and make it available for housing for the people of this country and at the same time it will serve the purpose of bringing down some of the land prices in this country because even Senator Barker with his limited knowledge of economics knows the rule of supply and demand and, therefore, if you have more land available obviously prices would come down but there is a scarcity of land and once there is scarcity, prices are going to be high.

So the Government should take some of the land which is in the land bank and make it available to people, pay closer attention to what is happening in the National Housing Corporation (NHC), stop the wastage of money that is going on and provide housing for the people of this country.

I thank you.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, this Resolution before us is of tremendous importance to the areas of Brittons Hill and Forde's Road. One is for housing and the other is for a recreational facility.

Sir, before I go in depth in terms of these particular areas and speak about the acquisitions and the construction of properties in Barbados, the former speaker spoke about the record of this Administration as being pathetic. Sir, what is pathetic is the lack of responsibility and caring under his Administration in creating housing lots and making them

available to individuals for building houses during their tenure. Sir, I believe you can count them on the few fingers we have on our two hands together. So if the Member wants to talk about pathetic, he needs to look into the annals of the Democratic Labour Party and their responsibility during their tenure.

Sir, he also talked about where monies were being spent and where they should perhaps be spent in building houses. Sir, I am going to mention this because the truth of the matter is that after all this time we have now been able to make some functional use of this particular facility and I speak of the Sherbourne Conference Centre. History is very important to note because at the time when that facility was being built more Barbadians were crying out for housing in the St. Michael East area and other parts of St. Michael which is still densely populated and Christ Church mirrors that. So if the Member would do his homework, he should remember that you should not throw stones when you live in a glass house.

Mr. President, the recreational facility that has been identified for this Bonnetts New Road area comes at a good time because it is long overdue. The Leader of Government Business in his opening remarks spoke in great detail to the areas that would benefit from such a facility. The people of Brittons Hill and Bonnetts will benefit from the use of this facility.

Sir, this facility would be a natural complement to the Bonnetts Community Centre which is just a stone's throw away because if we are looking at developing people in communities and ensuring that they have facilities at their disposal for the expansion of their entire being, not only the mind-set but the physical well being as well, one could only laud this Administration for identifying this area and moving in this manner to acquire this land so that we can have not only the improvement of the physical being by recreational facilities but also the benefit of the community centre in close proximity.

Sir, the area that is proposed for this recreational facility is at a juncture where the road leading to it is quite dangerous. Just this past week I was in the area and a young man asked me to see if we cannot get something done about the dangerous curve because people drive there like if they are at Bushy Park. Sir, if you are familiar with the area, it goes in a direction that will take you up to Bonnetts or it can take you straight into the area to go into Bonnetts from the back end and it is at that juncture that this facility is proposed. So anytime we finally bring this recreational facility to life, we must ensure that the road approaching it is also taken into consideration and that we have some sort of indicator, it cannot be a stop sign, to give direction to those turning right if they are coming from town so that they can advance with caution.

Sir, the other aspect of the Resolution speaks to housing development. The Leader of Government Business gave us the size of the lot which is really, I would want to say, almost minuscule and could perhaps only hold as many as six to eight lots which is a real drop in the ocean with regard to the need for housing not only in this part of Barbados but across the length and breadth of Barbados generally but six more of the pile is better than none and so bit by bit we continue in this vain.

Sir, as we continue to look at the conditions for housing and of housing in Barbados, something readily comes to mind and that is the number of houses across the length and breadth of Barbados which are in a state of disrepair and overrun by bush. I am well aware that some of these properties may be privately owned and in dispute with families. In close proximity to that area and the surrounding environs there are a number of these properties. I would wish that, as an Administration, we could find some way of bringing pressure to bear on the owners to resolve those disputes because the truth of the matter is that these properties could be well used and then the landlords could certainly make a dollar out of it. This would really help to feed the dire need for housing for those looking for lodging.

I agree with the Senator who spoke previously who referred to what he called the lower class but I prefer to call them the lower socio-economic group because it has nothing to do with what class you are but your financial ability to pay. This alienation by class is something that we have to watch in this country because it is not from whence you came but where you will end up. We have to be very careful not to keep referring to people as lower class because when you talk about lower class people you are not giving those people any inspiration to want to move up and to be able to live in any type of housing that they choose whether or not there is a backyard.

Sir, the truth of the matter is that people are happy to have somewhere to call their own with or without a backyard. Those people in the London Bourne Towers on Bay Street do not have a backyard but they certainly have a wonderful front view and they are able to make do.

In countries where the population is dense, such as in Barbados, it is not always that you can have a lot where you can plant *et cetera*.
3.10 p.m.

The comment was made that when one moves to high-rise housing it is unhealthy, but statistics would show that as long as there is some element of green provided amongst the concrete for recreation or for sitting out, it does not have the same impact on the psyche of the residents in the area.

Sir, to continue. This Government can only be lauded in its efforts in creating opportunities for housing. If you look at the acquisition of housing and land through NHC and in some instances the Urban Development Commission, this programme that the Barbados Labour Party as a government has, will redound to the benefit of those living in the tenancies. In Christ Church, the area under discussion today, there are any amount of tenancies. I believe they are far in excess of 17 maybe even 34, I heard the Parliamentary representative say some weeks back. This programme by way of the Urban Development Commission where the persons wishing to purchase will spend \$2.50 and the Government will meet the remainder ensuring that landlords are not disadvantaged by the difference in market price and statutory price, is also an initiative of this Administration.

Sir, I do not believe that it is fair for any person with or without a political agenda to make a point that this Administration is not doing anything to advance the interests and the cause and betterment of the lives of people with regard to housing in Barbados. Sir, this Resolution that is before us will redound well to the people of this constituency and this community and I look forward to additional acquisitions of a similar kind although I recognise that in this area under review there really and truly is not a lot of available land and so wherever we are able to maximise space I believe that we should do so and continue the improvement for living conditions of people in Christ Church and in all other densely populated areas of Barbados.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution before the Chamber because I am of the view that anything which can be done within our limited resources to provide land for housing or for recreational purposes should be lauded. I think that there are two areas within our efforts at development which are in need of as much of our resources and our support as we can possibly give.

In the matter of the provisions for recreation, these are particularly important because we have to find more and more ways by which we might be able to appeal to the able-bodied in our community to find ways by which they can improve themselves by physically exerting themselves and by using the occasion of their exertion, be it in collective sport or in exercising just by a simple walk, ways by which we are able to help people to have sounder bodies, to move together as members of communities and to build community spiritedness.

It is our hope that by building the community from that manner up that we might be able to reduce the level of tension and the level of differences which exist between

people, leading sometimes to unsocial behaviour in many of our corridors of social life in the country. It would be very useful if at this particular time in our experience, this particular area of Brittons Hill and its environs were targeted for such social improvement, because that area has recently been a source of much public attention in an adverse manner, a manner which I believe the citizens themselves might not have been happy to recognise and one where the young people demonstrated very clearly that it was not their wish to have the kinds of public acrimony directed towards them. Indeed, they were of the view that some of the adverse and anti-social behaviour was imported into the area.

I think that it is very good that the Government is moving in this direction and I think that it is always good when efforts are made to improve housing and recreational facilities. It comes a matter to me of sadness when such efforts are reduced to football and efforts are made by one Side to denigrate the Other Side in terms of what was done during a particular regime and what was not done without there being a very clear recognition that all parties and all Governments of Barbados have tried to the extent of their capacity over time to provide these things because they are basic things. It is a fundamental which is carried out by any government and all the Governments of Barbados, in my view, have been good governments and have tried to do this. It becomes an exercise in spitting in the air when you hear so much political rubbish of which Government did this and which Government did not do that. I would hope that we in this particular Chamber are able to recognise that, though some of us have to canvass for the future that we may have our eyes on, we understand that our role is bigger than the role in Another Place.

On the matter of housing, Sir, such sounder housing as we have been speaking to is necessary and every effort should be made to provide as much of it as we can whether there are large numbers of units as they have been in some places or there are only six or seven or eight units in certain areas of the Barbados environment.

I have seen, for example, that there have only been six in a certain area that used to be close to me, an area that is becoming closer to me again. We can say these things as we pass along but whether it is small numbers of houses or very large numbers of houses, what I would like to suggest is that there be sounder housing. We do not, in my view, have the resources available to us to enter into what I call fanciful constructions. Sound, aesthetically beautiful without being fanciful and extravagant would be my recommendation to whoever and whichever is the Minister involved and whoever and whichever is the Government in the same way that I would make a similar appeal for all roads and sides of the roads and the walls at the sides of the roads be sound, aesthetically proper, without being unnecessarily fanciful and money wasting in their designs and construction.

There is a need to ensure that housing fits into the needs and the expectations of the relevant end users. There will of necessity be a priority given in some areas to former residents in that area and I would think that we have to ensure in housing, be it in Brittons Hill or elsewhere, Mr. President, that those end users have some idea as to what kind of construction there will be and wherever possible that there be some prior consultation to give them an opportunity to express themselves. I heard that when St. Thomas was being given over to that kind of exercise around the time of the last by-election that there was in fact some kind of consultation. That is a good thing and should be maintained not only for election times but by and large at all times.

I think further, Mr. President, that there needs to be transparency and full disclosure regarding where the housing is, regarding when the housing is likely to be available and regarding who is being targeted for use of those houses. There should not be the mystery which sometimes officials in what used to be Country Road would give to persons who are applying regarding where the house is and who may or may not apply.

There are far too many occasions when people go to National Housing Corporation and are given responses which are so unclear, so mysterious, so "double-talkish", that the citizens of Barbados do not know and indeed find it difficult to be able to discover whether they have an application or not, whether the application is one that will see the light of day or whether they are merely wasting their time.

3.20 p.m.

There has to be a better understanding of where people stand in matters of such national importance. Indeed, they have to do this, because I do not believe that Senator McClean was wrong when he said that the National Housing Corporation is unable to deal with all of the housing demands that there are. I think that no Government should be unwilling to recognise this as being so. The reality is that most people in Barbados prefer to own a single unit rather than to enter into housing in such a manner that they share even in townhouse-type buildings.

Nowadays, increasingly when children have got past the age of graduation from high school, they are making demands on the stock of housing in this country in much the same way that their counterparts are doing in larger metropolitan countries and Government will hardly be able to build the number of houses to satisfy the demand that there is for such houses.

There ought to be some understanding of the process and the person who has applied for a house ten years ago ought to be in a position to believe that their number will be at the top in three years time. This would be so if there was

a transparent system where houses are allocated to immediate emergencies, some are applied to critical family situations that have to be addressed and the others are by a process of regular movement from demand to being put in the queue to be satisfied.

Unfortunately, over the years that I have been associated with this requirement for housing at all levels, I have not been able to find such a transparent means of recognising when a person is able to acquire some form of housing and there has to be an attempt made to make this a reality.

Mr. President, housing has been so important to all aspects of people in Barbados that my organisation thought over the years that it would get involved in the exercise and the Barbados Workers Union went into the process of building some houses in the 1970's. We are not satisfied with what has been done up to now and we are trying to build another set of houses.

Mr. President, I wish with your permission to use this occasion to explain to those members of the public who misunderstand what is being done the following things that will happen.

The intention is to build houses at a cost which will help to contain the overall cost in the commercial market. This is one of the reasons why we were able to support a national bank because we feel that housing, like banking, if it is done by the people might be able to prevent the commercial levels from getting out of hand.

Sir, we are endeavouring in the construction of these houses not to go outside of Barbados and engage foreign interest to build the houses. We are trying to link with local business persons in a venture in which the trade union and private enterprise will be willing to build proper, affordable housing. We have made our position clear to members of the public in the private sector and we did not get the level of interest that we expected so we listened to two presentations that were made outside of Barbados.

The one we have gone for in Mangrove is one where we are using a Mr. Drakes, a Barbadian who migrated to Canada and is now back and wants to make a contribution. The model house will be finished in another couple of weeks and we hope when the public sees the model house they will make their thoughts known and give us some idea whether that type of house is one they would wish to purchase.

The model house has a PVC coating on the outside and inside and the in-between parts are filled with cement. This approach makes the house very strong and this arrangement will reduce the building cost because it can be done much more quickly than the traditional way of building. Mr. President, we want to ensure that we are able to help in

building the housing stock for the people of Barbados.

Mr. President, when we have taken time and public finances to put down houses in these estates, we ought to be able to count on all Barbadian and visitors to Barbados to respect the significant contribution which the taxpayers of Barbados are making to housing in this country and to the quality of life that we have.

It is a source of very great concern to all of us to find that there is so much disregard for housing, especially public housing as we are finding in this country, be it vandalism in the private houses, abuse of schools, abuse of churches or other public institutions as we know them.

Mr. President, it must be a matter for very grave alarm that we have now reached the position where we do not understand that these buildings belong to all of us, that these playing fields belong to all of us, that these institutions wherever they are, are built with our money and we need to protect them and give them unto our children in a condition that is as close to the condition which they were in when they were given to us as guardians.

Mr. President, I would like to use this occasion to appeal through this Chamber to all Barbadians whatever their walk in life to understand that it does not make us bigger men or women when we vandalise and destroy.
3.30 p.m.

In fact, it cheapens us as men and women when we believe that the way forward is to pull down and destroy. We have to take a new approach to those things that belong to us in common – our playing fields, community centres, housing stock – all must be safeguarded for when we do not safeguard them, we have to pay the price to re-establish them.

I think at that point I would like to thank you very much for your patience, Mr. President.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I rise to support this Resolution which speaks to the compulsory acquisition of land at Brittons Hill and Forde's Road, Clapham, for the purposes of providing recreational facilities and housing development for the people of those areas and, by extension, for Barbados.

Mr. President, we believe the provision of housing is one of the most serious activities this Government is undertaking. As we look around, we notice that the level of housing leaves something to be desired and that any Government must take urgent steps to ensure that adequate housing is provided for the people of that country.

Sir, we found a very difficult situation when we came to office in 1994; there was virtually no land available for housing purposes and, for the first few years, we had to institute a very vigorous programme to get land available for the National Housing Corporation to pursue the activity for which they were created in the first place. Not only that, Sir, we sought to ensure the land that the NHC provided to tenants was at an affordable price even if it meant that there must be some element of subsidisation in this country.

Sir, that is a very important step because we note that the land sold by private developers was out of line and that Government had to use its own resources to try to bring about some mitigating effect on the price of land. Sir, we have to continue doing this. In addition, especially in urban Barbados which is dominated by a lot of tenantry land, Government has sought to transfer ownership of those lands to the people at a cost of \$2.50 per square foot. That programme is a revolutionary one and will bring tremendous benefits. Sir, when the plantation tenantry was sold at ten cents per square foot, it meant a total revolution in the housing stock in rural Barbados and in the whole country. Sir, we expect that this measure which only came about a year ago and obviously will take some time to come to fruition will mean improvement in the housing stock.

Sir, I note with pleasure whenever we get a copy of the census which has an element of housing in it, that the percentage of houses in Barbados with waterborne toilet facilities has increased over the years. The Government has embarked on an ambitious programme which must be supported, especially by our elderly people by using their own money to get the benefit of Government's generosity and vision. Sir, we have to do everything possible to improve the standard of housing in this country. Sir, we do not believe in getting credit; we do things because we know it is our duty to do them and that we were elected so to do. Sir, for example, the 60 per cent mortgage that was introduced approximately two years ago, will mean a tremendous amount to the lower income people who are finding that to get a better house is becoming increasingly difficult because of the increase in ranges of houses and also in material to build. Therefore this mortgage meant a saving in interest loan of \$3 000 on a \$100 000 mortgage which meant that the low income earner is in a better position to go to the lending facility and access loans with significantly reduced repayments because of this 6 per cent mortgage as opposed to 9 per cent, which was normally charged.

Sir, Government must be commended for doing these things; it shows that we are responsive to the needs of the people. Sir, but with this 60 per cent mortgage there is a ceiling of \$100 000 which means that it is not meant for the middle income earner. It means that the union chief would not be able to qualify for it. The point is that Government, through the aid of the National Housing Corporation, *et*

cetera, is seeking to bring about a positive effect on our housing stock. One may argue that these things take some time but, Sir, everything has a gestation period. At times we want instant solutions but we have to work through the process. We will ensure that we mandate the agencies to move more swiftly while, at all times, respecting the building regulations. Obviously, we would not want the NHC to build houses without the relevant permission. They have to get Town and Country Planning's permission and must own the land too, because we would not want the NHC to be squatting. The law must be respected in totality. While bearing this in mind, the agency has to move with such dispatch. There is an urgent need for us to accelerate the rate at which we are providing housing in this country and that is something on which all three Sides in here have agreed.

Sir, if it means that in some cases we have to provide high-rise housing, there might be some persons in Barbados who, despite of all the socialization, would not mind a high-rise housing. Some would appreciate it, others would not but, as far as possible, we have to cater to the mixed.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I was told that I have a limited knowledge of economics, but my knowledge of supply and demand would allow me to say that we have to maximize utility, given the budget constraints that we have.

Sir, the point is, when I hear people talking about "putting people in boxes" I asked myself, are they calling the London Bourne Towers "boxes"? Sir, if they are, then they are calling those houses in Millennium Heights "boxes" too, because they are high-rise.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you are ranging widely and perhaps wildly. Would you please come back to the Resolution?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I was just responding to the fact that in the provision of housing the NHC may have to consider seriously high-rise housing and I would not want anybody in here to refer to the housing provided in this matter as "boxes". Sir, the point is that there is a mix of demand out there – in Brittons Hill, Clapham, Mangrove – that they would wish to cater to.

Sir, this land that we are speaking about will provide the means where some people will have their housing demand satisfied. We are looking forward to more of these Resolutions because we are not going to follow the examples of any other Administration in the past for we see this as our mandate to provide housing for the people of

Barbados, not only ourselves but we also have to create the environment where people with the means can satisfy their own housing demand without having to resort to Government, for Government will never be in the position to provide all the housing that is needed. There is also the role for trade unions, insurance companies, banks, *et cetera*, to do what they could in order to help satisfy the demand that is out there.

Sir, this is something that we all must become involved in. I am a little worried that we may have to train more artisans. I am told that because of the increase in housing activities in the past few years, there is a strain in the production of artisans in order to satisfy this demand. These are areas where institutions like the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the Government Skills Training Programme and others will have to look at and find ways of accelerating their programme in order to satisfy the demand for skilled labour.

Sir, I want to commend this Resolution and to see it as another example of this progressive Government seeking to fulfill its mandate which the people of this country so generously gave us three years ago and for which we are ever grateful, because we are going to want to have another mandate in a few years' time and, therefore, we have to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of our people. I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: I rise briefly to try to bring a perspective to this debate which I suspect has not been extensively canvassed before this Honourable Chamber.

Asides.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: I know that, Sir, because of the fact that I have not yet heard it canvassed and therefore I have no difficulty in pointing out to Senator Rickinson that I feel comfortable in making that point.

Sir, the Resolution very clearly speaks to providing both recreational and housing facilities in the areas under review – Britton's Hill New Road and Forde's Road. Sir, I would want to say that I will eschew during the course of the contribution, any temptation howsoever juicy it might be, to play the ball thrown up on the off-stump by some of the Senators on that Side and get into the partisan bickering.

I think, Sir, that we have lost part of the point of this debate perhaps of the fact that we have been paying too much attention to the partisanship.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member, perhaps too full of exuberance, is misleading the House. The sum total of his presentation is that we have been irrelevant and have not stuck to the subject. I do not think that according to the Rules

he has the right to make any such accusation; only you can make any such accusations, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I took a more generous view of his contribution. I rather thought that that was the interpretation he was putting on the proceedings, however misguided, and I am persuaded to stick on that point until I find reason to rule otherwise.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: I thank you, Sir, but it is with some alarm that I hear Senator Trotman, because I was just about to pay credence to his contribution. That apart, I continue with the intention so to do.

Sir, I want specifically to speak to the question of the Resolution's terminology which is basically a duality of recreational and housing facilities and I certainly will not accuse any of the Senators who have contributed as being irrelevant. I think that we may have eclipsed somewhat the question of the recreational facilities.

Sir, I think it is a widely accepted fact in Barbados that one of the most chronic concerns facing the people of this country is the question of improved housing accommodation. Irrespective of what part of the country one goes to, what constituency one visits or have an interest in, housing is one of the critical issues that come out. Sir, part of the problem in Barbados, as I see it, is that in planning our development we perhaps have also not paid sufficient attention to the question of the recreational facility which ought properly to go along with housing development scheme.

I think, Sir, that in a real sense especially if we look at the area under review – and I do not want to only focus on that particular area – but I think as Senator Trotman has quite rightly alluded to, there are certain aspects of social difficulty which have been attributed to the areas in question which, perhaps, would not necessarily be attributed to other areas. When one looks at the demographics of the society that are involved in social problems, one recognises that invariably, the same problem has been seen in various part of the island – Silver Hill, Gall Hill and Sayers Court. Essentially, what we are looking at is a problem which, in some way, impacts on a catchment of the lower income earners, many of whom are young, most of whom are male and invariably black.

Now, Sir, I say that we may have treated too lightly the question of recreational facilities because of the fact that, historically in Barbados, when one speaks of housing, it is done in the context of a burning need to provide accommodation for persons to have a shelter. I accept that, but I am also saying that I think a significant part of our

human development must be to ensure that the quality of life in the society in which one is growing up in the community in which one is living, in the neighbourhood where there are friends, *et cetera*, must be to facilitate that community with proper recreational facilities.

Sir, I recognise that at the level of Government there are limited and scarce resources. Even as I say that I am mindful of the fact that the Opposition here today have indicated that the levels of taxation are too high and the natural consequence of that must be that, if their voices are to be heard, there would have to be some reduction in the take from the public's purse and therefore a more limited budget for Government. Sir, one still has to remember that in the absence of good recreational facilities – and recreational facilities which are evenly and fairly distributed across the geographical landscape of Barbados – especially in those communities which have historically been characterized as trouble spots, the absence of that recreational facility, I fear, leads us to a form of social dis-cohesion. What do I mean by that?

3.50 p.m.

I mean, Sir, that you have a situation where people are looking to find a way of burning off some energy, looking to find a place where they can meet and spend time with friends and looking to find a way in which they enjoy some favourite pastime. There is a marked, in fact, a chronic absence of those facilities.

The by-product of that absence is, as the old people would say, the devil finds work for idle hands. That is, people easily become more led astray into activities which are deemed to be deviant and socially wayward, because of the fact that there is perhaps nothing better to do than to loiter on a street corner. There is a shortage of useful and productive ways of tapping the energies, not only physical, but mental and I want to make that point very strenuously to the Honourable Chamber.

Recreational facilities in Barbados have, from the time I was a little boy, Sir, been treated as though they are nothing but a football field or a cricket field to run about on and even then, badly maintained and poorly managed so it became a bumpy field where you perhaps run the risk of suffering more injury, if you went on it, than if you decided to go and do something else, which is of a deviant nature.

Sir, I think that part of our problem has to be in the solution which is offered by increasing access to community centres. I would want to take the opportunity to congratulate the Government because of the fact that they have a recent policy of moving from just the community centre to the community resource centre where there are computer facilities being implemented and skills being taught to utilise the productive energies of an intellectual and cerebral nature.

I will never be one, Sir, who would just associate the avoidance of deviance and indiscipline for young people by just giving them a football field to run about on because that is like saying that you are to be treated like sheep where you are put on a field and you run wild. You will find nothing, but you cannot run astray. Senator Laurie will say that is entirely what happens with sheep but sometimes they do run astray.

Sir, I think that we need therefore, as we look at this Resolution to recognise that not only in the area under consideration, but in all future projects where we are going to be looking at land requisition, wherever possible to try to bear in mind the need to fit hand in glove the provision of recreational facilities with the housing development accommodation that we are seeking to address.

Sir, even as one says that, again one is tempted to reflect on the excellent contribution made by Senator Trotman. In a real sense, the problem cannot really begin and end with the Government because in any facility – let me speak now to the Government's aspect of such facilities – recreational facilities in Barbados, even the ones, Sir, which are deemed to be community resource centres, are pointless and useless to the people of the community, if they are too far and few between to serve adequately a large catchment area.

I will go back to the same area, Sir, because if you start in Brittons Hill and you move in a southerly direction, let us imagine because it is not defined in here. It just speaks to recreational facilities and for all I know there may not even be a plan to have a community resource centre. I know that under the able lobbying of certain Senators, Sir, there may very well be one, and of course the able lobbying of the Sitting Member himself.

Sir, if one were to move in a more southern direction, one would not come across a community resource centre until one got to Silver Hill. Thereafter, one would have to be in St. Philip. There are many communities which lie between that space therefore I am saying, Sir, that there is a real danger that we do not have the resources to adequately service what I perceive to be a crying need for these types of recreational facilities in Barbados. My fear, Sir, when I speak to social dis-cohesion, is that we cannot be on one hand recognising that our human resource product is our most useful resource in the island and on the other hand, we are saying that we have to develop that human resource product. The wherewithal, the actual physical resources are not necessarily adequately placed at the disposal of the communities which we are hoping to uplift and advance. I think that is a real concern in matters of this nature.

I spoke, Sir, to the question of the Government. It is not the be all, and the end all in that exercise and I would want to say that there has also – before I go to the actual private citizens – to be a recognition by Government that it makes no sense having the resources, if they were there, shut down at 4:00 p.m. or at 10:00 a.m. and Sir, I can speak with a certain degree of an abundance of authority.

If you visit the average pavilion in Barbados which is going back to the basis concept, the undeveloped concept of a recreational facility, you have a playing field and a pavilion but, Sir, if the pavilion is shut all day long, or shut at 4.00 p.m. because some groundsman has not gotten there yet, or nobody can find the keys or what have you, then you have defeated the purpose of it as a meeting place, a place where clubs will conduct their business and a place where persons will go for other activities. It defeats the purpose to have these places shut down and inaccessible to the very people for whom they are designed and set up at great public expense to serve.

Sir, that absence of that facility breathes frustration which then only adds to the dis cohesion in the society. When the politicians come a-knocking and calling and so on, you are confronted with that frustration because the people will say, and rightly so, that it makes no sense, we did not have a pavilion, we needed one, we get it and then it is shut down so what have we achieved.

My fear, Sir, if we go to the next stage which I think is a natural and logical stage for which I congratulate Government, I think that the community resource centres are going to be significantly impactful in advancing the quality of life in communities in Barbados. The only problem I have with them is that perhaps they are not sufficient but if they are treated in the same way that the average pavilion is treated, whereby the resources are inaccessible, then we will only add to that frustration and that dis cohesion.

Sir, I turn to the role that the average citizen can play and I think that this point has been made to some extent by Senator Trotman. I honestly believe that we need in Barbados to recognise that when facilities are placed at the disposal of our communities, they really are the people's investment. We have a way of saying that the Government built this but the Government is the people. At the end of the day, the taxpayer's pocket is financing it and no individual person in the community may have gone and bought cement and the sand and the bricks and the nails *et cetera* but the public purse has financed all of it.

The question of maintenance of those facilities becomes critical and the point has to go home to people in Barbados that we cannot just neglect and inflict reckless wear and tear on facilities purely because, say, I did not have to pay for them. Equally, Sir, the Government must not

be enslaved in the matter because far too often public investments are not maintained by the Crown itself so that natural wear and tear, painting and so on of the outside, coming inside and making sure that the light fixtures are still in proper order and that the water is running and so on, many times constitutes the wastage and again, Sir, adds to the frustration that people feel when they have to make use of these things.

I think, Sir, that as we move into a society where we are becoming increasingly conscious of the collective responsibility that we as citizens have to play to advance our own stake in our community and our own community stake in a narrowing region, we therefore have to take these considerations more seriously.

I, Sir, am not one who will berate the question of housing other than to say that I do not believe that there is genuinely a Government in Barbados' history that has not felt some degree of urgency about housing. I think there has been significant instances of mismanagement to which Senator Odle has adequately pointed.
4.00 p.m.

I want to say that we have to be making sport when we speak of the social status and the presence or absence of somebody having a backyard. Societies which have a far higher Growth Domestic Product than Barbados, societies which are far wealthier than Barbados can ever in its wildest dream be, and societies which have a far greater abundance of natural and physical resources do not enjoy the luxury of everyone having 8 000 square feet or 10 000 square feet of land and so on.

Sir, there will always be divisions in any society. The economists of this world learnt that lesson at great expense to their economies. In the kingdom of heaven there are angels and archangels and that is a class distinction. The reality is that when we speak of social status, we must, therefore, speak about the collective responsibility that we have for maintaining the quality of the environment and the neighbourhood in which we live and work and in which we seek to maintain our existence.

It makes no sense my living in Sandy Lane if my neighbour in Sandy Lane, for all the social class attributed to Sandy Lane, is going to take his garbage and "skin it out" in the middle of the road or bring in a pig to run wild, because that will affect the entire collective and the same principle applies wherever you are. It has nothing to do with somebody having a backyard or not having a backyard, because I made the point *sotto voce* and I will make it now, if I visit any of the condominium developments in Barbados that are being sold for \$400 000 and \$750 000 I am not going

to find the backyard, I will probably find some collective communal facilities but those communal collective facilities exist in the form of community centres and club houses across the street in other districts and so on.

So, Sir, I think that there is a great danger in becoming artificially divisive along class lines when really and truly the signal that ought to be sent is one of greater social responsibility carried by each and every person who claims to be proud to call themselves a Barbadian.

If for narrow partisan political purposes, we come to the Parliament of this country to talk about who has a backyard and who does not have a backyard, we will be asking for a terrible segregation in this country because the reality is that there are many people who, in spite of having tremendous wealth and in spite of having access to many resources, opt to live in high-rise buildings in other parts of the world and right here in Barbados without the backyard.

It is equally possible for someone to have no backyard and to have a Mercedes Benz parked in front the building, in the car park or out in the road. Sir, I do not like to see us going down that road. I think we will do ourselves the worst possible disservice if we appealed to the basic level of human thinking and I do not like to see that. I think that the level of the debate could be significantly increased and contribution done greater justice to than to go that route.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I rise to make a contribution in this debate with a certain degree of discomfort because whenever I hear of the National Housing Corporation (NHC) being involved in anything I start to worry. The first thing is that over the last three to four years this corporation has incurred massive losses.

It is unfortunate that we do not get the reports of statutory bodies on time because I do think that the National Housing Corporation finances have reached a state of crisis and it would be exceedingly instructive if we were in possession of the detailed accounts of the operation of the National Housing Corporation because this corporation has failed miserably particularly in the last four to five years. In fact, given the historical evidence I have, there is no doubt that the accumulated operating deficit at the National Housing Corporation (NHC) has to be in excess of \$25 million at this time.

This is a source of worry and, therefore, when I am told that the National Housing Corporation is acquiring land and is hoping to develop housing, it is a major concern to me. My concern, though, while not rooted in the finances of the National Housing Corporation are indeed somewhat justified when I look at the Report of the Accounts and Statements prepared by the Accountant General which is

dated September 2001 although we only received it today.

At page 24 of this Report, we are told that for this fiscal year ending March 2002 that the housing programme under item 520 under the Ministry of Housing and Lands and subprogram 533 of the National Housing Corporation there was an allocation of \$4.07 million for the Ministry's housing programme for this fiscal year. As of September 2001 which would have been into half year of the fiscal year, the actual level of expenditure was already \$3.6 million, giving us a remainder of a mere \$400 000 to be spent in the national housing programme for the year.

Now, as at September 2001, the National Housing Corporation has already spent \$3.6 million of its \$4 million budget. I would wish if Honourable Members on the Other Side would tell me what money is available for a housing programme to be conducted under the National Housing Corporation because I repeat, Mr. President, that according to this document we have before us, the National Housing Corporation has already spent most of the entire budget for the fiscal year. In all fairness, Mr. President, there is no way in which a mere \$4 million could provide a major housing programme in any fiscal year. There is no way in which a mere \$4 million could constitute a major housing programme on the part of this Government and in an economy that has seen housing increased by more than 100 per cent over the last five years. As I said already, there is only \$400 000 left for the last six months.

I understand the need to parade. I understand the need to jump up and down...

4.10 p.m.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. President, the Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. He is saying that the National Housing Corporation is only spending \$4 million, but he needs to give us an idea of the budget of the NHC. It does not only get its money from the State, the NHC gets its money from sales and rents and other means. So to say we are only throwing \$4 million on housing is totally false, and the Honourable Member must not mislead the Senate in this way.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, that is a minor point. It is of no relevance to this debate. In fact...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll you are not questioning the validity of the point, you are just saying it is minor?

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, as you well know, sometimes you can make a point that is not totally correct. It may have a semblance of the truth in it and I am saying there is some semblance of truth in that, except

to say that it is very insignificant in this debate. The other sources of finance for the National Housing Corporation would come primarily from the collection of rents which have been minor again because there has been a major complaint. In any given year, the amount of rent collected by NHC does not exceed \$7 million. In fact it hardly exceeds \$5 million.

To make the point if Government had in its possession adequate finance for the fiscal year it would not by the half of the fiscal year have taken up as much as \$3.6 million out of a \$4 million budget. It would not have made sense for that to have occurred. To suggest that there are other sources of financing, of course, we know but what I am suggesting is that the stated budgetary amount for a housing programme under the NHC was a mere \$4 million. Indeed, when one looks at the other sources of finances there has been no major finance raised by the National Housing Corporation since the days of Minister George Payne.

Indeed, we well recall that there was a housing bond of \$50 million of which the majority has been used to build the back office in Warrens and that has been a national disgrace.

At the time of raising the bond it was suggested that those funds would have gone towards the building of middle to low-income housing in Barbados. Instead, the \$30 million was taken out of the first tranche to be used to build Government offices in Warrens and in fact what really happened is that when questioned the Government said that it had a change of heart because it made more sense to build Government offices and rent them out, accumulate the rent and then embark on a housing programme for low-income and middle-income Barbadians. That was said in 1998 in the debate.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member when he is waxing warm, but he is misleading the Chamber when he said that the Government made such a declaration. Government's rationale for building the Warrens Complex is that Government has a phenomenal annual rent bill which it pays largely to the private sector and that is a major reason why that was built.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, at the time of the issuing of the housing bond it was stated in the Resolution that the funds were raised to build middle and low-income housing for Barbadians. It then became a major surprise that \$30 million was taken out for the building of the Government offices.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, I have a duty to ensure that this debate does not get out of hand. What is before us is about recreational facilities and housing development at Brittons Hill and Fordes Road. I am not sure what a bond at Warrens and the like has to do with this

debate so I am merely asking you to stick to the Resolution. I have been very generous in this debate but I think we are ranging far too wide.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I can well understand the concern now that certain jobs have been placed. I am saying that my starting position was that I expressed concern that the National Housing Corporation is once again involved in the acquisition of land for the purposes of housing development and that is a major concern which I have, even as it relates to the acquisition of land in this debate, it is still my concern that the NHC is not properly placed to be conducting such an adventure.

While I understand the concerns about wide-ranging, I am simply questioning how it is that the NHC in its present financial state is going to be in a position to place houses on the land that is being acquired. That is the major question which I have to ask and, therefore, it fits snugly into the Resolution before me, because I am suggesting that I have major concerns as to how it can achieve the objective being stated in the Resolution that housing development along with recreational facilities form the major reason for the acquisition of this land.

On the question of the finances, I am seeking to demonstrate by way of this very able document before us, prepared by none other than the Accountant General, to show that the existing state of finance at the NHC remains a major source of concern so that I am questioning the capacity therefore of this Corporation to execute the proposed housing development.

Let me go further because there was some attempt to put the establishment of recreational facilities within the sociological framework.
4.20 p.m.

I was able to gather that there was a major attempt on the part of Senator Symmonds to cleverly construct a political environment around the sociology component and having done his canvassing has now recognised that there are certain requirements being put before him by potential constituents who have expressed major concern over the operation of recreational facilities in general across this country, particularly in the south. Therefore, his contribution was exceedingly worthwhile if only because it demonstrated a major lack of managerial capacity on the part of this Administration even in a simple area such as recreational facilities. It demonstrated that quite effectively as far as I gather.

There is no doubt that in almost every constituency across Barbados there is need for upgrading of recreational facilities because the major way in which we can attempt to cushion some of the impact of the social fall-out is once

again to appeal to sports and culture. We have not done enough of that in recent times. Perhaps we are also seeing the recognition of the importance of culture because of the holding of this Ministry by none other than the Prime Minister of Barbados. I would hope that the Prime Minister sees the need to link culture and sports rather than see culture as the wherewithal for achieving his stated objective.

I think I have been able to glean from all of this that there is a very powerful tool called culture that can be used at the community level to consolidate control and power. I think that interpretation is the best one I can put to the Prime Minister who, at this stage, recognises the importance of culture in consolidating power and control over communities in Barbados. Indeed, it is a very instructive way in which communities can be addressed and rebuilt.

It is very difficult for us to locate exactly what we mean by culture even within the rural and urban areas of Barbados. There is no standard way of doing this.

You can take culture to its logical level of creating job and career opportunities for the youth in some areas and, therefore, any other development that seeks to embrace housing and recreational facilities must also go to that level that has been so well demonstrated within the Pinelands community.

We all know that in that particular community the example was so lauded that Government sought to put additional financing into that particular venture to carry it to the next level of operation and it has become a model that has been embraced even beyond the shores of Barbados and there is no good reason why we should allow that model to escape the eyes of other communities across Barbados.

Mr. President, I am simply saying that while the Resolution may in its limited form restrict us to look at housing development and recreational facilities that in its much broader context it has a sociological dimension and there are other components of it which are even more important in terms of the economic worth that can be derived from such a marriage between housing and recreational facilities.

It is on that note that I regard the National Housing Corporation as being inadequate in its recent history in really carrying such a venture to the highest possible level of attainment.

The National Housing Corporation, especially since the last Minister, George Payne, has proven to be an area that can now be classified as being a national disgrace.
4.30 p.m.

I would wish, for the sake of this Chamber and the

other Chamber that, in the not-too-distant future, we are allowed the opportunity to peruse the financial status of that corporation which, in the last two to three years, has been run miserably and which has not yet reached the stage where it should even be regarded as being capable of competence; that we take it seriously and understand that it is no longer the case of simply acquiring a piece of land for the sake of demonstrating an interest in housing development. Sir, when one looks at the capacity to deliver such a corporation has no such capacity.

I am indeed convinced deep in my heart of the inadequacies of that corporation. I also believe Members on the Other Side are of equal persuasion but, in the fullness of time, they will have to verify what are the perceptions or the reality. The reality of this matter is that we have reached the stage where something has to be done to restructure and reform the NHC. I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Murray.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. President. Sir, throughout his entire speech, the last Speaker, Senator Mascoll, was unrelenting, caustic, harsh in his criticisms of the NHC. Among other things he spoke about was, "Whenever I hear of the NHC I start to worry..." and "There were now massive losses in the NHC that puts it now in a financial crisis..." One of his major concerns was that "the NHC was acquiring land and was unable to develop housing", *et cetera*.

Sir, I very well understand Senator Mascoll's unhappiness with the NHC and its history but I would like to suggest that that history is so recent that it actually revolves around Deacons Farm and a kiosk. Therefore I can understand his pain, his near to tears, the agony in his heart, that he has gone through with regards to the National Housing Corporation. Sir, I feel from hereon nothing the NHC does will ever please him, if only because it enforced the law and sought to ensure that those who want to occupy and build on its property do comply with the law and respect the legal imperatives that surround the work of the Town and Country Planning Department.

Sir, as I rose above his anger, pain, disappointment and dejection, I had to focus on the fact that while he was talking about the small amount that has been left in the NHC's budget for housing development, I, too, have to point out the NHC's source of funding does not only come through the allocation of the Ministry of Finance but also through supplementary funding, rent, sales and even bond issue and therefore to try to characterise the NHC as being bankrupt is unfair and uncharitable.

Sir, I was shocked too when he said that the BLP Government lacks the managerial capacity to handle recreational facilities. I wonder how it is that this could be said about a Government whose management of the affairs of the economy has been lauded by the World Bank, even as recently as Monday night when they spoke to "exceptional governance" and "excellent economic management". Those are the kinds of waters in which Barbados operates at the international level and to hear Senator Mascoll saying that, does not gel with the assessment of the impartial outsider observers, particularly when one considers his management of his party as a leader has not been outstanding; they have not dealt with the questions or the quarrelling of the private sector. Also, Sir, Senator Mascoll dealt with the question of Sports and Culture and said he hopes the Prime Minister, under whose office Culture now falls, sees a need to link sports and culture.

Senator Mascoll likes to establish himself as a phenomenal memory where economic matters are concerned and if he would cast his mind back to August last year, he would remember that the Financial Statement in that presentation had established that there is going to be a Sports and Culture Endowment Fund, to be financed out of a percentage of the tax on gambling, in order to finance sports and culture. Sir, even in August last year the Prime Minister had established a clear governmental link between sports and culture and therefore Senator Mascoll is way out to sea on this one – almost down by Brandon's Beach.

Sir, he has expressed the hope that the Prime Minister's vision of culture would be broader than just dance, theatre, *et cetera*, but on numerous occasions the Prime Minister has said that culture goes beyond dance, theatre, painting, sculpture, *et cetera*. A country's culture represents a way of life: its music, food, values, thinking, education, sport, vending, *et cetera*. Culture goes beyond smocking, cake icing, *et cetera*. Sir, these centres are now resource centres and are offering programmes such as computer programming and desktop publishing and therefore we cannot restrict Barbados to only cake icing, guava cheese making, smocking and doll making. That is the perception and vision of catering to the community needs that the Democratic Labour Party has for Barbadians but we have gone beyond that. If one goes to Black Bess, St. Peter, one can see a resource centre attached to an adjoining pavilion which leads onto a playing field and therefore the linkage is there, there is no need to speculate about it.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair, Senator.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, this land acquisition has to do with the provision and creation of recreational facilities and housing development but before going to that, I want to deal with a number of

complaints that were made by Senator McClean.

Mention was made by both Senators Mascoll and McClean about buildings that are being erected on behalf of the NHC at Warrens and Country Road. The point is, Sir, that we have made no secret of the fact that we are unhappy at the rate of progress on these two projects. As a matter of fact, steps have been taken to demonstrate that unhappiness and therefore it is not as though something is happening and we have not recognized it. If one looks at the management of Barbados' affairs, what has happened at Warrens and at Country Road, cannot be taken as the norm for this Government's administration of affairs and therefore those two projects are aberrations which are being looked at; for we have already expressed our dissatisfaction and unhappiness with them. Sir, it is therefore ridiculous to seek to establish that one has established a choice between building houses for persons or creating office space, as though both are not needed and one does not have to provide one at the expense of the other.

At the same time, it is a clear recognition that Government has a phenomenal and constantly rising rental bill. For example, in the 2001-2002 Estimates, the money provided for rental was \$12.9 million. It is estimated that by the time the new financial year comes, that figure could be in the region of \$17 million. Therefore, it is that large and rising rental bill that has led to the thinking that it would be better in the long run for Government to seek to establish its own quarters in order to save on rent, rather than paying out millions of dollars to the private sector every year.

Sir, not only is the rental of Government offices expensive but there is also a scarcity of good rental accommodation around Bridgetown. Not only that, there are sometimes poor landlords; where Government has been paying high prices for the rental of offices and the landlord does not properly maintain or service these buildings. Therefore the tenants in these buildings are made to suffer, even while Government continues to pay these high rental fees.

Sir, when Government Headquarters was first built, it could have housed all of the Government's Ministries, now it can hardly accommodate one Ministry, for Government has expanded in a way that is unbelievable; and that has to be recognised.

Sir, I am glad that some members have seen the clear linkage that has been established between recreational facilities and housing development and that while this Resolution speaks of two separate parcels of land, there are lands that are basically within the same facility. While housing is being provided in the Forde's Road area, the

recreational facilities will also be abutting and abounding and they would feed into each other. Therefore, by having both the housing and recreational facilities, if not contiguous at least in close proximity, we will be correcting and avoiding some of the problems experienced by both, to which Senator Mascoll alluded. Sir, when the earlier housing districts were built, that was done in response to the demand for housing – the deplorable conditions in the 40's and 50's – that was the thinking then but now more enlightened thinking has come about; people have now learnt from the error of just giving people housing, for they have to be given recreational and artistic facilities for the other expressions of their personalities. In fact, housing and recreational facilities would be what fits into Thomas Malthus' hierarchy of needs, that a person does not just want a house or a job but that there are certain intrinsic demands, desires and motivational needs in a person's being that must cater to that total personality. Sir, when one considers all the other facilities that are planned for that area, there is no doubt that this will inure to the enhancement and improvement in the quality of life for the people in that neighbourhood so that they become better known for things beyond just social deviance or a lighting at Bonnetts, but out of those would come facilities that produce persons who could fit into the mainstream of Barbadian society and enjoy the social mobility that is the dream of every Barbadian and which this Government is seeking to provide.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS OF THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL SUM AND INTEREST DUE IN RESPECT OF THE ISSUE OF BONDS BY THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES TO THE SUM OF US\$10.475 MILLION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN THE FINANCING OF ITS INFRASTRUCTURAL WORK AT THE CAVE HILL CAMPUS

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator the Hon. Dame Patricia Symmonds will take the Chair at this time.

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Madam Deputy President, let me say at the outset I think this Resolution is a very commendable one in support of a regional institution. I dare say, probably the oldest surviving regional institution we have, although I gather some might say that West Indies cricket is an older institution, though we might debate its ability to survive.

Sir, in October, 1948, the University of the West Indies

(UWI) started at the Mona Campus with an intake of 33 medical students and has gradually expanded and grown over the years where I am told that over the years, the UWI has produced more than 50,000 graduates. Over time, it has expanded from Mona to St. Augustine to Cave Hill and to numerous centres throughout the Caribbean.

Over the years, the UWI has produced all renowned persons in all areas, and this is not in question for certainly it has made us proud. Sir, obviously with such growth and expansion over the years, there is need to upgrade and expand these facilities as we get into new areas of specialisation and study.

Sir, in April 1997, the UWI Strategy Committee had a number of meetings and decided that there was need for expansion and more infrastructural development on its Campus territories; Cave Hill was included among these. It was felt that the contributing Governments were experiencing financial difficulties and would be unable to finance this required development by direct budgetary contributions. They thought that individual campuses should be government sponsored bonds and this is how we have come to this stage. At that time, Cave Hill's needs were estimated to be at US\$4 million for the upgrading of student accommodation, campus security and teaching facilities. A long time has elapsed since 1997; they have had need for increased security at Cave Hill and these measures had to be addressed outside of this integrated plan.

In addition, in discussions with Government and the Ministry of Finance, it was felt that US\$4 million was far too small for the viability of a bond issue. Obviously, the priority issues had to be addressed and changed somewhat after the security issue was dealt with. Therefore they came up with a number of areas that needed to be addressed: the refurbishment of the Sherlock Hall, the establishment of a Centre for International Services, the establishment of a Centre for Educational Evaluation – and this became necessary because of Education Reform and the restructuring that is going on throughout the region, an expansion of Sir Arthur Lewis Social and Economic Studies, to deliver both research and graduates trained in social studies and very importantly, the provision for a Creative Arts Centre, teaching research and West Indian cultural development. These are areas that are critically deficient at the Cave Hill Campus at this time.

The Committee also felt that the student accommodation at Sherlock Hall, when renovated, will have 90 rooms with seminar/support facilities and that the Students Union will be expanded and developed to provide an entertainment area on the ground floor and offices on the first floor. The Cafeteria will be relocated to the ground

f l o o r

of the newly renovated Sherlock Hall and is expected to seat 120 persons. In addition it was also felt that the Students Health Clinic should be expanded and upgraded. The cost of this venture will be US\$4 million with the University providing US\$1.5 million, while US\$2.5 million will be coming from this bond issue.

In the case of the Creative Arts Centre, it was felt that this would be a home for the creation of the Visual Arts and would cater to drama, theatre, creative writing, music, sculpture, painting, photography and dance. It is expected to seat approximately 500 persons when completed and will have an exhibition area, music room and a dance studio. The estimated cost for this will be US\$6 million and this is expected to be self-financing in the long run where shows will be held and one would be expected to pay to see those shows.

4.50 p.m.

The development of the Sir Arthur Lewis Centre is expected to cost US\$4 million and the total capital programme will be US\$13.2 million with a bond issue of \$10.475 million. The bond issue will be the Republic Finance and Merchant Bank of Trinidad and I believe the details are on the schedule of the Resolution.

A UWI Guarantee of Bonds Bill, 2001 I believe was passed in the Senate on August 03, 2001 and this Resolution is now seeking basically to give effect to the Government's guarantee. Obviously, I cannot reiterate the importance of this regional institution to all of us. I think quite a number of us would have benefited from having our tertiary education there and I certainly believe that this is a venture that we should all be supportive of.

With those few words, I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Madam Deputy President, I rise to give support to the measure. However, there are many areas of concern which we need to address. The Leader of Government Business mentioned that up to the year 2000, the UWI has turned out some 50 000 graduates. Now, this is indeed a commendable achievement, however, one must ask the question, is our advancement or our progress in certain areas, particularly the areas of science, technology and the arts, mirrored in this significant number of graduates that we have turned out.

In other words, for what are we educating people in the University of the West Indies? I think that we need to pay some attention and only say that we are providing education, but we have a clear policy linking that education with our developmental goals and aspirations. Yesterday, I had a discussion with some students in a class I was conducting at the University. One of these students was asking me about

the opportunities which will be available, if she pursued a course in marine biology.

During the discussion she asked another student, who is now pursuing a degree, why are you doing this degree? His response was, "If I am to be promoted, I need to have a degree." Sir, to me that was an interesting comment because, and I repeat, why are we seeking to have university graduates? Is it merely that you want to have a degree so that you can get a better salary, or is it that we should be training people to aid in our development? When we consider the percentage of our graduates who never have the opportunity to use the knowledge that they obtained in the University, it is amazing.

We have several people who have degrees who are teaching in situations where they are not teaching in the areas in which they have their degrees so they end up not being able to use that knowledge that they obtained at the University. Then, we have situations in this country where we have areas which need to be developed, for example, alternative energy.

How much of our resources in the University are we utilising in the area of developing alternative sources of energy? We still believe that we have to wait until somebody somewhere else does something which we can get from them. To what extent are we initiating processes that we can say have been developed out of the University of the West Indies.

We know that in other countries, the private sector plays a crucial role in this regard by providing funding for research projects so that the universities can develop things either for the very businesses or for the country in general. In Barbados, the participation or the contribution of the private sector is generally limited to providing a couple of scholarships for a particular area or in honour of somebody. When it comes to providing significant sums of money for programmes in the University, we are not seeing enough of this. We have seen a little of it in recent years but certainly not enough. The University of the West Indies, itself, does not have the capacity to raise the kind of money that is required for extensive research, the kind of research which we believe could really contribute significantly to development so it would be left to Governments to provide this, which again, turns out to be a further burden on taxpayers.

Certainly, the institutions or the organisations that benefit or that stand to benefit from the kind of research that could be done at the University of the West Indies, should really start paying some attention to providing greater assistance. We have in Jamaica the large bauxite companies which I do not think have made a significant enough

contribution. We have the oil sector in Trinidad and Tobago. Here in Barbados we have a private sector which I believe can do much more than they are doing.

I really hope that the private sector would see it fit to make a greater contribution to the University of the West Indies to fund programmes so that proper research or more research can be done in the University of the West Indies. For example, recently we had a fish kill and to this day, we are not absolutely sure as to what is the reason for that fish kill and in order to investigate that, we had to bring somebody from Europe. I think it was Scotland.

The Belair Institute in Barbados has been here for many years and apart from the exchange of persons who are working with Belair, probably working in the University of the West Indies also, there has been little contribution to the development of Barbados coming out of the Belair Research Institute. Here it is that a university in Canada is financing a project in Barbados, obviously for the benefit of that university, so that they can train marine biologists in the tropics but what are we ourselves doing, a country which has only 166 square miles of land but thousands of square miles of marine resources? We are not doing enough, in my view, to exploit those resources because we are not training people so that we can maximise our benefits in this regard.

In his introduction, the Minister also made mention of some of the areas which are going to be developed at the Cave Hill Campus. Unfortunately, I did not hear any mention made of the bookstore or of the library, both of which I believe are woefully inadequate on a campus which is growing.
5.00 p.m.

The bookstore at the Cave Hill Campus leaves much to be desired. Very often when the semester is almost completed the students still cannot get the books which are required for the particular courses, obviously, this is because the bookstore is operating against some financial constraint. So we do not have a bookstore which is adequate for the provision of the material which is required at the Campus. I thought perhaps that there would have been some mention of the development of the campus' bookstore and the library.

On the other campuses, I know for sure at Mona, they have a main library and then they have other faculties which have their own facilities. At those campuses they have a science library but at the Cave Hill Campus they have a few shelves of science books so when students are told to research certain things the first thing they tell you is that they cannot find the books in the library and if they do find the books, they are old editions so obviously there is a need for improvement in the library.

In addition to that, we have a situation where the Cave Hill Campus is part of the medical faculty of the University of the West Indies but there is no proper medical library there. Almost two years ago, it was agreed that the top floor of the Lions Eye Care facility at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was to be converted for the purpose of a medical library but to this day nothing has been done about that and I am wondering if that project has been abandoned.

If the Cave Hill Campus is going to be part of the medical faculty of the University of the West Indies, obviously, we must have a proper medical library, so I cannot understand why there is a delay in having this facility brought on board as soon as possible. So I am hoping that in the developmental plans for the Cave Hill Campus that some attention will be paid to the bookstore and the library.

It is okay for us to have all of the various recreational facilities that we are speaking of but even in that regard with the increasing number of students at the Cave Hill Campus the sporting facilities are still restricted to a pavilion that was there since the 70s. The same small pavilion, the tennis court and the hard courts are in a fairly poor state so there is no real opportunity for students who are sports people to continue in the sports of their choice while they are students of the University of the West Indies. They do not have any athletic facilities. They have a playing field which is used almost exclusively for football and cricket so even in the area of sporting facilities there is a need for significant improvement.

One is aware that space would be a constraint at a campus like Cave Hill but obviously we must look beyond the physical space at the Cave Hill Campus and probably consider expanding it to other locations in order to facilitate the required expansion because the Cave Hill Campus is obviously outgrowing the physical plant which is there at this time. When one examines the space at Cave Hill and that they are going to be constructing a creative arts centre there, it is likely that part of that area which is now being used for sports will be taken up at some point in time because you have more areas being taken up by car parks and they are constantly constructing more buildings so obviously there will be a problem of space at the Cave Hill Campus. Sooner or later one would have to look at finding alternative locations to put some of the facilities of the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus.

Madam Deputy President, I must draw those areas of concerns to the attention of this Chamber because whatever funds are made available to the University, we must get the maximum benefits from the use of these funds. I really hope that as a nation we can see the benefits in the development of our country and the development of the region from the

money we have spent per training at the University of the West Indies.

I thank you very much.

SENATOR P. C. GODDARD: Madam Deputy President, I rise to support this Resolution. I listened with interest to Senator McClean talking about the need for big businesses to contribute more – the same big businesses that should not get tax breaks – and the fact that there seems to be a lack of general contribution to the University of the West Indies.

However, I would have to say that it is interesting to note that there were 50 000 graduates from the University, allowing for some mortality, and assuming that these graduates if they had an appropriate and vigorous alumni programme, and if they could contribute approximately \$100 per month for a year, the University could raise somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$100 million.

Now, that is not unreasonable, because university graduates are, by definition, at the top end of the earning parameters of any population. We have long recognised in schools around the Caribbean that those who have benefited from the schools have raised funds and contributed to the well-being and welfare of those schools. It is true for secondary schools across Barbados where there are some vibrant alumni organisations.

5.10 p.m.

I, myself, went to the Lodge School which had an assembly hall which was built by the Old Scholars' Association shortly after the Second World War. This sort of concept is not alien to our culture and I really do think that the University of the West Indies has become complacent because governments have so fully funded their programmes that they are not actively mining the reservoir of the alumni associations to raise funds on their own behalf. Who better should contribute to the organisation than those who have benefited from it?

Therefore, while I support this Resolution and I agree that there can be greater private sector involvement with the institution and more in the area of developing appropriate research and collaborative efforts as is done in Europe and North America and Japan, I do feel that there should be a strong message and a strong call to the administration of the University to start to develop a more powerful alumni association which could fund projects which will benefit the succeeding generations that will attend this University.

I have no special interest in specific skills to be taught at the University because I feel that in today's world we are on a continuous path of education. I am also convinced that there needs to be greater focus on multi-tasking and therefore

I do not think that someone who embarks on a medical degree would be lost if they switched to law or to engineering. Quite often these subjects are all complementary.

Therefore, there is a need in fact for greater multi-tasking at the tertiary level and we should not get too narrowly focussed on specific areas of education. I do think that the University of the West Indies has done an admirable job in the development of our society and it would become even more important in the years to come as we build a knowledge-based economy. Therefore, I do feel that it is all the more important that the wider community develop systems to contribute to the University to develop funding for the University on an ongoing basis. This is not new. It is something that any graduate of a foreign university is well aware of. I know that I see mail coming in on a regular basis from Harvard, from Yale University, from Tufts, you name it. If they have graduates in the Caribbean, they are all mailed and asked to contribute and help develop that University. I see no reason why the University of the West Indies should be any different.

With that, Madam Deputy President, I strongly support the Resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: Madam Deputy President, I rise in support of this Resolution to provide funding by a bond issue for certain services at the University and I wish to remind Senator McClean that this is the same bond issue that we debated a few months ago and it was clearly specified then and in the Schedule to this Resolution as well which, incidentally, ought to have been corrected before it was brought to us because it has some dates that are long past. The funding is for certain specific purposes which would not have included the bookshop and the library and so on. In fact, Senator Walcott did specify what the projects were when he was speaking.

On the question of education and training, Senator McClean spent some time on this and he described the University's emphasis on training as being rather narrow, which is true but, as Senator Goddard reminded him, these are days in which we need to focus on multi-tasking in terms of our training and education. While it is true that the University probably could do a little more in showing that students who leave are equipped to move from one discipline to another, because basically this is what is happening in the wider world, many initiatives have taken place in that regard in the past few years.

I support Senator McClean's call for greater playing facilities because, as all of us who are associated with the University know, it has one playing field which is used for

cricket, football, just about everything. I was informed some time ago that in the 1980's when Tom Adams was Prime Minister that land had been allocated near to where Queen's College now is for an additional playing field for the University but, as happened at Bonnetts and at several other places, to remind those of us who have short memories, when the needs of housing came out recreational facilities or all promises to provide recreational facilities were second place. That is exactly what happened in the case of the University.

As far as I can see, there is still some land by Queen's College so that it is probably not too late but this is a plea for the Government to look at the matter again and see what it can do, if it regards that education ought to be pursued in a holistic way as Senator Symmonds, the younger, so eloquently reminded us some time ago, and that we need to look after students' health and their recreation as well as their mental development.

I would like to speak about the alumni office. I support Senator Goddard's comments that much more needs to be done by the University to track its alumni and to try to get funding from them. I do agree. My children went to McGill University years ago. The older one graduated in 1991 or 1992 and every month to this day a newsletter still comes to her from McGill University asking for funds and telling her what is happening. Somehow the University at Cave Hill has not managed to put such programmes in place. There has been talk for many years, almost every year you hear of the need for an alumni office and how it will be organised but then nothing happens. I am not sure what the problem is, probably it is lack of will or enough personnel but somehow we have not been able to get our act together in that regard. A well functioning alumni, if there are so many thousands who have graduated since the University's inception and several of them have done very well not only locally but overseas, I am sure that we would be able to get funding to develop some of the programmes that are so badly needed.

Having said that, I will move now to the question of the Bookshop and the Library which occupied a fair amount of Senator McClean's time. The bookshop is rather crowded. I believe there were plans for the bookshop to extend to a second floor in the building in which it is currently situated but that floor is now used by UWIDITE. The problem at Cave Hill is that the land space is so small that often when plans are made to use a particular space for one activity other pressing needs come along and it has to be changed and we know how that works. On the question of the bookshop not having materials, I do not think it necessarily has anything to do with the Administration being tardy in ordering materials. 5.20 p.m.

We have to realise that a lot of materials used in courses in the University of the West Indies are published

elsewhere. The problem with the University is that when you place an order it sometimes takes three months to arrive.

The question then arises whether you should spend heavy amounts of money to have materials brought in by courier or continue to rely on the mail system.

Senator McClean mentioned that other campuses have a main library as well as several other libraries. The proliferation of libraries is one that has taken a considerable amount of the University administration's attention over the past several years. When you speak of libraries you are also thinking of staff and buildings and the University of the West Indies does not have the space to provide any more buildings and there is the question of money to finance these buildings. There is also a problem with providing adequately trained staff who can look after the library collection.

I am currently involved in study of the libraries on the campus to see how we can create synergies among them and all of the evidence is pointing to curtailing the development of departmental libraries and strengthening the main library rather than going the other way.

The Learning Resources Centre now called the Multi-Media Centre where the University houses its audio-video materials cannot be open the length of hours that students would like because there are two persons who work shift during the week but there is no staff available on weekends so it remains closed. If this facility was in the main library which is fully staffed and therefore remains open all nights and weekends, then the problem of access on weekends would be solved. There are also other administrative problems that would be solved by having amalgamation rather than further disjointing of facilities.

Madam Deputy President, I am convinced from what I have observed in other countries that had the Faculty of Law Library been a part of the main library, it would not have developed the way it has and there was some wisdom in the way that it was established as a separate library. At the same time, it is now a major facility with a large budget and a full range of staff.

If it were possible for the law library to be near the main library or established as a part of it, a lot of expenditure could be reduced but that is not so. At the same time, we have to learn from these examples and make sure that the taxpayer's dollars are used to the maximum and we should therefore concentrate on expanding existing facilities and not establishing a new one.

With regard to the book stock in the library, Senator McClean mentioned that there were old editions, not enough copies and so on. The main library provides for all

disciplines except law and it has a book budget in excess of \$1 million a year which has nothing to do with staff. Even then, because of rising book costs they find it difficult to ensure that they have enough copies of all new editions.

Madam Deputy President, running a university is not an easy thing especially given the way our university is funded and there will be some sacrifices that those persons using the facilities will have to make.

This brings me to the medical library. This library was established shortly after the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was built and I was told only recently that the Government of Barbados made a promise that it would look after the medical library. The medical is used by staff at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the general public and the Faculty of Medicine. The collection is not a bad one because it has most of the major journals and the recent textbooks needed but the library is extremely small. It has outgrown its facility and it needs to be computerised. It can only seat 12 persons and this is in a situation where there are 50 medical students at any given time as well as the members of the hospital who use the library. Senator McClean mentioned that there were plans over the years for resiting the medical library but we know of the problems with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We know that no matter how much money Government allocates it never seems to be enough to run the hospital but then again, we have to provide as adequately as we can for the health and well being of citizens.

The time has come when serious attention ought to be given to resiting the facilities and providing adequately in terms of staff, space, computers and so.

Madam Deputy President, I support the Resolution but I want to say that the University has many needs but the University of the West Indies is regarded as a well-run campus in terms of how it manages its finances. Therefore, I am sure that this money will be well utilised and in time, all the other problems about which Honourable Senators spoke, which are well documented, will be looked into. I think that the University like any other institution has an obligation to help itself and I hope that the administration devotes the time and creativity to establishing a well functioning office so that graduates can make a contribution.

There are a fair number of researchers throughout the University system engaged in research for corporations and institutions and I hope some of the fruits of that research will be better publicised. I was surprised to hear Senator McClean speak of alternate energy and not mention the considerable amount of pioneering work done by Professor Oliver Headley. By the same token, there are many other researchers doing pioneer research within the University systems. Some of this work is done on a private basis and the fruits may not necessarily come to the University and this

is one of the problems that the University needs the will to tackle properly. Many people know what the problems are but it is a question of whether they want to take the unpleasant steps necessary to solve them.

Madam Deputy President, I support the Resolution.
5.30 p.m.

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Kerrie Symmonds.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy President. I rise to support this Resolution. I believe that we are dealing with a matter of economics and management. If I can speak personally, I would say that I am one of those who in spite of supporting the Resolution and the principles, believes that it is important for us to maintain Government's contribution that it has made so far. I say that because of the fact that I have a deep feeling of affection and appreciation but anticipation that the University of the West Indies like all other Caribbean institutions is capable of aspiring and attaining higher heights even than those which it has reached. I believe that it is perhaps endangered by what I think Senator Goddard has described as a degree of complacency and I would urge that we awaken it from that slumber.

The fact of the matter is that when we speak to infrastructural needs at the University there is obviously some degree of urgency to that infrastructural work being undertaken. Madam Deputy President, while attending there, I was part of the student government. Since then, I have had the privilege of tutoring there for three years and I sit on two committees now. The cafeteria, as Senator McClean has made reference to, is in dire need of refurbishment. There are a number of concerns about security. I believe that one of the Senators who spoke made reference to that. The University has been sued on a number of occasions as a result of lapses or inefficiencies in security. I have been involved in one or two of those matters. There have been situations where students have been criminally charged as a result of exploiting that inefficiency and security.

I am very familiar with some of those infrastructural needs. But my more pressing concern is about the need to shift the U.W.I. to the cutting edge of global competition to keep it there so that it can shine as an institution of which we can be proud as contributors to it. I believe that there is almost 99 per cent coming out of the public purse throughout the region.

There are some instances along those lines where we can feel justifiably proud about the work of the University of the West Indies. The teaching experiment through the University of the West Indies Teaching Experiment is one

such area. I believe that it has enabled persons who do not have the wherewithal to visit the respective campuses to remain at home in their respective location and via the use of the computer, telephone and so on they have been able to benefit significantly from access to the University's facilities. The student exchange programmes with North American and European colleges have happily come about at Cave Hill in more recent times. I think that insofar as revenue raising potential is concerned it is a very useful innovation.

Having said that, there is obviously a dire need for us to go further. I think that we need to recognise that in the wide world out there it is possible at a number of colleges and universities to do things which we here at Cave Hill, Jamaica or in Trinidad have felt unwilling to experiment with. I am not sure why we seem to be unwilling to experiment and it may actually be fear of the future or some basic uncertainty as to our own internal capacity.

Again, it may also be a question of finance. Senator Newton has spoken eloquently to the question of limited resources in terms of staffing and other matters. But I make the point because I do believe that it has a greater long-term impact on our economic development as a country. There is no facility for a student at the University of the West Indies however gifted in his chosen field for greater movement. Let us assume that he enters the University, he goes into economics and he decides that he wants to give his all. He may be on course for a First Class Honours degree and he is at the top of his class. That may be a clear thing from the time that he is there early in his second year. As brilliant as he may be, he could not accelerate his degree. He would have to remain the duration of the entire three years in spite of the fact that when he would be in his second year he might find himself more comfortable in the company of the final year students.

The inherent ability of the individual, no matter how talented, is not necessarily recognized. The avenues for him to exploit that ability which he possesses for the long term benefit of the society are not available. We have to recognise the investment that is being made is not just a personal investment. The investment in tertiary education around the world is an investment in getting persons out there who are going to augment in some way the human resource pool enjoyed by the country and the region.

Madam Deputy President, if that facility existed, then one would have to ask the question: Are there some persons who enjoy the benefit of free tertiary education? Let us assume they are Barbadians who have passed through the University of the West Indies. At no time I do not attack the foundation of the tertiary education principle. But I say that there are some persons who if they had the ability to accelerate their degree would be prepared, I believe, to pay

to do so. That would be a revenue raising potential which is untapped or unexplored.

I know that there are persons who would ask: Well, why would you want to do that? The reason why you want to pay is to get through the process that much faster. Again, I make the point that there is some element of a pool of students out there who are in a position to meet that requirement. I go further and say that there is the facility where in some universities there are persons who enjoy the acceleration of their Master Degree programme. Now if I wanted to explore that potential in Barbados, I could not do that.

5.40 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: On a point of elucidation, Madam Deputy President. Many of the faculties in the University of the West Indies, especially the Faculty of Law have now embarked on one-year Master of Laws programmes which can be done from distance from any territory in the Caribbean and you do not have to wait 12 months after you graduate to enroll.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: I appreciate the intervention of Senator Newton. I did not speak specifically to the Faculty of Law. I recognise that there are some innovation there.

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair and come back to the issue.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Madam Deputy President, I thought that I was well within the confines but I will try to keep myself more tightly to the question of infrastructural work.

I make the point that there are a number of avenues which exist for the University of the West Indies to explore, in the same way as the University of the West Indies has already explored some of them, for example, the student exchange programmes. Those avenues have revenue bearing and revenue raising potential and I think that we sell ourselves slightly short, if we do not try to put such facilities in place so as to raise revenue from them.

Again, Senators have previously made reference to the whole question of alumni services and alumni incentives. It seems strange to me that the University of the West Indies has not recognised that a lot of its infrastructural work could, in fact, be undertaken as a result of raising revenue from its alumni. I speak specifically to University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

In the context of raising revenue through the alumni, I think that one of the things the University might find it

useful to look at, is the whole question of educating some of its graduates, some of the same alumni and indeed, the general public who have good will towards the University through various tax incentives. There is existing the mechanism whereby one can benefit from tax deductions, having made contributions to the University.

In the same way that you will get persons, who out of good will to a political party, will make a contribution to the political party and then seek to reclaim it on their tax deduction. That principle does exist and can be explored through the leadership of the University here in Barbados. One of the things that bothers me, though, is that the revenue raising aspects of this do not seem to burn deeply enough into the passions of the leadership of the University itself. We have to recognise that in the same way there are some schools here in Barbados – for argument sake let us take the Combermere School – which its alumni will bend over backwards in order to see the well-being of the school attain.

There are however other institutions which seem unable to get it into the minds, spirits and hearts of the alumni and indeed the leadership of the academic institution itself, that they have to make their graduates feel more a part of the institution. I suspect that the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus is suffering an acute level of that kind of inertia. Again, even as we think in terms of the infrastructural work that has to be undertaken, the reality is that the infrastructural work at the University of the West Indies is in the final analysis going to enure to the benefit of disciplines that people are being trained for there and are benefiting the wider society.

When we have a speciality like the Faculty of Law which is a speciality area within the campus and then sub-speciality areas like economics, accounts and management and I feel particularly impassioned when I speak about the speciality area of law. The specialty area of law is one, with greatest respect for those things which the Faculty already does, which can raise tremendous revenue for the University itself, or perhaps for the Faculty of Law itself.

I shuddered when I heard Senator Newton speak about the difficulties that the Law Faculty faces in terms of staffing which should not be, and if you can go cap in hand around the community to the lawyers and say, well we want to beg for this. In reality, every year my office will receive invitations from the University of Liverpool or the University of Kent at Canterbury or some other college somewhere around the world, saying that there is some training exercise going on in some field of law.

There are many specialists here in Barbados. You can get an e-commerce specialist, without advertising his services, not too far away from where I stand right now. I am sure he would want to be paid for his services. Equally, I am sure that the University of the West Indies Faculty of

Law, if they were prepared to sponsor it, would be able to raise revenue, even to pay the e-commerce specialist that I have in mind, which would be some considerable amount of revenue, no doubt but also with some left over which can go towards the kind of development to which Senator Newton is pointing quite correctly. Such is the case in a wider variety of fields.

I do not think there is any general practitioner of law in Barbados that does not in some way deal with the question of personal injury litigation. Yet, we all know that insurance companies out there are hopelessly at sea insofar as awarding claim settlements, along with just basis and concern sometimes. The benefits for us to be moving to the cutting edge and on top of continuing education are things which we seem not to recognise as exceptionally important, even within our profession, which is supposed to be one of constant learning.

How then does one treat with the Faculty of Social Sciences and the sub-specialities, in that Faculty of Management and Economics and so on, to which the same principles of continuing education and training opportunities should apply? The University could play a leading role in being a pioneer in this type of training, or a leading role in being a principle investor in postgraduate training, even though you are not going through a degree programme but really just a course to bring you more up to date and keeping you on the cutting edge.

I think that, therefore, the complacency that Senator Goddard referred to does exist. I think we do need to come to terms with the fact that the economic benefits we seem prepared to rely upon in Parliament, when we come “cap in hand” for refurbishment money or this money and the next money, were the University of the West Indies a privately run institution, we would find ways and means of raising the same revenue. We would also be more willing to be more innovative in exploring the different opportunities that exist towards finding an avenue to raise that kind of money.

I do believe that there is obviously some significant benefit to be found in the kind of refurbishment to which the Senate is now being asked to lend its support. I am of an even greater belief that as with other institutions of a quasi-governmental nature, there needs to be a very strong signal sent that the management style for the future cannot be the management style for today. We have, even in those institutions, to recognise that if you try to function – and I accept that they will never function along the same lines as the private institution will – the signal must be sent that the leadership of those institutions must try to garner

sufficient energy to look to innovative ways of governing the institution in the future.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Madam Deputy 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: Madam Deputy President, we have concluded our business for today. I therefore move that the Senate be adjourned *sine die*.

The question that the Senate be now adjourned sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to and MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
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