
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2003 – 2008

THE SENATE

Friday, December 17, 2004

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Senate is resumed.

HER HONOUR SENATOR DAME PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I rise totally in support of this Bill. Undoubtedly, CSME is an enormous undertaking and I think that our situation is complicated, because of our land masses. Even in countries where there is a contiguous landmass, there are problems but where there have been separate colonial administrations, such as French, Dutch, English, and physical separation, there are even greater problems. Moreover, one must recognise that sovereign states do not cede their sovereign rights, unless they ensure that there are substantial benefits.

Mr. President, many generations before recognised the value of coming together but the impetus led, not necessarily to closer economic union, but the political objectives of the removal of colonial powers. The CSME, however, as has been eloquently and in some cases elegantly stated before, aims at the removal of economic barriers initially and that presently is our primary objective, to improve economies, to raise the standards of living and to enable us to use our conjoined resources to face competition, in a wider global setting.

There are other important considerations and I wish to quote the compelling words of Prime Minister Arthur in relation to social and controlled levels. He stated and I quote:

“It rests on the notion of becoming a community of nations with a lot of shares and colour values, a sense of kith and kin and the anticipation of a common destiny.”

Sir, those words are significant.

Some of the barriers which we face are still legislative and, in addition, the wages in some territories are fewer and manufacturing costs are less. Take for instance in Trinidad, the cost of electricity is much lower and they are able to produce at greater rates. Sir, to counterbalance this, there has to be concessions. Movement of internal. There is educational, medical and even sports. There must come a time when we can support sport.

Mr. President, one of the things which the CSME would give us will be in the area of trademarks. If a trade mark is registered in one territory, it will receive automatic protection in all. We have to move towards harmonisation of our regional standards. Each country has its own regulation of standards but we must harmonise those.

We are at different stages of development, hence the setting up of a Development Fund. This has been compared with the Social Development Fund in the European Union. This is very important because it should stop the possibility of mass movement.

Mr. President, at the time of the Federation, freedom of movement was severely feared but although there is an understandable concern, if the economic problems are properly handled together with development, then these fears should be resolved. In the words, again, of Prime Minister Arthur, and I quote:

“The CSME, offers wider opportunities than available by any individual economy for growth and expansion of business of all descriptions.”

Mr. President, Barbados has been unique and the Barbados Labour Party is consistent in looking at integration. In fact, it has gone further than any other Party in looking at it, as we never lost our vision or objectives. It is appropriate that the CSME should be led by the visionary and dynamic leader of the Party who believes in integration and has never waived.

Asides.

HER HONOUR SENATOR DAME PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Right away, I can think of people like Sir Harold St. John, Sir Henry Forde and members of the Movement of the Under Forties which believe very strongly in the economic and, eventually, the political union of the Caribbean.

Sir, along with cricket, the University of the West Indies has perhaps done more than any other institution to point the way towards regional development, regional integration, and to break down barriers.

Mr. President, communication where it is underdeveloped will be very important. Education is already being done through PACE, and I will be speaking more about that later. Sir, we can learn much from the European Union. There will be fears and set backs but, ultimately, the benefits far outweigh the disadvantages. I think Senator Lowe expressed some concern about the teaching of CSME in the schools, and suggested that nothing or very little had been done. I wish to assure him that all matters relating to the CSME will be incorporated into the Social Studies Programme for primary and secondary schools. It is already included in Caribbean Studies at Cave Hill and some teachers, on their own initiative have been requesting officers from the CSME office to give talks and this will continue. Talks from the Office of the Prime Minister and from CARICOM are also envisaged. Mr. President, people are aware of the CSME. I think however that there needs to be more discussion to obtain clarification on matters which some people fear and on which they need greater enlightenment.

I notice with interest that very recently, the Caribbean Conference of Teachers held a conference here and the CSME was given some attention.

Senate 23, sequence 46,

10.20 a.m.

Wednesday, December 17, 2004

Her Honour Senator Dame Patricia SYMMONDS: Since this is a matter that affects us all, there must be continuous information and dissemination, and I am confident that this will be done.

Mr. President, it is important that we cast aside fears, xenophobia, suspicion and bias and work towards unity and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. To me, the alternative is too dire to contemplate. Xenophobia, insularity and cynicism must be cast aside. We must grasp the nettle if we wish our future to be a bright and prosperous one.

With those few words, Mr. President, I give this Bill my fullest support.

SENATOR G. P. B. NICHOLLS: Mr. President, if I should be labelled as an unrepentant regionalist based on my contribution to the last CARICOM Single Market and Economy Bill before the Senate in relation to the movement of skilled nationals, it is a label of which I cannot complain.

Sir, you would forgive me if I begin my intervention in this debate on a much sober note and not as enthusiastic as I have addressed the Honourable the Senate on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy on the last occasion.

Sir, my entire educational training has been brought to the point to which I continually ask myself the old question. It is a question that has perplexed many social scientists, many political leaders and the people of the Caribbean since we moved to Independence in the 1960s. That question was posed by Herb Ado when he asked why has the post-colonial states in the Caribbean not been used as an agent to negate the exploitation that existed prior to Independence. I believe that this is the point of departure upon which we should approach the discussion on the creation of a Caribbean Single Market and Single Economy, two distinct concepts, but two concepts that are intertwined.

Sir, we are being treated to a spectacle in which there is a great understanding on the ground as to the imperatives of regional integration not only in the Caribbean, but as we watch countries in the world manoeuvre in this most uncertain and unpredictable international economic environment, we have seen a move towards the deepening and widening of the integration movement as a means of clothing new strategic mechanisms to defend the sovereignty of nation states. That spectacle is being created by persons who ought to know better. I am not necessarily blaming politicians and political oppositions but the truth must be told.

Mr. President, in the Caribbean we are being treated to a spectacle in which political oppositions have either said that they are not supporting the CARICOM Single Market and Economy for their own insular and national reason or that they support it in principle but they cannot support the way in which it is being implemented. That, Sir, presents to me a situation where we have a dialogue of the deaf because if we do not support the way in which it is being implemented, which is a methodology which has been widely agreed especially when some of the same oppositions were in Government when the modalities to amend the Treaty of Chaguaramas were put in place - but now in Opposition some are saying that they cannot support how it is being implemented because there are too

many questions that remain unanswered when the basis upon which we are amending the Treaty of Chaguaramas had been put forward by the same oppositions when they were in Government.

The truth must be told, Mr. President, that what we are doing in Barbados is no different from the commitments that the Government of Barbados gave to the region in 1989 at Grand Anse when we agreed that we would amend the Treaty of Chaguaramas by way of implementing certain protocols to amend the Treaty. As a result the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas provides for the creation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, but a lot of questions are being asked.

Sir, the Caribbean single market as distinct from the Caribbean single economy is basically an arrangement which would allow for goods, people, capital, skilled labour and services provided by our people to move freely throughout the Caribbean without barriers. This piece of legislation that is being considered seeks to remove the barriers to trade by which we can discriminate on the basis of nationality only. The Caribbean single economy is another arrangement in which we would seek to harmonise policies in relation to foreign exchange, interest rates policy, tax regimes, common currency and other associated issues. Sir, there is never going to be a situation where we can point to a CARICOM single economy as being a finite reality at the specific point in time. It is a process which has to evolve continually. Others have questioned the means to meet the objective as we always do in the Caribbean because we have this great habit of finding problems for the solution.

We agree that in this world in which we function Barbados' national development cannot proceed on thinking that we can have a market 21 x 14 and that we can isolate ourselves from the rest of the world in the way in which we relate to a world which we have historically been incorporated into.

Mr. President, it is disappointing to say the least that some of the greatest commentators about what is going on in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy have the ability and the capacity to read the Treaty and understand the Treaty in a way in which they could explain to those persons who have uncertainties about what is intended for them. Having listened to Senator Lowe on Wednesday during his presentation, I borrowed a copy of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas from one of my colleagues and I turned to Chapter 7 which provides for the establishment of a regime for disadvantaged countries, disadvantaged regions or disadvantaged sectors and for the less developed societies in the Caribbean. The objective in Chapter 7 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas is to redress any negative impact as a result of the creation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. Therefore, a

country can derogate from its obligations to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy in a situation where the country as a whole or a particular sector or industry in that country is being harmfully treated by reason of our commitments to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Senate 23 Sequence 47

10.30 a.m.

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SENATOR G. P. B. NICHOLLS: Mr. President, what the Opposition and persons who have doubts but who have the means to understand what is going on should do, would be to help this country by way of constructive dialogue. If Barbados' manufacturing or agriculture sector or the labour force at a particular level would be affected by countries' commitments to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, what they should be doing is helping the Government and the people in the country to flesh out the modalities by which we would be able to protect certain sectors which we would have envisioned at the first start of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy would find themselves in such problems.

Mr. President, the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas itself has the built-in mechanisms to make sure that a country does not enter into the Caribbean Single Market and Economy to its own disadvantage. But we do not hear one single word about these critical aspects of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy under Chapter 7. I suspect that a lot of those who have spoken about the Caribbean Single Market and Economy in a negative way, have neither read the Protocols to amend the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas or the revised Treaty. If they had read them, they would have been able to see that they can get some financial assistance to help economic dislocation or some form of technical assistance to support sensitive industries and programmes to attract investment through a Regional Stabilisation Fund.

Mr. President, Chapter 7 also provides transitional arrangements to adjust to the requirements of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Therefore, within the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas itself, Barbadians can rest assured that there are mechanisms that can flesh out the modalities that can be created and the precedencies that can evolve. But to frighten people by pandering to the basic fear in individuals, is not going to help this region to advance.

Mr. President, we are all recipients and holders of constitutional office in this country, in a period that boast about constitutional de-colonisation. The question posed by Kirk Kanau and social scientists in the Caribbean as far back as the 1930s, still remains to be answered and that is

why the State today is not being used as an instrument to negate the effects of exploitation, not only at the level of individuals and companies, and individuals and the State, but at the level of our international relationship with other countries, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and transnational companies, institutions such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the like.

Mr. President, the State that promises a lot, predicated on the evolution of the trade union movement and the political parties in the 1940s, has to answer the question as to why economies in the Caribbean society remain in the same position at the beginning of the 21st Century as it had at the beginning of the 20th Century, and we have had the continuum.

Mr. President, in his contribution, Sir Roy has said that the labour movement, in the very early period in Caribbean history and in that institution's development, promulgated as one of its principal tenets, development through a Federal Caribbean. In fact, the British Guiana West Indian Labour Congress that addressed the labour commission and which the political parties and the trade unions evolved had, as one of its principal tenets, the Federation of the Caribbean as a way in which these societies should evolve.

Mr. President, I believe that the concerns raised by Senator Doctor Lowe, are, indeed, the concerns of many citizens in this country but we have a fundamental responsibility when we occupy these offices, we must tell the people the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. I agree that we have to lead because all of us have access to the Bills that come before Parliament and if we say that we commit Barbados to these things in principle, we also have a responsibility to give support to them. Therefore, it should be incumbent upon every Honourable Senator and every Honourable Member in the Other Place, to lead the discussion as to how Barbados would proceed in the context of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy in the next ten or fifteen years.

Mr. President, the litmus test of one policy for a Government's survival has to be in the context of the Caribbean how are we going to be increasing the economic and educational opportunities in the Caribbean as part of a national development paradigm; and how do we ensure the hard-working families of our country that they can enjoy a comfortable standard of living and how they are protected in a world of rapid and uncertain change.

Mr. President, I have found everything I wanted to say being summed up in V.S. Naipaul's Bend in the River. It is a quotation I had mentioned in which he traces the journey of Salim into the heart of the African Continent, who went across many miles to establish a variety shop at

that place which is called a Bend in the River. V. S. Naipaul said:

"The world is what it is; men who are nothing, men who allow themselves to be nothing, have no place in it."

Sir, I cannot think of a better way of expressing the urgency of our creating the Caribbean Single Market and Economy as a new benchmark upon which we are going to create that beach helm of opportunity for all of our people to deal in a world of uncertain changes.

Mr. President, there are discussions about trade liberalisation and globalization all over, and those discussions are fuelled by a rapid onset of this ideological thing called economic globalization, liberalised by having to trade with other people and liberalised by financial institutions and sector operating.

Mr. President, these are not issues that are debated in this country but are issues that are debated by others in other countries and, therefore, we have to participate in such discussions. Sir, the Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs will tell us that she has participated in the defence of Barbados' sovereign right to have an offshore industry, when other people in other countries had thought that our ability to tax their nationals at a lower rate was a dangerous precedence. Sir, such was their great effort to dismantle Barbados' offshore regime through blacklisting us as being a harmful tax domicile.

Mr. President, as we speak, the economic systems of the world are being reconfigured to accommodate the world in the free movement of capital, labour and services and it is going to allow a more robust gap to flow throughout the world.

Sir, I am not saying that because of this we should all approach globalization with a sense of unbridled optimism but we must make sure that we create a secure environment for our hard-working families, one in which we can continue to increase the educational and economic opportunities for everyone.

Sir, we have seen the rise of massive trading blocs all over the world and it is a crushing conformity of the globalization of every single facet of economic activity. We are hearing about the cultural industry as being a new economic engine for our people. That, Sir, if you can look at it in a dialectical way, is a way in which globalization treats things that we, in the past, have called recreational. But that is one of the aspects of globalization with which we have to deal.

Sir, there is also the increasing reliance on the market mechanisms to determine social and economic issues that confront us and also private sector solutions to

deal with issues that the State, under what Professor Beckles calls the post-independent social contract, had dealt with in determining how those issues should be resolved.

S:No.23(48)

10.40 a.m.

Wednesday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR G.P.B. NICHOLLS: Mr. President, I want to suggest that Caribbean societies are now faced with a gap between what was required for us to achieve some form of sustainable development at the end of the century. Sir, the signposts are now behind us and the long run is here and all the indicators are there but there is a sense of doubt and gloom when it relates to the creation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Sir, I cannot be as excited as I was on the last occasion. I was reading the Europa Year Book 2002 and discovered that in every region of the world, nations across the globe form different types of economic associations are in response to globalization.

There is the Central American Integration System (CAIS) comprising the six Central American Republics including Belize with a population of \$36 million. There is also the Economic Community of Western African States (ECWAS) consisting of 15 States of \$223 million people. The new European Free Trade Area evolving with the context of the EU with 12 million people. There is Mercosur comprising the four States of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay with 218 million people.

This is how countries in the world have resolved to deal with the issues of globalization. We can stand in this Chamber, proud of our nationality and sovereignty and not seek restriction on the movement of capital, services, technology and people into this country to help us advance and, therefore, prohibit the movement of our capital, our people and our services outside of Barbados. Sir, this is the option that we have.

I cannot understand why this debate takes place in the context of political acrimony. I hear Senator Lowe speaking about the need to educate people. In my preparation for the debate, I borrowed from my 16-year-old brother, four pamphlets prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Trade which have been distributed in his school. I had to answer questions from him on the basis of information provided in these pamphlets which were not provided to the Honourable Senate.

Sir, the Ministry of Foreign Trade produced these pamphlets in July 2004 called "Barbados and WTO - What

we Need to Know", "Barbados and the European Union", "Barbados and The Free Trade Area of the Americas - Challenges and Opportunities" and "Barbados and the Caribbean Single Market and Economy - Deepening Caribbean Integration". Sir, I commend these to the Honourable Senate.

Mr. President, I remember Dr. Hollis Liverpool's two contributions to a calypso competition in Trinidad in the early 1990s and calypsonian, Chalk Dust, sang one of his contributions called "Misconception". I can take every single lyric from the calypso "Misconception" and adopt it as my contribution to this debate.

Sir, there are a lot of misconceptions about Caribbean Single Market and Economy, and I see that we are in the position to help people to understand that we are not trying to create a monster which will start running around in Barbados in 2005. It is a phased process of removing the barriers to trade amongst Caribbean countries as a way to bulwark ourselves from the potential difficulties which portend.

Sir, by 2008, the Caribbean has to enter into a new relationship with Europe not based on preferential treatment and preferential market and quotas. We have to relate to them on the basis of reciprocity which means that what they give to us, we must give to them.

Sir, when the Honourable Leader of the Senate speaks about the rationalisation of the sugar industry and the reformation of that industry, it is a forward-thinking policy that suggests that we cannot continue as is. We cannot continue special and preferential treatment or have more time to deal with transitional modalities. We have to help the Caribbean prepare to participate in the new, competitive, global environment and we have to begin by exposing our own Caribbean enterprises to a more competitive environment within the region.

Mr. President, I cannot conclude my presentation without observing the fact that the contemporary initiative that we are endeavouring to bring on board is one that is far more modest than has been consistently promulgated by the regional labour movement, that is, the whole concept of deeper economic integration.

Sir, I believe we need to pursue both political interest and economic integration as a mutually reinforcing process. We have taken a strategic direction to take the political integration concept overseas and I suspect that we have set ourselves up for a difficult task of creating a single market and single economy.

S23/Sequence 49

10.50 a.m.

Friday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Sir, I ask you to permit me to close by reminding all Honourable Senators that we need to treat to the words of the late Right Excellent Errol Barrow, in his last address On July 3, 1986, to the Caribbean community. He said that it is an absolute necessity to promote and defend the sovereignty and solidarity of the regional Caribbean family.

Sir, there is also an absolute obligation to discover those strategic mechanisms which would ultimately lead to major action involving economic, social and politic issues. We sometimes fail to comprehend the essence of the regional integration movement. The proof is, thousands of ordinary Caribbean people live that every day. In Barbados, our families are no longer exclusively Barbadian by island. We have Barbadian children of Jamaican parents and we have Barbadian children with St. Lucian or Antiguan fathers. Sir, there is no need to mention Trinidad and Tobago because they have always tied to Barbados by virtually cross-fertilisation of culture.

Mr. President, this part of regional togetherness for the ordinary West Indian man or woman is evident in the arrival and departure of persons at the airport. I want to make the point that regional integration is a daily experience. It is a reality which is lived but which we have to get institutionalised.

I am obliged.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Deputy President will take the Chair at this time

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Stuart.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Madam Deputy President, I rise to make a very brief intervention in this debate. It is very refreshing to hear so many Honourable Senators on the Other Side quote the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow. It is a far cry from what used to be said about him when he was alive. It is a far cry from the debacle of the 1976 Duffus Commission. It is good to hear these quotations nowadays.

Madam, it is interesting that Honourable Senators on the Other Side have to quote the late Errol Barrow and that has to do with the fact they can find nobody in the Barbados Labour Party to quote. It was that same Errol Barrow who in, 1982 or thereabouts, had to beg the then Government of Barbados not to let the regional integration movement die because between 1976 and 1982 not one CARICOM summit was held in this region.

Madam Deputy President, the late Errol Barrow went public in a famous press release and called on the

then Government of Barbados to accept the responsibility of not allowing the regional integration movement to die but to try and get CARICOM Heads to sit tight. He had to say that, because the period between 1976 and 1982, instead of trying to promote regional integration the Governments of Jamaica and Guyana were in the meanwhile experimenting with democratic socialism.

I am pleased that the late Prime Minister Errol Barrow is now the inspirational source of many of the speeches here in this debate. In spite of that fact, not a few political slanders have been hurled at the Democratic Labour Party over the issue of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Madam Deputy President, there is no political party in the English-speaking Caribbean that has done more to promote the regional integration movement than the Democratic Labour Party. Therefore, to try to suggest in any debate on regional integration that the Democratic Labour Party is not in support of regional integration is really to publish a political slander.

Madam Deputy President, the idea of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy was first mooted in the Heads of Government conference in Grenada in 1989 when the Grand Anse Declaration was signed in the commitment of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Barbados was given lead responsibility for bringing that Caribbean Single Market and Economy into existence. That is not all that the regional Heads did on that occasion. They also established a Caribbean West Indian Commission under the distinguished leadership of Sir Shridath Ramphal, bringing together the best brains in this region, to give Heads some sense of how the achievement of this single market and economy would be put into operation.

Madam Deputy President, that Commission met, interacted with the people of the region and did not present this Report to the Heads of Government until 1992. The last Report, which was very brilliantly done, I am sure will serve this region for a long time to come. We are here today trying to flesh out, as it were, the suggestion made in that report in terms of trying to bring a Caribbean Single Market and Economy into existence.

Madam Deputy President, 1989 was no accident. I have already said in this Chamber that in a sense at Grand Anse in 1989, Heads of Government had to confront the issue of regional integration because Europe was going to create a single market by the year 1992. In fact, the then Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, actually carried a paper to the Heads of Government conference at Grand Anse, Grenada in 1989 entitled, *The West Indies After 1992*.

Madam Deputy President, once it was made clear that Europe was going to undergo changes, there had to be adjustments to the way business is done in the Caribbean. S23/Sequence 50

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Senator F. J. STUART: Therefore, we have to see all that we are doing today in that context.

There is really no divide between the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party on the issue of the creation of a single market and economy since at the birth of that recommendation, the Democratic Labour Party was ready and had lead responsibility for it in Government.

Sir, because we are committed to regional integration and the integration of a single market and economy, are we to ignore the cry coming from below, the legitimate questions which people are asking about the operations of the introduction of this CARICOM Single Market and Economy?

Many explanations have been given for the failure of the West Indies Federation. In fact, what has never been fully recognised is that this region has always been composed, up to 500 years, of transplanted people, people transplanted from Europe, Asia, and Africa into this region and forced to live together in what we hope we could call peaceful coexistence.

The Federation discussion which started in earnest at the Montego Bay Conference in 1947, collapsed 15 years later. One of the most searching and probing explanations given for its failure that I have come across, is that a region, the gaze of which was directed out to capitals of Europe for about 300 years, was asked to come together in a short 15 years.

The islands of this region have been pawns in the power gains of Europe, so that people in this region have looked either to London, Paris, Amsterdam or Madrid, rather than looking across the region at the people of the region. There are Barbadians, Grenadians and Guyanese who will tell you that the most they got to know about their brothers and sisters in the Caribbean, is when they all coincided in England in the 1950s or 1960s.

Sir, before then, they did not know anything about the Guyanese, Jamaicans, or St. Lucians. Even at that level, the people in this region have not really got to know each another as well as they might, but that has to do with the colonial experience, out of which in the case of Barbados, we have only come 38 years ago. In this regard, I am indebted to Senator Crichlow to the speech he made in this

debate because those things have to be said, in terms of the history of this region.

The CARICOM Single Market and Economy is designed to promote the free movement of goods and services and of labour and capital, across this region. As Senator Nicholls indicated earlier, the market of Barbados is much too small to absorb the capacity of Barbadian businesses to produce. It is a fact of a capitalist life that capitalism has an inherent tendency to over produce. Therefore, the issue of markets is always a serious agenda and to create a larger market for producers in Barbados and in other parts of the Caribbean has always been a laudable objective. This was the aim of CARIFTA. It was also the aim of CARICOM, and the aim of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. The ability to sell to a larger market, if we are lucky, of 40 million people is obviously better than having to sell to only a smaller market such as the population of Barbados.

Sir, under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, there is the right of businesses to establish freely in other parts of the region. It is conceivable that businesses in Barbados could take full advantage of those opportunities, especially in the context of the fact that businesses here consistently and persistently complain about the cost of production in the region. One of the principal areas of complaint is the cost of labour in Barbados.

Therefore, the freedom of movement of businesses makes a case for itself and there is every incentive if the complaints of the local businessmen are anything to go by, for them to establish in other parts of the Caribbean. What the consequences would be for local labour and local job creation, time will tell, but we have to accept that there are benefits in that department.

The free movement of labour is where the problem has gone. Let me say this quite frankly and clearly that I, and the Democratic Labour Party are philosophically committed to the freedom of movement of labour in this region but that does not in any way prevent the ordinary people in this country from asking certain questions about the consequence likely to flow from that freedom of movement.

The Trade Union Movement has asked questions, as it is entitled to do, since labour is its direct constituency and ordinary people in this region are asking questions as well. We accept that there is an incentive for businesses to move, having regard to the existence, perhaps, of lower production costs in other parts of the region. So, the incentive is there. The question is, is there a similar incentive for ordinary Barbadian workers to move from Barbados to go and work in any other part of the Caribbean?

Senator Barker in his contribution made the point, attractive to what it reveals but misleading to what it conceives that people migrate in search of work but that is only partly true. People migrate in search of a better life. If a man working in Barbados is not going to be any better off if he leaves and goes and works in Guyana, he is not going to leave Barbados. He goes in search of better options.

Senate 23, sequence 51,

11.10 a.m.

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SENATOR F. J. STUART: When people left Barbados and went to England it was not just to work, it was on the understanding that when they worked for the British Crown and they remitted it here, it would improve their and their families situation. Similarly, if they go to the United States of America and work for the United States of America dollar and they remit it here, it improves their and their families' positions. It is not simply a question of going to work. It is a question of going to improve your economic situation. Therefore, the question is: Is there a strong incentive for Barbadian workers to want to leave Barbados to go to work in other parts of the Caribbean having regard to the economic realities that are described and defined in the Caribbean today?

Madam Deputy President, the Government has been claiming that these questions are really unnecessary because the process of the education of ordinary people in Barbados has been taking place. Of course, Senator Nicholls in his speech held up three or four books that school children are supposed to be using.

Madam Deputy President, on my way here on Wednesday and on my way to work yesterday I heard a jingle concert which I am told is put out by the Government Information Service. Of course I have been hearing it long before this, but I did not hear it this morning because of Mark William's programme "Looking Back". Senator Lowe in his speech said that a jingle by itself cannot do the trick. It cannot do the trick because when you listen to this jingle it promises Barbadians a single currency as one of the benefits coming out of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Now Barbadians know that they already have a currency. They know that their currency is regarded as the strongest currency in the Caribbean. Therefore, when they hear this jingle promoting Barbados' involvement in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and holding up a single currency before them as one of the benefits of Barbados' involvement, it gives them pause and they stop to ask what is going to become of the currency that they know. The Government has not answered that question.

The jingle was not put out by the Democratic Labour Party or by non-governmental organisations, it is a Government-sponsored jingle coming out of the Government Information Service. Sir, unless that issue is confronted and the masses of the people of this country, those who are not going to set up businesses but those who are going to sell their labour power, can be assured that when they move from Barbados to go to other parts of the Caribbean to work, if the incentive is strong enough, that that is not going to result in a reduction of their standards of living. In my view, unless they can be assured of that, our involvement in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy will continue to be fraught with difficulties. Therefore, the anxiety and the uncertainties of which the Government complains - of course, the impression is given that these are somehow fomented and promoted by the Opposition - will continue because if a man is to have the incentive to leave where he lives to go and work anywhere else, it is my view that he has to be satisfied first that working elsewhere will make him better off than staying to work where he lives.

If I were living in the Co-operative Republic of Guyana I would have the strongest incentive to leave Guyana and come to Barbados to work because I would see how I would be better off when I earn a Barbados dollar and I remit it back to Guyana. If I were to live in Jamaica or St. Kitts it would be the same thing.

The question is: Does the average Barbadian worker feel a similarly strong incentive to make freedom of movement a reality for him or her by moving from Barbados to go to work anywhere else in the Caribbean? We cannot wish away these issues. The Government must not get the impression that because people are asking questions and because they want their doubts and their uncertainties removed and resolved that they are unpatriotic or that they are anti-regionalist or anything of the kind. Senator Nicholls said in his speech that there are doubts and uncertainties out there. Therefore, the very fact that they exist means that the job of public education remains incomplete and continues to be challenged for the Government.

Madam Deputy President, the Democratic Labour Party is committed in principle to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy but we share some of the concerns of the ordinary men and women out there on the streets who are asking questions about how they will be affected by this move.

So Senator Eastmond does not have to label us or liken us onto persons committed to marriage in principle but not willing to put into operation the commitment.

Asides.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: It is one of those exquisite coincidences. The allegation was made by a most eligible spinster in the earshot of two eligible and available nationalists. Perhaps this is a basis for treating a causative if I may say so.

Madam Deputy President, we are committed to regionalism. I think of the words which I heard as a schoolboy of late Linden Forbes Burnham here in Barbados in 1967 when all of the other islands in the Caribbean were being brought on board by CARIFTA. He remarked that if this conference fails, we perish, and if this conference succeeds, we survive. Similarly, I believe that if the CARICOM Single Market and Economy fails, we perish and if it succeeds, we survive. However, that does not mean that we can ignore our national constituencies, sweep their doubts and fears under the carpet and walk blindfolded behind the Government on this issue. There are issues to be resolved with the public and the Democratic Labour Party want them resolved.

Madam Deputy President, in conclusion let me say something very briefly about the Caribbean Court of Justice which is a necessary part of this CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Senate 23 Sequence 52

11.20 a.m.

Thursday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Madam Deputy President, we, on this side, are committed in principle and in fact to the Caribbean Court of Justice. Long ago since 1973, the late William Gilbert Demas, in a farewell speech at the CARICOM Secretariat at Georgetown, had warned this region that the time had come when it should have its own Court of Appeal and that if we delayed indefinitely, we could find ourselves scrambling at the last minute to put something in place. He had foreseen that the British, through the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, were not going to stay with us indefinitely.

Madam Deputy President, that was in 1973 and his call was ignored from then until very recently when this issue was put on the table. It is most unfortunate that the issue of the Caribbean Court of Justice was put on the table at the same time in 1993/1994, when the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and the Government on its now famous decision of Pratt and Morgan on the death penalty.

Madam Deputy President, because of the sense of rage of those persons in the Caribbean who supported the death penalty and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council's decision, immediately we began to hear about

our needing our own Court of Appeal as a final appellate jurisdiction in this region.

Madam Deputy President, I do not believe, quite frankly, that the Caribbean Court of Justice is to be any hanging court but I am saying that the coincidence between Pratt and Morgan decision in 1993 and the acceleration of the debate with the establishment of the court, has, in fact, put the court on the defensive at its birth but I feel confident that the court will justify the faith of the people of this region. I know that there are people in this region and that there are some in Barbados who are deeply suspicious of the capacity of our Regional Court's last resort as the final appellate court, to do justice to the people of this region.

Madam Deputy President, we are hearing arguments on the ground again that the people in England at the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council do not know us but that surnames come quite a long way in the Caribbean. I sincerely would only hope that those who are going to personnel and to man this court will take cognizance of the concerns which the people of this region have on that score. I do not believe that the process of constitutional decolonisation will ever be complete until we, in this region, determine what is just or what is unjust and have our own body of jurisprudence developed. I think that we have very competent lawyers and other persons, some of whom have actually sat at the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council itself and who have performed with reason. I think the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice was appointed as a Judge at the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, Mr. Michael delaBastide of Trinidad and Tobago and I believe one other Caribbean judge has been appointed. Our own Sir William Douglas was a Judge at the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Madam Deputy President, we support the court but again we would like cognizance to be taken of the concerns which people are expressing. I know that there are very deep suspicions in this region of those at the political and other levels and, therefore, those of us in positions of authority have to do all that we can to minimise the fears and concerns of those whose labour will be famous and of those whose sacrifices have made our opportunities possible.

Madam Deputy President, it is not the role of the Democratic Labour Party as an Opposition Party to do for the Government what the Government should be doing for itself. I want to make this clear. We have already been characterised as a "poor-raky" Opposition. I do not know how much help a "poor-raky" Opposition can do to assist. We are here to ensure that the interests of the masses of this region are being protected. We are, therefore, committed to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and to the Caribbean Court of Justice in that context.

Madam Deputy President, let there be no doubt that my colleague, Senator Doctor Lowe, has made a speech in this debate, to which the party in whose name he speaks is very much in agreement.

Asides.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Yes, I know.

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please, Senator, you do not have much time. Please do not waste it in replying to asides. Please address any remarks to the Chair.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Madam Deputy President, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is an imperative for the people of this region. The time has come when people in the Caribbean have to begin dealing with each other and taking their gaze off the capitals of Europe. This is a unique region of transplanting people whose creativity and whose capacity have been tested and proven.

This region has, like any other parts of the world, produced Nobel laureates, judges for the international Caribbean Court of Justice, writers, artistes, sports persons, et cetera. Madam, the resources we have in this region are as good as that which can be found in any other region. What we have wanted in this region for a long time is a final de-colonisation of the mind. We can have all these forms of independence, with flags and Anthems, et cetera, and we are not mentally de-colonised, we are, in fact, still alone. Therefore, the Party's hope, my colleague's hope and my hope, is that this final thrust towards a Caribbean Single Market and Economy, will effect that de-colonisation that will free up and unleash the true energies of the people of this region.

Madam Deputy President, I thank you.

SENATOR Miss S. V. HUSBANDS: Madam Deputy President, I rise to join the discussion on the Caribbean Single Market and Economy because I believe that it is very important that we, in this Honourable Chamber, seek to understand exactly what it is that we are up against and what it is that we need to do, so that we can act in a responsible manner as legislators, as professionals and as individuals, the way in which we interact with the population, to ensure that there is an understanding of the issues that are before us, and of the path which we need to walk.

Madam Deputy President, when the issue of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy came around, I saw it as my duty as an individual to make the necessary preparation, to get the necessary information to understand how it would impact on me as an individual and as a professional and what kinds of changes I needed to make in

order to transition to the new era that will usher in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

S:No.23(53)

11.30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR Miss S.C.V. HUSBANDS: Like other Senators, I hear the concerns of Barbadians pertaining to issues such as job security and what would happen to our social services.

I put myself in the position where I sought to acquire the information so that when I am confronted with those questions, I would be able to share with Barbadians my understanding of those issues, what we need to do in relation to them, why we need to embrace the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and the individual preparation we need to make.

This is what I have learnt as a result of taking the time to understand the era in which we operate. Earlier, our honourable colleague shared with us the concept of globalization and liberalisation. Madam Deputy President, people are now more familiar with the words "globalization" and "liberalisation" and so they need to know why the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is necessary.

Madam Deputy President, the world is operating on a different basis where Barbados can no longer depend on special treatment, preferential treatment or protection for our businesses. The world has now to grapple with the fact that it is now engaging in trade on a basis that does not produce the benefits which it enjoyed before.

This means that when we seek to export our products, we are going to meet stumbling blocks unless we are able to meet certain requirements, negotiate treaties and access that would allow us to get our products to market thus earning foreign exchange and preserving jobs within Barbados and the region.

Another example is the textile market which the Americans have protected from outside competition. This has led to great hardship throughout various developing countries because a lot of them depend on the textile countries to provide jobs for their people. Here in the Caribbean, Jamaica has also been negatively affected by the protection of the textile market because it has produced a situation where Jamaica has set up textile manufacturing plants but the return in terms of the wages for their labour is so low that they cannot make a decent living from what they earn in these textile industries. Sir, protectionism keeps reinforcing this problem within the textile market.

In Barbados as we seek to grapple with globalization, we are going to find that we will encounter those levels of difficulties that can alter the quality of life of Barbadians unless we take action.

It was mentioned earlier that by 2008, we have to complete an agreement within CARICOM. The European Union needs to come up with a regional economic partnership agreement where we have to give access to European goods into CARICOM and the European will give access to our goods and we have to decide on what basis this would take place.

A study was done to forecast some of the likely effects of the zero-rating of good from the EU into CARICOM and what impact it would have on our region and it was disheartening to hear some of the likely impacts. There would be the diversion of trade where, for example, when we buy goods from other countries, because of the zero-rating the EU goods would be cheaper and people in CARICOM would begin to buy the goods from the EU which would create a shift in more than US\$500 million in trading but the greatest impact will come on inter-regional trade, this means that goods and products being made in Trinidad, Guyana, Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia and Jamaica could lose their market within CARICOM unless we put a mechanism or develop some kind of response that would safeguard interregional trade in the region.

Madam Deputy President, if inter-regional trade in the region is impacted, it means that the average man on the street would find that he cannot retain his job, people who work in the manufacturing sector and agro processing would find it difficult to sustain their jobs and other types of jobs would come under threat.

When I am confronted by Barbadian citizens who raise the issue of job security within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, I know that the greatest challenge to their job security is not a Guyanese or Antiguan person coming to Barbados but that the greatest threat is the capacity of our private enterprises to change, and grow rapidly and become effective so that we can retain jobs in the region.

Therefore, instead of asking how Barbadian jobs are going to be protected from CARICOM nationals coming here, the question which needs to be asked is what is the person doing to take his company forward that it can be developed to be spread throughout the CARICOM so that it can be competitive against European goods coming to the region.

One of the things which was extremely disturbing to me as I was doing research was to understand that globalization is our greatest challenge and that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is the response that

would help us to deal with the challenge. I read a research paper coming out of the World Bank in April where a study was commissioned to look at what happened to the micro economies of the world which make up no more than 20 million from the Caribbean, the Pacific and other parts of the world. We make up no more than 0.45% of trade in the world which does not make any significant impact on the world's trading process.

H23/Sequence 54

11.40 a.m.

Friday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR Miss S.C.V. HUSBANDS: An examination using some of the models looking at what would happen to these small islands within a globalized environment if they were asked to trade on the same basis as bigger countries, and he concluded that in truth and in fact these economies could not survive, given the cost of production, transportation, harvest and doing business within these small territories because of their small markets and lack of access to other markets, they could not produce in any meaningful way to overcome these difficulties. We suggested that we might become welfare recipients from the bigger countries. I feel that with respect to CARICOM personnel, there is something we could do in shaping our destiny within our environment.

Madam Deputy President, it brought me to the point where I concluded that during the 1950s CARICOM crafted a beautiful independence for itself but here in the 21st century in the year 2004, we now have to craft an economic independence and that is going to entail more than just the passing of legislation, raising a flag and the playing of an anthem. This is going to require that every citizen is prepared to operate differently and understand what they need to do to help our economies to become more efficient, effective and productive in this new era so that we can compete within the larger market. Therefore, as I looked at those facts, I came to the conclusion that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is not only necessary but is something that we have to hasten to make happen. In fact, we do not have the luxury of time.

Madam Deputy President, as a professional, if I am worth my salt, I would understand the issues and recognise that the questions that I would need to propose are: What is the schedule? What is the agenda? How are we going to get the legislation that will allow us to trade across the region? How soon will other territories get onboard with their legislation so that we can begin to maximise the space? How quick are you going to put things in place so that we can make better use of the opportunities before we find ourselves having to sign onto that agreement in 2008?

Madam Deputy President, the year 2008 suggests that if we are going to position Barbados and safeguard the jobs and the quality of life of Barbadians, we have to use this intervening time very quickly to take the Caribbean single market space and make it work now. Hence, there is a need for speed, controlled and disciplined speed but speed nevertheless. If I were purporting to be a leader who wants to be a leader this country, I would find it very difficult to take a position and behave as though Caribbean Single Market and Economy was being rushed. I would find it irresponsible of me as a Member of this Chamber to take a position that the need is so dire and we need to be able to move forward quickly and effectively to take up the Caribbean single market status.

Madam Deputy President, as I prepare myself and understand the background against which we are operating, I am able to appreciate what we are seeking to do. For example, in agriculture if we are to get a reduction of our sugar prices by at least 40 per cent within the next two years, then we need to have a way of replacing that income and convert our sugar industry into a higher value product. As we develop the reciprocal trade with Europe, we would be able to take a higher value product into their market and, therefore, increase our market.

What would this mean to the average man on the street? It means that those who are engaged in agriculture and those who would be able to obtain jobs in the manufacturing sector that helps to produce new products, they would be able to retain their employment, look after their families and safeguard the quality of life which they now enjoy. Madam Deputy President, if we fail to make transition as a private sector, in agriculture and manufacturing, what we are doing is creating a doom-like situation for Barbados in terms of their quality of life.

Therefore, the question is not how much are we going to lose after Caribbean Single Market and Economy is implemented but if not implemented. Having been able to put that into context, our hopes should be how are we going to maximise the space.

The Honourable Senator Stuart asked why would Barbadians want to leave here to go somewhere else when they would not be able to get a better quality of life and what is there to attract Barbadians under the Caribbean Single Market and Economy?

Madam Deputy President, a Barbadian who is earning a good living in Barbados is not likely to go anywhere else but they will relocate as long the opportunities are going to be greater. Very often the choice for some people to relocate is the difference between earning a dollar versus earning no dollar.

Madam Deputy President, It means that in Barbados if you find that people are unable to utilise their skill and gain employment in Barbados, their option is not whether things are better here in Barbados, if they do not have an opportunity and their only option is to go somewhere where they can earn a dollar rather than engage in a low quality of life because they are currently unemployed.

Sir, often in the Caribbean there is the shortage of skills in certain critical areas of the economy and this could create tremendous opportunities for Barbadians to be able to travel within the region and take up positions there. Sometimes in the Caribbean I am offered jobs abroad but I earn a living here in Barbados and I do not have to relocate. The point is, the shortage of skills in other territories would create opportunities for Barbadians to be able to earn a living.

As I studied our situation and the necessity of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy for everyone to engage in the process to move forward, I came across a quotation which seems to speak to a situation which we find ourselves. Unless we can make the Caribbean Single Market and Economy work, we are always going to find ourselves "sucking some salt".

Madam Deputy President, Carl Lewis puts it this way in his famous book. "Now here it takes all the running you can do to keep at the same pace. If you want to go somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that." When I look at what is happening in CARICOM and other small developing nations, we have to run fast to maintain where we are and we need to run twice as fast if we are going to be able to advance in this new global environment.

If we are seeking to protect the interest of Barbadians, this is what I would want them to understand. If we have to run twice as fast to advance in this new environment, it means that we have to rethink how we operate in terms of how we perform on the job, our punctuality and attendance at work. We need to look at our effectiveness and efficiency with which we work. It means understanding that in order for our company to become competitive and to use the Caribbean Single Market and Economy space, they must grow their production capacity and this may require them to install new equipment which may involve retraining of workers and in some instances displace workers.

However, if you have an enterprise and you have to lose ten workers to new equipment, it is better for that company to do that so that it can build its economy of scale to use up the CARICOM space so that they do not lose the entire enterprise because of the failure to transform. Therefore, if you are going to protect job security, Barbadians have to begin to understand that these are some of the issues that we have to grapple with. We also have to

understand the importance of helping to make the business with which we work to turn this corner and take advantage of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

I listened carefully to some of the responses of the Democratic Labour Party.

S23/Sequence 55

11.50 a.m.

Friday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR Miss. S.C.V. HUSBANDS: I am not quite sure what is fuelling and how they do what they do. We talk about there is no need to rush, yet in my heart I feel that they must know and understand the sense of urgency that is upon CARICOM at this point in time in order to get things in place before the full onslaught of globalization.

I sit and wonder why would they take the position of seeing the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), in a rush, seeming to suggest that we are running headlong without power into a pond that is only going to create disaster for Barbados, unless we slow down and take it one step at a time and take it very slowly going in.

It tells me and I felt that others who listen wonder what kind of philosophy they are listening to and, I suspect that Honourable Senators on our side sensing that, are unable to comprehend these matters. In the sense of urgency of the hour, we use the name of the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow to see if that will act as a catalyst and be more influential in their ears, than perhaps our own words. Sir, also by the use of the position that the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow used, if this would persuade them to understand the importance of why we are approaching the CSME quickly and that without it, our CARICOM area cannot survive.

I want to urge each and every person that if we are going to make the grade, in terms of being competitive in the new environment, all of us would have to look at retraining ourselves. This retraining must start from every CEO, public servant, Minister, and parliamentarian in this country, and flow down to the average man in the street, regardless to where they are working, including those who are sitting on the block.

Economic independence cannot be crafted without the active engagement of all citizens and I would want to encourage our parliamentarians to take their responsibility seriously in sharing with the population, the various things that they need to understand, in terms of more effectiveness in their lives and work and to do this with a sense of

commitment to the needs of Barbados at this time to get every single Barbadian behind us.

I see globalization coming as a major and massive hurricane and I see the CSME as the shelter that we are constructing in which we can provide for and look after ourselves. While that shelter may not have everything in it as it should, while it may not have been completed as it should, we need to hasten to put structures in place so that we can find a safe harbour in a time of storm.

The question as to whether my bedroom is as big as it was before, whether I have a washing machine and a dryer, like before, whether or not we will have furniture and a television and so on, these are issues that we can take care of later, once we focus on getting the structure up and getting inside as quickly as possible.

Sir, 2008 is just around the corner. It is as close even as the World Cup and, the same way that we are making preparations for World Cup, in terms of the new stadiums and putting things in place to get ready, recognising that the readiness has to start from now, so too we need that same level of readiness in our population to take advantage of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

I would want to urge Barbadians to understand that our future, safety and capacity to survive lies in joining hands with our brothers and sisters across the CARICOM region. Desist to see them as foreigners and people who are going to come in here and simply to take from us, but rather we should see them as partners where we can begin to work together, draw up alliances, mergers, and build stronger businesses, as well as where we can move across the region and use up all the available opportunity that is there for the people of the region.

Therefore, when we are confronted with competition from the EU, USA and Asia that we are in a stronger position to meet those winds and hold hands together, so that we can win our way in this new environment. I want to urge every parliamentarian to take this seriously and to do their part in sharing, explaining, comforting, directing and challenging what we are doing and how we are doing it, so that we can make this a better place for all Barbadians and the CARICOM.

I am obliged to you.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Madam Deputy President, in the closing remarks of Senator Stuart, he said that if CSME succeeds, we survive. When Senator Stuart made that statement, I wondered how serious he and the Democratic Labour Party are about ensuring that CSME becomes a reality and we in Barbados and, indeed, CARICOM do in fact survive.

Madam Deputy President, debates such as this one require a certain level of political maturity, particularly when there is the recognition that the success of CSME will be to the benefit of CARICOM people but that the inability to make CSME a success, will be to the detriment of the Caribbean people. I do not believe that the approach of seeking to instill fear in Barbadians of simply saying in principle you support the CSME but then when you speak, those words leave doubt in the minds of Barbadians as to whether or not the CSME as presently proposed will be to the benefit of CARICOM people and people of Barbados.

It is therefore necessary for the Democratic Labour Party to say very clearly what is their position on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. If they in fact have concerns, it is their responsibility not only to identify them but to communicate how they propose to make the introduction of the CSME better so that it will be to the benefit of Barbadians and CARICOM people.

On August 1, 1973, the Caribbean community and common market came into existence with the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas. The overall objectives were the economic integration, foreign policy, foreign relation and function of the Corporation.

Senate 23, sequence 56,

12:00 noon

Wednesday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Indeed, Madam Deputy President, the creation of CARICOM can well be described, I suppose the economist would refer to it, as a type two integration following on from CARIFTA. In 1989 at Grand Anse in Grenada, the CARICOM Heads agreed to the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. One of the reasons for agreeing to the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy was to ensure that there was a deepening of the integration movement.

It was also recognised that it was essential and necessary for the creation of a CARICOM Single Market and Economy in order to ensure that CARICOM countries could better function in a changing, global, economic environment and that CARICOM countries would better respond to the challenges and the opportunities which the new, global, economic environment presented.

Madam Deputy President, we all know that in 1989 at Grand Anse, a Democratic Labour Party Prime Minister was given lead responsibility for the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. We also know that between 1989 and 1994 absolutely nothing was done by the Democratic

Labour Party Government to ensure that the CARICOM Single Market and Economy becomes a reality.

Madam Deputy President, I would ask Senator Stuart if at that time the Democratic Labour Party did not recognise that if the CARICOM Single Market and Economy failed, the people of CARICOM would perish, and if it succeeded, that the people of CARICOM would survive. Madam Deputy President, it was very clear in 1989 to the Heads of Government that the establishment of a CARICOM Single Market and Economy was necessary and critical to deepening the integration process because of the global economic environment which came into being. In July of 1944 at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire at the UN Monetary and Financial Conference there were two global institutions which came into existence which have a significant influence on global economics. Those two institutions are the International Monetary Fund commonly referred to as the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development commonly referred to as the World Bank. At that time, Madam Deputy President, there was also an agreement to the establishment of a World Trade Organisation to manage international trade.

I reflect on the Conference at Bretton Woods because it is important that we recognise that throughout time there has been the dominance of global economics by the developed industrialised expansionist countries of the world. In 1944 at Bretton Woods when these institutions came into existence, what is referred to as the G7 countries were there influencing the future of those institutions which at that time had a concept that the market would not properly facilitate economic stability and growth and development of these countries.

In fact, Madam Deputy President, I would argue that the greatest challenge to the capitalist system which is focussed on the free market and economy would have existed prior to that conference in the 1930s during the Great Depression. Part of the reason for the formulation of those institutions was to ensure that financial assistance was provided for the rebuilding of Europe to ensure that the conditions of the 1930s during the Great Depression would never impact on the world in that way again. It is interesting to note, Madam Deputy President, that it was felt that expansionary economic policies such as the lowering of interest rates and the increasing of Government expenditure were the policies necessary to ensure economic stability.

Madam Deputy President, in the 1980s significant shift in the thinking of those global institutions took place. That shift took place because the industrialised countries which were at the forefront had a change in their economic thinking. At that time it was being suggested that the market could now provide the economic stability that was necessary and that by removing barriers to trade, by

facilitating the free market and limiting the intervention of Government, economic stability would be ensured.

Madam Deputy President, I think that we must recognise today that we exist in a global capitalist system which is dominated by the concept of the free movement of goods and services. There is no longer a Berlin Wall or the Cold War. Even in those countries which utilise the communist approach there are within their system aspects of movement to the free market.

Senate 23 Sequence 57

12.10 p.m.

Thursday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Madam Deputy President, I reflect on those things because the reality is that within the global economic environment the belief now exists that because of the capitalist effect of trade liberalisation and the removal of trade barriers, the market would present the best opportunity for economic growth and development. This is fundamentally different from 1944 and 1973 and I think that has to be recognised.

Madam Deputy President, it has been stated, and all of us know, that Barbados on the world map is very small. It is literally a dot. On some maps, it does not even exist. But Madam Deputy President, Barbados is not only small in terms of its physical size, Barbados is also small in terms of its economic size. Therefore, in this existing environment, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for a country like Barbados to influence world affairs.

All of us know that the developed countries, to a large extent, dictate or take the lead role on issues that are brought to international attention. There was a situation where the developed countries of the world had utilised protective measures and subsidies under the World Trade Organisation to build up their domestic industries and when those industries had come to the point at which they were strong enough to compete globally, they then argued that barriers to trade should be removed.

Madam Deputy President, we have heard the comment that when the United States of America sneezes, we, in the Caribbean, catch cold. I only made reference to those things because it is important that we recognise the urgency of moving ahead with the creation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. I agree with Senator Stuart when he said that if it fails, we perish; if it succeeds, we survive. But Madam Deputy President, leaders have to communicate with those whom they lead. They have to communicate the cognizance and the vision that they have for taking their country forward and in assisting the region to go forward.

Madam Deputy President, we all know the saying: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Therefore, it comes as no surprise that between 1989 and 1994, under a Democratic Labour Party Government, absolutely nothing happened in relation to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. It comes as no surprise that the Democratic Labour Party's Senators can communicate in this Honourable Chamber that even though they support the Caribbean Single Market and Economy in principle, they have significant concerns with respect to the implications that the free movement of people will have on crime.

Madam Deputy President, I am attempting to speak on that particular statement because I think that it is most unfortunate that by inference, the people of Barbados are left to conclude that our CARICOM brothers and sisters coming to Barbados will result in an increase of criminal activity. We, on this side, dissociate ourselves with any such statement. We, in the Barbados Labour Party, believe that many of our CARICOM brothers and sisters are honest, hardworking and decent people and, therefore, we have to be honest. Madam, both the construction and agricultural sectors in this country rely significantly on labour that is provided by our CARICOM brothers and sisters.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Madam Deputy President, two to three weeks ago...

SENATOR F. J. STUART: On a point of elucidation. Senator Lowe spoke in this debate and indicated that the Commissioner of Police of Barbados has raised the issue of complications leading to a rise from the coming into being of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Senator Lowe did not say what Senator Grant is alleging to have been said about our regional brothers and sisters coming here and engaging in illegal activities. It was the Commissioner of Police who went public on this. I heard him myself. It is a legitimate concern and I take the most serious exception to Senator Grant's trying to distort what Senator Lowe has said.

Asides.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Madam Deputy President, sometime in the future I shall journey to the East and shall speak in greater detail on this issue, and the people there will determine the issue.

Madam Deputy President, some weeks ago, a businessman in this country, who is involved in construction, approached me and told me that he was looking for workers and I agreed that I would try to find some workers for him. I travelled throughout the many areas in Barbados and I was amazed that many persons

with whom I came into contact said that they were not interested, that they were not going to work in the hot sun.

Madam Deputy President, I had another situation where someone came to me and I was able to get a job for that person as a labourer. That person called me weeks later and said that they were no longer interested in doing labour work.

S:No.23(58)

12.20 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Madam Deputy President, I am making the point...

SENATOR SIR ROY TROTMAN: Madam Deputy President, on a point of order. I think the Honourable Senator is misleading the Senate and is trying to induce from his very limited experience that there are people in Barbados who do not want to work. It is not correct for us to take one or two examples and in a public forum, through that to make the induction that all Barbadians are in a position where they do not want to work because the work is hard.

Let us have our political difference but let us not fool people into believing that Barbadians do not want to work. Madam, I think the Honourable Senator should withdraw the remark as a responsible leader of this country.

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Grant, could you either withdraw or rephrase?

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Madam Deputy President, I withdraw but I would say that I am speaking with specific reference to the construction sector and of experiences which I have had. I have said before in this Honourable Chamber that when we speak we must speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Madam Deputy President, I hold myself as well to that same principle. I know many Barbadians in various sections who work hard every single day to the benefit of this country but I also know that the construction and the agricultural sectors benefit significantly from labour within CARICOM. I have no problem with withdrawing the remark so that my colleague who is the principal spokesperson on labour should have no concern or difficulty with respect to where I stand.

Madam, the point still has to be made that responsible leadership requires that we realistically and honestly look at situations that exist. It also requires us as leaders, that you lead with ideas. As leaders you do not follow or seek simply to inject fear for political gains

particularly when it relates to an issue as vital as this is to the survival of Caribbean people.

Madam Deputy President, I speak today with emotion and passion but the future of this country and this Caribbean region depends on all of us, the politicians, non-governmental organisations, trade unions and the private sector coming to the table and looking in a mature and responsible manner at issues that prevail.

The Democratic Labour Party's remarks during this debate suggest that they are prepared to support a measure so vital in principle. They have philosophical difference in terms of this issue but in terms of their actions and responsibility to people of this country, they are not coming up to the bar.

Madam, the Opposition political Party has many responsibilities. The point must also be made that many of the countries within CARICOM, their gross domestic product is smaller than some multinational companies so for us to survive in this region, it would be in our benefit to come together and function with regard to a relationship such as the Caribbean Single Market and Economy than to individually proceed.

Madam Deputy President, trade liberalisation and the expansion of regional economic trading blocs require that we ensure in the shortest possible time that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy becomes a reality because our future depends on it.

Madam, I need to make some reference to what the Senator spoke about....

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Grant, if you need to do so, you must do it in the shortest possible time because you have only two minutes left.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Madam Deputy President, I will simply make reference to Protocol VIII. The general objective of that Protocol is to assist disadvantaged regions, countries and sectors and there is provision for support measures which includes financial assistance, transitional arrangements, the establishment of a development fund and programmes to attract investment and encourage product diversification.

I want to make the point for the benefit of Senator Lowe that any member which is deemed as a disadvantaged country, has a disadvantaged sector or any member state which is part of a region which is disadvantaged is entitled to benefit under this Protocol by having access to special financial resources that are provided under this Protocol.

S23/Sequence 59

12.30 p.m.

Friday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: In closing, let us all, as mature Barbadians recognise that we need to work together to make Caribbean Single Market and Economy - it is unlikely that we will get it perfect but it is essential that we proceed in the swiftest and shortest possible time because the success of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is necessary for the survival, not only of Barbadians but the people of the region.

I am obliged to you.

[Mr. President took the Chair]

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I wish to thank all Senators for their contributions which, in my view, were of the highest calibre. It is good to see that even though there are some lingering questions, in principle, we all have the same objective, that is, to see the region reach the stage where it can fully realise its potential, which we acknowledge is not going to be possible as long as we continue to go our separate ways.

All of us will agree that the deepening of the integration movement will not only create opportunities for more trade within the domestic market but through the pooling of our resources, the region will find itself in a stronger position to take on the external atmosphere.

Sir, it is amazing that in spite of the fact that we all acknowledge the potential benefits from the deepening of the integration movement, it has taken too long to make it a reality. I will refer to the 1920s and take note of the ambitions which were evident there among the leaders of the labour movement and subsequent discussions.

It has puzzled me why making the deepening of the integration movement a reality has escaped us. I trust that we have all come to the point where we resolve to get it right this time and to make it a reality. All of us have said that there will be lingering questions in people's minds, even after we undertake extensive educational programmes.

Senator Stuart raised an issue about which currency is likely to be the currency when we have reached the state where the single economy is brought into being. This is why we cannot decide at this point in time. While it is easy now for someone outside of Barbados to take a decision to come to Barbados on the strength of the Barbados dollar that is a different situation from determining what will happen in 20 years and which currency will be the strongest then.

Sir, the evidence is before you now so that you can choose. We are not talking about what is going to happen in the future. Therefore, we are obliged to make sure that we pursue the types of policies, especially making full use of the Regional Development Fund to bring all of the countries to a certain level of development because then the issue of the choice of currency can be dealt with in a different way from now where it is unequally developed. This is one of the objectives of the establishment of the Regional Development Fund. Mr. President, these are issues that people will naturally ask to be dealt with.

Sir, we have to put the Caribbean Single Market and Economy into practice and people will start to see the benefits and some of those questions will no longer be as troubling as they are now. Sir, this happens when we are moving from something which we have been accustomed to all our lives into new areas.

Mr. President, the point is, all of us acknowledge that united we stand divided we will fall. If we are to take on the uncertainties that will result from the global trends and development, we have to stay together.

Sir, on that note I wish to move that this Bill be read a second time.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. E.R. Griffith, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Her Honour Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

The Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. E.R. GRIFFITH, 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. E.R. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (Implementation)(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2004.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 1.45 p.m.

The question was put and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Senate accordingly.

S23/Sequence 60

12.40 p.m.

Friday, December 17, 2004

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 3 – PENSIONS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) – BILL, 2004

Senator the Hon. E.R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2004 is seeking to amend the Pensions Act Chapter 25 to make a new provision, in relation to the compulsory age of retirement for public officers joining the public service after January 1, 2005.

In October 2002, the Government established a Barbados Committee to undertake to review comprehensively the Public Service pensions arrangement.

Senate 23, sequence 62,

1.50 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: The mandate of that Committee is to review the existing pensions arrangements in place for public servants, that is, in the funding of those pension arrangements and entitlements, to review the various pieces of legislation governing pensions which are paid from the Consolidated Fund with a view to bringing them together and rationalising any provisions where necessary; to examine the work which is being done by a firm of actuaries and the cost of funding of the officers' pensions and to advise of the way to fund those pensions in the future. The work of that Committee is still in progress.

One recommendation which has been made so far which this piece of legislation before us is seeking to address is that of the retirement age of public officers. Prior to the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1985 public officers or employees were required to retire at the age of 60 with an option to go at age 55. Following the 1985 piece of legislation, the retirement age was changed from 60 years and 55 years to 65 years and 60 years, with 60 years being the retirement age for permanent secretaries and heads of departments.

What is now being proposed, Mr. President, is that there will be a national retirement age. Under the pension arrangements to the National Insurance Scheme the retirement age is 65 and then we are going to make provision for it to go up in stages, eventually reaching 67 years by 2018. What is now being proposed here is that the retirement age for those persons in the Public Service who were expected to go at age 60 would now go at 65 and over time there will be a change to the arrangement under the National Insurance Scheme.

Therefore, if you look at the schedule of the legislation before us you would notice that from January 1, 2005 the retirement age will be 65; from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2009 inclusive the retirement age will be 65 and a half years; from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2013 inclusive, 66 years; from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017 inclusive, 66 and a half years and from January 1, 2018 and thereafter 67 years. Those are the retirement ages for employees whether they are in the public service or the private sector.

Mr. President, the issue of pensions and the reform of pensions is being looked at against the background where for a number of reasons including health standards Barbados has now what we would describe as an ageing population and persons are living longer while at the other end of the spectrum because of the low birthrate fewer persons are coming into the workforce. That development led to a situation where fewer people were being asked to pay higher contributions to the National Insurance Scheme to facilitate and accommodate the pensions to those who were living longer.

Mr. President, the present legislation also has provisions for two persons. Those two persons identified are the Auditor-General and the Director of Public Prosecutions. Their retirement age is currently at 62 and they are not being dealt with here, because all of us know of the proposals to amend the Constitution eventually and it was felt that those two cases should remain unchanged. The Schedule to the Bill also makes it clear that those persons who prior to January 1, 2005 were entitled to retire at an earlier age may still do so leading up to January 1, 2005. In fact, it says at Section 3(a) that a public officer referred to under subsection 1(a) or (2) is entitled to retire and have his pension paid at any age which he could have before 1st January 2005. So if they were entitled to retire before, they still have that option even after January 1, 2005. Ultimately, though all those persons retiring after January 1st 2005 will go at the suggested change here.

Undoubtedly, the pensions taken at the individual level appear small to many but the total bill to the Government is a very significant one. In fact, pensions now account for about \$120 million per annum of Government's expenditure and it is expected that it will continue to rise

over the future years. This arrangement of our pensions also takes into account the changes which were made not so long ago to bring the casual employees who prior to that adjustment to the legislation were not entitled to any pension but received a gratuity award. This Administration brought a change to that and those workers were determined to be public employees and they can now benefit from pensions and gratuities.

Senate 23 Sequence 63

2.00 p.m.

Thursday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the provision for pensions started around 1896. At that time persons who earned £50.00 or more would have benefited. There was also a situation where policemen, teachers and such persons in those categories were not entitled to pension. That has changed over the years where all employees, through to the last category, including those from statutory bodies and those who were previously referred to as casual employees, have all benefited. Therefore, there has been a substantial amount of development.

Mr. President, this change here, in my view, is a very straightforward one and I do not think I should belabour the point. I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, I will not delay the Honourable Senate on this Bill. There are some issues which constitute matters in the Bill relating to Barbados which have been raised in the recent past. Therefore, there is no need to rehearse them again.

Mr. President, fair and full discussions have already taken place in this matter in the way of actuarial discussions on our National Insurance Fund. The trouble is that something needs to be done about our National Insurance Scheme and in the context what has arisen again, is the fact that Barbados now has what is called an ageing population and the fact that people are living longer. This Bill before us relates to the retiring age of public officers and, in my view, coats the public servants of Barbados as well.

Barbados has, over the years, benefited from having a very efficient public service and the quality of educational opportunities in Barbados has ensured that the country has produced and are producing a pool of talent and resources to manage the public service. In fact, there are some social analysts who argue that is one of the strengths of Barbados, if not the strength, that has saved Barbados so often from social upheaval. Sir, Haiti, for example, has a middle-income group of public servants that

are not as competent and as skilled as Barbados. Of course, that goes for other territories in this region as well.

Mr. President, the reality has to be faced, I think, that, in many respects, the public servants of Barbados are skilled in their attitudes and some would be known as colonial public servants. Of course, Barbados has only been independent 38 years now and there are many public servants in Barbados who would have been working in the public service during the pre-independence years. The focus of colonial administration, of course, in these territories was to guarantee stability and, therefore, there was a slavish attachment to following rules and procedures.

I heard Government say that there is promised a new Civil Service Act and perhaps when that Bill comes, we will have more comprehensive discussion on this issue. The focus of post-independent Barbados has been necessarily developmental. Therefore, the question is whether our rule-following, procedure-following, stability-oriented Public Service can meet the legitimate demands imposed or called for by a developmental outlook. I think that countries have passed this stage where it has to confront issues at this time such as the time that it takes to get things done; the number of desks which a particular file has to pass before a decision is taken; and the sometimes unnecessarily preoccupation in ensuring that the correct procedures are followed, which are still enslaved, I think, by the thinking of the German sociologist, Max Weber, who, I believe, argued about the removal of this bureaucracy.

It is not without significance, certainly it is not by accident, that when we speak about public servants, we speak about bureaucracy because of the obsession in making sure that a file does not end up on the wrong desk before it passes through the correct number of persons, by others initialling it, et cetera.

Mr. President, this must have implications for persons in the private sector who have to deal with the public service and it must, unnecessarily, I think, slow down the business which they will conduct, which is so intricately linked to the achievement of developmental goals.

Sir, therefore, moving the pension age to 67 by 2018 is just one component of what needs to be done in the Public Service of Barbados, if it is to be what I would call "development-compliant". There are a number of other issues that must be confronted and I think that we have been talking about this for a long time but we have to move from a law-and-order and a stability-oriented administration to a development administration, if we are to be successful. I, therefore, hope to hear soon from the Government on these issues, where we can have a full debate and where these issues can be more fully ventilated.

With those few words, Mr. President, I would like to indicate to the Honourable Senate that this Bill meets no objection from the Opposition. I am obliged to you.

SENATOR I. St.C. LINTON: Mr. President, I want to make a short intervention in this Honourable Chamber, in the Bill that is before us. I wish to begin by saying that because of circumstance by way in which the issue of Government's vision of pensioners, both at the level of service pensions and national insurance contributory pensions, it is important to the State to make sure and to bring in provisions that guarantee that the State is able to meet the needs of pensioners like myself and others.

S:No.23(64)

2.10 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR I. St.C. LINTON: I want to bring to the table a matter which the late Senator Collymore spoke about on a number of occasion in relation to pensioners who are only receiving a service pension because they stopped working in the public service before National Insurance came on board. Sir, research should be done to find out how many of those service pensioners are still alive and not receiving, like myself, both service pensions and contributory pensions from National Insurance Office.

I am requesting that the Leader of Government Business gets the Government to look at the particular matter because those persons worked hard in those days and they need to have a further enhancement of their pensions. Mr. President, there are persons in Barbados who have suffered from disabilities to the extent that they could not be part of the working class. They receive money from the Welfare Department but research should also be done because the grant from the Welfare Department is not enough to sustain them and they become dependant on the extended family. When such cases are discovered, I know there is a provision to allow them to receive a non contributory pension. I am asking that this research be undertaken and that they be brought under the non-contributory pension rights to enhance the subsistence from the welfare grant.

Mr. President, I thought that I should do this because I know from working in the public service how hard persons worked and I know of persons who have disabilities and are unable to work who need to be enhanced in relation to transportation or some other area of their lives.

Sir, I support the Resolution before this Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Sir Roy Trotman.

SENATOR SIR ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, I wish to say from the outset that I support the Bill before the Honourable Senate but I regret that Government has not sought to deal as fully as it might with the question of pensions especially as they relate to the public service.

I thought that this occasion should have presented the opportunity for the Government to involve itself in a comprehensive overhaul of the pension system in this country and for Government to seek for a means of meeting urgently the expressed needs of the third party.

I am starting from the position of there being a partnership of workers with the Government and I start from that position to say that there have been discussions with agencies of the Government and with the workers through their representatives, that there are demands which have been made by that group of workers that have been agreed to by the agents of the Government quite some time ago and yet these agreed items have not found themselves into this attempted review of the legislation. I think this is unfortunate and that it speaks to tinkering rather than to a fundamental and substantial review of the legislation. Mr. President, it is necessary for this Government to use occasions like this to demonstrate true social partnership. There is absolutely no point in having the labour movement committing itself to working with the Government as it commits itself to working with employers to effect fundamental change on the development of country if in those areas where there is an agreement, the Government in setting an example, falls short of its responsibility in much the same way that employers fall short of their responsibility to deal honestly, fairly and squarely with the question of upliftment of the worker/partner in this tripartite social partnership.

It is necessary as well for the Government to use the occasion to demonstrate that social dialogue does not find it posturing but that there is a fundamental underlying commitment by the Government, as it should be for employers, as it should be for labour to be committed truly, earnestly and honestly to working in the overall welfare of the nation of Barbados and for every single citizen of our country. Mr. President, it is necessary for the Government to lead by example thereby showing how we can embrace our national initiatives for service excellence by public servants.

S23/Sequence 65

2.20 p.m.

Friday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR SIR ROY TROTMAN: It will not finally require them to give of their energy and time but in return to receive from their employer and country for which they

are giving through their excellence and by which they might have been able to speak to excellence.

Sir, I draw your attention to Section 13.15(1) of the Resolution. At the same time I wish to take note of Section 8.1(a) of Chapter 384, which speaks to the Statutory Boards Pensions Act. In order for us to understand the point that I am making, I need to refer to the definitions where both of them deal with a person who holds an office. The Statutory Board Pensions Act says that an officer means a person who has been employed in the service of a Board and who has been the substantive holder on a full-time basis of any office specified under the First Schedule.

Sir, Chapter 25 speaks to pensionable office. It states that in respect of service of the Crown in a civil capacity, an office which by virtue of any provision for the time being in the post, an order made by the Governor-General and approved by both Houses is declared to be pensionable office and shall be deemed to preclude any office not so declared pensionable office in respect to service in which an officer would have been eligible for a pension or gratuity under the Pensions Act 1925.

By itself, it may not hold a lot of special meaning for persons who are not dealing with the public service and may not understand the intricacies of the national issue, so I wish to draw your attention to two phrases. One is for "a person who" and a phrase or clause "who holds an office" and the other one is to the clause "who are on an appointment". In short, the two sets of amendments, since we are lending two distinct pieces of legislation in this one Bill, two areas of change speak specifically to persons who have appointments or who hold office.

Mr. President, as the Leader of the Senate correctly said, the Government has done significant work on its initiative but also in responding to the urging of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados, and to date a large body of people who previously did not receive pensions under the current provision have been brought to the position of persons who are appointed.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados for that action, although when I spoke to a certain body of people who were appointed at a certain time they are having difficulty, and it does not now speak to people who have been engaged after that time of December 1994. Sir, that has the effect for people who have joined the service in the era 2000/2001 there is no written or clear indication of what those individuals' status is. This legislation ought to have addressed that issue but I do not stop there.

I am saying that in addition to its failure to address people other than that particular category of persons who

were casuals in 1994 and whose casual statuses changed by administrative dictum, there are persons who are serving in offices in the public service who are not appointed to those positions and must therefore be considered to be temporary workers. Sir, because they have not been appointed in the Service, they have no guarantee of being able to benefit from a pension and sometimes they have to hope that they do not meet somebody in the area of the presentation of their case who may not be fully able to interpret the legislation.

Mr. President, I would like to suggest that the complete handling of this section requires the legislation to say that all persons who are employed and who serve the qualifying term shall join whatever ranks may exist and that those ranks should not be limited to persons holding an office. This is one way by which we might be able to demonstrate to the public and to a partnership worker in the public that we are in a situation where we want excellence of service because there is every intention to have excellence of benefits.

Sir, I wish to turn your attention to Section 13.2 (b). You will notice that it speaks to the First Schedule in the original Act, which Schedule relates to Section 13 (c). After Section 13 (c) we are now adding some changes. The completeness of the revised legislation should, in my view, require the replacing in the Schedule of the principals of secondary schools as part of that body of persons who should benefit and should be included in that list who may presumably have been dropped in error.

Sir, there are two examples of areas to address specifics but I do not stop there. I wish now to go on to show where there may very well have been inclusion which would have completed the exercise. I also wish to say that some of these areas to which I refer show the inclusion of matters on which there is agreement at the administrative level.

Mr. President, intentions should have been taken for harmonising pensions legislation. The Leader of Government Business correctly said that a committee has been set up and is working at the reform of various pieces of pension legislation to bring harmony into their operation.

S23/Sequence 66

2.30 p.m.

Friday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR SIR ROY TROTMAN: It seems to me from this position that merely to deal with the question of age when, in fact, we have gone through the checks and have addressed some of the issues, is to have left out some

very important matters which, if not important to the law makers, are very important to the worker/constituents and they ought therefore to have an organisation from that point.

For example, there could have been an organisation under Chapter 384 which speaks to age 60 for General Managers of statutory boards, as their last day at work. The new legislation amended at Section 8(a) subsection 2, indicated age 65 and that is as it should be. I have no quarrel with that being changed but I think that if we are harmonising, we would be in a better position to recognise the need which exists for us to give better direction and guidance to some of the people who manage statutory boards. I said before that in other places, you sometimes inadvisably from a different point of view without understanding good sense, when it is presented to them...

I had the misfortune, Mr. President, of speaking to a statutory board which I will not name because I did not advise you before. I said to them that less than one year ago, we had a position in this country where we had all agreed to the extension of the retirement age, Sir, if we were going to secure the integrity of our National Insurance Scheme and our Social Security safety net.

Sir, that Board looked me straight in the face and said that although you are talking sense, we have been instructed not to listen to you and, therefore, all people who have reached the age of 60 must go home. One of these statutory boards sent home a man and in two months, they had to call him back to say that they did not know anything that is happening at this workplace, could you please tell us where things are. This was at 11.00 p.m. and because a man was committed to partnership, he left his house at 11.00 p.m. having been tipped off by the locals, as Sir Frank used to say.

This is why we have dispute with that particular Board now, because they are unable to understand that you cannot have a situation where the whole country is going in the direction of working longer, but you take a position to send home people earlier because you do not listen to the voice of reason, and because there is a pension scheme called the Statutory Board Pension Scheme, which says that retirement for pension purposes for them is age 60. Then, you have the position where that Board violates the law at 384 and the law at 25 by saying that you must go, even though the terms in the legislation do not say so.

I am saying therefore that if we were dealing totally with this legislation, we would not have that kind of problem which could repeat itself tomorrow because it is not yet law. I am saying, what is required is for there to be the reduction of some form of guidance to Statutory Boards to prevent them from violating the terms of Chapter 25 and Chapter 384 by their forcing workers below the rank of

general manager into retirement, before the dates when they are contracted to do so by that same legislation.

What is also required, Sir, is a means by which Government and the agencies of Government will revise the Government legislation and/or the administration, of the terms of that legislation to allow a service to be offered and to be accepted, even where pension schemes are not in sync with the legislation.

I know that this is perhaps not the season of the year to be critical but I understand that one is supposed to preach the word in season and not out of season and so, you must forgive me, Mr. President, if I have to tell it as I see it.

Mr. President, in our commitment to social dialogue, we have been meeting in tripartite fora, that is to say, employers, Government and the trade unions. Within that context, the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB) has advocated that the revised legislation should protect the cost of living allowances which are added to pensions, and that they should, in perpetuity, be treated as part of a full pension of persons who are receiving pensions.

In the neighbouring State of Trinidad this was not done. The result was that when the Government had a slight difficulty with its financial strength and the balancing of its budget, the Government removed the cost of living allowance from pensioners.

Those pensioners who were aggrieved went before the law courts and they lost the case. Therefore, for those of you who may think that this is not necessary for us to say, I want to draw your attention to the fact that in the Trinidad precedent, the workers lost the case because the legislation did not specifically protect the allowance to which workers were entitled under the pension arrangements.

It is therefore necessary that we take examples wherever that example is and that we want to draw from the Trinidad experience and bring into the Barbados legislation protection for those workers so that their allowances are protected and they are able to be assured of cost of living adjustments from time to time and that we do not find that a person who had a good pension today, ten years later, finds himself bankrupt and unable to meet living conditions.

This has no place in the kindness and benevolence of any Minister of Finance. It has a place within the protection of the legislation for pensioners, not only in the public service but we have to negotiate for the private sector.

Mr. President, next I would wish to speak to the matter of pensions as a right. You can work in the public service for 45 years, and you could be an excellent public servant for 44 years, eleven months and 29 days and on the 30th day, you can fall short of the grace of Government and lose your pension.

Therefore, the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Association of Barbados spoke to the Government about this matter and I wish to say that we are pleased that Government saw the wisdom of our argument and agreed that in situations like that, you could not just dismiss the 35 or whatever years the person has, and they agreed with us that there should be pensions as a right in law. Yet, we are coming to deal with a revision of the legislation but this is not anywhere to be seen.

Senate 23, sequence 67,

2.40 p.m.

Friday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR SIR ROY TROTMAN: Are we supposed to be saying to the public servants that we are only concerned with the conditions under which this pension is being revised where it suits the Government's interest and that we should not be concerned about it where it suits the interest of the workers themselves? We would have thought that the whole point in revising the pension was to address the felt needs and the expressed needs of the workers themselves or of the workers through their representatives but this, alas, is not to be. So we are forced to say that that is something which should be in the here and now and not for the future.

In passing, I wish to touch on the denial of pension. Pay and no-pay leave as you know, Mr. President, do not count for pensions. We are of the view that if persons have no-pay leave for a good reason that need should count, particularly maternity leave which technically is no-pay leave. I do not believe that anybody in this room takes the view that some of our neighbours take maternity leave for parents of children as something for which a person should be punished. The Government surely does not think so because it has moved administratively to ensure that maternity leave is now considered at the level of the administration to be certified and approved leave. We are not satisfied with the talk about approval of Government because far too often as we may know the Lord giveth and then the Lord taketh away and though in that case I should not say blessed be the name of the Lord, I would still wish to have you understand that we need to go beyond the beneficence of persons through the protection of the law. What we want therefore to see is that the occasion would be used to bring under the legislative protection of Chapter 25, protection for public servants who proceed on

maternity leave that would then make sure that there is no possibility for a removal from one to the other.

I know, Sir, that I have just about ten minutes left.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let me make it two, Senator.

Asides.

SENATOR SIR ROY TROTMAN: Let me then say in closing that I know that there is going to be occasion made which would go on for a long time coming out of a comment made by a senior public person, a senior political individual, who said that in fact we should begin at age 70.

Mr. President, there is good reason for us to start recognising that in many countries around the world you can no longer ask a person what his or her age is on applications for a job nor can you terminate that person on the basis of the person reaching the age of 65 or 66 or any other age. The United States of America and Japan are the leaders in that area.

Mr. President, I am not suggesting for a minute that we could get there and I am not even suggesting that we go to 70, I am saying that the debate would be there, but that we ourselves have to realise that we are going to have to be very careful about how we balance the equation between the older worker that we need to keep for his or her expertise, guidance and support in an establishment and the young people who are increasingly coming onto the job market, very well-qualified, anxious to move on and who want to have a help up.

I think that it is very important for us to be careful not to alienate our young people and we should endeavour however and wherever to give as much support to the young people as possible, including providing arrangements in the pensions, that they do not find themselves being so frustrated that the public service no longer looks to them as an area where they are going to build careers and can be so distinguished as the late Senator Collymore whom we eulogised on Wednesday. SENATOR the Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, before I move that this legislation be read a second time I just wish to acknowledge the issues raised by Senator Linton and Senator Sir Roy Trotman. I listened carefully as he made the point that the issues which he raised were issues that have been agreed on. I am pretty sure that the appropriate amendments would come. It may be a little unfortunate to say that they are not here but I humbly believe that they will come in relation to the completion of the work of the Committee which is looking at the wider issue of pensions and that is just a very small aspect of that whole reform. So I do not think that we need to worry about the fact that they would come although I understand that we would have been required to have them before Christmas.

The issue raised by Senator Linton is one that requires a little more research. I am sure that Senator Linton knows well that subsequent to 1975 persons coming into the Public Service now qualify for one pension. So the amount of pension they get from the Government will be reduced by the amount they get from the National Insurance Scheme. Those who contribute to the National Insurance Scheme will benefit from it. The ones who now come after 1975 did not make the contribution to the Scheme the way we made it. So it is not that those of us who benefit from that get anything which they do not get. We benefited because we made a contribution to the Scheme, so we get a pension from it. They are not called upon to do that in the same way that we did and to the same extent. So in future they would get one pension. So if we are going back we need to take all of that into account, but it is a matter I will have researched and, of course, make the appropriate recommendation to the appropriate ministry so that it can be dealt with.

Mr. President, in closing let me say that the issue of the retirement age is one that has been with us for a long time and as Senator Trotman said it will continue. The question is whether it will be at 65, 67, 68 or whatever years. Not so long ago we brought before this Chamber a Green Paper on ageing. The Government has committed itself to an environment in which the elderly in the society will still be able to make a meaningful contribution. In my view, in the earlier days when you had some issues relating to the reduction of the retirement age, the proponents of that exercise were persons who thought that they were doing the younger folks, as they say, a favour.

Mr. President, sometimes we in Barbados could be a little unkind to our old. So they said get those old people out of the way and make room for the young. What they did not realise was that it was not the solution to the problem. The solution to the problem was to create opportunities for all ages to make full use of their skills. I am not saying this because I have reached that age. I now fall into the category where people on the call-in programmes and elsewhere have described me as a double retiree even though I only get one pension.

Asides.

Senate 23 Sequence 68

2.50 p.m.

Thursday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR the Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the point is that in a small society like ours with regard to the example that Senator Trotman has made, it is amazing that we can, as soon as people reach a certain age, push them aside. We must give persons choices that if they

want to go and do other things, that is fine but if they still have skills to share, they should not be cast aside. Those of us who have relatives very often on one corner of our mouths, speak about not putting them in a home or in a hospital but keeping them in civil society, while, at the other corner of our mouths, not referring to our own relatives, refer to others and push them aside without recognising that we have to be clear about what we are saying. We should try to create an environment in which all our people can use their skills.

Mr. President, in the United States of America, if you ask somebody about their age, they will carry you to court because they would say that you are discriminating against them. I trust that one of these days, not long after my time, that this society would return to the point where they can take that kind of approach.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill. MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 2 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH, Madam Deputy President 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. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2004.

ORDER NO. 4 – SECOND READING OF ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP WEST INDIES – 2007 (GUARANTEE) BILL, 2004

SENATOR the Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, this matter before us has two aspects to it. We have a Bill which sets out the responsibilities of the company that is responsible for the implementation of the host venue agreement in relation to the Cricket World Cup, 2007 agreement and the Resolution which deals with the

responsibilities of the Government as part of that agreement.

Mr. President, as we all know, Barbados has been chosen as the host venue for the Finals and to host six Super Eight matches in the 2007 World Cup Cricket. That meant that the local company has had to take on certain responsibilities. The company which is responsible for the implementation of the host venue agreement is a company which is jointly owned by the Government and the local organising committee, World Cup (Barbados) Incorporation. That company owns 90 per cent while 10 per cent is owned between Government and the Barbados Cricket Association. There are 11 Directors in total, with two coming from the Government's side; four from the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation and three from the Barbados Cricket Association.

Mr. President, the Government has agreed to undertake a number of responsibilities in respect to this agreement and the obligations are set out within the Bill that is before us in the Schedule at Part B. There is then the Resolution which says that Government is expected to guarantee US\$500 million in the event that there is a failure to follow through with the arrangements.

Mr. President, there is also a requirement that the company deals with the upgrading of the facilities at Kensington. That means that a number of the property owners in that area would, unfortunately, have to be disturbed and/or resited. Sir, there are some commercial properties that are involved and following various discussions, there has been some understanding between those property owners and the Government that they would be compensated, while there is the understanding that the residents would be resited or compensated.

Mr. President, the time table for the development is that work is going to be done in phases, with the first phase of construction starting June 2005 to March 2006 because between April and May 2006, there will be international test cricket. Therefore, the first phase of construction will take place after that period. There is then international test cricket, April 2006 to June 01, 2006. The second phase of construction will be between May 2006 and December 2006, and the World Cup, 2007 takes place between February and May, 2007. The plan is to have all the work necessary for the World Cup, 2007, to be completed by December, 2006.

S:No.23(69)

3.00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR THE HON. E.R. GRIFFITH: Phase 3 will come after this. In relation to the resiting of the residents, a number of them agreed to be resited to Barbarees Hill because Government has already started the process of acquiring land from a number of land owners to provide the appropriate facilities to accommodate those residents from the Kensington Area.

The question is going to be the extent of which Barbados would benefit from hosting the World Cup 2007. Certainly, from the area which I have responsibility, the Ministry of Agriculture, the BAS and the Farmers' Association have put together a theme to help the farming community prepare themselves to take full advantage of any opportunity that would come from the additional persons in Barbados at the time of World Cup 2007.

We have projected the number of persons that would be here in Barbados as a result of changes in population, also the changes in the normal tourist arrivals and the additional persons coming to the World Cup and from that information, we have come up with a forecast as to how much of each commodity would be required to feed all these people. We are working closely with the farming community to help them expand their production to meet this demand.

Sir, World Cup 2007 is one of the landmarks on our horizon. We plan to go beyond the World Cup because it happens to be a mark along the highway we are travelling so we do not plan to let our production drop back after the World Cup. This is one of the reasons why recently we have been speaking a lot about technology in the area of hydroponics. This is part of the efforts to expand the sector so that the farming community would benefit from World Cup 2007.

I have been listening to a number of presentations on the preparation that is being done in the respective sectors for the event to make sure that all Barbadians are able to take full advantage of any opportunity that arises. Sir, in addition to any benefit by the staging of the cricket by way of sale of tickets, our service providers, vendors and manufacturers should be able to benefit as well.

Mr. President, if we do it well, I am sure we would be able to get the maximum benefit from the event. There will be challenges from several other areas but, from all reports which I have received recently, the Planning and Priority Committee will deal with these challenges. I have no doubt that we would be able to stage the event and to do so to our credit in order to benefit not only from the event itself but from the reputation we would be able to send forward to all those persons who will come here at that time.

Mr. President, therefore, I wish to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Dr. Lowe.

SENATOR Dr. D.S. LOWE: Mr. President, I rise to indicate the Opposition's support of this particular effort. We do understand and accept that this offers Barbados a magnificent opportunity to place itself on the world stage of cricket and quite rightly so since Barbados is the home of the greatest son of the cricketing world, a National Hero, the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers.

We on this side acknowledge the contributions made by those Barbadians who put forth the case for this country to be one of the main players in this great world spectacle. Certainly, we want to congratulate those individuals who master-minded our case to be able to secure such a crowning role in World Cup 2007.

Therefore, we do not find any reason to distract from the efforts of the State to put in place the necessary mechanisms to ensure that this particular event goes off with the maximum social and economic benefit to the country and by extension to the people of the country.

Therefore, speaking about maximum social and economic benefit, we would want to ensure that due care and diligence is given to the decision-making process to ensure that those who manage the economic side of this event do so with the highest level of transparency and diligence to ensure that across the social spectrum all Barbadians involved in this event, would be able to secure the kinds of returns that are commensurate with their efforts.

Sir, I believe that cricket in Barbados whether international or locally has always given the opportunity for individuals to ply their trade and the environment of Kensington Oval has always been a kind of metropolis for individuals to make sure that cricket is not only played on the field but that the nuances and ambience of cricket occur outside the walls of Kensington Oval.

Therefore, I want to voice the advice that in all that is going on to facilitate development around the Kensington area, vendors, taxi drivers, small homeowners who make their homes available for accommodation and such like, be taken into the fullest consideration.

S23/Sequence 70

3.10 p.m.

Friday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Mr. President, at the end of the day, whether the West Indies wins, we will want to make sure that all persons involved win as well. We would also want to ensure that with all the great hope that is attached to this particular event, that people would realise their economic and social ambitions that would be attached to the hosting of this great event.

Sir, we have to understand that with the mobilisation of the number of persons who would be coming to our country, that it would also be necessary to ensure that the kind of security arrangements, which are crucial to the protection of the infrastructure of our country and the protection of our people, would be put in place. We would want the Honourable Minister to ensure that is being reinforced because we believe that in this day with terrorism and the like, it is important that whatever international undertaking in which we engage ourselves, that we do it mindful of the fact that there are those out there in the world whose interests would not be our interests and whose activities may not be in concert with our ambitions. Therefore, we would want to ensure that part of the success measures of this arrangement would include careful and devoted protection to matters relating to security, health and safety.

Mr. President, I, again, voice very strongly our support. We wish players, committees and all of the organisers well in terms of assisting in the effort to put on what will be a most memorable sporting event in the history of this country.

Sir, with those words, I support this Bill.

SENATOR I. St.C. LINTON: Mr. President, I want to make a very short intervention. With the planning of World Cup Cricket, I want to know from the Leader of the Senate what plans are in place for the restoration of the former home of the late Sir Frank Worrell. There was talk about the restoration of this property and I believe that this should take place and be in place before World Cup, 2007.

Mr. President, I played the game of cricket as a youngster. I believe that Sir Roy also played that game of cricket. I do not know how many of us in here would have played "kneeling down" cricket or marble cricket.

Asides.

SENATOR I. St.C. LINTON: I believe that some attention should be paid to restoring this unique game, particularly in relation to community tourism. It is a lovely game. It helps to build character, skills and a liaison to help youngsters to have an appreciation of the game and taking it to a higher level.

Sir, I remember playing a game of 'kneel down' cricket many years ago. Our opponents were given 11 runs to win but a guy who lives in Canada and I, bowled them out for seven runs. We played "kneel down" cricket many years ago at Combermere and in the Park on Sundays. There was tremendous competition among us at that time.

Since we have road tennis and so on, I would certainly appreciate seeing, before I pass from this world, some effort being made to restore the former residence of Sir Frank Worrell.

Mr. President, I support this Resolution.

SENATOR G.P.B. NICHOLLS: Mr. President, I am pleased to support this Resolution. I support the World Cup, particularly so because I, unlike most Honourable Senators, am the only active cricketer in this Chamber.

Asides.

SENATOR G.P.B. NICHOLLS: I want to say that as one of the persons who assisted in the preparation of the Barbados bid to host the Cricket World Cup which was very successful. There are a number of things that struck me when we were trying to indicate Barbados' readiness to host an international event. I believe that we need to have an immediate and ongoing dialogue because from the concerns raised by Senator Lowe, it seems that there are lingering questions and that the answers might be a little disappointing to those persons who have traditionally followed cricket at Kensington Oval, our regional game, and would expect to see certain things they consider to be institutional in the game in Barbados. For example, the sale of the new sponsorship rights to the Global Cricket Corporation is not something that Barbadians or the Barbados Government can have any interference to the contract in relation to World Cup Cricket. It means that we would have as a Government, and like all other Caribbean Governments, put such legislation in place and which would come shortly before the World Cup and which would expire after the World Cup, to deal with issues of security, to give control to our security team which would be working at the World Cup to stop and to search persons, to eject persons from the grounds, and things of that nature. Sir, specific legislation would have to be put in place, along with measures to deal with ambush marketing.

Sir, for example, in Barbados, businesses normally utilise the test matches here at Kensington Oval as an opportunity for them to market their own products or to give promotional giveaways, that is, buying tickets and giving them away. Mr. President, because of this ambush marketing, which would now be outlawed by way of legislation, these are some of the things that would not be possible. Indeed, the very products that one would be able to take into Kensington Oval, for example, alcoholic

beverages or soft drinks, would not now be possible because sponsors like Pepsi and others, would have bought the rights to the game.

Mr. President, I am saying that cricket means a lot to Barbadians, not only the actual physical play, but it is a significant institution. Therefore, historically and culturally, Barbados has come to know certain things about cricket. I believe that we should have ongoing dialogue as to the changes because in the last Rugby World Cup, New Zealand/Australia were granted the rights to host that supporting event and the demands of hosting that event placed too high a burden on them to the extent that the persons there said that they would do without it because they cannot do so much to accommodate hosting an international event. Australia, did, in fact, said yes to all the regulations.

Mr. President, this is what we all have been waiting for, the hosting of the finals of World Cup, 2007. Senator Lowe spoke about having the West Indies victory but there are some that are hoping for an England/Australia finals. S23/Sequence 71

3.20 p.m.

Friday, December 17, 2004

Senate 23, sequence 72, 3.20 p.m.

Senator R. W. GRANT: The prospect of having those persons here is more beneficial to the economy in the long run, but it is hoped though that with the new coach of the West Indies Team, will be well underway in his own ways.

Mr. President, my only concern was that having to render some critical advice to World Cup Barbados, I know that people who buy the corporate boxes will now have to stand at the back of the queue because the Global Cricket Corporation will have the right to select the best seats. Barbados will not have to compete for the purchase of tickets, not only with other regional persons but they have the same rights as people all over the globe.

I think that we must have more concerns coming from awareness programmes and ongoing dialogue about the change of the World Cup. There are many benefits of hosting the World Cup and we as a society stand to gain not only from money coming into the Barbadian economy but by the testing of our ability to respond to servicing an international event.

The standard of our customer service relationships that will be required in terms of restaurants, and passenger response. The entire society is responsible for hosting the event. The beautiful thing about the preparation of the day

is that it was not done by a cricket committee, but a wider cross-section of people from all over Barbados, serve on these committees. There is the development of cricket in many of these industries.

I sincerely hope that when we successfully host the World Cup, there are other international sporting events that we can work, and other regional territories will not object to bringing them here. I speak specifically, Sir, of hosting the Commonwealth Games and other small international events. I would not say our regional people would not respond to national events, but there are possibilities of developing certain synergies, because we did that in terms of the joint deal with St. Lucia.

Mr. President, there is a possibility in the future that Barbados, St. Lucia, Trinidad and others could come together and decide to host a Commonwealth game or Pan American game and things of that nature. The industry, in terms of the preparation for the event that will be created by reason of the World Cup coming to Barbados, now stands to grow. I could only sincerely hope that we would not disappoint ourselves and the great legacy that Barbados had in the cricketing world.

Mr. President, with these few words I am much obliged to you.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, all of us are happy that Barbados has been chosen as the venue for the final Cricket World Cup 2007. We all look forward to the successful staging of the event. I listened carefully to Senator Nicholls as one of the persons on the side where the cricket is played...

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: The fact is that when I heard him with all these quarrels of those persons who would normally be taking things to sell and catering and so on, I thought that they would have upgraded opportunities because I did not hear about anybody having any exclusive right to provide food. I do not mean food that is cooked but the raw materials.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. E.R. GRIFFITH: I think that those people would have some good opportunities to make some good money at the World Cup.

I hope that all persons in Barbados would have a chance, especially those persons who are vending in some form or the other, to benefit in a tangible way. I accept that there are many intangibles that will result, but I really think that all of us will be happier if there are some tangible

benefits as well. Therefore, we must seek to maximise those tangible benefits.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. E.R. GRIFFITH, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Her Honour Senator Dame Patricia SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were called and passed.

The Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. E.R. GRIFFITH, 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. E.R. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies 2007 (Guarantee) Act, 2004.

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE

THE GUARANTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAYMENT OF THE SUM OF \$12 MILLION IN EXECUTION OF THE HOST VENUE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP WEST INDIES 2007

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Senator the Hon. E.R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I think it is unlikely that we will meet again before the Christmas Holidays, therefore, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President, for the manner in which you conducted the Senate so far, to wish you and your family a Blessed Christmas and a very Prosperous New Year.

Senate 23, sequence 72,

3.30 p.m.

Friday, December 17, 2004

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: I express similar sentiments to all Honourable Senators and their families, the staff of Parliament, the broadcasters, the technicians and the persons responsible for security. I look forward to all good things happening to you all in the New Year and hope that you would be able to realise your dreams. Certainly, being the administration, we would make sure that we bring the type of environment that would give you the opportunity to realise your dreams. All the best for the holiday and the new year.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I therefore beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn sine die.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, I should like on behalf of the Opposition to fully associate myself with the comments made by the Honourable Leader of Government Business and take this opportunity to wish all Honourable Senators the compliments of the season.

To you, Sir, I want to say thanks for the way in which you have steered the proceedings in this Chamber. A dignified, calm, sense of fairness and impartiality have always characterised your Honour's presiding over the affairs of this Senate. That is not to say that your Honour was not disposed to many serious tests. Senator Barker is not in his seat, and I am sure that your Honour qualifies for a Nobel Prize in being able to tame the restlessness of my good friend, Senator Barker. Regrettably, I am not in either a position or circumstance to make the recommendation to your Honour's elevation.

In your Honour's absence, Madam Deputy President also discharged her responsibilities in a very dignified way. The Clerks of the Chamber, Messrs. Eastmond, Jones and Roberts have been there with their very accommodating, cooperative and helpful selves and quite naturally we want to thank them for the assistance so ably given to us over the last months. Of course, I would like to thank the other members of staff of Parliament, particularly the ladies whose voices and whose smiles have been a kind of function for us when we have been in need of "de-stressants" resulting from the stresses of the debates and of course the security personnel and members of the media and so on. So I should like to extend the compliments of the season to all fellow Senators and I look forward to being together again.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR SIR ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, I am sure it would be quite possible for us, the Leader of the House and Senator Stuart to lead the constituency role for the Democratic Labour Party.

Asides.

SENATOR SIR ROY TROTMAN: I am not now trying to knock that institution. I think that I would like to use the occasion to speak for those other persons here who are not members either of the governing Party or of the Democratic Labour Party.

Asides.

SENATOR SIR ROY TROTMAN: We would wish to thank you very much, Sir, and your associate, the Deputy President, for the manner in which you conducted yet another year's work in the Senate. We are of the view that we have before us some very challenging times and that the Parliament Houses of this country have to be part of those challenges which are before us and that we will be required in the coming year to have even more testing times than we have had in the interest of our people and the region.

We wish that you and the Deputy President will be given, by the great giver of all gifts, the courage, the strength and the fortitude to help you to manage the ongoing affairs of the Honourable Senate in the new year. As for the current year, we wish you a very sober Christmas. I hope that the Deputy President would continue not to imbibe anything other than sorrel but if she does in fact desire to have some wine, let it be red wine because that is good for the heart.

We would also wish to extend best wishes to the Opposition Party, the Democratic Labour Party. We hope that the Christ of Christmas who is also the giver of peace will comfort, strengthen and solidify the Party as it prepares for the challenges in the new year and in the years that are ahead.

For the other Members of the Senate we would wish and hope that they, as you would, will have a sober Christmas and that they would enjoy good health. I do not wish them wealth because those who will have wealth already have it. Those who have been aspiring to become married, or that will accept the offer of marriage...

Asides.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: ...and that together we would all be able to face the new year with the kind of strength and renewed energy that is required for a country which has the kinds of challenges which Barbados has.

As the Leader has done and the Leader of the Opposition has, I wish on behalf of my other colleagues to extend these Christmas and New Year wishes as well to the technicians and the support personnel who have helped us.

To the members of the media I wish to take this occasion to wish the entire country God's blessings, good strength and all the best in the new year.

Mr. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Deputy President and myself, I wish to express our thanks to the Honourable gentlemen who spoke in respect to their best wishes and very nice sentiments. Senator Stuart spoke of tests and Senator Sir Roy spoke of challenges and we hope that from the position of presiding officers you would remain good leaders.

The Senate does not normally meet on a Friday and for that reason one or two Senators could not be here today. Senator Sir John Goddard has missed a few Sittings due to illness. The news today is that he is making a good recovery and I am sure he has the good wishes of us all at this time and we expect to see him in the beginning of the new year.

I should like to join with the Senators who have spoken in expressing our appreciation to the Clerks at the Table, the reporters, the editors, the Marshals, the Press, I believe that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has been covering our reports over the last year, and all those who contributed in big ways and small ways to the work which we do in this Chamber.

To all of you I extend best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas season and a healthy and productive 2005.

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

Senate 23 Sequence 73

3.40 p.m.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Opening. The source opens without the convening sentence (Pursuant to the adjournment ... met at ...). The date is taken from the heading of the source.

Q3. Dates in the text. The source gives 'Thursday, December 17, 2004' (17 December 2004 was a Friday). The weekday and date do not agree; printed as in the source.

Q4. CSME Bill, speech after take-slip S23/Sequence 49. A passage beginning 'Sir, I ask you to permit me to close by reminding all Honourable Senators ...' follows Senator G. P. B. Nicholls's speech directly after a take-slip and is labelled 'SENATOR R. W. GRANT'. Senator Grant speaks in full later in the debate, so this passage may be the close of Senator Nicholls's speech. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Take-slips about 12.20, 1.50 and 3.00 p.m. Three take-slips are dated 'Wednesday, December 17, 2004'; the Sitting was held on Friday, 17th December, as the other take-slips state. Some take-slip references ('S:No.23(58)', 'S:No.23(64)', 'S:No.23(69)') are typed as ordinary paragraphs. Printed as in the source.

Q6. CSME Bill, second reading. Senator the Hon. E. R. Griffith moves that the Bill be read a second time, but no question on the second reading is recorded before the Senate went into Committee. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Orders No. 4 and 5. Senator the Hon. E. R. Griffith says that under the Resolution the Government 'is expected to guarantee US\$500 million', while the title of Order No. 5 refers to 'THE GUARANTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAYMENT OF THE SUM OF \$12 MILLION'. The title also ends at 'BETWEEN THE ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP WEST INDIES 2007', with the other party not named. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Speech labels. Senator Miss S. C. V. Husbands's first speech is labelled 'SENATOR Miss S. V. HUSBANDS'. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate resumed on Friday, 17th December, 2004, with the President in the Chair, to continue the second reading debate on the Bill passed later in the day as the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (Implementation) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2004; later in the morning the Deputy President took the Chair. Her Honour Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds gave the Bill her full support, recalling Sir Harold St. John, Sir Henry Forde and the Movement of the Under Forties as believers in Caribbean union and urging that xenophobia, insularity and cynicism be cast aside. Senator G. P. B. Nicholls said that Barbados was only carrying out the commitments given at Grand Anse in 1989, and criticised oppositions in the region that supported the Single Market in principle only.

For the Opposition, Senator F. J. Stuart said that there was no divide between the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party on the single market, but that the legitimate questions of ordinary people could not be ignored. He said that his side was committed to the Caribbean Court of Justice, recalling William Gilbert Demas's warning of 1973, and that the Single Market was an imperative for the region. Senator Miss S. C. V. Husbands addressed public concerns about job security and social services. Senator R. W. Grant described CARICOM as following on from CARIFTA and referred to Protocol VIII on disadvantaged regions and a development fund. Senator Stuart rose on a point of elucidation over remarks attributed to Senator Lowe about the Commissioner of Police, and when Senator Grant suggested from his experience in construction that some Barbadians did not want to work, Senator Sir Roy Trotman raised a point of order and Senator Grant withdrew the remark.

Replying, the Leader of the Senate, Senator the Hon. E. R. Griffith, said that the deepening of integration had taken too long, that the question of a single currency could not yet be decided, and that the Regional Development Fund would be used to bring all countries to a certain level. The Bill passed through Committee, with Dame Patricia Symmonds in the Chair, and was read a third time and passed. The Senate was suspended until 1.45 p.m.

After the suspension Senator Griffith moved the second reading of the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2004, which amends the Pensions Act to set the compulsory retirement age for public officers joining the service after 1st January, 2005, following the review begun by a committee in October 2002; he said that the retirement age under the National Insurance Scheme was 65 and would rise in stages to 67. Senator F. J. Stuart pointed to the actuarial concerns about the National Insurance Scheme; Senator I. St.C. Linton asked for help for

pensioners who received only a service pension, an issue raised by the late Senator Collymore; and Senator Sir Roy Trotman supported the Bill but regretted that there had been no comprehensive overhaul of pensions. The Bill passed all its stages.

Senator Griffith then moved the ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies 2007 (Guarantee) Bill, 2004, explaining that Barbados would host the Final and six Super Eight matches, that Kensington would be upgraded in phases from June 2005, and that residents would be resettled at Barbarees Hill. Senator Dr. D. S. Lowe gave the Opposition's support; Senator Grant, Senator Linton, who asked about restoring the former home of the late Sir Frank

Worrell, and Senator Nicholls, who had helped prepare the Barbados bid and raised the rules on ambush marketing, also spoke. The Bill was passed, and the Resolution under Order No. 5 approving the Government's guarantee in execution of the Host Venue Agreement was agreed to without debate.

Senator Griffith, Senator Stuart and Senator Sir Roy Trotman exchanged Christmas greetings and thanked the presiding officers and staff. The President noted that the Senate did not normally meet on a Friday and that Senator Sir John Goddard was recovering from illness, and the Senate was adjourned sine die.