
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 2003 – 2008

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, June 1, 2005 at 11.20 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Her Honour Senator Dame Patricia SYMMONDS, D.B.E., G.C.M., B.A. (Hons.) (P.G.C.E), J.P. (Deputy President)

Senator the Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH, G.C.M., J.P., B.A. (Econ. & Hist.), Dip. Pub. Admin., M.Sc., (Financial Studies) (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator T. E. BARKER, B.A. (Hons.), M.A. (Econ.), J.P. (Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Senator the Hon. J. E. D. WILLIAMS, B.Sc. (Hons.), M.Sc., M.B.A., J.P. (Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of the Civil Service)

Senator R. W. GRANT, B.A. (Econ.), G.Dip. M.A. (Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport)

Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. EASTMOND, LL.B., LL.M. (Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development)

Senator G. P. B. NICHOLLS, B.Sc. (Hons.), LL.B. (Hons.)

Senator Miss P. E. PARRIS, J.P.

Senator Miss S. C. V. HUSBANDS, B.A. (Hons.)

Senator Sir Allan C. FIELDS, KCMG

Senator Dr. F. L. CHANDLER, B.Sc. (Hons.), Ph.D.

Senator Sir Roy TROTMAN, K.A., M.A.

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

Senator Sir John Stanley GODDARD, K.A., G.C.M., B.Com., F.C.A. (Hons.) LL.D. (Hons.) (U.W.I.)

Senator R. O. MARVILLE, B.A.(Hons.), M.A., African Studies, M.B.A.

Senator the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLAW, G.C.M., B.A. (Hons.) (Dunelm)

Senator I. St. C. LINTON

Senator G. P. I. GOODING-EDGHILL

Senator Dr. D. S. LOWE, Ph.D., Dip.Theology, B.A., MED., ED.D.

Senator F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following documents before The Honourable The Senate.

1. Value Added Tax (Refund) (DAC Services) Order, 2005.
2. Special Development Areas (Spykes Bay Investments Inc.) Notice, 2005.
3. Special Development Areas (CJM Investments Inc.) Notice, 2005.
4. Annual Report of the Barbados Tourism Authority for the year April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I move the suspension of Standing Order No. 22(1). This is to facilitate the discussion on a Resolution which was circulated. In case Members do not have copies, copies are being made at present. The Resolution is for the acquisition of land at the Pickwick Gap.

Thank you.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve in accordance with Section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, Chapter 228 the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of the parcels of land situate at Pickwick Gap, in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island for the public purpose of facilitating the redevelopment of Kensington Oval to provide a multi-purpose facility for sporting, cultural, entertainment, business, social and other public uses.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CHAPTER 225,
THE SALE TO ARMSTRONG AGENCIES
LIMITED OF A PARCEL OF LAND
SITUATE AT LOWER ESTATE
IN THE PARISH OF
SAINT MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, all of us are aware by now that Barbados, having made a bid to host the finals of the Cricket World Cup 2007 is expected, in keeping with the commitments made in the bid document, to provide some new and additional facilities at Kensington Oval.

The redevelopment of that facility therefore requires that additional land in the area be acquired. There are four commercial properties and 13 private properties which are being acquired. In the case of the particular Resolution before us, the Armstrong Agencies agreed to sell their property to the Government. The Government agreed in return to sell that group some land at Lower Estate where they will be able to relocate their business and carry on as usual.

The nature of the Resolution before us is to sell to the Armstrong Agencies, a parcel of land at Lower Estate in St. George. The Resolution sets out all the information, in terms of the amount of land involved and the price which is being proposed, as the basic price for which the negotiations will start.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lowe.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to offer the contribution of This Side on the matter of this acquisition. Mr. President, we acknowledge that the country has committed itself to the preparation for Cricket World Cup 2007 and that the ambition of the country is to place itself in a state of readiness to accommodate the activities for which it must host, on that very momentous and significant sporting event.

It is true, Sir, that the whole process of land acquisitions in Barbados has become a regular activity of the State in that it wishes to create the best opportunities for persons of all strata of life to be able to pursue their endeavours, Sir, whether it is simply being able to be placed in a position to have a piece of land and a house, or whether it relates to the relocation of businesses. This requires the Government to take certain action to ensure that there is no dislocation, social or economic and that the progress of the State can continue unimpeded.

Sir, when we look at this whole World Cup endeavour, sometimes I begin to think that it represents the actualisation of the Barbadian dream where, here it is that this country has emptied itself at the feet of the World Cup and has chosen to take on an endeavour, which all of us believe should be successful, and which all of us intend to hold the hand of the State, as it pursues this particular endeavour.

There is a sense of urgency and perhaps that urgency is expected. As a matter of fact as we speak, I believe that Kensington Oval as we know it, is coming down and those of you who still pay a courtesy to local/domestic television from time to time, would have noticed last evening that there was an extraordinary show celebrating the demolition of Kensington Oval. Perhaps, maybe the only time in history where there will be a celebration of demolition. There I sat in awe as those partners got together and put on a spectacular show, basically indicating the rite of passage from one stage of existence in development to another stage and that was fine, well and good.

Sir, what captured my attention the most was that there were a number of spectators in that audience who were looking on and I kept asking myself, what are they thinking. Are they contemplating this grand event that is to come? Do they see themselves...

11.30 a.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I am always reluctant to interrupt you particularly early in your speech. What is before us is a Resolution dealing with the sale of land at Lower Estate. The Addendum gives the details of the background to the purchase and so on. It seems to me that you are debating something else. There may be a relationship, but I think you would have to establish relevance, and on the basis of what is before the Senate, I cannot myself establish that, maybe you could.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Thank you, Mr. President, I am always guided by your astute leadership in this place. I am sorry that you are in a state of uncertainty about the establishment of relevance, but if you would permit me, let me remove that uncertainty for you, Honourable President, and let me state clearly what the relationship is.

The only reason the Government has to sell land in Lower Estate is because of its activities in displacing Armstrong Agencies. I believe that the displacement of Armstrong Agencies would involve people, both workers and owners, who currently occupy a space within the general vicinity of the Kensington Oval. Perhaps, some of the same members of Armstrong Agencies were in the audience last night looking on admiring the activities of Government and probably asking themselves where do they fit in. I want to assist them in understanding where they fit in relative to this whole transition because, Mr. President, as you know, from time to time there are concerns in this country with the rate of speed with which Government moves to relocate, to acquire and to ensure that there is no expropriation without fair compensation when it comes to land acquisitions.

The point that I believe that the Opposition has to make is that Government must take the same attitude with which it seeks to undertake these particular activities relative to a land acquisition and apply them to ordinary Barbadians across the country, who have fallen in the path of the progress of this Government and where from time to time they are asked to vacate their land and houses and take up residence in places chosen by the State.

Mr. President, we understand that the Cricket World Cup requires Government to act in haste. We also do understand that it is in the interest of the Government and indeed the country that the State propels its process sufficiently, where it meets the deadline criteria or else

would find itself in danger of having to pay a very stiff penalty for a lack of preparation and readiness for the World Cup.

Therefore, the transition of this particular entity from one place to another at the pleasure of the State in terms of the purchase or the selling of the land at Lower Estate sends a very strong message. On the one hand it sends a message to those persons in the business class that when they find themselves within the way of Government, that Government is prepared to do whatever is necessary to facilitate their transition and give credence to matters related to dislocation and make sure that there is an avoidance of dislocation whether it is on the economic side, as in the case of this particular situation, or whether it is on the social side.

Mr. President, obviously the attempt of the State is to ensure that there is no fall out or fall-away of the business of Armstrong Agencies. Therefore, to ensure that does not happen, it would necessarily have to make sure that the transaction be done and that the pricing of the transaction is fair and that there is enough leveraging on the part of both the State and Armstrong Agencies to come up with the fairest and the best possible deal.

Mr. President, maybe the debate is set in a narrow parameter, but I would want to make the point that I hope that this now becomes the benchmark that the Government uses, as it approaches the whole matter of relocation, displacement and replacement and as it ensures, once the Government has established a programme of development, that those persons who are in the path, whether they are of the business class, of the upper class or the lower class in terms of their economic situation, that the Government creates the best possible facility that the transition could be made.

Mr. President, we know that studies would have to be done and you have to work to make sure that whatever is taken is given. Mr. President, we all know that in this country that is not the case and very often when there are relocations as a result of this kind of development that some people get through very well and others do not. Perhaps, that is part of the link that I am trying to make in this presentation.

Mr. President, I want to ensure that the record reflects that the Democratic Labour Party makes a strong case that while we understand that Cricket World Cup is here and we have no option but to work with the Government to ensure that the best possible show is put on for the Cricket World Cup that at the same time those persons who find themselves working through the same basic principles, although the endeavours are different, that the Government puts itself in the kind of position where it is willing to accommodate the concerns and the needs of persons affected.

Mr. President, as we talk about land acquisition in this Chamber today, we are going to find that there are cases when we must address those issues. I want to put that on the table at this point in time because I wish Armstrong Agencies well and I hope that the transition and the transaction is fair but at the same time I would want to know that those persons who are not in the negotiating position as Armstrong Agencies is getting the same fair deal as these persons are getting at this point in time.

Mr. President, we have no difference with the moving forward of the preparation for the World Cup. We have no intent to seek to distract from the country's right to pursue such a lofty endeavour. However, at the same time, the Cricket World Cup is not the Barbadian dream. It may be for those investors who would benefit significantly. I would want to believe that all Barbadians would feel that the State would throw its weight behind them when the time comes for them to be dislocated as a result of national development.

Mr. President, that is the point I wish to make and that is the essence of my contribution on this particular Resolution.

I thank you.

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.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 THE LEASE TO AVISENE CAESARETTA CARRINGTON OF THE PARCEL OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN SITUATE AT ERDISTON, PINE HILL IN THE PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PROVISION OF PLAYGROUND FACILITIES FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE MERRIVALE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, in my view this matter is a rather straightforward one. Everyone is familiar with the outstanding contribution which the Merrivale Preparatory School has been making over the years to the development of education in this country and to ensuring that the many citizens who have passed through that institution get a good foundation so that they can then move to make their contribution in life.

The Resolution before us is seeking approval for the lease of a portion of land to the Merrivale Preparatory

School to be used as a playground so that the children will be able to get the necessary physical exercise so that they would then be able to pursue their education having had a sound body and sound mind and would be able to make full advantage of the education which they are receiving.

Mr. President, the terms and conditions of the lease are set out in the Addendum to the Resolution. I doubt very much that Senators would have an issue with the proposal there. There are concessionary terms on the basis that the school is doing its part in providing education for the children of the land. The Crown is not seeking to make a profit out of the lease to that institution.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.
11.40 a.m.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Mr. President, we, on This Side, agree that the total development of the individual is of paramount importance to the overall contribution which that individual makes to a society. Therefore, whether it is at the Merrivale Preparatory School, St. Simon's/St.Savior's Primary or St. Christopher's Primary the appropriate facilities should be made available, so that children, especially in those formative years, are able to engage in the kind of activities that would help perpetuate full and normal development.

Mr. President, we know that cognitive development does not occur in isolation and that, in fact, for an individual to maximise his or her cognitive capacities, that individual must be given the kind of environment where he or she can be engaged in sound relationship-building, that is not only cross-gender relationship, but also cross-culture relationship in many cases, based on the experiences of their own personal lives and background.

Mr. President, we also acknowledge that this particular institution has made a significant contribution to the development of many outstanding Barbadians over the years, and that within the realm of education, it is, and ought to be, a noted contribution to the overall development of the country, as we look upon the fact that it has started with the academic train and trail of many outstanding individuals in the society.

Mr. President, I have heard many raved about the outstanding contributions that this institution has made over the years. Sir, the truth of the matter is that all children in Barbados deserve to have a good and a strong start and in some cases, a head start, because it is important that as we look upon tomorrow's generation, that we, as a society,

put in place the best possible conditions for all our children. Therefore, while we hail the contributions of the Merrivale Preparatory School, we also wish to acknowledge that there are a number of similar schools across the country, which should also benefit from the graces of Government, as it relates to their needs.

Mr. President, the physical environment of these schools is important and the notion of a playground is very significant in the development of children at this stage of their lives. The playground is where they begin to understand the importance of relationship-building. It is an area where they will also explore their physical talents, and once there is adequate space, perhaps they are then able to develop certain types of appetites, for certain kinds of physical activities. I believe that many of us here would reflect on our own primary school experiences and would understand the importance of having a good playground.

Mr. President, I fondly remember the playground of St. Saviour's School. It was not a very large playground because when running the 100 yards dash, one had to make sure that one stopped before falling over into the river, because the river bank was that close. I remember becoming a victim of that because I was very ambitious, but never very competent, in the area of athletics, so I would gallop, hoping that I would stop automatically, and would have fallen over into the river bank on many occasions, thus having a number of unscheduled baths.

Mr. President, I understand how many parents of those children in that era at that school, would have longed for an environment where their children could be safe, could play and could develop their normal relationships. Sir, if this school, as outstanding as it is, continues to provide the kind of service that it is providing, the only point of contention that I would raise on this particular Resolution, would be, why does the school have to bother itself so often to come back to ask for a renewal of a lease. If the land cannot be sold, if the land's purpose cannot be used otherwise, why, as a gesture of an appreciation for the contributions of this school, can the Government not decide, either to give the land to the people, or to give the institution a long-term lease agreement that would, perhaps decrease the bother of having to come so often, to do the same thing on a number of occasions?

Mr. President, I have heard many representatives of Government saying what an outstanding institution this is, and what an outstanding contribution it has been making. Therefore, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister responsible for advancing Government's Business in this Honourable Chamber, is there a way where the Government can contemplate making this land available to these folks, either on a permanent basis or on a lease agreement that is

extended where they will not have to come back and bother the Chamber with this particular Resolution over and over.

Mr. President, I would think that in a day of progressive politics, with a Government which boasts itself of being so progressive in its thinking, one which would catalogue the evidence of its progressive nature, could add this gesture to this particular preparatory school to that catalogue. I would want to strongly recommend and to have the Honourable Member note the recommendation that the Government contemplates making this land permanently available to this very worthy institution, which has made such a worthy contribution to the development of education in Barbados.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR The Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLAW: Mr. President, I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this Resolution but I wonder why we have to raise the rent or why there should be any rent at all. I can think of Government using Church schools for almost 200 years and I do not think that we have ever charged rent for playing fields or anything like that.

Sir, since the school is doing such fine work, I know that it might be asking too much to remove the rent completely but I wonder whether the Honourable Minister can tell us why we have to raise it for the following three years, and why it cannot be left at \$2 360 per annum. This, of course, would mean that parents would pay less for their children or wards.

Asides.

SENATOR The Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLAW: If the rent is removed, then the fees would have to be reduced, but there may be some very good reason why Government has chosen to raise the rent.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. President, I did not plan to say anything on this matter but the Honourable Senator to my left has raised the matter as to why the rent should be raised. I have to say that Erdiston Primary School is a very large compound. The land being rented by the Merrivale Preparatory School for several years is but a small part of the territory that has to be maintained, including some derelict buildings, on which a decision is to be made in connection with the University College of Barbados.
11.50 a.m.

I think this is one of the reasons why the parcel of land rented by Merrivale Preparatory School was raised marginally, when the lease was renewed. I think that the increase is to help defray the cost of the overall property maintenance.

I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Griffith.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I appreciate the intervention by Senator Newton. I wish to say that even though there is an increase in the rent, it is still substantially lower than if Government had used the current commercial rates. The rent that is being paid, although the cost of maintaining the general area has increased, is still significantly lower than it would otherwise be. Sir, it is still a very concessional rate.

Mr. President, I appreciate Senator Lowe's generosity of spirit and I will certainly mention his recommendation at the appropriate place but for the time being, we will proceed with the Resolution before us, which is seeking to extend the lease and the other issues will have to be taken into account for the next occasion.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT CAP. 228 THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF THE PARCELS OF LAND SITUATE AT PICKWICK GAP, IN THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF FACILITATING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF KENSINGTON OVAL TO PROVIDE A MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY FOR SPORTING, CULTURAL, ENTERTAINMENT, BUSINESS, SOCIAL AND OTHER PUBLIC USES

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Griffith.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, this Resolution before us is linked to the redevelopment of Kensington Oval. Senator Lowe indicated in his earlier statement that the re-developmental work at Kensington Oval had started today and the plan is to increase seating facility to approximately 27 000 seats, which is a significant increase from the existing 14 560 seats. Sir, according to the requirements of the persons managing the

World Cup, there are certain specifications regarding the amount of land that is to be provided at the back of the stands and other areas so as to facilitate the escape of persons in the event of an emergency.

Mr. President, all of the commitments have been taken into account. This is why it is necessary to acquire parcels of land in the vicinity. I wish to indicate for the benefit of Honourable Senators generally that Government is always mindful of the inconveniences which people suffer when there are acquisitions and relocations.

Government always takes a position which is based on the principle that persons must be treated fairly; they must be given adequate and reasonable compensation for any property which is acquired and in cases where persons are to be relocated, there should be little or no dislocation.

I would admit that from time to time for various reasons there may be delays in the process but there is a process being followed when Government has to deal with acquisitions.

Mr. President, the legislation which authorises acquisitions of property sets out clearly how the process has to go. I do not want anyone to have the misconception that Government is here to ride roughshod over people or to disregard their interests and concerns. Sir, in this particular case, as in the case of all acquisitions that are involved to facilitate the relocation of residents, the properties were valued, the normal procedures followed and all properties would have been valued by the Commissioner of Land Tax.

Sir, we are aware that in Barbados, persons complain that valuations done by the Commissioner of Land Tax are too high because the lower the valuations, the lower their liability for tax purposes. However, when it comes to selling the property, the opposite takes place. Sir, the valuations done by the Land Tax Commissioner, which were too high when tax day came, are now too low.

Mr. President, the point is, the Government proceeds on the basis that it gets a valuation from the Land Tax Department and it uses that as a gauge. It does not mean that the eventual price of the land after the particular negotiations will be exactly what the Commissioner of Land Tax said because it is a gauge of what valuers attached to properties in particular areas.

Mr. President, from my research, I have not come across a case where the Government has ended up paying less than what the Commissioner of Land Tax suggested. In most instances they are paid more. Sir, in cases where there are negotiations, you start off with the Land Tax valuation and then for various reasons people negotiate.

Mr. President, in some instances, properties are acquired through private treaty but in others Government used the route of compulsory acquisition. This Resolution before us deals with thirteen properties in the area. Sir, various discussions were held with the property owners who are quite willing to be relocated to other areas. In turn, the Government acquired land at Barbarees Hill where most of the residents were in agreement. A few others expressed different preferences.

Mr. President, the prepared site at Barbarees Hill will be larger than those which now exist with various improvements on the residents' existing situation. These properties are needed to facilitate the work that has to be done at Kensington Oval. There is a deadline which has to be met and all of us, in spite of what I hear from time to time, know that the achievement given to Barbados to host the World Cup Final is a significant one. There will be many opportunities for businesses and individuals but the country overall will benefit from the international exposure. That is exposure the Ministry of Tourism will not have to pay for. It is a bonus, as it were, in addition to the programme which the Ministry now has to put in place annually to advertise Barbados. Sir, Barbados is going to benefit by the additional business of hotels, guest houses and persons providing other facilities. Sir, all of us will benefit as a country even if individually we are not involved in any activity that will bring direct results to us. Therefore, I think that we need to take that into account when we are discussing these issues. 12.00 noon

Sir, the intention of the Government is to make sure that the persons whose properties are being acquired are given a fair deal in terms of the purchase price they will obtain. Arrangements will be put in place for urgent relocation to Barbarees Hill and these new facilities will be an enhancement to what now obtain. Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lowe.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Mr. President, I suppose that it is okay for Barbados to spend millions of dollars on tourism exposure and at the end of the day, having heard what I said earlier, the final analysis of the World Cup endeavour cannot simply be estimated in how much the exposure Barbados gets. I do not want to suggest that is the spirit in which the Honourable Leader of Government Business suggested, but that is where I want to begin this particular presentation on the land acquisition Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to be very concerned as an ordinary Barbadian citizen when I ask myself what is there in World Cup for me. I am not getting the kind of response that is generating any titillation or elation for that matter. I

feel that the endeavours of the State cannot simply be restricted to reaching a certain level of the society.

Sir, I feel passionate about this because there are persons who now ply their trade at Kensington Oval when cricket is being played, whether the West Indies are winning or losing. Perhaps, we have become more accustomed to them losing than winning. They lined the corridors of Kensington Oval, affectionately called the Mecca of cricket in this region, and sell hot dogs, corn dogs and, perhaps, any kind of dogs they could find, but at the end of the day they have had an opportunity to participate even though they may never go on the square at Kensington Oval and swing a bat, bowl or field a ball, they are a part of the overall economic exercise of hosting a cricket game.

Sir, I am not sure, and perhaps the Honourable Leader of Government Business would enlighten us when he winds up, that these persons as they contemplate the tens of millions of dollars that the Government is going to spend on the redevelopment project at Kensington Oval, would fully identify with any clear benefits or returns.

Mr. President, I want to get that assurance because we all know that on a world stage of a sporting event, the degree of security required to ensure the safety of participants the world over, very often creates certain restrictions, some that are based only on persons' activity, which very often is a cultural kind of exercise within the economic realities of Barbados. For example, if I have a string of beads I can walk to Kensington now and sell it comfortably. Mr. President, I want to be assured that is still going to be the reality of the average Barbadian. I know some people do not like to hear us talk about the small man, so let us say the regular Barbadian who wants to participate in this process.

Sir, having said that, I have contemplated the relocation of those household in Pickwick area. Again, we on This Side understand that when a country commits itself through its Government, that there is some moral responsibility, once that commitment is fair and equitable, there is a moral responsibility for all and sundry in the country to jump on board and support the Government's effort. That is not disputed here in this presentation.

We also understand that when the Government has decided by exercising its powers to commit the country into any kind of activity or endeavour, there also has to be some insistence on the part of the general public that no one is left behind, as a matter of fact, that all become winners in the process.

Sir, here we have a case, as the Honourable Minister of Government Business indicated, Government must move with haste to execute the relocation of these individuals and clear space for the redevelopment of the Kensington project.

Mr. Speaker, a number of these persons who would have lived in this area for their entire lives will now have to give way to progress. As the Honourable Minister said, most of them have consented to the relocation.

Mr. President, this whole matter of relocation must be taken into its broadest context because I believe that I am accurate in saying, that the Honourable Minister talked about relocation in general, and suggested that the Government always pursues relocation with deep contemplation for the concerns of those persons affected.

Sir, there are some people in this country who will never be affected by relocation because they have placed themselves in society where they are guarded against the social and economic disruptions created by the State or it becomes a reality because of forces beyond their control. Those persons are often the drivers of these kinds of endeavours because they often, from their position of comfort, instigate how the general society should live and move and never understand how those persons feel, as they traverse from one place to another. Mr. President, in some cases, people who have lived in an area for their entire lives, have a generation connection within that same social and economic space, and now they are expected to leave.

I believe they are going to a place called Barbarees Hill that will be renamed Barbarees Gardens. I do not recall ever seeing a garden in Barbarees Hill. I spent four years in that general facility at a place called the Caribbean Wesleyan College. The truth is, that area, as I understand it, perhaps I do not know exactly where the location is, is not a place where there is not a lot of connectedness in terms of community or village life, so they are now creating a new village in a garden. That is fine. I have no difficulty with that.

12.10 p.m.

Sir, I want to ask some questions because there are other persons, Mr. President, as the Honourable Minister indicated, who have been affected by relocations and the Government has been fair and equitable in its delivery of the services necessary to make sure that the relocation did not result in dislocation. Mr. President, I could name them. They are Fairy Valley and Thyme Bottom in Christ Church.

Mr. President, the Honourable Minister of Government Business made it his business to indicate with some confidence that the Government moves with haste in these relocation exercises. I am suggesting to you that if four years is haste well then perhaps we should try to study more carefully, the life of the slug, because I can tell you of a population that has been disrupted as a result of dislocation because of the Airport project, and to this very day, four years later, they are still waiting to hear. Their roofs are

leaking, their floorings are falling in and they were advised not to make any repairs to their homes until the relocation occurs and to this day, they are still in the same place. This is not haste, Mr. President, perhaps the World Cup is not going to touch Fairy Valley and Thyme Bottom.

I can go further, Mr. President, and suggest to you that there are persons today who have sums of money sitting somewhere in the Treasury because when the acquisition occurred, they were not in agreement with the valuation and they have refused to take the money from the Government. I believe the money is accumulating interest but that is of no solace to those persons affected by that kind of action.

Mr. President, there are some of us in here who perhaps cannot identify with that, because we have not been subject to relocation. I hear the stories and I listen to the wails of those persons who are still waiting for the strong hand of Government to bring deliverance, so that they can complete their transitions and move on with their lives.

The people in Pickwick are the beneficiaries of a kind of haste perhaps not driven by their significance to Government but, perhaps, driven only because the execution of the World Cup Project is of paramount importance, so that the Government does not run itself in trouble of having to pay a penalty of over \$20 million.

Sir, let us talk about fairness. Let us talk about what is equitable. All of the residents affected by this relocation are not happy. In spite of that, Sir, there are claims that some people would be getting houses bigger than the ones they are leaving. Mr. President, since the Honourable Minister talked generally about relocation and the Government's act of fairness in assisting in the process, let me suggest to you that there are some persons in Barbados who are being relocated and they are leaving their house and house spot, and one or two spots that they owned to help their children when those children reach a stage where they can build their own homes, and they are being relocated to districts where they are not getting a fair deal.

Mr. President, that is why I said earlier that there should be no expropriation without full compensation and there should be some stipulation where that compensation should occur within a six-month limit. Perhaps, the guy who is receiving \$1 million plus per acre for the land that he is going to sell to the Government, does not have to say that, Sir. He will probably get his money up front.

Mr. President, I can tell you a story of persons that I know who have been waiting for years to be paid and they have not been paid. Why? Because they disputed the valuation and then the Government insisted on that amount, take it or leave it, Sir.

Mr. President, if it sits there for 20 years and accumulates interest, perhaps that would be okay but I am concerned that when the Government sets this benchmark around World Cup, that this benchmark can be fitted to every single similar situation. When the Honourable Minister talks about doing assessments and giving full regard to the needs of the persons, I would wish to suggest to you that there will be many cases of socio-economic dislocation.

For example, Mr. President, in some communities, persons can raise a few chickens, perhaps have a couple of pigs in the backyard and that becomes their livelihood. They may relocate to another district where they cannot grow casava or plant fig trees, pea trees, and orange trees, as one of the Honourable Members in this Chamber can do, where I benefit from time to time.

As a matter of fact, Mr. President, there are some people if they risk putting up a guard wall, they will run the risk of restricting themselves to such a narrow space that it would become a very uncomfortable endeavour.

Mr. President, I believe that the Government has every right to pursue a course because the Government is elected to act on behalf of the people, but when the Government acts it is supposed to act in the full interest, economically, socially, politically and otherwise of all the people. Even if the Government gets a 55 per cent of the popular vote of a country, it still has a responsibility. If it gets 18, 20 or 28 constituencies, it still has an obligation to ensure that when it extends its hands that those hands reach every single Barbadian, whether they are pro or oppose the Government.

I like the fact that some standards are being set. I like the fact that the Government has demonstrated perhaps for the first time that it has the capacity to act with haste when it comes to the general population of the country.

Mr. President, what kind of assessments have been done? Have there been life quality assessments done to see how this relocation would affect these persons? Have there been assessments on family dynamics, on business issues, persons perhaps who have businesses set up in one location but must now move? They are being given a house spot and a bigger house but would they be given a space to set up their businesses and would that be facilitated? What about capacity to maintain livelihoods if persons are involved now in kitchen gardening?

There was a time, Mr. President, and I know that you know about this, when it would not have been uncommon to have a nice kitchen garden somewhere around the house, even if you had to cut a can in half and put it somewhere in

the front or the back and raise your little onions and so on, which really help in terms of trimming the dollars from the family purse. Sir, now with the relocation going on, is the Government prepared to put in full scope all of these issues that impact on quality of life, and not simply look at 2007, which will last longer than some of us last at a moment of pleasure like the World Cup, two weeks. Sir, millions of dollars expended, dislocation, Barbados the grand stage, and the ultimate objective is to get international exposure that must then be translated into business.

Mr. President, the exposure is one thing but then you must have persons competent enough to go out and translate that exposure into returns for the country. Mr. President, you would have endless strings of people coming to the country and enjoying the Barbadian delicacies for four weeks, to be generous, but when that is over what is going to happen.

Let me draw your attention to what happened in Canada. Mr. President, there is a stadium in Canada that is a dead stadium that was built for the Olympics in 1976. They invested millions of dollars to build that Stadium and the Olympic Expos, which is the National Baseball Team of Canada, could not fill it up. As a matter of fact, parts of the roof never reached in time and until this day, they have not reached. The Olympics have been over for years and Canada is still reeling from the debt incurred as a result of its preparation for the Olympics.

I am not suggesting that we must not exercise our ingenuity and foresight in terms of taking the country beyond where it is, and putting it in a realm where it can pursue its dreams. Mr. President, all I am saying is that at the end of the day, I want to be assured that if I am one of the residents of Pickwick Gap and I am given a new home and I decide to go back home with my mother and rent my home out for the Cricket World Cup and happen to get a client because it is not as easy as we are hearing...
12.20 p.m.

I see homes, units, apartments and condominiums going up all over the place. I hope to God eternal that we do not end up being a nation of space without occupants. I keep saying to people that it is not just about building units and town houses and so on, it is about getting assistance to market, it is about gaining access to the market so that they know who they can contact and where they can advertise and it is about setting up the infrastructure to encourage those persons to get involved, which is going to call for capital for them to be able to do that. Mr. President, I would not want to know that people take out mortgages to build and then at the end of Cricket World Cup there is no business to be had.

Mr. President, this is not an unreasonable search or enquiry. This is not an attempt to say that the Government is

not in its full right to pursue this dream for Barbados. What it does ask is whether or not the fullest consideration, as the Honourable Minister of Government Business said, is given to what is going to happen at the end of the day because the World Cup would end with the West Indies being the champions or with the West Indies disgracing the region, either is a possibility given the recent state of affairs.

Mr. President, I would want to know that whether the West Indies win or lose that every single ordinary Barbadian out there who has expended in order to get returns can boast of the fact that it has been a most profitable endeavour for them.

As it relates to those persons who would be relocated, I hope that when the Cricket World Cup is over that they could still sense the sensitivity of Government to take care of any needs that emerge after the relocation because as we well know there are still residents who are reeling from situations that should have been fixed ever since that have not been fixed. They have been going through relocation again and the relocation has not resulted in the results that they are looking for.

Mr. President, on the behalf of my esteemed Colleague and my political organisation, the Democratic Labour Party, I want to say that we are committed to ensuring that every single thing that is done in this country redounds to the benefit of every single individual, both those who live in the gated communities, in plush meadows of the heights and those who must bring the coconuts and the bananas all the way from St. Andrew, so that the vendors can get them to sell at Kensington Oval, whether it is new or old. That is my concern.

Unless that is happening we are making no progress because the excitement and the grandeur that is being predicted from this must put people in touch with the promise of this country as an independent State when it talks about self-determination. Every man, every woman, every boy and every girl, regardless of their station in life, should be able to enjoy the growth and development of this country. If only a certain class or a certain group of people enjoy the benefits, then the dream is yet deferred.

Mr. President, I wish to be one of those persons that fight hard to ensure that whether you are young or old or whether you are disabled or able-bodied, whatever your station in life is, that whatever Government does it takes into the fullest consideration the realities of the individual as well as the realities of the collective citizenship of the country.

Mr. President, I thank you.

HER HONOUR SENATOR Dame Patricia SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I sat here and listened to

Senator Dr. Lowe's lubricious pessimistic observations and these have impelled me to speak.

First of all, I wholeheartedly agree with what the Leader of Government Business has said in his usual sensible, knowledgeable and sound fashion. I wish to begin by quoting from the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto entitled "Every Bajan A Winner", under the section cricket which says:

"A BLP government will lend its full support to the Barbados Cricket Association to ensure that Kensington Oval is developed and the environs improved in keeping with international standards, to make Barbados an attractive venue for the hosting of the 2007 Cricket World Cup."

In keeping with that, and recognising the fact that the Barbados Labour Party promises and performs with its usual thought, caring and alacrity, the Barbados Labour Party is going ahead to give every support, recognising what the benefits will be for Barbados and indeed the Caribbean not only in the short-term but in the long-term.

Mr. President, there seems to be some concept that the function that took place yesterday evening was a celebration of a destruction, demolition if you like. I had been invited to it, but unfortunately I could not attend at the last minute. I think if it were just to do that, that it would have been in bad taste, it would have been like rejoicing at the death of something. From what I saw on television and my interpretation of it, there was reminiscence about the glory that was Kensington Oval. Tribute was paid to members of the Pickwick Cricket Club for their contributions, to those West Indian cricketers, past and present, who throughout the years have delighted spectators with their superb talent and in some instances their cricketing genius and to assure lovers of cricket that this was not the end of Kensington Oval, that even though it may have been the death of Kensington Oval, as we know it, that there would be a new birth, something emerging grandeur, larger and perhaps more economical, viable and beneficial to Barbadians as a whole.

Mr. President, I have been going to Kensington Oval since I was a child. I went to the Thinking Day Services of the Girl Guides. As I grew older, I went to interschool sports, the boys as well as the girls. As a teacher, I went to our interschool sports. I have been there to watch football and cricket. I have seen international artistes performed there. At Independence, I assisted one of my former teachers Eleanor Nurse, a blessed memory, when there was a programme to celebrate independence for the schools. 12.30 p.m.

Mr. President, from what I have seen of this Resolution, the redevelopment of Kensington Oval – not the destruction, not the demolition – is to provide a multipurpose facility for sporting, cultural, entertainment, business, social and other public uses.

Mr. President, if those persons were really interested in what is going to happen, had they only looked at the designs and had they been following all that had been said by attending some of the lectures by World Cup (Barbados) Incorporated, and are not just trying to make political mileage would realise what the redevelopment of Kensington would do for Barbadians of all classes. As I said, it will benefit all Barbadians in the long-term.

Mr. President, here I must quote from Shakespeare, as we are also fond of quoting that comparisons are odorous, so I do not think that we must worry. I am not saying that we should not look at what is happening in other countries and at times make comparisons. Some things may be comparable but in this instance, I do not think that we must be in any way put off by what Canada or anywhere else has built. I think we should have enough confidence and expertise in ourselves, to plan a development that will be for the overall good of Barbadians. As a matter of fact, there are plans for hotel suites and other expansions, so that there will be opportunities for other sporting events, which will also be to the good of all Barbadians.

Mr. President, with those few words, I do support this Resolution.

SENATOR G. P. B. NICHOLLS: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution to compulsorily acquire the parcels of land set out in the Schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. President, we all know that Cricket World Cup, 2007, is going to be hosted in the Caribbean and that, indeed, Barbados has the distinction, not only of hosting the Cricket World Cup, 2007 final, but of hosting six or eight of the biggest matches in the final stages of that competition.

Mr. President, the Kensington Oval is the location that has been decided, not only by the Government of Barbados but long before the Government became involved, the Barbados Cricket Association would have had a number of experts, most of whom were members of the association, from lawyers, architects, persons involved in urban and town planning, quantity surveyors, *et cetera*, to advise as to the best way in which this country could participate in the Cricket World Cup, 2007.

Mr. President, I remember serving on that committee in the early stages, about three or four years, which looked extensively at the choice between the Kensington Oval and

an alternative location. Sir, the committee was divided into two groups; people who would look at the possibility and feasibility of going to another location, or the possibility of redeveloping the Kensington Oval.

Mr. President, the water is now well-under the bridge and that committee has reported that the best thing for this country to do, would be to take Kensington Oval as it presently exists, and redevelop the existing infrastructure to make it a world-class sporting and cultural facility, located in the heart of Bridgetown.

Mr. President, Barbados gets about eight or nine days of international cricket in a calendar year. For instance, so far in 2005, we had two test matches and one One-Day International being played at Kensington Oval. We had about 11 days in total, though some of the matches finished before the 5-day period.

Mr. President, the thinking was that, as an alternative facility to Kensington Oval, this country could not afford to deploy scarce economic resources to the development of a facility that would possibly sit down and become a white elephant or would not always be utilised. Sir, there is historical significance of utilising the Kensington Oval as a venue in which the West Indies cricketers have done very well, though, in recent times, we have only broken the four test match losing streak just last week.

Sir, the choice was that we should use the Kensington Oval as our venue for the Cricket World Cup, 2007, as part of the bid package and that we utilise the existing infrastructure. Sir, what needs to be done is to be able to deploy the entire environment around the Oval, so that we can meet the goals of being able to host an international competition.

Mr. President, when the Barbados Cricket Association and the Government of Barbados heard these things, there was good news in that regard because from the point of view of the Barbados Cricket Association, it gave them the opportunity to redevelop the existing infrastructure at which we play international cricket.

Mr. President, Barbados has the distinction of producing some of the greatest cricketers per square mile and per capita in the world, and it is a great tragedy or injustice of our good cricketing name, that the existing facility at the Kensington Oval, is not one of world-class standard. That concerned not only the Barbados Cricket Association but the people who play cricket because the existing facility does not have an area in which people can do indoor training or one in which they can use any kind of technology when a game is being played. In fact, there are a number of challenges to the very compressed environment at the Kensington Oval. Therefore, the rationale behind improving the existing facility was welcomed by the cricketers.

Mr. President, Government also welcomed that suggestion because Government has a Bridgetown Redevelopment Plan, which has been spoken about in this Honourable Chamber and elsewhere. Sir, the long and short of it is that a city is the very expression of what people say about themselves. Sir, there is nowhere else in the world when international sporting events take place, that, in hosting these events, people move them out of the city and into rural areas. It defies all sense of urban planning and commonsense because in a small island like Barbados, 166 square miles, a lot of the commercial activities are geared towards the most urban part of the country, and that is Bridgetown. We have been expanding out of Bridgetown, going into Warrens, but the centre of all activities in this country will continue to be in the city.

Mr. President, we must be careful, and I agree with planners who have suggested that for the hosting of such an international event, we need to develop the existing infrastructure and to make that a world-class facility, rather than going to another part of the island and developing a comparable facility, only to be used for a one-off tournament. Sir, this advice was wisely accepted by both the Government and the Barbados Cricket Association.

Sir, for us not to accept that advice would have been a dangerous exercise for us and this Government is not one that likes white elephants. I know the other Party might like white elephants, but we do not want to be associated with that.

12.40 p.m.

The Venue Assessment Director said that he assessed the bids from all the countries of the Caribbean. He has looked at bids for the Olympic Games, World Cup Cricket and World Cup Soccer. He argued that some of the best presentations have been made by the people of the Caribbean. Sir, this is something we should be proud about. We do not want to blow our own trumpets because we still have to do a lot of work to make sure that World Cup 2007 is a success. I think this is indicative of the hard work that a lot of people outside of the cricketing field have put in to ensure that the World Cup 2007 is a success. Sir, this has come at a time when we want to put more infrastructural development to allow the society that has been transforming from an economy, that has largely been a cash crop economy to a sophisticated services economy.

Mr. President, this is against the backdrop that Bridgetown is dotted with the remnants of economic activity that is no longer with us. We have a number of bonds and warehouses particularly in the area of Bay Street. If you were a stranger to Barbados, you could not know that the Mecca of cricket in the Caribbean is situated in Fontabelle because it is dominated by activity that does not concern cricket. If

Kensington Oval is the Mecca of cricket in the Caribbean and one of the most renowned sporting grounds in the world, where some of the best cricket matches have been played, it is a well-kept secret. Sir, you can see Kensington Oval from nowhere unless you go into Pickwick Gap or Kensington New Road in order to see it.

Mr. President, plans for the World Cup 2007 involve not only the building of stadiums but the building of facilities that dominate the environment so that we can capitalise on the rich cricketing legacy and heritage that rightly belong to the people of Barbados. No justice is done to our contribution to the world in relation to cricket by hiding Kensington Oval behind bonds and warehouses, which presently exist, neither would justice be done if we were to move it to another facility in a rural or suburban area in this country. Mr. President, we speak about the scarcity of land and the shortage of access to land. How can we as a reasonable Government in the light of this advice go somewhere else other than at Kensington Oval?

Mr. President, people have interests to serve but no right-thinking Barbadian would disagree with the choice to remain at Kensington Oval and allow the facility to enjoy its rightful place as one of the best cricket stadia in the world with up-to-date technologies and facilities that would redound to our benefit.

Mr. President, Barbados is a mature tourism venue compared to St. Lucia and Grenada and they have had the vision and foresight to build in their cities modern stadia. Sir, unfortunately, the stadium in Grenada was destroyed last year by Hurricane Ivan but Barbadian and visiting teams thought their facilities were wonderful. We are the Mecca of cricket and I am happy that we are not going to abandon Kensington Oval because it is old, that is going to be restored to its rightful place.

Mr. President, the entire population of Barbados, friends and residents have been invited to view the plans about the development of Kensington Oval and the surrounding facilities. I am a member of Pickwick Club, play cricket at Kensington Oval and I can tell you that the interface between that community and Kensington Oval is something important to the people of that community.

Sir, there are cottage industries in that area as well. I know a lady who cooks food in the area and people travel from all parts of Barbados on Saturdays to partake in her delicacies. I certainly try to get there every time Barbados plays cricket at Kensington Oval or my team plays at the Pickwick pavilion. The lady is one of the persons who have to move to Barbarees Hill. It is unfortunate that her

thriving small business has to be relocated due to all this development. I do not think her business would suffer greatly because of the quality that she provides for her customers. I am sorry that she has to move. This means we will have to go to Barbarees Hill to partake in her excellent culinary skills and mastery of the Barbadian cuisine.

Mr. President, I am happy to support this Resolution but word must go out from this Chamber and this Parliament that this Government acts responsibly and that no one is being disadvantaged. Sir, people should not take advantage of a personal situation in order to make a brilliant political speech so that they could sound as if they were a caring people all of a sudden. The World Cup was going to Kensington Oval long before these acquisitions came to this Parliament but all of a sudden, every Honourable Member on the Other Side cares about the welfare of the owners of these parcels of land in Pickwick Gap. Sir, all of a sudden, the Democratic Labour Party, as is their continuing mantra, says that Barbados Labour Party is favouring business and does not like small people. Mr. President, it is more like a cacophony in my opinion because they all have discordant notes at the same time and cannot speak together on it.

Mr. President, the Government has to obey the laws of this country. The Honourable Leader of Government Business spoke to the point that persons who do not agree to the valuation given have recourse to the courts of Barbados in order to determine whether or not the valuations on their properties reflect the fair market value thereof.

Mr. President, this is nothing new. It is not that the Government is unfairing the residents in Pickwick Gap but because the Opposition raised concerns, people are now running to their lawyers. The lawyers have been involved in this process from the very beginning. The consultation between Government and homeowners has always been ongoing. The impression is being conveyed in this country that all of a sudden because the Democratic Labour Party likes people, that they like the small man, that Government is only interested in the businesses that are being relocated and that for the first time people in Pickwick Gap are hearing about what are their legal rights in respect to the acquisition of their properties. Sir, I have learnt in my very short time in politics that people discount a lot of things which are said by politicians. They have the ability to determine what is genuine and when people are serving their own cause. Therefore, if they do not recognise that this is eleven years and they are still singing the same tune, that is a matter for them.

12.50 p.m.

Mr. President, I close by congratulating World Cup Barbados for its excellent presentation of a bid to host the Finals. I would suggest that this facility which rests in the

heart of the City no longer be encumbered by warehouses, factories and bond houses, that we must seek to maximise the value added to our City with relation to creating of a multi-purpose and world-class cultural facility. We must also seek to create linkages with other countries so that we can bid in the future, not only to host World Cup cricket but other international sporting events.

Sir, I have said before, that I believe since St. Lucia and Barbados came together and prepared a joint bid, it was successful, we both got what we wanted, they got the English package and we the Finals. This shows that we have the ability to work together if we add Trinidad and those countries in the Eastern Caribbean that are willing, we should be able to bid, to host the Commonwealth Games and the Central American and Caribbean Championships. This is where the services economy will be exploited at its fullest.

Mr. President, not only cricketers will benefit from the World Cup, with all the facilities being created and people being encouraged to do bed and breakfast, under the facilities being created by the Ministry of Tourism and guidelines created by the Barbados Hotels and Tourism Association. I am not as pessimistic as Senator Dr. Lowe because the World Cup did not come as a surprise to this Government. This Government is a thinking Government and a far-reaching Government in terms of its vision and development of this country and the deployment of our resources to the optimal efforts and endeavours.

Mr. President, I want to ask those persons with vision not to allow Kensington Oval and our efforts in relation to the World Cup cricket to end when the event is over but to utilise its facilities and expertise in bidding for other international sporting championships, so that we develop the industries for Barbadians that would have evolved in relation to meeting our obligations under the Cricket World Cup.

Sir, with those few words, I am obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Grant.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Mr. President, I rise to give my support to this Resolution before this Honourable Chamber. I must confess that initially it was not my intention to speak to this Resolution but after listening to Senator Dr. Lowe, I felt somewhat compelled to make a contribution.

Sir, I would not wish for the impression to be given that this Government is an uncaring Government. I certainly wish to impress that it is not the intention of the Government to invest significant sums of money to create what the Honourable Senator refers to as a white elephant.

Mr. President, I think it is important that we all recognise the need to grasp opportunities. This Resolution speaks to the compulsory acquisition of parcels of land at Pickwick Gap to facilitate the redevelopment of Kensington Oval, while providing a multi-purpose facility for sport, cultural, entertainment, business, social and other public uses.

During Senator Lowe's presentation, he spoke to aspects of tourism and asked the question, what is in World Cup for me as an ordinary citizen. I said in this Chamber that we function in a world that is significantly different than it was thirty years ago. We function in a world where we have to ensure that, as it relates to global competition we are able constantly to evaluate the opportunities, take advantage of the opportunities, making the necessary investment to ensure that those opportunities become a reality.

Mr. President, sports tourism is a very lucrative sector. From Senator Lowe's words, it is obvious to me that he does not recognise the significant opportunities that exist for Barbados, ensuring that we create our own space within the sports tourism sector.

Sir, this Government has not simply sought to relocate residents from the area of Pickwick Gap, we have also sought to ensure that as they are resited, their social environment is not disrupted. I believe that is extremely important. This Government is not insensitive. It is a caring and understanding Government. The people of Pickwick Gap are important but economic opportunities are also an important asset.

Mr. President, the Government of Barbados has provided \$5 million for home accommodation, bed and breakfast facilities. It ensured Barbadians the opportunity to participate within the sector, with respect to World Cup 2007. There is also \$30 million being provided for the small hotels to enhance the quality of those rooms.

Sir, I think one must realise that hosting World Cup, providing the necessary facilities and infrastructure will be, not only to the benefit of the country but to individuals as well.

Sir, last year, during the English cricket tour of the West Indies, I remember trying to get a taxi, but none were available. I also remember a friend of mine visited Barbados to watch the game at Kensington Oval but hired cars were not available.

1.00 p.m.

Sir, I speak to those things simply to reflect the fact that if for the English Cricket Tour you could have had that

type of economic activity, which created a situation where hired cars and taxis were in great demand, imagine what will happen in 2007.

Mr. President, I want the Opposition to stop preaching gloom and doom but to focus on the positive aspects and to encourage Barbadians to look in a positive way to Cricket World Cup 2007 and to take advantage of the opportunities which will be presented and that is the reality.

Mr. President, I could identify all different types of negatives in this Chamber. I can oppose all types of things but I think, Sir, the maturity of the individual is reflected in the ability to identify realistically, the opportunities which will exist. Sir, the redevelopment of Kensington Oval will create opportunities.

Mr. President, I remember watching a movie about the Jamaica Reggae Boyz bobsledding during the Winter Games. I make reference to that, Sir, because that is an example of how participation in a world-class activity has been able to showcase a country. A movie was made with respect to that, in order to continue to promote Jamaica.

I am saying, Mr. President, that sports tourism and specifically, Cricket World Cup 2007, provides opportunities for the promotion and the positive marketing of Barbados in a way that we could not do it with the limited resources which we have, and we have to look at the potential.

Sir, in 1998, I believe the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) did a survey here in Barbados of persons attending a cricket game and for that ten-day period, the Caribbean Tourism Organisation estimated that \$249 million came into the Barbados economy. At that time, Sir, only 8 400 people, mainly from the U.K. were here in Barbados.

I want, Sir, for us to reflect on the economic opportunities for Barbados. I want us to reflect on the legacy element and on the fact that the marketing and promotion will allow for even more economic realisation.

There will be, Sir, the creation of employment and while this Government can boast of single digit unemployment figures – and I know the Opposition Democratic Labour Party may not want me to speak to this because their record in terms of unemployment numbers certainly is not good – we still wish to ensure that we increase the numbers of persons employed. Sir, Cricket World Cup 2007 will provide opportunities for increased employment in the areas of transportation, construction, accommodation, entertainment and various other activities.

Mr. President, it is very clear that the development of Kensington Oval into a world-class facility will have significant benefits for Barbadians. When the residents are relocated, they will be in no worse position. The Government will not allow the quality of housing facility of the people of Pickwick Gap, when they are relocated to Barbarees Hill, to be below its present standard. In fact, Sir, in some instances, it might very well be improved.

Sir, Cricket World Cup 2007 and the redevelopment that will also provide an opportunity for Barbadians to be innovative and to look at new business opportunities and that in itself will create employment and will provide for infrastructural development.

Sir, in relation to the Sports Tourism Sector, I believe it is in Vancouver that there are many companies which provide specific sporting clothing lines. I think that Barbadians will have an opportunity to be innovative and to utilise their skills to their own benefit and to the benefit of the country.

Mr. President, the Government has a responsibility to ensure that it creates the right environment in Barbados for the continued development of the country, not only from the perspective of infrastructural development and providing employment but from the perspective of continuing to ensure that this environment is safe and secure.

At a time when competition for Barbados within the tourism sector does not reside simply in the Caribbean but in places like Dubois and the Indian Ocean and places where the natural facilities are not similar to our own with the nice sand, sea and sun, although, Mr. President, I admit that those are not the only elements these days that will ensure you have a successful tourism product, but there are places throughout the Globe recreating the type of environment we have here in the Caribbean. I believe, Sir, that as it relates to sports tourism, we have an opportunity with our natural environment – the natural sun, sea and sand -- and the safety of the Caribbean area to develop our sports tourism in such a way that it will be beneficial to the country and to the people of the Caribbean as a whole.

Therefore, Mr. President, I am very happy in supporting this Resolution. I believe that the Government is on the right road. I believe the Government is pursuing the redevelopment of Kensington Oval in a very mature manner. I believe that the Government is ensuring as well that in leading up to Cricket World Cup 2007, that no Barbadian will be disadvantaged. The Government is also clearly recognising that after 2007, there will be opportunities and the Government will continue to promote and market Barbados after 2007 by building on the worldwide

promotion and global publicity which we would have received.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2.15 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
1.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Senator Marville.

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution, even though initially I had not intended to speak. Sir, I want to correct what I think are a few infelicities. First of all, I do not recall any speech being made about doom and gloom, neither did I like the reference to the Montreal Olympics site because I do not think it was relevant. I also listened to an exposition as to why Kensington Oval should be chosen, when nobody had brought the issue up. I thought that everybody had agreed on Kensington.

Mr. President, the overemphasis with regards to the City has stunned me, as I noticed that in the effort Beausejour was made a part of Castries and if I remember St. Lucia correctly, Beausejour is certainly more rural than urban.

Mr. President, I would like to make a few points which I think are important. I recognise and welcome the speed with which certain elements of the process have been going, but I have a great concern about some of the other elements, one of them being garbage and how are we going to rectify that situation within the next two years and have it up to acceptable levels. The second one relates to the issue of traffic, on which I have not heard anyone elaborate.

Mr. President, I understand that there will be buses and coaches to be used to transport persons to and from the Oval but to add 27 000 people to what presently exists, or to add one thousand buses to what is already a large number of vehicular traffic, is going to complicate egress from Bridgetown, which, at the moment, is already a nightmare.

Mr. President, thirdly, I am also concerned about the marketing about the bed-and-breakfast idea. I mention this because I think that if this is properly marketed and it succeeds, we will get tourism ingrained at a level in Barbados, which would make Barbados well-known for its hospitality in a very real way, which would make tourism go deeper into the population.

Mr. President, I take it for granted that the Honourable Leader of Government Business, because of his previous incarnation in finance, has worked out carefully the cost/benefit analysis of the operation, though we have not had any figures or any effort to explain this carefully.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Linton.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: Mr. President, I rise to make a short intervention on the particular Resolution which I support. I usually like to go back to a historical perspective in relation to Kensington Oval. The Kensington Oval that I knew as a boy growing up is not the one we are moving from today. I remember watching my first test match from the grounds. I remember watching Pakistan in 1958 from the uncovered stand. Sir, Kensington Oval has been in a mode of development throughout the years where persons, not through Government but through the Barbados Cricket Association, agreed to move in the past to make room for the development of Kensington Oval.

Mr. President, Senator Lowe made the point that persons are disadvantaged not only in relation to the Pickwick Gap situation but he said that there are disagreements with Government at different places in the country. Sir, whichever Government has been in Barbados, whether this Party or the Democratic Labour Party in Government, there was always disagreement by persons in areas who Government sought to remove and there will always be disagreements, Sir.

Mr. President, I remember as a youngster when Bank Hall was being developed and avenues put in by Government. Sir, the line marks to my property should be in the centre of the road because I own that by law. I remember a gentleman at the bottom of the gap refused to give permission to the Government at that time so the bottom of my gap was miserable and muddy for years because he had a disagreement with the Government.

Sir, there will always be disagreement in the relocation of persons but when disagreements are politically motivated, there is danger. You cannot say that you support the development of Government, support the World Cup in 2007 but then politically inspire people to confront the authorities on the matter.

Mr. President, what are the disadvantages in the question of persons moving from Pickwick Gap? I have siblings living in 3rd Avenue, Pickwick Gap, where my mother lived and when the Harbour Road was built, my mother had to give up some of her property. There are lots in this area of 1 000 square feet but my mother's lot is 1 800 square feet. Sir, you can hardly get permission to develop because of the narrowness of the properties.

Mr. President, there is a situation where the people of Pickwick Gap have agreed to be moved. Sir, some may not have agreed. But what is the disadvantage?

Mr. President, these residents will go to an area on Barbarees Hill, they will have larger boundaries, better homes in an area where the value of their properties, built and provided by Government, will have greater value in a residential area than what they now own.

Yes, some of them do business in that area but Government has decided to compensate those persons in Pickwick Gap who would be losing their business. So what is the disadvantage?

Mr. President, history has shown that Government in Barbados when they relocate persons for various reason, that the residents always end up better off than they were before. Sir, this is a fact. So what is the disadvantage? I am hearing a lot but what is the disadvantage. I do not see the disadvantage that people are talking about in their political mobilisation.

Mr. President, for example, let us look at other residents that remain at Pickwick Gap on their small lots. If they want to, they could do business in the new development to which they are being moved. What are we to lose as Barbadians in having the opportunity to participate in World Cup 2007. There is far more for Barbados to gain than to lose. Barbados today is highly dependant on tourism and there is every opportunity for Barbados to be exposed to the world. Sir, two billion pairs of eyes would be looking at Barbados and this has never happened before.

Mr. President, the opportunities that World Cup 2007 would open up for Barbados and its development in the future cannot be challenged. Sir, any political Party which believes it could become the Government in Barbados but does not give 100 per cent support in this regard is not worthy to become the Government of Barbados. Any political Party, which could create discontent in relation to this development to politicise it to the point that people would resist the development of Kensington Oval cannot be worthy of the future Government of Barbados.
2.30 p.m.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: Sir, people who resist the redevelopment of Kensington cannot be the future Government of Barbados. The Opposition has several positions on this development; in one case they say that we should build a new stadium in St. Lucy and recently I heard St. Philip, but if we are talking white elephants that will surely be one.

Mr. President, the history of Kensington Oval cannot be erased by a stadium built in St. Lucy or any other location.

Asides.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: Some Opposition Members are saying that persons should benefit more from their properties at Pickwick Gap. They said that the \$6 million Government is paying to the land owners is insufficient.

Mr. Speaker, one must be careful not to set a precedent that will return to haunt you. If you say to me that business operations are worth the same as residential properties, and you had your way, what would happen in the future. In other areas of business development, there will be a precedent, which Government would have to comply by valuing residences near businesses as commercial entities.

I wonder if those who are advocating this position understand that they would be hanging a millstone around Government in its plans to develop Barbados.

Sir, they are demanding a different system of valuation. For example, if you value the thirteen pieces of land at Pickwick Gap commercially, I certainly will ask my brother, who lives at 3rd Avenue, Pickwick Gap, to demand the same value too, despite the fact that he does not have to move.

Mr. President, this is the kind of precedent required of the Government for political reasons. You are asking to change the system of valuation, but on the other hand those who remain at Pickwick Gap, with the increased value, as the Opposition is saying, will have to pay taxes.

Sir, if any one of us in this Honourable Chamber owned the property at Barbarees Hill, surrounded by commercial properties, would he sell it at the residential value?

Mr. President, when you listen to the Opposition Party, you have to wonder if they are 'with it at all.' They do not see themselves as a future Government. Their proposal would lead to the underdevelopment of land in Barbados.

Sir, in any country, properties are valued according to their importance. There will always be differences in valuations. However, persons dissatisfied with Government's offer have the opportunity to go to the justice system for redress and lawyers would also be able to make some money.

I am simply saying that semantics must not confuse the issues of Pickwick Gap and the World Cup. We must be honest with ourselves. If we are going to support World Cup 2007, we must not only say so but join with the Barbados Cricket Association to push the train along. Whatever happens the train is rolling. Certainly, you cannot stop it from rolling. I hope that journey would be a successful one and I believe that all Barbadians would benefit from World Cup 2007.

I can still remember the first, second and third World Cup. West Indies won the first two World Cups and lost the third one. Nobody can change history. The West Indies won the first and second World Cup, that cannot be changed. However, a new page will be written in World Cup 2007 when the Caribbean is involved.

Mr. President, many countries would be happy to participate in an event such as the World Cup but the Democratic Labour Party is unhappy with this development. Why is this so? When we politicise these situations, there is an injustice to an institution that has served this country.

Today, the Democratic Labour Party is not the same as yesteryear. I wish that they would return to their old ways because Barbados is a democratic society and we must have an alternative Government. Sir, without an alternative, the Government in power will suffer as a result.

I urge the Opposition Senators to return to the days of yore, for I am sure a Democratic Labour Party Government would have taken World Cup 2007 and run with the redevelopment Kensington Oval, not St. Lucy or St. Philip for there is history at Kensington Oval. Sir, My bones are etched in the history of Kensington Oval.

Mr. President, one cannot simply say, abandon Kensington Oval. One Opposition spokesman made the point that we could have Kensington Oval for test matches and a new development in St. Lucy. Sir, in my view, this would represent another white elephant.
2.40 p.m.

Sir, we want Barbados and Kensington Oval to live forever as an institution that provides solace and comfort for all Barbadians and for the development of Barbados. Mr. President, not one of us in here should be heard speaking against the development of Barbados in this regard, and from those who have, this Senator demands an apology.

Therefore, coming to the understanding of where we are going with this, and the future of Barbados it is time to clasp our hands together on this matter and go forward with Cricket World Cup 2007. Sir, Barbados in the future will be the beneficiary of a development that has never happened but has come to the point where it will happen now.

Mr. President, I support the Resolution that is before this Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Husbands.

SENATOR Miss. S. C. V. HUSBANDS: Thank you, Mr. President, I will be brief. I rise to support the Resolution that is now before the Senate and I also want to take this opportunity to correct maybe some misapprehensions that may have been put into the public domain with relation to how the Cricket World Cup 2007 is being organised and how people will benefit.

I am strongly of the view that it is important and incumbent upon us, as Senators, and people aspiring to political office of Parties and to be the Government of this country that it is really necessary for us when we come to be prepared and take the time to get the facts.

Mr. President, it is so easy to come in here and raise rhetorical questions, use extravagant language and create impressions without trying to ascertain what are the facts and to put the truth before the people of Barbados and then to question anything in that truth, which you consider to be detrimental or of concern.

One of the things that I have made it my duty to do, is to make sure that I understand what is happening with Cricket World Cup 2007 and exactly what is going to be happening in relation to Barbados and what it intends to bring as benefit to our country.

My research has shown that there is a comprehensive plan, Mr. President, that covers every element of Cricket World Cup 2007, its impact whether socially, economically, physically or environmentally on this country. Plans have been put in place to manage every aspect of that impact and to look to see how a legacy is going to be created from out of the Cricket World Cup 2007 for the benefit of Barbados.

Sir, that does not only include looking at Kensington providing us with the first class facility that will be classed as among one of the top five in the world. It does not only include giving us a facility that we will be able to use in order to attract business and build our sport tourism, as was shared by a previous Senator, but it also looks at the other legacy elements that will be of great importance to us.

Mr. President, the Cricket World Cup 2007 office has said to me that one of the things that will come out of this is a major traffic management programme for Barbados that when finished, we will have better flows of traffic. Within the comprehensive plan, they are looking at all of the elements of accommodation, security, transport, immigration processes and the sale of tickets. One of the main things that will come out of the whole Cricket World Cup 2007 experience for Barbados is how it is seeking to include small businesses and people who may not yet be into small business, and providing an opportunity for them to benefit from Kensington.

Sir, I know that initially, when Cricket World Cup 2007 was first put out on the airwaves and they started explaining what was going to happen at Kensington, people felt dismayed simply because the contract with the ICC has certain very stringent stipulations that say certain things can be done within Kensington and they have control over Kensington for two miles.

It meant that it limited the opportunities of local people, large or small in participating in a World Cup, in the ways that people would have anticipated. A lot of people thought only in relation of participating in a World Cup as attending the actual Kensington, being there and selling things, so when people discovered that this was not going to be, it created a sense of dismay.

As the President of the Small Business Association, this was of concern to me because I saw small businesses as having an opportunity to benefit from the value of the multimillion dollar business that would come into the country. Therefore, the questions were, how would small people be involved, how would they benefit and how can they position effectively to benefit?

This is why we took the time to attend meetings and ask questions to get the information to ascertain how are we going to benefit. My concern was that the Government should ensure that as many people in this country should get economic benefit coming out of Cricket World Cup 2007.

Mr. President, I have learnt that the Cricket World Cup 2007 Barbados office has more than 200 volunteers who work on different elements of this plan.

One area was the "Get On Board" programme, which was promoted in Queens Park, not too long ago, to launch a programme of getting total community involvement and community buy into the Cricket World Cup 2007 programme. They set up training programmes and they had liaison persons from various areas. They identified different venues in different parishes to hold the Get On Board Community Programme.

They trained people who lived in the area and they trained regular volunteers whose task was to go into the community before the Get On Board programme in the evening, talk to residents and invite them to come out, share with them the opportunities for making business and making money and how their community could be involved. Then in the evening the residents would come out and get more information about how they could get on board and how they could participate and benefit from the economic opportunities coming out of Cricket World Cup 2007.

I had the privilege of sharing with the liaison persons, the types of ideas that people can engage in, and how the ordinary citizen can become an active part of the economic benefit of Cricket World Cup 2007.

Therefore, every effort is being made to ensure that people can participate, not only in terms of selling, vending, music, transport, or agriculture, sewing and making things, importing things for the Cricket World Cup 2007 but the whole area of community accommodation and a lot of attention was paid to this area.

The question was raised here and has been raised outside of this Chamber, about what is going to happen after with the surplus accommodation that is created specifically for Cricket World Cup 2007, if you do not have the volume of traffic to soak it up every year.

This is how we have looked at it, how we have been sharing it and how potential homeowners are looking at it, Sir. Many homeowners already have accommodation within their homes that is under-utilised because their children are big and have gone and they have extra space. They are thinking how can they convert this so that they can make some money out of Cricket World Cup 2007. Some people are contemplating building a new home and thinking of adding an extra apartment and getting it ready in time for Cricket World Cup 2007, so that they can get some benefit.

The aim of this programme is not just to provide accommodation for Cricket World Cup 2007 but to look at these people being actively involved in the tourism product from here on end and how is this going to be done. There is a marketing Programme that would be put together which would allow people to market their accommodation on the Internet. There are marketing companies, even within the Small Business Association which are looking at ways in which post-Cricket World Cup 2007, they can ensure that people are able to come and utilise the same community accommodation.

Every person is not going to necessarily want to keep that additional accommodation for short-term rentals, many of them will turn it into long-term rentals because we all

know that there is a shortage of housing in Barbados and those properties can then be rented on a long-term basis to the average Barbadian. Therefore, that investment in accommodation is not going to go to waste but is something that is going to serve Barbadians for a very long time to come.

Sir, I also felt the concern about the issue of having a white elephant, what you are going to do with a multi-purpose facility of the size that they are putting out and some of our colleagues have shared the information pertaining to how we plan to use that stadium.

I was very pleased to hear that they are already putting together plans as to how they are going to market that property. This is not only to attract the big events like other World Cup activities, they also are going to be targeting the various universities and the sporting clubs across North America who are looking for spring camp venues in order to do their spring training and bring them into the Caribbean to do their spring training at Kensington. The whole facility is being built with a view to making that happen, so that we anticipate we would be able to attract school level groups, university level groups, *et cetera*. Already, they are beginning to start the process of putting together something for the marketing of that kind of facility across the world.
2.50 p.m.

Mr. President, I just wanted to address these issues for the benefit of those who may not be aware, but I really have to congratulate the World Cup Barbados team because not only did they put together a wonderful Bid Book but they also developed a comprehensive plan and are actively working with all the agents, whether they are in the private sector or the public sector to effect the types of changes that they feel they would need to see in order for us to maximise benefits to Barbados.

Mr. President, I for one is looking forward to working very actively with small businesses across the country, the community groups *et cetera*, who are looking to get involved in business and to see how we could assist them in maximising the World Cup opportunity.

Mr. President, I trust that Barbados would long see benefits coming from all of this activity and that the legacy would stay with us for years to come.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, I want to make a very brief intervention. I could not have sat here and heard the Democratic Labour Party maligned in the way in which it has been, and as a sheep before its shearer is dumb, open not my mouth.

Mr. President, it is not true to say that the Democratic Labour Party is trying to be obstructive of any effort aimed at ensuring that World Cup 2007 is a success in Barbados. The record will show that at the dawn of this issue, this Party threw its weight and support behind the concept of the Cricket World Cup being hosted here in the Caribbean and also pledge its support to the Government in its efforts to ensure that no harm is done to the reputation of Barbados in that regard. However, Sir, because you agree with something it does not mean that you close your eyes to all of the details that attend the operationalisation of that particular issue, and that is precisely where we are.

Mr. President, it is not as though the Government has been surefooted at every stage of this issue. The Addendum to this Resolution makes clear that at the very start of the issue, the Government issued a Notice under Section 3 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 of the Laws of Barbados and then had to reverse itself having received an opinion from the Solicitor-General. According to the Addendum, the Solicitor-General observed that the language of the first Notice of February 26, 2004, in the *Official Gazette*, was too restrictive in nature. Therefore, the Government had to reverse itself, withdraw the first Notice and in March of this year put another Notice in the public domain that more nearly, so the Government thinks, captures what it intends to do.

Mr. President, under Section 3 of the Land Acquisition Act, the Crown has the power through the relevant Minister to acquire land for public purposes. The expression public purposes is not a creation of the people of Barbados or of the law of Barbados. That phrase has been around for a very long time and has been around for a very long time in the law. Therefore, when the Land Acquisition Act was passed and that language was used, it was used in full knowledge that the phrase "for public purposes" had a particular legal signification.

Mr. President, as far as I know, Kensington Oval is not owned by the Government. Kensington Oval is owned by the Barbados Cricket Association having been established some time in its present state in 1933, by a Private Act of Parliament. According to the Resolution, we are dealing here with the redevelopment of a private entity and through that private entity providing a multi-purpose facility for sporting, cultural, entertainment, business, social and other public uses. It just happened, Mr. President, that we are talking about Kensington Oval because the public uses Kensington Oval, but the public also uses the After Dark Night Club, Cave Shepherd and Company on Broad Street and many other places in Barbados. Therefore, the question has to be asked whether the machinery under Section 3 of the Land Acquisition Act, can be activated to benefit private entities of that kind, that is the issue.

Mr. President, I hear a lot of talk in here about the Democratic Labour Party's commitment to this issue, but this is a legal issue that the Government has to confront and in my view it has not been satisfactorily confronted even by the new section 3 Notice, based on the Solicitor-General's opinion. Can the power of the Minister, under Section 3 of the Land Acquisition Act, be used to benefit a private entity and be embraced within the meaning of the phrase public purposes? There is very good reason why the first Notice was withdrawn because the issue was seen but it was hoped that by couching the second one in talking about a multipurpose facility for sporting, cultural, entertainment, business, social and other public uses, that the phrase public uses would equate with the phrase public purpose.

Mr. President, one hundred and forty years ago the phrase public purposes was construed by the courts, five years later it was reconstrued by the courts and as recently as 1952, the courts validated the construction placed on the phrase public purposes, and it does not equate with anything about public uses.
3.00 p.m.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, as I said, there are many places in Barbados that are owned by private people, that are used by the public. They are not owned or controlled by the Government and, therefore, cannot fit any definition of public purpose.

Sir, that is where the issue lies because when all is said and done, according to this Resolution, thirteen parcels of land are being acquired by the Crown, to develop private properties, not properties owned by the Government of Barbados, not properties owned by the Crown, in right of it being the Government of Barbados.

Mr. President, that is the issue and, therefore, if they are talking about being an obstructionist, let me sound a toxin now. Sir, this Government must not be surprised if the courts are called upon to adjudicate this issue, because unless one comes into this Honourable Chamber or goes into the Other Place and agrees with every material particular that this Government brings to either Chamber, the impression is given that you are unpatriotic and do not have the country's best interest at heart, among other things.

Mr. President, I cannot be dragooned or browbeaten into that kind of compliance. I owe a duty to my conscience and to the learning to which I have been exposed. I believe in the rule of law, not in the rule of caprice, not in the rule of fancy, and certainly not in the rule of men and women. Therefore, by no rushing mighty wind, from St. James South or anywhere else, can 140 years of jurisprudence be overturned.

SENATOR G. P. B. NICHOLLS: Mr. President, I want to rise on a point of order. I think that if the Honourable Senator is making a claim that, in contravention to the Land Acquisition Act, the Government is offending the principles of law, this is a Government that is bound by the Constitution of Barbados and all laws are passed in accordance with the Constitution.

Mr. President, it cannot be correct for the Honourable Senator to suggest that the Government is contravening the law and that in attempting to evade any decisions of the courts of Barbados or of the common law, that the Government has sought to misuse its power in the way in which the Honourable Senator is suggesting.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I interpret that what the Honourable Senator seems to be doing, is to be stating his opinion.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, the point I want to make is that there are jurisprudential issues that go far beyond any legacy dividend, far beyond compensation issues, far beyond the two billion people who would be watching cricket at Kensington Oval. Instead, there are issues of jurisprudence that have to do with the precedents that are being set, as we move towards Cricket World Cup 2007, and what would be the status of those precedents after Cricket World Cup 2007.

Mr. President, 140 years ago, in a famous case in 1865, Lord Westbury construed the phrase by saying:

“Public purposes must be such as are required and created by the Government of the country and are, therefore, deemed part of the use and service of the Crown.”

Mr. President, three years later in another case, Lord Westbury said:

“The public purposes must be the purposes of the administration of the Government of the country.”

Sir, what we are dealing with here does not fit into that and in 1952, Lord Justice Romer gave his approval to Lord Westbury’s statements that were made in the 19th Century. He said that the only meaning one can apply to the phrase public purposes, are those given by Lord Westbury in the two leading authorities on the subject.

Mr. President, this is why the first Section 3 Notice was withdrawn because the issue was raised and a way had to be found around the language of Section 3, that would do no violence to the march towards Cricket World Cup 2007.

Sir, it was confidently believed that as the talk was about providing a multi-purpose facility, which the public

would be using, that the phrase for public uses, would have laid to rest all the legal disquiet around how Section 3 was being used by the Crown.

Mr. President, I am not going to get in this Honourable Chamber and argue about it. There is a place where these issues are resolved, and if this issue needs to be pronounced upon by the courts, we will go to the courts to have it pronounced upon, because I cannot contemplate a situation where any minister can, at random, go to Section 3 and can acquire the land of persons for a supposedly public purpose, which is really to benefit private entities, whether those entities are the Barbados Cricket Association, the After Dark Night Club, DaCosta Manning, or anybody else.

Mr. President, that is where I stand with that issue, so I do not mind the vilification of the Democratic Labour Party on this issue, because long after this debate, there is going to be a reflection on what was said in here today. I heard Senator Grant, in his usually impassioned way, once again vilifying the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. President, I have the highest possible regard for Senator Grant. I have never been able to call in question his sincerity, even when with similar passion from platforms in the Democratic Labour Party, he lambasted the Barbados Labour Party. He will remain my friend, whether he is persecuting the Church or promoting it, like his distinguished predecessor, St. Paul, he is absolutely sincere in his quest.

Mr. President, that is the very brief intervention I wanted to make on this issue. Again, let me take this opportunity on the behalf of the Democratic Labour Party, to wish the Government of Barbados well, and to hope that our efforts to host this once-in-a-lifetime event would be attended by success but that it will not be at the expense of the rule of law in Barbados. Therefore, that is where our case rests. I am obliged to you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution. I want to state from the outset that I have not studied law because matters of law are too weighty for me, so I will leave that to other agencies.

Sir, I am glad that the Democratic Labour Party has supported the position of Cricket World Cup 2007 because judging from their utterances, one is left to wonder. Sir, I wonder if they ever read their own Manifestos. In their last Manifesto they promised to give full support to two private agencies, WICB and BCA, to facilitate the hosting of World Cup 2007. Sir, I am glad at long last that they have read their Manifesto. I remember years ago, a former leader of that Party said that the Manifesto is no social contract. Sir, they can repudiate at will but that is another issue.
3.10 p.m.

Mr. President, World Cup 2007 offers a unique opportunity for this country and the rest of the Caribbean in a way that was not possible before to come to the world stage. It is estimated that two billion people from the cricket world will watch World Cup 2007. India alone has \$1 billion and their eyes would be on Barbados in May 2007 when the finals are held. This is a unique opportunity to showcase this country, its culture, institutions and its history.

Mr. President, cricket is indeed part of our culture and history and one of the things for which we are best known. Every Barbadian, regardless of colour or political persuasion, have to come together and unite in a way that we have never done before if this event is to be successful. Sir, all of us in our hearts of hearts want this event to be successfully staged because there is a lot at stake.

Mr. President, the issue of compulsory acquisition of property is a vexing issue and will always evoke emotion in people. Sir, let us face it, nobody wants to be uprooted from the community in which they have spent their whole life. We can empathise with the residents of Pickwick Gap who have to leave their surroundings. It hurts me that some people are using this occasion in order to score political points and this is not the time to do that.

Mr. President, we have to redevelop Kensington Oval and make it the sort of venue it has to be for World Cup and future activity. We are told that Kensington Oval is too small by international standards. Sir, we only play Test Cricket at Kensington Oval because we have been doing so for years but if it were a new ground, it would not be suitable for Test Cricket in terms of the length of the field and such things.

Mr. President, cricket is our major sport despite the fact that we are doing well at the moment. We must never underestimate the importance of sports, not only in terms of the economics of it but also in terms of its sociology. Sir, sports is a fundamental part of our way of life and our cultural activity.

Mr. President, the development of Kensington Oval has to be undertaken. I agree with the arguments put forward by Senator Nicholls that it does not make sense to build a new facility because we do not need two facilities for games which are played twice yearly. Mr. President, Barbados is too small to be a test country so we have to share test matches and one day matches with other islands of the Caribbean so there is not much scope for us to be using Kensington Oval. We have to redevelop Kensington Oval given the culture and history of it because it does not make sense to build another facility.

Mr. President, this means that some people have to move. This is unfortunate but it is a reality. It is important

that Government recognises that it has an obligation to those people since they are moving them for the greater public good. Sir, these people have to be properly looked after and must find themselves in no lesser circumstances than they are presently. Mr. President, that is the vital factor that must underpin all our efforts. These people are loyal Barbadians who pay taxes and deserve to be treated with respect. They must not hear things through the grapevine or on the radio but Government must carry on the process where at every move they are involved in their own future. This Government must be given commendation for the way they have done things. There were lots of meetings and the issues were discussed.

Mr. President, the Opposition also had their meetings with the people although we are not certain what was discussed or what transpired. Sir, this Government made sure that at every stage people were kept notified of the progress made and the steps that were taken. I do not accept the criticism that we were callous with the people because we have not been. We have tried as far as humanely possible to involve them in every stage of the process.

Mr. President, many issues were made about the price of the land. All of us know that commercial land carries a different price to agricultural land which carried a different price to residential land and beach. Sir, one square foot of land will not cost the same in every part, location or parish of Barbados. The Opposition knows that it does not work this way. When the Opposition compares the price of residential land in Pickwick Gap with the price of the commercial land at Barbarees Hill on the airwaves, they are not being as intellectually honest as they ought to be because you cannot compare land like that and everyone knows this. Sir, this is the reason why people keep agricultural land and hope to get a change of use to turn it into residential land because they will receive a better price. Mr. President, the price that land fetches would relate to its use and location.

Mr. President, when one hears the argument, one recognises that the Opposition would go to any end to stop being in Opposition. Sir, that is their right and duty but when the national society is at stake, the Opposition has to take note of the fact that the Barbados Labour Party was in Opposition in the early 90s and the country was in turmoil but we did not sow the seed of discord.

Mr. President, you are very politically alert and you would have recognised at the time that we were criticised... Sir, I am making the point that all of us recognise that in the early 1990s we showed how an Opposition should behave in the face of national issues; responsibly, noting that this is Barbados, our country and that whatever we do will reflect on our country and we ought to behave in such a manner

that the country stands to benefit from our behaviour. Mr. President, the use of these issues, in order to create favour in that way, is not to be recommended. I think that it should be condemned.

3.20 p.m.

Sir, there are a few issues relating to the land acquisition and the purpose for which it is to be used. We recognise that because of the proximity, some of these residents have economic ties with the Oval and as far as humanely possible, I am calling for the authorities to make sure that those economic ties are maintained. People have benefited from living close to the Kensington Oval. We note that they would be relocating to Barbarees Hill, which is not too far away, so it is still possible for them to maintain that economic relationship within the programme.

I am calling on the authorities to ensure that, as far as humanely possible, in the redeveloped Kensington Oval, the special needs of these people are catered for, so that they can continue their economic activity in the way some of them would have done for many years prior to the redevelopment. That is a very important point.

I believe that the people of this country must benefit as far as possible from the World Cup and special consideration must be given to those who have had to give up their history, so to speak, in order to make way for the redeveloped Kensington Oval. We have to ensure that their needs are met as far as it is humanely possible.

Sir, I know that some people are saying that it is not the local authorities' right to allow people to sell and that it is really the ICC. I want those in authority to note that when World Cup Cricket is over, people still have to live, so they must make sure that the authorities recognise certain facts in relation to the people and their economic relationship to Kensington Oval. We must make sure that our arguments are solid and strong in favour of the people in the area maintaining their links with the redeveloped Kensington Oval. Mr. President, that is a very important issue that must be completely satisfied.

Sir, when we think of Kensington Oval we remember the 3Ws Stand, Malcolm Marshall's End and the Joel Garner's End. There is one aspect of our cricket history that I want to raise here. I pass through Bank Hall on many occasions and to me it is an eyesore and almost a national disgrace when I see a plaque on a house in Bank Hall. I know that I am straying from Kensington Oval.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, get back to Kensington as soon as you can.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, we are developing Kensington Oval because we want to ensure that we do not lose contact with our history. I am calling on the authorities to make sure that the residence of the late Sir Frank Worrell is restored. If the plaque was not there, it would not be an issue. The plaque is there and World Cup Cricket 2007 must not find the birth place of a gentleman that adorns our \$5 Bill in that dilapidated state.

Mr. President, I now return to the place where he made his name.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I call upon all Honourable Senators to give this notice to Barbadians that this is our World Cup. It is not the Barbados Labour Party or Democratic Labour Party's World Cup. There are enormous benefits to be gained. Sir, we have to work together. Some of us may have to make more sacrifices than others but that is a fact of life. Sometimes a road has to be built and some people's lives disrupted. It is unfortunate but all for the greater good of the country.

I want to repeat that the Government will ensure that the people who are dislocated are treated with the greatest respect. We will not use this occasion for political purposes. We just want to showcase Barbados in the best light possible so that at the end of World Cup 2007, two years from now, all of Barbados would be reaping the acclaim of the whole cricketing world for a tournament that was well-organised and properly run.

Mr. President, we are hospitable people already and that is one of the greatest characteristics leading to the success of the event, that has been in place for many years. We now have to make sure that the physical plant is in place, and this Resolution to compulsorily acquire these properties, will go a long way ensuring that we meet our time commitments. We do not have a lot of time on our side. We are within the schedule but we do not have a great amount of time to play with.

Sir, we want to make sure that everything is done so that people would be able to say that is the best World Cup ever seen. It is highly possible and highly likely that would be the universal acclaim but it calls for us in here to send a signal to all Barbadians that there will be no divisiveness and that we are united on this point that we all want to see the best for Barbados and the region.

I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Dean Crichlow.

SENATOR the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLAW: Mr. President, I do not want to prolong the debate. I am sure that all Honourable Senators in this Chamber support World Cup 2007. I cannot think of a Barbadian or someone living here who would not support World Cup. All the speeches that we heard are very important and this community should be well-aware that Parliament of Barbados is behind World Cup.

Sir, the jurisprudential question that Senator Stuart raised, I think is an important one. It is one that is not easily perceived, as most questions in jurisprudence are. I think that we should pay attention to it. I am surprised that it has passed the Other Place.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Honourable Senator, as we say, I would not go there, please.

SENATOR the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLAW: Thank you. I do not know how it could be done because when it passes this Chamber it is settled, but it would be a pity to have a precedent like this.
3.30 p.m.

Mr. President, and I am not making reference to this particular Government but a Government could act on behalf of very wealthy citizens or even expatriates who may want to expand their land interest and this could be used as the precedent.

If Kensington Oval were owned by the Crown, then I suspect that there would be no problem. I mean the question of jurisprudence that Senator Stuart raised would not be applicable. I am assuming that and it worries me.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I cannot really respond. You could throw the question out there and I hope the Leader of Senate would respond to you or that, if he so wishes but it is really not a question for the presiding officer.

SENATOR the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLAW: Thank you, your Honour.

Sir, it is the whole question of, "for public purposes" that worries me and I think Senator Stuart made the distinction very clear. I do not want to muddle it because my field is not law but it seems to me that we are setting a serious and dangerous precedent in this matter of using the Land Acquisition Act to expand Kensington Oval. I am voting for the Resolution but I am voting with the reservation that I am unhappy about the jurisprudential issue.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I am also voting for the Resolution and, therefore, I wish to give Senator Crichlow the assurance that if he joins me, he would be in good company because on this particular matter I have taken legal advice as well. The Government has acted on legal advice and like anything else in life, you have different opinions.

Senator Stuart has given his opinion, which I respect greatly. I am not an Attorney-at-Law. I am a student of law now but, hopefully, one of these days I may become an attorney, although I do not think I will encounter Senator Stuart because I do not intend to go to the Other Place.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: The point I am making though is that the Government took legal advice on this matter and the opinion which it has acted on, is that the purpose for which the land is being acquired to facilitate the redevelopment of Kensington is a public purpose.

It does not, in my humble opinion, necessarily mean that because Kensington Oval is owned privately, the activities which are going to be carried out on these lands, which are being acquired, would not necessarily be for public purposes. These lands are being acquired to facilitate the redevelopment that is going to take place at Kensington. The legal advice which the Government has acted on is that it is in order. At this particular moment, I must tell you that I will have to follow the advice that the Government has acted on, which is coming from the appropriate Chambers. In that case, I am going to be guided by that advice.

Mr. President, let me say again that the Government recognises that whenever people have to pull up their roots from areas where they have lived for long times that there is a certain degree of trauma associated with that occurrence. Therefore, the Government is mindful of that and will make sure that it takes steps that will minimise that trauma as far as possible, if it is not possible to eliminate it, Sir.

Mr. President, at Barbarees Hill, there will be facilities provided that would allow people to engage in business activities, as raised by Senator Lowe. Whether people would be able to keep pigs and poultry there is another matter, because to my view, that will depend on how well they manage those operations and what negative impact there is on their neighbours.

I am sure that they will be able to engage in other activities and, hopefully, those activities would include some backyard farming as well, and I do not think that would pose a problem to their neighbours.

The point is that this is not a case where the Government has gone and tried to take advantage of those persons. Meetings were held with them and a social survey was conducted. Coming out the social survey it was determined that there were 20 households and four businesses that would be affected. Sir, of the 20 households, two households opted for compensation. Thirteen of them agreed and said they wanted to be relocated in the neighbourhood or within the same parish of St. Michael. Those are the ones that have agreed eventually to go to Barbarees Hill. One person expressed a preference of being relocated in St. George. Four persons had no preference.

Therefore, it is not a case where the Government went down there and said you all must move and go to such a place. They were all consulted. They expressed their preferences and those preferences have been respected. There is general agreement that the relocation should take place and the Government is going to make sure that the relocation, as I said, has the minimum inconvenience for those persons and that they are justly rewarded for the property which is being acquired.

Senator Lowe mentioned some other problems with relocations elsewhere. I am not privy to all of the circumstances related to those cases but I suspect that in the case of Thyme Bottom and adjoining areas that the circumstances are somewhat different.

With regard to those cases where persons, over time have disputed the valuations that have been attached to their properties, and they refused to take the money as he said, I really do not know those circumstances but what I do know is this, Sir.

Mr. President, I know of a case where there was an officer in the public service who absented himself for a period of time and was eventually put on leave. He subsequently appealed to the Privy Council and other appropriate bodies and he was reinstated and they were asked to pay him for all the years when he was doing nothing. The money was calculated and the officer has not taken it, because he said that it is a penny more than it should have been and he has left it in the Treasury.

The point there is that people for all sorts of reasons decide that they do not want access to the money and so on, Sir, and that does not necessarily mean that you must blame the Government for their actions. There will be delays from time to time and there will be disputes. I hear it all the time. Whenever the Land Tax bills come out, people say the valuation is too high. I have known cases where people went back and contested the valuation and the result was that the valuation went higher.

I know of a particular case of an outstanding politician who encountered that problem. When he protested, the valuation went a little higher because the valuer discovered that he had omitted certain salient points that he should have had taken care of in the first case.

The point is that people would contest the valuations when the Tax is due but when the sale is about to take place, they will also in many instances say that the valuation is too low. Be that as it may, the point is that the Government does not set out to rob anybody. Government is interested in dealing with people fairly and justly. Even though there may be cases where the Government cannot agree to the price that persons want, it is not because Government has set out to rob anybody, it is just that sometimes people try to take advantage of the Government because they perceive the Government as an institution that has large sums of money that they can draw on without recognising that the money comes from their own pockets. Mr. President, I suspect that if someone were to advise them earlier that the money is coming out of their own pockets they would probably take a different approach.
3.40 p.m.

Mr. President, with respect to the issues raised by Senator Marville about garbage, traffic and marketing, I do not have the details on those. However, what I can say is that I know that there are a number of committees which have been put in place to look at particular areas of activities. There is a committee dealing with traffic and there is a committee dealing with other matters, and I am pretty sure that those committees would take care of those particular matters.

With respect to the traffic, the persons who were involved in traffic management when the English cricket team was here, and that is the occasion when you had a larger crowd than normal, are the same persons who are involved in this committee now. At the time the English team was here they took the opportunity to start to prepare for this occasion when the numbers will naturally be bigger. That English tour is one that gives a very good idea of what the difficulties would be because it is a larger tour than normal. Sir, these matters are being addressed and I have no doubt that come 2007, solutions will be in place.

However, Mr. President, we must not approach the Cricket World Cup as if 2007 is a particular occasion when the whole of Barbados would rise to it and after that things would go back to normal. That is not going to be the case and that is not how we on the Government side approach it. We see 2007 as a marker along the highway. Therefore, we are operating on a basis that steps will be taken to improve the environment within which we live to make sure that when 2007 comes, we have put in place the things that we

want to be in place for even after 2007. So there is no question of doing everything to meet 2007, as I heard a number of people say elsewhere, and then when that comes we forget those standards and so on.

Mr. President, we have repeatedly said to the people involved in agriculture that they must put themselves in a position to take advantage of opportunities to supply the additional persons with food who are going to be in Barbados, but they must not develop their proposals on the basis that 2007 is the peak and then when 2007 is past they go back down, they must develop proposals on the basis that 2007 is along the way and when 2007 is past they continue to climb so that they do not find that after 2007 they have excess capacity and their business flop. So from the point of view of the persons involved in agriculture, we are not approaching it in that way. So my advice would be that in all areas we look at it that way.

Mr. President, as to whether studies have been done on the cost and benefit of the occasion, unfortunately, I do not have those details but I presume that persons have

looked at that and they are satisfied that there are substantial benefits to be gained for 2007 and beyond.

Mr. President, with those few remarks I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, June 8, 2005 at 11.00 a.m. when it is expected that we would start the debate on the Bill dealing with Health and Safety in the Workplace.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, June 8, 2005 at 11.00 a.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
3.46 p.m.

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