
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2003 – 2008

THE SENATE

Friday, November 25, 2005

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings on Friday, November 25, 2005, at 11.15 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.) (Deputy President)
Senator T. E. BARKER, B.A. (Hons.), M.A. (Econ.), J.P. (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Senator Sir Roy TROTMAN, K.A., M.A.
Senator Sir John Stanley GODDARD, K.A., G.C.M., B.Com., F.C.A. (Hon.), LL.D. (Hon.) (U.W.I.)
Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. EASTMOND, LL.B. (Hons.), LL.M. (Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development)
Senator I. St. C. LINTON
Senator G. P. B. NICHOLLS, B.Sc. (Hons.), LL.B. (Hons.)
Senator Miss P. E. PARRIS, J.P.
Senator G. P. I. GOODING-EDGHILL
Senator Miss S. C. V. HUSBANDS, B.A. (Hons.)
Senator F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M.
Senator Dr. D. S. LOWE, Ph.D., Dip. Theology, B.A., Med., ED.D.
Senator Dr. F. L. CHANDLER, Ph.D., B.Sc. (Hons.)
Senator R. O. Marville, B.A. (Hons.), M.A. African Studies, M.B.A.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received the following message from His Excellency the Governor-General to The Honourable The Senate. It reads as follows:

“Message No. 2/2005

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable Senate that on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, under Section 31 of the Ombudsman Act, Chapter 8 (a), he proposes to re-appoint Cyril Courtenay Clarke, Esquire to the office of the Ombudsman established by section 2 of the said Act.

His Excellency further has the honour to seek the approval of the Honourable Senate for the proposed re-appointment pursuant to section 3 (2) of the said Act.”

May I take it that the Senate concurs in the reappointment. On that basis, an appropriate message will be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor-General.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have apologies for Senators Griffith, Williams and Grant, all of whom are out of the country on Government’s business. In the absence of Senator Griffith, Senator Eastmond will act as Leader of the Senate. I also have apologies for the absence of Senator Sir Allan Fields and Senator Newton.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following documents:

1. The Value Added Tax (Old Harrisonian Society) Order, 2005.
2. Customs (Petroleum Products Bulk Storage) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005.
3. Annual Reports of the Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation for the years 2001 and 2002.
4. Financial Statements of the Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation for the years 2001 and 2002.
5. Annual Report of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council for the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004.
6. Statements and Audit Reports of the Industrial Credit Fund (ICF) for the year ending December 31, 2003 on:
 - (i) Loan Number 2660 BAR;
 - (ii) European Investment Bank Project; and
 - (iii) The Agricultural Development Project Loan Number 2782 BAR (Part C).
7. Annual Report of the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. for the year 2004.
8. Annual Report of the Barbados Tourism Authority for the periods April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003.
9. Annual Report of the National Assistance Board for the periods April, 2002 to March, 2003 and April, 2003 to March, 2004.

11.30 a.m.

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

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, I beg to the first reading of the following:

1. Guarantee of Loans (Companies) (Amendment) Bill, 2005.
2. Architects Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr. PRESIDENT: Public Business is the Order of the day.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF SUMS UP TO \$125 000 000 IN THE CURRENCY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS BY THE ISSUE OF SECURITIES THROUGH DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES INC. AS LEAD MANAGER FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING THE FOREIGN RESERVES AND TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINKING FUND FOR THE REDEMPTION OF EACH ISSUE OF SECURITIES MADE UNDER THE EXTERNAL LOANS ACT, CAP. 94D AND FOR THE MONEYS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN AND SERVICE THAT FUND

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, this particular Resolution has to do with giving Government the capacity to raise funds on the international capital market. The authority for this is given under the Loans Act which is Chapter 94D of the Laws of Barbados.

The purpose of this particular Resolution is to put Barbados in a position where it can facilitate much of the work which still needs to be done with respect to World Cup 2007 and to further bolster the foreign reserves of Barbados. As many of you know, the investment in World Cup 2007 is very significant for Barbados. Much of the work will require construction in a number of areas, not only Government sponsored work but also work by the private sector. As many of you know, the requirements for construction are facilitated through imports into the country and therefore the necessity for raising foreign exchange.

Barbados for a significant period of time, has not gone to the international capital market to raise funds but we consider it appropriate to do so at this time. As we know, we have already had discussions in the Senate where we have discussed the fact that the foreign reserves of Barbados had fallen because of a jump in demand for foreign currency resulting from the desire to import a number of commodities both for the productive sector and consumption in Barbados.

An attempt has been made to dampen this demand for foreign exchange through a number of initiatives by the Government as advised by the Central Bank of Barbados and this has included the raising of interest rates. We have also imposed a cess which is focused on imports coming into Barbados.

There has been in 2005 already, a decline in the demand for foreign currency and, therefore, the efforts to dampen that demand for foreign currency has been effected by the Government. However, we recognise that to prepare for World Cup 2007 effectively, we would need to call on our foreign reserves. Therefore, the Government thinks it is appropriate at this time that we go to the international market through one of the leading financial institutions in the United States, the Deutsche Bank, which would be lead manager on this project. The details are that the amount is US\$125 000 000 and the maturity of the loan is 30 years and the indicative interest rate is 6.75 per cent.

I believe that one of the things we have been consistent about in Barbados is support for World Cup 2007, understanding the great financial benefit that it could bring to the Barbados economy, in terms of reaping a benefit for the investment in significant infrastructures, almost immediately.

Usually, when Governments invest in significant pieces of infrastructure, it takes a very long time before they see any direct benefit. We find ourselves in a set of circumstances where upon the hosting of World Cup 2007 in Barbados, we will immediately see an inflow in foreign currency by persons coming to Barbados for the Finals especially but for activities leading up to the Finals.

Mr. President, you would imagine that in order to facilitate the World Cup, it would not just be a matter of tourists coming to Barbados but also people involved in business who will come to Barbados. We will see an almost optimum utilisation of all of our resources such as our hotel plants, restaurants and all such facilities that Barbados has to offer. We also see considerable employment being generated.

I believe that it would be correct to say that the Barbadian public does support the hosting of World Cup 2007 because of the considerable benefits that will arise from it and, therefore, I am also of the view that the public does support ensuring that we stage a World Cup which we can be proud of in Barbados. When Barbados is displayed to the world, the infrastructure they will see, will be of a type that they will conclude that Barbados is a country which can facilitate all types of business activity because World Cup is a business activity as well.

Mr. President, it was very interesting to note that when I attended the World Summit on the Information Society that the Minister from Greece was able to say quite confidently that if they could stage the Olympics, certainly they could convene the future forum for the Summit on the Information Society. It is not only then that infrastructure will be put in place that can facilitate other activities, but it is also clear that a country's ability to stage a world game gives that country the confidence to stage other less significant events.
11.40 a.m.

Mr. President, I have no doubt that Barbados is quite capable in terms of project management, in terms of planning and in terms of execution to host this particular event, but we have to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to it.

I, therefore commend this Resolution to my colleagues in the Senate as one that is appropriate for passage and therefore beg to move that it do now pass.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks to raise the national debt of Barbados by a further US\$125 million. I wish that had been said by the Minister in her introduction because that is the concern which most Barbadians have about the consistent, insistent and persistent borrowing of this Government over the last 11 years.

Mr. President, I smiled when I read the Fourth Preamble to the Resolution, which says that the Government deems it necessary to borrow for the purpose of strengthening the foreign reserves because just a few weeks ago there was a raging debate in Barbados about whether or not this country should cash in on the facility, the PetroCaribe Agreement, being extended to it by the Government of Venezuela. One of the most emphatic objections of this Government to getting involved in that exercise was that it would raise the national debt of Barbados.

Mr. President, I thought that we were now at a stage where the Government was so committed to keeping the national debt down that we would not have for a long time to deal with Resolutions of this kind. This Government's proud and glib boast over the last 10 to 11 years was about record levels of foreign reserves. Of course, whenever the Opposition reminds the Government that the foreign reserves boasted about are not foreign reserves that have been earned as much as there are foreign reserves that have either been borrowed or that have resulted from the sale of State assets, the Government takes offence. So, here are we today trying to prop up the foreign reserves of Barbados once again by borrowing US\$125 million on the international capital market.

The Minister was quite right when she said that the Government has not gone to the market for a long time, in fact, it was a commitment that the Government would not go to the markets for a very long time. That commitment is now broken and the Government is back on the capital markets with a begging bowl, while boasting about record levels of foreign reserves. Of course, the appropriate explanation is that this money is being borrowed to facilitate the Cricket World Cup 2007. I have wondered what kind of Barbados we would have had if there was not something called Cricket World Cup 2007 because practically everything being done in this country today is being done in the name of Cricket World Cup 2007.

Mr. President, I heard a news item a few nights ago about attempts to control the rat population in certain parts of Bridgetown for purposes of or in preparation for Cricket World Cup 2007 and I smiled because it seems as though the rats could have eaten the residents of Bridgetown as long as there was going to be no World Cup but since it is going to be a Cricket World Cup, they have to run out the rats. I just hope that they do not run into St. Philip because then that would create a problem that we do not now have.

Mr. President, we are back with this problem of the national debt of Barbados, which the Government expressed its concern about. I believe that the Prime Minister, in his last Economic and Financial Policy Statement and the one before that, took cognisance of the fact that the national debt of Barbados was at a worrying level. We have been hearing this chant all the time and yet no opportunity is being lost to further inflate the national debt by unrestrained borrowing. All of this results from the fact that the productive sectors of this economy have ground to a virtual halt and have been underperforming massively under this Barbados Labour Party regime, and we are now living on borrowed money. That is where this country is today.

Mr. President, I do not think that the average Barbadian would find a lot of fault with this borrowing if, at the level of quality of life and at the level of ease of existence, he or she could claim creditably that he or she has experienced some palpable change. The reality is that those who rely on the public transport system are no better off today than they were 10 or 11 years ago. The Transport Board is still in the same crisis that bedeviled it when this Government came to office. In the face of all this borrowing, the average citizen still does not have a public transport system upon which he or she can rely. All they hear about is the millions of dollars that are being borrowed, but yet their quality of life remains untouched.

Mr. President, if you go to the realm of housing, the situation is very much the same. The same complaints that the average working-class Barbadians had in the year 1994,

so far as low income housing is concerned, he/she still has in the year 2005 notwithstanding the fact that this Government has borrowed madly over the last 11 years. One could go through every facet of this society. Every week practically, public servants in this country, in one Government department or another, have to walk off the job because of the physical conditions of the buildings in which they have to work, basic amenities not available to them, and they hear about all of this money that is being borrowed, that somehow does not touch them.

11.50 a.m.

Mr. President, for eleven years now, this Government has been promising to build a new Hall of Justice. Sir, judges, the Chief Justice, lawyers and everybody, have all complained about not being able to weather storms when they come. They have complained of actually getting wet while on the job. Sir, the fact that these person are hearing about these borrowings taking place, yet they have to work in the same substandard conditions and in buildings that are virtually condemned.

Mr. President, when are these borrowings going to stop? When is this Government going to feel accountable to the people of Barbados for all this borrowing that is taking place and somehow the benefits of it not reaching the people of Barbados? Sir, it is a scandal, I contend, that it could take any Government eleven years to build a new Supreme Court. Sir, the fact is that this is a Government, which has presided over the implosion of the Barbados Hilton and then rebuilt it. This is a Government that has imploded a hotel that could have continued to exist in its present state but with some modifications. This is a Government that has rebuilt it, while the very people upon whom it relies to guarantee confidence in this country, that is the judiciary and the Police Force, must continue to work under the most dilapidated and substandard physical conditions. They too have to mark time, while this Government's wastage continues.

Mr. President, I am very concerned. I am no prophet of doom. I have listened very carefully to the Honourable Minister. Therefore, I am not surprised that the Minister from Greece has said what he did say, about what Greece could host next. I regret he did not say how much debt Greece is now in, and how it is coping with that debt, because that is part of the equation and that is news that is coming out as well, but perhaps he did not feel able to say anything about that.

Mr. President, what we are here discussing is the US\$125 million increase of Barbados' national debt, which is already over \$4 billion. Sir, the national debt does not include loans guaranteed by this Government to companies in which the Government has an interest or to statutory boards. That is where the distinction between a national debt

and a public debt becomes important. Therefore, we are only discussing what central government has borrowed, and after eleven years the people of this country have very little to show for it.

Mr. President, I have to repeat that no post-independent or no pre-independent Government of Barbados has had a better chance to make a fundamental difference to the lives of ordinary Barbadians, than the present Government. Sir, they have had three two-thirds majorities; they do not have to rely upon the Opposition's support in Parliament because with a Parliamentary majority, they can pass laws. They also have a greater level of revenue in the history of Barbados than any Government has ever had.

Sir, that revenue and others have put this Government in a position where it has been the beneficiary of a greater intake of revenue, than any other Government in the history of Barbados, and we are still no better off. We are still back in a crisis with our Current Account and on the Balance of Payments. We are also in a crisis with our Fiscal Deficits.

Mr. President, what has this been all about? This is a Government which has been in office for eleven years; which has three two-thirds majorities; which has the largest revenue intake and which has borrowed more than any other Government in the history of Barbados, yet the people in the Ivy, Bayland, Chapmans Lane and Marchfield, St. Philip, are no better off under this regime. Sir, those people cannot get a bus when needed. They still have to fight herculean battles in the health sector, and there is catastrophe in the housing sector. Sir, after all these borrowings, this is where we are today.

Mr. President, I am in a position to facilitate the Government on yet another loan. The Opposition, in the Other Place, did not oppose it. They commented on it and so will I do here, but I am confident that this is not the end of it. Sir, I do not understand how, soon after we got news that we were going to host the Finals of Cricket World Cup, 2007, the Minister of Finance has announced that Government is going to put \$100 million into Cricket World Cup 2007. We are now borrowing US\$125 million to put into the same Cricket World Cup 2007. Therefore, I would like to know how much money has Government put into it so far and what the financial challenges look like before 2007.

Mr. President, the commitment was given that this Government would put \$100 million into that venture, and I have a sneaky suspicion that we are already well above that and still climbing. Sir, the Honourable Leader of Government Business is in a position to correct me and I hope that when she winds up this debate, we would hear something about that.

Mr. President, as has happened in the Other Place, so will it be in this Place. I will not oppose Government but my voice has been heard on it. Therefore, when all of this is over, we still have to get back to the concerns of the International Monetary Fund, in its Article Four Consultation, where it is said:

"The Directors noted that growth prospects for the next three years remain favourable, reflecting the positive global environment and the boost of growth from the buildup to Cricket World Cup, 2007 games."

Mr. President, at the same time, the Directors underscored that:

"A key challenge in maintaining and sustaining strong economic growth going forward, will be to address macroeconomic imbalances, including a high level of public debt, large fiscal and external account deficits and declining international reserves."

Mr. President, you will note they do not use the expression "national debt". They include all the guarantees to Statutory Boards and to companies in which the Government has an interest.

Mr. President, we still have to get back to all of this, when the euphoria of looking forward to Cricket World Cup 2007, is over. Sir, that is when, for that reason, the Government will remain in the dock to answer the charges because when they came to power in 1994, it was said to cleanse Barbados of all its political, economic and social defilement. Sir, it has not happened and the people of Barbados are no better off today, than they were when this Government came to office in September, 1994. Instead of Barbados being any better off, Government's spending spree has continued, the wastage has continued and the disillusionment, the despondency and despair of the average Barbadian have continued as well.

Mr. President, I wish the Government well, but my doing that is not going to cure any of the ills to which the International Monetary Fund referred in its Article Four Consultation. It is not going to cure any of the ills about which ordinary Barbadians complain about daily, such as public transportation, the state of the roads, access to affordable healthcare and housing.

12.00 noon

Sir, it is not going to cure any of those ills. I can afford to wish the Government well because my wishing them well cannot deal with any of these things. It calls for political will, a certain amount of insight and clear programmes that put people at the centre of what this Government is doing.

Mr. President, hiding behind statistics and painting fascinating pictures do not translate into a change of the quality of life for ordinary people. They are impacted by actual policy implementation and by concrete benefits that flow from the implementation of those policies. This has not happened to the average Barbadian under this regime of the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. President, with those few words, this Resolution will meet with no objection at the voting level from the Opposition.

Sir, I am obliged to you.

MR. PRESIDENT: Senator Gooding-Edghill.

SENATOR G. P. I. GOODING-EDGHILL: Sir, I rise to support the Resolution before this Chamber and in doing so, I would want again to congratulate the economic leadership in Barbados. The Opposition would want to create a situation that the Government made a statement that they were going to invest \$100 million in World Cup Barbados but would want to ask a question why there is a need to go to the international market for a loan for US\$125 million.

Mr. President, it is necessary that the point be made that the Government of Barbados has never, ever defaulted on any local or international loan. There should be no alarm in Barbados created by the Opposition or other persons in support of the Opposition who would want to suggest or give reason for concern in this country that by Government going to the international capital market for US\$125 million that it is in some way treacherous.

Mr. President, the Democratic Labour Party has had perhaps one of the largest loans ever recorded in Barbados but this loan is essentially designed to have a situation restored whereby you must recognise that you are going to have substantial construction going on.

Sir, I want to allude to the fact that retirement villages are going to be built in Barbados, a redeveloped Paradise Hotel is coming on stream, CLICO Investment is making a substantial investment into Sam Lord's Castle, there is going to be Phase 2 of the Sugar Hill Development and the redevelopment of Harrison's Cave.

Mr. President, there are a number of projects within the hotel and tourism sector making substantial investment in the product within a short period of time. Sir, Government is not making the investment on behalf of those persons. This is private investment some in excess of \$100 million.

Mr. President, we have a situation where there is a lot of construction activity in the sector at the moment. We are going to have additional works coming on stream and we

cannot purchase foreign goods in Barbados dollars. Sir, most of our construction inputs have to come from outside Barbados and it requires foreign exchange to complete a transaction. If we are going to have substantial construction inputs being purchased abroad, which must be paid in U.S. dollars, it is only appropriate that Government sets out to have the level of foreign reserves which it deems adequate in an attempt so as not to put the country into a crisis.

Mr. President, the Democratic Labour Party knows what it is like to put the country in a position of crisis. Sir, for the records, I go back to 1986. In 1986, when the Barbados Labour Party left office the total foreign exchange reserves held by the Central Bank of Barbados stood at \$287 million but at the end of 1993, under the Democratic Labour Party, they had fallen to \$246 million. Sir, in June 2005, we had increased our foreign exchange reserves to \$1.835 billion. This is an outstanding job and this is why I make the point that you have to congratulate the economic management team of Barbados for a job well done.

Mr. President, the Democratic Labour Party should not set out to put any fears into the hearts of Barbadians by suggesting that by going to the international capital market for US\$125 million is unjust and that Barbadians should worry. Sir, the economy is not in any crisis as we are being asked to believe. There are a lot of private sector and public sector projects coming on stream which will all improve the lives of the people of Barbados.

Mr. President, the position was made by the Opposition that in all these projects there is no difference to the lives of Barbadians but, Sir, this is unfounded. When you think about the investments in Barbados, perhaps the most significant on record in this country, if an analysis were to be done, the unemployment rate in Barbados is 8.25 per cent according to the last figures of the mid-term review.

Asides.

SENATOR G. P. I. GOODING-EDGHILL: Sir, it is a fact that the official unemployment figure in Barbados is below 9 per cent. We do not speak about the unofficial side because there are lots of individuals who would not be captured in the national statistics so we have reason to believe that unemployment is lower in Barbados.

Mr. President, the fact that Barbados' unemployment position is lower than that of France and Germany is of tremendous credit to the economic management team of Barbados led by the Prime Minister. Sir, the management of our foreign exchange reserves should not be questioned. We have to go back to the era of the Democratic Labour Party, when there was tremendous stress and strain on the foreign reserves.

Mr. President, we do not want to recite everything that was done by the Opposition but we have to, in an attempt to make the position very clear in Barbados that we do not have a foreign exchange crisis. Sir, I have made the point that we have \$1.835 billion in foreign reserves at the end of June.

The Honourable Member talked about housing and the fact that in housing there is a situation whereby people cannot get homes. Mr. President, it is instructive to recognise that the housing situation has improved in Barbados. There is more housing going on in Barbados than before. If you look around Barbados you will see that there is significant housing development in many estates and areas. I want to get the statistics on mortgage loans in Barbados so that it will be clear to all.

Sir, I will come back to mortgages but I will go on and make the point that if we have an opportunity for Barbados to be displayed internationally and there is a situation where we recognise that there is a lot of construction activity, that there are significant inputs that must be purchased from abroad in Barbados dollars, it is only fitting that the appropriate steps be taken that we do not have any significant erosion in our foreign exchange position.

Mr. President, if you recall, in 2001 after the terrorist attacks, the Prime Minister told Barbadians that he was going to the international capital market for a financial cushion because there is a lot of uncertainty in the world. On that occasion it demonstrated effective financial planning. On this occasion, going to the international capital market demonstrates, once again, unlike the Democratic Labour Party, that we have a Minister of Finance who is capable of recognising potential threats and to ensure that we have on hand, in the form of shoring up our reserves another US\$125 million to ensure that there are no significant challenges to our foreign exchange position.
12.10 p.m.

Mr. President, the Opposition would want us to believe that nothing is happening in Barbados. Sir, I believe, the economy grew at the rate of approximately 4.8 per cent, not 3 per cent. I made that point before the unemployment rate dropped below 9 per cent.

Sir, in addition, we have witnessed a significant increase in the number of motor vehicles in this country. These are signs that the economy is doing very well. We have a situation where people are investing in mortgages in Barbados. It cannot be said that they are not investing in mortgages. They are making substantial investments in mortgages in Barbados. Sir, when we speak about public transport, the Opposition would give the impression that you cannot get a bus at 5.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. or during the course of the day. That is not true.

Mr. President, on average, we have in excess of 140 buses on the road at any given time. We are in this situation because of the policy pursued by the Democratic Labour Party. We now have a \$4 million inventory as a result of the bad purchasing decisions pursued by the Democratic Labour Party. The Democratic Labour Party must remember that they had less than 50 buses on the road requiring the Government to purchase in excess of 200 buses, in order to replace an aging fleet, a fleet that we had to retire. I will deal with that point in greater detail.

Mr. President, we have just debated a Resolution in the Other Place and that issue has been spoken to. The Opposition should not give Barbadians the impression that there is something untoward about the Government approaching the international capital market in an attempt to shore up the reserves. It is not true and it is unfair. Sir, at the end of the day, the explosion of construction activity that we are witnessing in Barbados, Barbadians are being employed and at the end of the construction phase there will be persons who ...

SENATOR F. J. STUART: On a point of order. I really hate to interrupt Senator Gooding-Edghill but I should like to draw his attention to the fourth preamble of this Resolution.

“whereas the Government deems it necessary to borrow for the purpose of strengthening the foreign reserves.”

It is not the Opposition that is saying that. The Resolution is saying that. It is not an impression we are trying to create.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR G. P. I. GOODING-EDGHILL: Mr. President, the Democratic Labour Party wants to play the game of confusing the electorate, but we must not allow them to confuse the electorate of Barbados. If the Government elects to transact \$100 million in investments in Barbados generally, and the private sector probably more than \$100 million, the fact is that the Government is going to the capital market for US\$125 million to shore up the reserves. It is true and in the Resolution, that is true, there is no dispute. Do not try to give the public the impression that the Government has set about to invest BDS\$100 million for World Cup and on the other hand they are going to the capital market for US\$125 million.

Sir, the point is, you might have a \$100 million investment, we already have an expanding construction sector in Barbados, growing daily and we are going to have more construction activity. The best approach would be to ensure that Barbados does not suffer any significant losses

in terms of its foreign reserves position. Sir, notwithstanding that we have \$1.835 billion in foreign exchange, we should not allow the country to be exposed to any substantial debt in our foreign reserves.

Sir, during this period, leading up to World Cup, we have to utilise a lot of foreign exchange. I made the point that we cannot buy our goods in Barbadian dollars. We have to use the currency of the United States of America to purchase goods.

Mr. President, I want to return to the point of housing. A lot of talk was made about housing. In 1994, loans provided by commercial banks for private dwellings amounted to \$35.5 million. If you review 1986, when the Barbados Labour Party left office, loans provided by commercial banks for private dwellings stood at \$29.3 million. Over the period of eight years of Democratic Labour Party rule, loans were increased by \$5 million. Between 1994 and July 2005, mortgage loans by commercial banks for private dwellings have risen from \$34.5 million to \$609 million. I want to repeat the point. Mortgage loans by commercial banks for private dwellings moved from \$34.5 million to \$609 million, a calculation of approximately half billion dollar increase.

Sir, when you hear the Opposition speaking to the issue of housing in this country, trying to confuse the people of Barbados by suggesting that very little is happening in housing and that there is no housing development, the statistics prove them wrong. The statistics from the commercial banks are there. If you have half of a billion dollars increase from 1994 to 2005, and that is not enough credit for the people of Barbados to take, I do not know who should get the credit.

Sir, at the same time, what troubles the mind is, there are people within the Democratic Labour Party who, perhaps, are building two and three houses in this country but would want to give people the impression that nothing is happening in housing at all. It is not true and the Opposition should desist from giving John Public the impression that there is nothing happening in housing.

Mr. President, I made the point that something is happening in housing. Sir, the unemployment rate is down and we hope that it continues on that downward slide, because it is important to have reduced unemployment. We can boast that we have lower unemployment rates in Barbados, when compared to Germany, France and parts of the United States of America. I returned from the United States of America yesterday and there are areas where Congress in the United States of America is struggling and grappling with their economic issues, State by State, where there is mounting unemployment. Sir, unemployment in

areas such as the Bronx reach as high as 18 per cent.

Sir, there is a situation in North America where social security is still under a great challenge. In Barbados, we have placed social security on a sustainable path. Unlike the United States of America we do not have a bankrupt social security system.

Mr. President, it is important to make these points, because the Opposition continues to give people the impression that nothing is happening in this country, and that all the talk about World Cup would have little or no gain or significance for Barbados.

Sir, when Barbados is placed on the world stage, it would have the publicity across the world of hundreds of millions of viewers watching television. There is an opportunity to display our Harrison's Cave, Port Authority and the culture of Barbados.
12.20 p.m.

Sir, we cannot believe that US\$50 000 000 could buy the publicity that we are going to get from hosting the World Cup 2007, for even in the region, there will be substantial benefits which will trickle down to the man in the street. The taxi operators and the workers within the hotel sector and tourism sector will benefit.

Mr. President, the country will benefit overall from the increase in foreign exchange because if there is increased foreign exchange and we have an opportunity where we do not have to put \$10 million or \$20 million into the Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA) to promote Barbados, we have an opportunity now to showcase Barbados, its culture and everything else positively associated with Barbados. Therefore, I cannot agree with the Democratic Labour Party on this point.

Mr. President, the Government of Barbados has to continue on the course because it is appropriate and prudent. The Barbados Labour Party Government has managed this economy well. We had to pick up an economy which was struggling and failing from the Democratic Labour Party and we had years of successive growth in Barbados. I made the point that last year the economy grew by 4.8 per cent and if we could at least exceed 3 per cent growth every year, the country would continue to be on a sound footing. This is the point we have to make.

Therefore, the Opposition should stop this business of trying to malign the efforts of World Cup in one breath but supporting the Resolution in another breath. They should stop condemning the social services that are being provided in Barbados and giving the impression that you cannot get

anything done in Barbados, because people are looking to come to Barbados annually. We have tourism arrivals, minus one or two slippages but, generally, maintaining a level playing field.

We have a Government with the foresight and responsibility now to come and say let us go to the capital market, like they have done in 2001 after the September 11, 2001 attacks. We went to the capital market then and there was no significant fallout. Barbados has been able to repay its debts so that Barbados has an excellent credit rating to boast. The Opposition wants to give the impression that after 11 years and three successive terms with two-thirds majority that the Government cannot get anything done. Sir, it is not true and I want to put that issue at rest on this occasion.

The Opposition has a responsibility, not only to say that they are going to support the Resolution before us but they should be encouraging every Barbadian to join with the Government in pursuing the World Cup. Sir, a successfully staged World Cup event will go a long way for placing Barbados' name on the international arena and I am not only talking about tourism.

Sir, there are Barbadians who have gone to PAHO, the ILO, World Bank and IADB and have done us proud for a small country but we have a grand opportunity to showcase Barbados now to the world stage to let people know – if they had any doubts before – that there is a small developing country, such as Barbados without mighty resources that has an opportunity to showcase which can host a World Cup. We must prove to the world that we are just as good or better than some of the other countries in the developing world, Sir, when it comes to showcasing and hosting world events and that is the point.

Mr. President, I want to conclude by congratulating the economic management team of Barbados. The Prime Minister has done an outstanding job in managing the affairs of Barbados. Sir, if we could maintain decent levels of foreign exchange, low unemployment, successive years of growth averaging more than 3 per cent, we are going to be in a better position. This is important because when the economy is doing well, naturally we will have successes across Barbados.

Therefore, I want to thank the Government for having the vision and the foresight to bring this Resolution in order that we will continue to maintain a very sound and economic platform to aid us in the overall fiscal planning and development of this country.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I rise to support this Bill which seeks this Honourable Senate's approval for the Government to borrow BDS\$250 000 000 that would be used to augment our foreign reserves, which have been showing signs of slippage over the last 18 months. The money would also be used to prepare Barbados, not only Government but Barbados for the next year and a half, in terms of the World Cup 2007 and our requirements for foreign exchange and other funds.

Sir, this Resolution seems to be a heavy one and people are understandably uneasy over the implications that it would have for the foreign debt. This reminds me of 2001 after the events of September 11, 2001, when the Government sought to go to the market and borrow heavily in anticipation of the fact that the world was in a very fluid economic situation and we were not certain what would happen. No one was able to predict with any level of certainty what the fallout of that event would have been and this Government went to the market and took a heavy loan and took a heavy battering, I may also add, because we felt that we had to defend the Barbados economy, especially in a situation where we were uncertain about the future.

Sir, what happened since 2001? The foreign component of our debt since 2001 has been on the decline. If you look at the latest Economic and Financial Statistics put out by the Central Bank, the one I have is for October, it shows that at the end of 2001, the debt was \$1 361 000 000. At the end of June, it was \$13 014 000 000. There was a lot of talk about the foreign debt but we took that decision in 2001, based on uncertainty and we said it is better to be in a defensive position so that if anything happens, we will have the funds to be used upon demand, over the next few years.

Sir, we are in a situation like this now because we have some rather large investments to make, so let us face facts. Whenever we build a hotel, any project for that matter, even when an individual builds a house, they have to go to the Central Bank, directly or indirectly to get foreign exchange, in order to carry out that construction. It is as simple as that, Sir, because we know that a lot of the material used in construction, no matter what you are constructing, has a foreign exchange component.

Sir, there has been a lot of heavy activity going on in this country in the past three years and it is impacting on our level of foreign reserves. The records will show that our foreign reserves peak at \$1.5 billion in March 2004. The numbers were no where near there before. Do you remember the days, Sir, when we only had about \$11 million in foreign reserves? We remember the days when we only had about \$11 million in foreign reserves, but we would not

harp on that. The judicious policies of this Government saw the foreign reserves building up to the point where they reached the peak in March 2004 at \$1.5 billion. Sir, a lot of events happened since then which show them declining by \$300 million to \$1.2 billion by the end of December 2004. 12.30 p.m.

Sir, I would recommend to the Opposition Senators that they should spend less time bickering among themselves and more time reading information that is there in the public so that when they come to speak, they would speak from a position of knowledge. Sir, the call to them is not only to get on board but to get real and get with it.

Sir, in less than three years, our imports of fuel increased from \$189 million to \$342 million. Sir, there was not anything that we could have done about that because we do not control, unfortunately, the price of oil and the relevant commodities. That is over \$150 million increase on one item alone.

Sir, a lot of construction activity is going on and the importation of construction material increased from \$156 million to \$187 million. Sir, capital goods, and this is important, do not represent what the average person buys but the consumption of foreign exchange by business entities. Sir, we would want that item to be increased heavily because it would show that economic activity is going on with the resultant increase in jobs, *et cetera*. Sir, the figure indicates that the level of capital goods moved from \$404 million in 2002 to \$585 million last year. The importation of cars also went up from \$64 million to \$104 million.

Sir, the point I am making is that the activity that we see around us has a large foreign exchange component. All the indicators have shown that we had a good growth year last year and the prognosis for the next two years seem to be rather healthy, but this growth is going to result in increase utilisation of foreign exchange. Sir, there is no doubt about it, that is a fact. As the economy grows, as we provide jobs for our people, as we remove hopelessness and as we increase the level of investment within the island, there is a resultant expansion in the demand for foreign exchange because these things come at a cost.

Sir, our main sources of foreign reserves are tourism, services, international business and so on. Last year, tourism did extremely well both in terms of long-stay and cruise visitors. Reports indicate that we had over 700 cruise visitors which is way above the 559 million, which was experienced in 2003. Sir, we know that to move from 559 million to 721 million is an extraordinary increase. However, we must not expect that we are going to maintain that same level in 2005. Things do not work like that. We had an extraordinary year last year but you do not base all of your

calculations on an extraordinary year, you go for what we call the long-run trend, ignoring short-term fluctuations. This year we expect, both in terms of long-stay and cruise tourism that there is going to be some slight fall off because of the fact that 2004 was an extraordinary good year. Therefore, we expect that there is going to be a concomitant fall in foreign reserves.

Mr. President, the Government has not hidden that from the public. We have said since last year that we are not exporting as much as we ought to be, and the Government has put in place, and will continue to put in place, measures which are designed to stimulate the export sector and at the same time put measures in place to dampen the growth of imports.

Mr. President, note that I said to dampen the growth and not to curtail it, because as I said before the expansionary environment activity will result in increases of foreign exchange. We have to dampen that growth without curtailing economic activity because we want economic activity to continue apace so that we could drive unemployment down from the 8.9 per cent, as it now stands, to 6 or 5 per cent, which is a realistic and very much an achievable goal and one which this country must pursue with all its vigour.

Sir, I have showed that over the past few years there has been a fall in foreign reserves which Government has to address because we do not want to find ourselves in the situation where economic activity is curtailed because of a lack of foreign reserves. Sir, one way of doing that is by borrowing.

Sir, people come to the conclusion that borrowing is going to leave problems for generations to come. Sir, that may very well be so, but it is like this. If your father, when he dies, leaves you \$100 000 in debt, you are in problems, but if he leaves you \$100 000 in debt and he leaves you properties or assets worth half of a million dollars, you are sitting pretty. Sir, better still, if he leaves you \$100 000 in debt, property of half a million dollars and at the same time he has given you the educational capacity to earn money, then you have every reason to be extremely thankful to your father. Therefore, the fact that he left you in debt is not the real issue, the issue is, has he left a nest egg or has he left you with the capacity to earn in order to repay the debt.

Sir, I believe with all of my heart that there has been an increase in the national debt, but we can see improved schools, hospitals and improved roads because places that never had roads before are having roads now. Sir, you will see that when you go all over rural Barbados. People should not stay in Marchfield alone.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am told that a road was done in Marchfield, but I could understand why the Honourable Senator would not know this because the people from that area decided that they had enough of him.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: On a point of elucidation. Mr. President, I just have to clear that up because that is the road that I was complaining about at the last Sitting of this Chamber.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am glad that the Honourable Senator still has an interest in St. Philip South, and maybe that is where his destiny lies.

Sir, the point I want to make is that yes, we are leaving debt but the generations to come must praise their forefathers because the debt that we are leaving is to further educate them and is to make them more marketable in a changing and expanding world.

Sir, yes there is debt and yes people must rightly be concerned, but we must not doubt this country's ability to handle the debt that is there. Sir, I strongly believe that this country has the capability to service with relative ease the amount of debt that is there because every year our Gross Domestic Product is growing. Since 1994, the record shows that there was only one year, that was 2001, when our Gross Domestic Product did not grow.
12.40 p.m.

Mr. President, every year, until 2001, we had the longest period of economic establishment ever witnessed in this country. Sir, since the events of 2001 and 2002, we have been growing and are well on the way of surpassing that record, in terms of the number of years of sustained growth. Sir, we are talking about a growing economy, one where the productive sectors are not in disarray, as has happened in the early 1990s, when Senator Stuart and his people were running the affairs of this country.

Mr. President, the country has made tremendous progress but that progress comes with a price. Therefore, this Government has taken the decision to borrow on the international market. Sir, the point that has to be made, is that a country must not borrow on the international market when one is down-and-out. That happened in 1990, when the last Government was down-and-out and borrowed on the foreign market. Sir, this was the worst loan ever inflicted on the people of this country.

Mr. President, regarding that loan, I have already said in this Honourable Chamber that businessmen came to this Government and volunteered help in refinancing that loan.

That loan was like an albatross around our necks. When we spoke to the investors about refinancing that loan, they refused us. Sir, where else would they have gotten a loan at 13.5 per cent? Sir, therefore up to today, we are still saddled with that loan because of the fact that the Government of that day, went and borrowed on the international market, when they had no other option.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, as a matter of fact, that debt is still very much part of our national debt and it will be until the year 2015, where the people of this country would be paying high interest rates.

Sir, on the other hand, this Government has negotiated a loan of US\$125 million, at 6.25 per cent interest rate. Sir, you can hardly want it much better than that. It, therefore, means that the interest on this loan may be between \$15 million and \$16 million per year and not the exorbitant figure that we are now repaying on the other loan.

Mr. President, we went to the international market when we figured we could have obtained the best terms of repayment on the behalf of the people of this country. Sir, it is not only a question of going to the market, it is a question of going to the market, at the time which is best suited, as there would not be any real pressure to go. Therefore, by doing this at this stage, we would have a very good idea of our repayment plan for the next few years. Therefore, this loan would be there for the retirement of some debts, for the payment of interest, along with other matters. In addition, the country would not find itself in a position, when it urgently wants foreign exchange, then to find it has none.

Mr. President, this loan would help to build up our foreign reserves, so that any contingency, which falls due, could be managed by this country. Sir, we call that good planning, which has been the hallmark of this administration. This administration has looked into the future, has seen what its liability and contingencies are and have, therefore prepared for those things.

Sir, the objective of borrowing this money at this time, means that for the next few years when Cricket World Cup activities increases and the demand for foreign reserves increases concomitantly, when we know what loans are going to fall due, both by the Government, as well as by the private sector... Sir, when the private sector repays a loan, it is not done by Barbados dollars. The country still has to have the foreign reserves in order for that company to service that loan. Mr. President, these are all things that the Government has taken into consideration before it went to the international market.

Mr. President, I think the people of this country are intelligent enough to understand these things. They are intelligent enough to understand that the Government will not willy-nilly inflate the national debt. Sir, it does not make sense for us to run up massive debts which we cannot service.

Mr. President, the Dutch Market would have done what is called due diligence, in the same way as any bank would, for a customer who would want a loan. They would have seen our reports and looked at our figures. They would have read reports from the IMF, the IADB and others, so that they would have had a very good knowledge of Barbados and about the prospects of the Barbadian economy, both in the short-term and in the medium-term. Therefore, when they lent us that money for a period of 30 years, they were reasonably sure, as far as humanly possible, that the economy would be in a position to service its national debt.

Mr. President, this Government should have probably taught the Opposition a lesson on how to proceed because I am not sure that the Opposition has done the relevant due diligence, otherwise we would have heard of a better informed speech coming from them.

Mr. President, none of us likes to be in debt but it is one of the ways in which this country has prospered over the years, under both administrations. Sir, when I hear the Other Side talking about debt, it has to be pointed out that in their last tenure, they had increased the national debt from \$1.3 billion to \$2.5 billion. Therefore, anyone hearing them now would get the impression that they have never increased the national debt. Sir, in eight years, they have moved the national debt from \$1.3 billion to \$2.5 billion, so I wish they would do their homework and would not try to fool the public that they have never borrowed. Sir, they may have the innocence of looks but certainly not the innocence of thieves.

Mr. President, the country can afford this loan at this time. Sir, with all that we are doing, in terms of our development, the country can hardly expect to function effectively, without the injection of foreign reserves.

Sir, I would wish to point out that Barbadians should not fear. The key is that the country has the capacity to service this debt. We would not go into an exercise which would increase the foreign debt above the capacity of the country to repay.

Mr. President, I commend this Resolution to this Honourable Chamber. I am obliged to you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 1.40 p.m.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 1.40 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
12.49 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Senate is resumed. Senator Nicholls.

SENATOR G. P. B. NICHOLLS: I rise to give my support to this Resolution which would, in a sense, put the economy of Barbados in a position to draw on the international reserves required to facilitate the infrastructural development necessary for readying this country to stage what will be the largest gathering of international sportsmen that this part of the region has ever known. Indeed, it is a tribute to those people who work on Barbados' bid to host the World Cup. The hard work by people not only involved in cricket but the whole spectrum of services that Barbados service professionals provided came together to successfully bid for the hosting and staging of the finals of the World Cup.

Mr. President, in a real sense, this debate is about how we are going to be able to finance the infrastructural requirements in relation to the building of the capacity required for the World Cup not only at the site of Kensington itself but in relation to the expansion of room capacity and the other necessary infrastructural developments required so that we can hold our heads up at the end of World Cup 2007 and say that we have hosted the world and done it well.

Mr. President, I believe Senator Eastmond and Senator Gooding-Edghill made the point and I want to reiterate that a lot is required to get this infrastructural project on stream. We do not produce in Barbados and it is important for the country to be in a financial position to draw on international reserves so that we can be able to purchase the necessary infrastructural tools to build the capacity that is required for the World Cup.

Mr. President, it is in this context alone that the Government has sought to bring this Resolution to guarantee that we would be able to draw on those reserves so as not to put the economy in further jeopardy. Sir, in the past when we debated the economy in this Chamber, Senator Stuart would argue that Barbados is not only an economy but a

society. When, we on This Side are able to point to the facts to show that the economy of Barbados is growing in exceeding proportions to what we had projected, that unemployment rates are at the lowest ever in the history of this country, Senator Stuart would accuse the Government of looking at the economy and not at the society and that it has always been the propensity of the Barbados Labour Party to look at Barbados as an economy.

Indeed, in a previous debate when we were speaking about reaching a macroeconomic balance, when we pointed to all the specific indicators of economic growth and development, Senator Stuart scoffed at the idea that we could look at this country as an economy. Today, he has departed off that hobby horse to speak on economic issues in the context of this debate so as to suggest that the Government is going to saddle the taxpayers with US\$125 million debt which the country can ill-afford at this time. I understand why he says this. It is like the proverbial debate like the glass being half full or half empty.

I could not expect after being 11 years in Opposition that the Democratic Labour Party could offer itself as a possible future Government in the near future and see Barbados other than a half empty glass. In fact, one would even argue that when they speak about the Barbados economy and society that it is not the country that ranks No. 3 in the western hemisphere behind United States of America and Canada in terms of its human development index, that it is not a country that has some per capita income in excess of US\$12 000 a year, that it is not that country that has been able to reduce the levels of unemployment in this country to manageable proportions, it is not the country in which domestic savings in commercial banks are in excess of \$6.2 billion by the average Barbadian.

Mr. President, they create the image that the whole country is suffering and this is not the country whose economy has expanded from \$3.4 billion in 1994 to \$5.8 billion in 2005. They would argue that all the social services in the country are rotten and that they are the worst ever in the history of the country. Sir, we know that is not so. I understand that if they are to be given a realistic chance in forming a future country that the glass must be viewed not even as half empty but almost empty as far as they are concerned.

Mr. President, the economy of Barbados is something that occupies a lot of the attention of the administration of the Barbados Labour Party. We are not sitting in a vacuum but are participating in an international economy. Sir, the challenge which this Barbados Labour Party has had to face over the last 11 years is how to transition the economy of Barbados to make it a more modern and diversified economy

and still assure our people the level of social services that they demand as a right.

Mr. President, we have witnessed in this country fundamental shifts in the way in which the international economy has operated over the last ten years. The Government has been making sure that the average Barbadian family, the hardworking person who goes to work early in the morning and comes back late in the evening is able to provide for his/her family the most important material aspects of their survival.

Sir, Senator Stuart made the point that the productive sectors are not performing but if we look at manufacturing, in 1994, the output was \$8.9 million and today, in 2005, it is \$81.8 million. This is against the backdrop of the Democratic Labour Party in the last days of its administration in 1994, giving to the WTO the commitment that we would liberalise trade in relation to goods so that our Barbadian manufacturers would have to face international competition in their own domestic market in relation to the manufacturing process of the country.

Mr. President, we know our labour cost is high because our people in the country are educated to an extent that we can compete for the high-end employment initiatives in the international arena. We know that our energy costs are high because we do not produce the majority of energy we consume. It is to the credit of the administration that we have sought to create an economic programme for the country. When Prime Minister Arthur as Leader of the Opposition replied to a Budget bought by David Thompson in 1994, this economic vision was mapped out over ten or fifteen years. Sir, although sugar king is no longer king, last year for the first time, Barbados' exports in sugar exceeded other exports in terms of our returns.
2.10 p.m.

Sir, 80 per cent of the molasses which is used to create rum in Barbados to keep a rum industry as a viable foreign exchange earning industry is imported. Yet, we import 80 per cent of the molasses to make rum to earn more foreign exchange than the sugar industry. Sir, this is because the Government has been putting policies and programmes in place to ensure that this economy transitions so that when the next tectonic global shift at the level of the international economy occurs, the people of Barbados would not have to say, Government, what are you going to do for me. This is important.

Mr. President, as I said, we expect that when the Democratic Labour Party speaks on the economy, they must see that the glass is less than half empty. The reality is, that the average Barbadian, whom they like to speak about, they cannot define but they speak about this loose amorphous

person, the average poor man this and the average poor man that, but at the end of the day the figures indicate that a wealth of opportunity has been created in this country. I can say that as testament of the vision that allows the University of the West Indies to continue its expansion programme.

Mr. President, today, the roll at the Cave Hill Campus is probably in excess of 8 000 students. This is a credit to this Government maintaining its commitment, not only to free tertiary education but to an expansion and access by a wider cross-section of Barbadians who have been unable to access tertiary education in this country.

Sir, we believe that when we graduate from the University of the West Indies, our future lies in the production of services. We are a services-based economy, but a lot of people do not appreciate this. When the Ministry of Economic Development was first set up under this administration, it was lambasted as a means to facilitate a former property class in the country. That was a criticism that was leveled at this administration. However, when you look at the performance of tourism, the offshore financial services and its contribution to the economy, what would we have today? If we had to rely on sugar, we would probably be closing down a sugar industry like St. Kitts this year. Mr. President, Guyana is struggling to keep theirs alive today and Trinidad closed theirs last year.

Sir, the economy is in good hands. The Barbados Labour Party has put the resources and infrastructure behind the people who went after the bid to host the World Cup, because we know of the benefits to the economy when the English cricket team comes to our shores. We know of the benefits, not only to the hoteliers but to every person in the tourism industry, from the lowest to the highest. We also know that when the English tour came to Barbados, and we have been fortunate to have it twice in our time in Government, it had a positive impact on the economy.

Mr. President, can you imagine what is the likely impact of the international cricket finals being hosted in Barbados with eight of the best games, as part of that package, attracting audiences from all over the world? Sir, the best cricket teams would be assembling in this country with their supporters and fans coming to experience our culture.

Sir, I have already said in this Honourable Chamber that after the World Cup we need not rest on our laurels, because when Dan Lockabee said that he has assessed bids for the Olympics, Rugby World Cup and Football World Cup, but when he saw bids from the Caribbean, singling out Barbados and St. Lucia who have partnered in their joint bid effort, he said that they were some of the best bids that he has ever seen. Sir, it means that the service providers,

lawyers, doctors, security personnel and that cross sector of Barbadian service providers who offered their services voluntarily to that bid process, could essentially use the infrastructure that has been created, by the opportunity to host the World Cup, to bid for Commonwealth Games between Barbados and St. Lucia in the future. Sir, we have the infrastructure already in place, so we can look to the future for these things.

Mr. President, the services economy that Barbados is today, has to be expanded by building a developing capacity, not only the infrastructural capacity, but you must allow the people of the country to put what they know best into practice. This is an excellent opportunity for the people of Barbados to benefit directly and indirectly from the World Cup.

Sir, I cannot sit and share the pessimistic views of the Opposition. They said that they wish the Government well, but we know what they mean, because an Opposition Party cannot wish a Government well. If an Opposition wishes a Government well, it means that they are content to stay in Opposition. They are not content to stay in Opposition. They say that they wish the Government well because they feel in their hearts that the World Cup will not bring any benefits, or they are trying to create the impression that the Government is creating an enormous debt burden to build infrastructure and capacity in this country, not to the credit of Barbadians. That is fundamentally wrong, Sir.

Mr. President, Germany is an industrialised country, one of the G8 countries. Today in 2005, they are facing the prospect of an increase in the top rate of income tax from 42 per cent to 45 per cent. They are facing the prospect of an increase in the value added tax from 16 per cent to 19 per cent, because there is a commitment, like Barbados, to the provision of a social services at the level that German people require and expect. In order for the Government to finance the continuing support for the social services sector in that country, they are projecting increases in income tax, corporate tax and value added tax in that country.

Sir, Germany has not been able to maintain a fiscal deficit at 3 per cent, which is the required deficit under the Regulations of the European Commission. Barbados is a country in which our fiscal deficit is estimated to be around 2.5 per cent. We believe that we could manage an economy with a fiscal deficit of 3 per cent and we have been doing well.

Sir, in January 2005, the first \$20 000 of all income earned by Barbadians became tax free. The top rate of income tax has dropped this year from 40 per cent to 37.5 per cent. In 2005, 7 000 people have been removed from the

tax net in this country. Yet, the Opposition would give you the impression that the average man is suffering under the weight of an uncaring administration. We are relieving Barbadians of their tax burdens in a way which will not jeopardise the status and standing of the Barbados economy.

Mr. President, I have not mentioned the reduction of land tax, the first \$125 000 from the property value. In fact, I want to say that with a \$609 million increase in mortgage loans by the commercial banks for private dwellings, between 1994 and July 2005, 18 736 homeowners will no longer pay land tax in this financial year, and 50 544 would benefit from the adjustments in the land tax bands. This is in the context of \$609 million in outstanding loan portfolios for Barbadians who are building homes.

Sir, in 1994, when the Democratic Labour Party was mercifully asked to leave office in this country, it was half billion dollars less than what it is now. Barbadians are now investing half billion dollars more in building their homes than they were when the Democratic Labour Party was in office. However, we hear that there is a housing crisis in the country and that Government has done nothing to ensure that the average Barbadian can build a home. There is nothing further from the truth.
2.40 p.m.

Sir, when they speak about the average man falling under the weight of the economic burdens placed on them by the Government, in 1986 when the Democratic Labour Party assumed office, total deposits in the commercial banks by the so-called average man were \$1.18 billion, and in 1993, it petered away to \$1.9 billion.

Sir, the commercial bank deposits by the so-called average man in Barbados are \$6.28 billion. These are the savings by ordinary Barbadians and it is a fact that our people are saving and saving more, almost four times as much as they were saving when the Democratic Labour Party was in Government. Therefore, I want to disabuse the average man, if they had heard Senator Stuart speak about the performance of the Barbadian economy. He was of the view that a grim day lies ahead of all of us because of what is going to happen as a result of this loan.

Sir, in this country, we must not only hear but we must start speaking as a country about the national development project because the Barbados Labour Party does not have the copyright and the intellectual property rights on national development and neither does the Democratic Labour Party.

Sir, I really believe that when I was asked to assist and serve the people of Barbados by coming here that we would engage in debates of a level and a standard where we would debate ideas on national development in the country, and not

engage in a dialogue of the depth about what they did and what we did. I believe the people of this country deserve more, especially in 2005.

Sir, the World Cup offers a tremendous opportunity to all Barbadians to play a part because there is now a facility on which the average Barbadian, which Senator Stuart referred to so often, to access financing to improve his or her home so that they can offer bed and breakfast type accommodations.

We believe that the bed capacity in the hotel plant in Barbados will not sufficiently meet the requirements of the World Cup in time for 2007 and what the Government has done, Sir, was to seek to empower the average man by being able to access concessional financing on very good commercial terms to buy into the tourism product. In the long run, this will give them access to incentives to develop their home and to their capacity to assist in the tourism product.

We do not believe that all of the people who come to our shores will be staying in the most luxurious hotels and villas for the World Cup. It is important that we get it right because if we allow any householder to build any and every room, we might do more harm than good.

As I have said in this Chamber before, this must not be stopped but it must be encouraged. We must create the proper facility to maintain the adequate standards so that not only the reputation of Barbados remains intact but the Barbadians who would have renovated or expanded their homes to accommodate some visitors, could always remain in the pool of homes that would be available for tourists who want bed and breakfast type accommodation in the future and that is important.

Sir, no longer are Barbadians buying into the logic that a golf course or a resort is inimical to their national development. We have seen that and we had to fight over the last 11 years, every time that a tourism/related project is done in this country that the Democratic Labour Party positions the debate as if the Barbados Labour Party is against the interest of the average people in the country.

Sir, we cannot continue with what the old people call the cocoa tot economics, where you put the money that you save in a little 'tot' under the bed and hide it but we need to start building on the capacity that this country has invested on, both in its people and in the infrastructure that we see around us.

I am going to be very happy, Sir, when I come to Bridgetown and I do not see Bridgetown, as I said in this Chamber before, dotted on the landscapes with warehouses and old bond houses that were part and parcel of a past

economy but are contributing to the development of present Barbadian economy. It is important to create jobs and an opportunity for Barbadians to provide services, not only to their own nationals but to people who come to our shores.

There is no reason, Sir, why Bay Street and all of the environs of Bay Street could not be turned into a place where the best museums, cafes, shops, and business centres dot the landscape, rather than a whole set of warehouses which are no longer storing the sugar that was once the important economic commodity in our economy.

We have to talk Barbadians through this process of development because the transitional costs are great. Yes, we have to manage change and that is what is going to separate us from being a successful country in a transition to development or whether we are going to be a country that is contemptuous to our neighbours around us.

Sir, these battles are not being fought in other Caribbean countries around us. Even in Guyana, the private sector is driving the development plan over the next 25 years and are coming up with very innovative policies to encourage investment, particularly by other Caribbean people, into Guyana's development in the future.

In this country, we cannot afford to allow an opportunity like the World Cup to go by, which requires the financing that the Government estimates. The construction sector, as we all know is part of the non-tradeable sector in the economy but has been growing astronomically over the last ten years. I say this against the backdrop of the vision mapped out by the Prime Minister in the 1980s, when he was the Leader of the Opposition, as to how he wanted to see the development and expansion of the economy.

Sir, we have a situation in this country in which our capacity to build the infrastructure that is required, not for the World Cup but for our development as a tourism destination of first choice in this region that we do not even have the capacity to do that and build homes. These are issues that should concern the Democratic Labour Party as to how we are going to ready the Barbadian worker to be able to meet those challenges and to be able to provide the labour requirements to meet the infrastructural development.

Sir, as I conclude, I just want to reiterate that Barbados need not fear that this Government is doing anything sinister to put the economy of the country in jeopardy. Senator Barker spoke very well about the need to invest in the future and if you leave a generation with debt, it must have on the other balanced side of the equation, an asset to mirror the investment in our people.

Sir, I reiterate my support for this Resolution and to you, Mr. President, I am very much obliged.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Marville.

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE: Thank you, Mr. President. I wish to state emphatically that I do not believe in trickle down economics, 'cocoa tot' economics or voodoo economics. The point I am making is that US\$125 000 000 is an enormous loan especially for a heavily indebted nation.

I understand perfectly that there will be the need for the Government to borrow significantly to shore up the World Cup process. However, I would be happier if the explanation for seeking the loan was not merely for the purpose of strengthening our foreign reserves and the creation of a sinking fund for the redemption of each issue of securities under the External Loans Act. To this, the Minister spoke to the vast amounts of construction that would accompany the preparation for the Cricket World Cup. My wish is that these funds be carefully managed and apportion.

2.30 p.m.

Mr. President, I would wish to have a little more transparent detail. What future construction are we speaking of, roads, flyovers, accommodation? Is this for further construction by companies that bring in foreign workers under inhumane conditions then to have the victims deported? I need some detail. I recognise the importance of the Cricket World Cup and I consider an investment in the Cricket World Cup a risk in a good business prospect, but I need to understand how we are going to apportion moneys that we have borrowed.

Mr. President, in the anticipation that there will be some clear explanation, I am prepared to support this Resolution.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss S. C. V. HUSBANDS: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution that is before the Senate for the borrowing of US\$125 million. I want to throw my full support behind this Resolution having looked at where we are as a country and the strategy that we are putting in place to reposition our economy so that it can grow and create more benefits for more Barbadians.

Mr. President, Government has made this decision to be able to shore up the foreign exchange reserves so that we can meet the requirements for expenditure that would be generated by the Cricket World Cup. When I listened to what others had to say about Government debt and Government borrowing and about the economy, it causes me great concern because I realise that among Barbadians there has been some considerable unease about the matter of debt

in Barbados and that at some level this has been deliberately stirred up among the population and this has been done without providing the population with the facts, the circumstances, the strategy and the rationale so that they can have sound public debate. As that unease continues to be stirred, it has led Barbadians to feel that their economy is in shambles and that things are so terrible. It is really astonishing the kinds of views people have had.

Mr. President, I have had the privilege of being able to share with a few people the concrete facts and help them to put in perspective what is happening. Mr. President, it is amazing how when they grasp the essentials of how an economy is managed and what you do in terms of putting in place an economic strategy to turn your nation around, that they then begin to see why you have to do certain things.

Sir, I think that one of the responsibilities that we have as people in public life, that people at the university and the people that have had exposure to economics and so on, must embrace is that they need to begin to speak out and be able to put on the table, for the digestion of the public, the facts and the understanding about economic matters, because failing to put that information on the table, you would have a public debate that is misinformed and as a result would only result in people having misperceptions about what is happening to them.

Mr. President, what has been amazing to me is that they arrived at that without even looking at or questioning what is happening before their very eyes, and are just being disturbed by the constant noise in the air about an economy in trouble, which is totally untrue. What I found is that as a result of this stirring, Barbadians have begun to adopt positions that really when you sit and examine them, they do not make rational sense.

We have reached the stage in Barbados where Barbadians are clamouring for water services. You hear the cry in St. Thomas, St. Lucy and St. Andrew. However, Barbadians do not want to have to pay increase water rates and the two cannot go together. If you want improved services, those improved services have to be paid for. Barbadians want roads, they complain about the state of the roads, but they do not want the inconvenience when road building is taking place. They do not want to wait until the roads are built. Barbadians want a relief from the traffic congestion that we experience every single day that has an economic cost, that creates wear and tear on our vehicles and on our nervous system and affects the effective running of businesses, but they do not want 'park and ride' or flyovers.

Barbadians want their lives to improve, they want to be able to accumulate wealth, they want to be able to move

from one level of standard of living to a higher standard of living but they do not want the investment required to create the wealth to allow them to acquire that quality of life.

Mr. President, as Barbadians we do not understand how the thing is connected and what is required, so we have come to a place where we want a hospital to be able to deliver efficient quality services but we want to resist the changing of the structure of the hospital and the processes in the hospital that would allow the hospital to begin to function in that way. This reminds me so much of words of a song by "Kid Site" which says that "Bajans don't know what they want".

Mr. President, there is a price that has to be paid for development. Development does not just occur. Nobody comes and hands it to you on a plate. A Government does not sit down around a pot on a fire and throw in some 'mumbo jumbo' dust and some water and boil it up and development takes place. Development takes place in a country when you outline and develop an economic strategy and commit resources to make it happen. You not only have to commit resources but the population has to engage in the plan and help work towards the destination that you are trying to achieve. If Barbadians are going to see a continued increase in their quality of life not just in 2006 but in 2010 and 2020, they are going to have to engage deliberately in their own economic development in a way that they did not have to back in the 1970s and the 1980s.

Mr. President, a former Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados once said that there is nothing wrong with debt, the problem is if you cannot manage that debt or if you cannot pay that debt. A lot of the misconceptions and stirrings that have taken place in the Barbadian population is that people have been putting to the Barbadian public that debt is equivalent to crisis, nothing could be further from the truth, debt is not equivalent to crisis.

Mr. President, if I go and take out a mortgage and I am able to provide for my family a standard of shelter that is better than where I am, but to do that, I have had to engage in debt, it does not mean that my financial circumstances are in crisis, the two do not automatically go together.

The question that the individual or the economy has to ask is, what is the debt for. If we do not distinguish what the debt is for, then you would continue to have instances where people would keep pointing to the debt as evidence of economic crisis.

Mr. President, I have mentioned this more than once in here about the difference in debt. If as an individual, I need \$1 000 to live every month and my income is \$1 000

and something happens at my workplace and I find that I am now earning \$500 but I have a commitment to pay certain bills that would require me to earn \$1 000, then that debt is a problem because I have a reduction in my income and I cannot meet my expenses. Barbados is not in that position. Barbados meets its debt.

2.40 p.m.

Mr. President, if I am in a position where I am earning \$1000 per month and I hear that at Christmas time, one of the commercial houses is offering living room suites at no down payment and I purchase one, then every month or every week, I have a struggle to meet that debt, while trying to meet my basic living requirements, whether it is my rent, light or taking care of my children, then my debt becomes a problem. Sir, that is not the case for Barbados.

Mr. President, when one looks at the PetroCaribe Agreement versus investments in the Cricket World Cup 2007, the difference between the two is that PetroCaribe is about taking fuel now and paying for it in the future. It is about accumulating debt on something that is a normal consumption, something that should be paid for at the time of purchase. You cannot have a situation in an economy where you are accumulating debt on a consumable item. When you have to do that, then your economy would be in trouble. Sir, wise economists and wise managers of an economy would know that signing that PetroCaribe Agreement would not necessarily be in our best interest because it is going to cause us to accumulate a lot of debt that I consider to be unnecessary because that consumption does not result in creating more wealth. That is consumption and not investment.

Mr. President, on the other hand, when one borrows money to invest in Cricket World Cup 2007, which is going to give us more returns than what we have borrowed, then that is a wise investment. Sir, borrowing money for investment is wise management, and one of the challenges that I have had, certainly as a person connected with small businesses, is trying to get people to understand the reason why that money was borrowed. Sir, so often many small businesses would want to borrow money to meet everyday expenses. When one goes to a bank to borrow, to meet everyday expenses, you are saying to the bank that your business is not doing well. Therefore, the bank would not be willing to lend money under those conditions.

Mr. President, if you go to a bank to borrow, to create the capacity to create more wealth because you may want to upgrade equipment, have a wider market, or increase your contract opportunities, where you are going to profit several times over that initial investment, then a bank would be willing to help you because they would see the investment of that money as increasing the capacity of your business.

Mr. President, it is the same thing at a country level. Earlier we heard Senator Stuart saying that things are so bad that Barbados is going with a begging bowl to the international markets. Sir, a country cannot go with a begging bowl to any of the international markets. They are not charities. In Barbados, if I am poor, I can go to the welfare authority or to places that will provide for the poor. There, all I would have to do, would be to show how poor I am and, therefore, I would be eligible to get welfare assistance.

Mr. President, when a country like Barbados goes to borrow, it cannot go to those institutions because Barbados has been assessed as being a high income country that cannot borrow at that level because it is not one of the Lesser Developed Countries. Therefore, as a result, we have not gone with a begging bowl. What we have gone with, as has been outlined by Senator Barker this morning, is an economy that is showing fundamentals that somebody, a business person, could take a look at it and say that we can afford to manage this programme for this country because it has the capacity to deal with its debt. That is the statement they would make by giving us the opportunity to borrow that money.

Mr. President, I find it, therefore important that people need to understand that when we use the word debt, that it is not synonymous with crisis. It only becomes a crisis if that country does not have the capacity to pay, if you do not have the capacity to meet your requirements, where you need to borrow for consumption purposes and not for investments to create more wealth. Therefore, it is very important that we understand this is part of the strategy for positioning the economy of Barbados.

Mr. President, the Opposition also spoke to an issue that was raised earlier, about borrowing for investment versus consumption. Sir, very often Barbadians are not able to understand, for example, that if we are borrowing this money to put into Cricket World Cup 2007, for airport expansion, to build the Hilton, *et cetera*, why there is no money to do a number of other things, such as building a Hall of Justice.

Mr. President, anytime a country has resources, that country has to determine the purchases it is going to make. Sir, any sensible person is going to look at the purchases they are going to make and ask themselves what makes the most sense at this time. Therefore, if you are going to take what resources you have and place it into investment opportunities, then the other activities that only consume... It does not mean that those activities are not important. It would be wonderful if we could give every public servant the most wonderful and palatial surroundings in which to work,

but unfortunately when you build those types of buildings, they do not necessarily generate more income for the economy.

Mr. President, on the other hand, when you build those types of buildings, they consume income. Therefore, they would be built out of surpluses. When you put your economy in a place where it can turn over money, you are able to use surpluses to build that type of building. Sir, if you are trying to reposition your economy, you have to take your money and put it into things that will turn over money for your economy. What you do then is strategise carefully, year by year, to see what you can attend to, that represents consumption.

Mr. President, why would Government get into investments? Sir, so often around the world and especially in many First World countries which engage in a type of economics that feel that Government should stay out of the marketplace, constantly push on small countries like ours, that Government should not get involved in activities that are income generating, and that they should leave it to the wider marketplace, *et cetera*. They keep trying to set up rules to hinder or to prevent Governments from becoming involved in services such as the provision of healthcare, education, *et cetera*, stating that the private sector should deal with that.

Mr. President, the truth is, when a Government is faced with a situation, especially in a Third World country, where the private sector tends to be sluggish in terms of taking up the slack in investments, when you have a sharp change in the economic trends that will challenge the viability of your country, when there is a need to explore new areas for economic development, a Government cannot afford to take a backseat. Very often in Third World countries, Government have to rise up and take the lead. Government has to become involved in capacity building. It has to become a regulator and a force for building growth. Therefore, many Third World Governments have to be taking risks.

Mr. President, Barbados is faced with just a situation. We have a serious change in our economic circumstances because of changing global conditions. Therefore, how we are going to earn foreign exchange to take care of our lives is going to be different and, therefore, helping the economy to 'turn the corner' is going to require Government's intervention.

Mr. President, we have a private sector that tends to be lagging behind, instead of forging ahead and developing the economic strategy, and pursuing the economic opportunities that are there. Very often they lag behind and Government

has to lead the way. When they see it is viable, they will then step in, Sir, this is the challenge that we have. Therefore, this Government being faced with the challenges that Third World countries have, in terms of globalisation, it would have been irresponsible and callous of Government not to have sat down and developed a strategy that would help Barbados, to reposition itself.

Mr. President, what are the investments that Barbados has taken over the past few years, which have contributed to the debt in the nation? Sir, we have spent a lot of money in the Airport Expansion Project. We have put a lot of money in, to build the type of facility that allows us to handle the growth in our tourists capacity. We have spent a lot of money in hotels, in GEMS and the Barbados Hilton. We have also been seeking to expand the tourism capacity to accommodate a growth in our tourism sector. Sir, along with that, we have invested money in tourism. Therefore, we are not spending money wildly. It is not money that is being spent on knee-jerk situations. What we have is a strategic plan to build the growth of our tourism sector, to build capacity at that level. Therefore, we are putting systems in place that will allow us to do so.

2.50 p.m.

We also look at agriculture and put some money into research and development for sugar cane to be able to find alternative sources of foreign exchange earnings to build capacity within the country. We went a step further because we realised that if we leave the promotion of export to the private sector that the monies necessary to effect it properly just would not occur so Government has taken the lead to take on entrepreneurial activity to help boost the export of Barbados with the creation of Export Barbados Inc. and the introduction of the cess to be able to finance such a project. These are the things you need to invest in to build capacity.

Mr. President, the financial services and the promotion of our cultural services... I am especially pleased about our investment in World Cup and our unusual investment in the Forensic Laboratory, which is now hailed as the top Forensic Laboratory in the Caribbean and will earn significant foreign exchange because countries from around the Caribbean and other places will be able to send materials here to be tested.

Mr. President, what are the benefits to be derived for the average Barbadian. Sir, the average Barbadian does not often appreciate that you cannot purchase goods and services with Barbadian money and that foreign exchange is needed to do this. Therefore, the more jobs you create in the economy and the more earning capacity, the greater is going to be the demand for goods and services, which we do not produce locally and, therefore, the heightened demand for foreign exchange which has to be done through investment.

Mr. President, Barbados typically spends about \$2 billion in foreign exchange consumption and a few months ago Barbadians spent an extra \$400 million in foreign exchange because employment levels are high and there is high demand in the economy for goods and services, which require the growth of foreign exchange.

What are the examples that we can look at that tells us that Barbadians have higher disposal income? My able colleagues have already shared a lot about car imports and housing and I would like to add a few more to these. Sir, on the matter of housing, not only commercial banks are lending but insurance companies, trust companies and Barbados Mortgage Finance Company Limited are also getting involved in construction. The total figure for construction in Barbados is actually \$1 billion and the commercial banks are about \$4 million to \$6 million and the remainder being taken up by the other companies.

Mr. President, when you see that level of investment in any economy, it is happening because the economy is booming. Sir, when an economy is in trouble, you do not get continued growth in your housing sector, it begins to contract. This point was well made already today.

Mr. President, the high demand for land is occurring not because of tremendous growth in population numbers because our population growth has slowed down but we are having a high demand for land because more and more people have the means to think of owning their home and live a higher quality of life than they currently have. Sir, those in wooden houses want wall houses; those in wall houses want bigger wall houses, those in bigger wall houses want wall houses with a jacuzzi and a pool. Sir, we have an increase in demand because the economy is growing, the quality of life is improving and, therefore, people are demanding more and more consumer goods.

Mr. President, the other demand in Barbados is that more and more Barbadians are buying cell phones. Sir, cell phones are in use by people of every walk of life in Barbados and this is a marker of economic development. It is a consumption item that is not necessary that the average and not so average Barbadian is able to afford. It is absolutely amazing that they are able to afford cell phones but they can because their quality of life has been improving over the years.

Mr. President, we have been rated in the IMF statistics, the UN Development Report and one of the things said about Barbados is that our purchasing power parity stands at US\$11 000. They say that our purchasing power parity is twice that of countries in whose band we sit. Sir, our purchasing power parity is twice that of places like Poland, Croatia, Mexico, *et cetera*. This speaks well of a well-

managed economy and of purchasing power. It means that the average Barbadian in Barbados lives better than other people in those countries and that they have greater purchasing power than they counterparts.

Mr. President, Barbados is not by accident at No. 30 in the Human Index. If people think we are in a crisis and having problems, then all the other countries which run between No. 31 and No. 140, would have to be in dire straits and, Sir, that is not the case. Barbados stands at No. 30 in the world being it has an extremely high standard of living.

Sir, I am reading from the Human Development Report, 2005, which I will make a document of the Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you have two minutes left.

SENATOR Miss S. C. V. HUSBANDS: Thank you, Mr. President. Sir, Barbados spends 7.6 of its GDP on education. It spends 4.7 on health and ranks highly among other countries which stands above it. Sir, Canada is at 5.2 and Ireland is at 5.5, Belgium is at 6.3 but Barbados spends a great deal of its GDP on priority areas like education and health, which account for the quality of life that Barbadians enjoy.

Mr. President, what are going to be the benefits to Barbadians of the investments made by Government? How is this going to help the average man in the street? Sir, this is going to assist Barbadians in getting and securing better employment by boosting our earnings, attracting more investment into the nation which will generate more employment which will allow our foreign exchange to grow. As a result, the revenues of Government are going to be boosted which means that roads can be fixed, the Halls of Justice can be set up and people can get more access to free education. Sir, these are the things you are able to do when you create investment that turns into revenue for the country.

Mr. President, people have tried to make Barbadians feel that there is a disconnection between the building of an airport and their quality of life as a common man. They have tried to make people feel that Export Barbados Inc. would not have an impact on them as much as spending money on housing and road.

Mr. President, people try to create that disconnection between macroeconomic development and the everyday well-being of the common man. The everyday well-being of the common man cannot improve without growth in foreign exchange and economic development. That is the only way to generate it. Therefore, anything we do that

creates investment and produces foreign exchange is to the benefit of this country.

3.00 p.m.

I want to commend to every Barbadian, not just the Senate, to embrace what is happening in our country. We are not taking wild chances. We are taking well-calculated risks from a strategy to reposition this economy to improve the quality of life of Barbadians. Perhaps, we can reach number 15 or higher on the Human Index. That is my wish for Barbadians. It could only come from good leadership and economic strategy. This is our presentation to Barbadians today and I would urge them to embrace it with all their hearts.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Eastmond.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, I wish to thank all Honourable Senators for their contributions today. I think some excellent points were made, even by Senator Stuart. I say I think, because I do not know, but I believe he would have made some useful comments as well. Certainly, I would wish to commend him and his colleague, Senator Dr. Lowe for making it abundantly clear that there is no doubt about who leads the business of the Opposition in this particular Chamber. So, we commend you for that.

Sir, with respect to the Resolution before us, this is a very important matter. I agree with the Senator who made the point that US\$125 million is a lot of money. Therefore, there is a need for care and some concern when dealing with such a large sum of money. We would be remiss in our duty if we did not seek to properly interrogate the matter that has been brought before this Chamber to ensure and to satisfy ourselves that the Government is actually on the correct path with respect to incurring additional debt.

Mr. President, however, there are some points that I will reiterate. With respect to incurring debt for developing countries, a developing country that is not incurring debt is not progressing. It is a fact of life when you are in the development phase of your country, even developed countries incur significant debt as well. When you are building a country, you are building an economy. You are building infrastructure and making an investment that you expect to have significant returns in the future.

Sir, I made the point that with the particular investment with respect to World Cup, we are going to benefit significantly from early returns than is customary for countries that are investing in infrastructure for development purposes.

Mr. President, there is always a debate about whether countries should run deficits or seek to balance their budget. It is certainly the case, especially, I believe with small countries. This is why, I believe, within the context of the discourse that we must have on nation building and development, it is important that we do not compartmentalise issues. Sir, while we seem to understand that small States have issues of special and differential treatment within the context of trade negotiations, we do not seem to understand that small States, when it comes to issues of managing and incurring debt there are going to be issues that are peculiar to small States as well.

Sir, I would try to draw a simple example of the ordinary Barbadian who is seeking to build a three-bedroom house; he will immediately be looking at a three-bedroom stone structure, and incurring a quarter of a million dollars in debt. Your ordinary Barbadian that seeks to do that by acquiring a loan will find that his debt exposure is significant, and will remain so for some time.

Mr. President, if you take a wealthy Barbadian who wishes to build that same three-bedroom house for a quarter of a million dollars, if you are referring to one of the millionaires in our society, building a three-bedroom house is nothing for them. Their exposure is not significant. Nobody questions it. By the same token, I do not think people really question either whether the man or woman that is not a millionaire should build that three-bedroom, two-bathroom house for a quarter of a million dollars. We think it is a good investment. We also think that fundamentally, shelter is critical.

Mr. President, that person's exposure and debt risk is tremendous and will be so for about fifteen years. It is a long-term investment. The same principle applies to small economies. If the United States of America were investing in Kensington Oval, it would not be a blink on the radar. Sir, US\$125 million would not mean anything.

Sir, the fact of the matter is, when you are a nation, there are certain basic things that you are still required to do. The same as an individual with a family, there are certain basic things you are required to do. You are required to build that house to provide shelter for your family in the same way that countries need certain basic infrastructure, like airport, seaport, games facilities and facilities to house tourists, restaurants, road infrastructure and hospitals. Every country needs a hospital. There is no country that can say they do not need one. Sir, whether you can afford it or not, you must have one.

Mr. President, for a small State like Barbados with relatively limited resources for earning income, our debt

exposure is going to be significant when compared with larger countries with more resources and greater ability to generate income. It is simply a fact of life.

Sir, in the way that we understand when negotiating in the World Trade Organisation and the Free Trade Areas of the Americas about special and differential treatment for small States, because of our peculiarities, we have to understand it within the context of debt as well.

Mr. President, I made that point because they are some of us who, despite the fact that we have shown that it is not the best path to take, seek to quote the gospel of the International Monetary Fund even though we know that is not applicable to our circumstances.

Sir, the ratios that they set out, and say that you must follow, are not necessarily appropriate for small States like Barbados. They might apply to other countries but they do not apply to us.

Sir, the fact of the matter is, there are some basic things that all countries must do, and because we are 275 000 people does not mean that we do not have to provide those basic infrastructures as well.

Mr. President, I think that is a point we must understand. It is a point that runs throughout all the issues dealing with international economics and the standards that are applied to small States. There is a constant thread. The thread is, the developed countries set the standards and they expect us to follow them without rhyme or reason. So, you get a bad report card if you do not follow their prescription even though there are not relevant to your circumstances. Sir, that is one of the critical point that I think has to be made.
3.10 p.m.

Barbados' investment in terms of ensuring especially that our foreign reserves remain at a level that we are comfortable with, must also be viewed within the context of our developmental strategy and, unfortunately, we do not have enough time to go into detail about that developmental strategy. I believe that in the past, we have discussed the strategy about reforming the sugar industry. We have spoken about upgrading and enhancing our efforts in marketing, tourism and international business. All of these things would require foreign currency.

We have also spoken about the fact that the Government has sought to reduce the cost for businesses in Barbados by reducing the tax rates over a period of time. We have spoken about the development of the services aspect of

the economy. This also takes foreign currency and we must bear in mind that our reserves are not only in place because the Government is seeking to spend X amount of money. The foreign reserves are there to ensure that when investors in the private sector wish to utilise foreign exchange, they are able to do so and that point has to be made.

Sir, I think the public may get the impression that we are here speaking about raising US\$125 000 000 and that the Government is going on a spending spree. This is unfortunate because it is my view that you create an atmosphere in the society where complex dialogue becomes simplistic dialogue and where, instead of seeking to educate the public and share information with the public we hold on to the most simplistic terms that we can find. For example, the Government is spending wildly, they are borrowing all of this money and we do not understand what they are doing with it. Sir, we believe there is a Barbadian we can pander to in that regard.

The truth of the matter is that while we create confusion in a certain context, we confuse people. I would also issue the warning that often when people are confused, they do not change the *status quo*. They say that if they do not understand, they will leave it how it is. This is the danger of just causing confusion and not bringing any alternative. I will say that to you, so you create confusion but at the end of the day as with any other enterprise, when you create confusion, and you stir up trouble, the dust settles.

Sir, people say that Barbadians are conservative and that might be true but that is nothing to be ashamed of because I believe that Barbadians are level headed at the end of the day. They may get caught up in the confusion and the stirring up but when the dust settles, I believe that Barbadians will recognise, just as any other Barbadian does that has a home or business, that often you have to borrow, unless you are so lucky that you were born extraordinarily wealthy and you never have to do it, but even they borrow.

Barbadians recognise that if you are going to invest in this country, you have to borrow to do that, as they recognise, I do not know how many Barbadians were able to go and build their bungalow in cash. Not many of them were able to do it. They know that you have to borrow in order to make certain advancements and what we have chosen to do is to concentrate on making that investment in the productive sectors, so that as soon as possible, we can get a return on those investments. Therefore, we would get money coming back into the economy to provide the social services that Barbadians require.

With those few additional comments, Mr. President, I wish to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 5 – THE GUARANTEE OF LOANS
(COMPANIES) (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2005

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, this particular Bill, no doubt raises similar issues to those which were debated earlier. The purpose of this Bill is to increase the limit of the aggregate amount of borrowings which the Government can guarantee under this Act.

Previously, the amount guaranteed was \$220 million and the proposal is for it to be increased to \$345 million through this particular Act. Sir, this Bill seeks to put the Government in a position where it owns at least 50 per cent of the ordinary share capital in particular entities to guarantee loan agreements which these companies enter into. I believe that as all Members know, the number of companies which the Government now has within its portfolio has increased over time.

For example, we know that we have the Grantley Adams International Airport Inc., the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., Needhams Point Holdings Ltd. There have been some debate and discussion about whether or not this is transparent. I assume that this is an issue of transparency but in my view, as you can see, these matters are dealt with through legislation. There can be no more transparent process than this because it comes through the Lower House and the Upper House. All Bills in Barbados are published and accessible by the ordinary members of the public.

I believe that Parliament is now able to put much of its work on a website, so that many of these matters are now freely available to the public. Therefore there is no question of sleight of hand in terms of these companies being in a position to borrow and for the Government to guarantee those loans.

I think it is remarkable when I hear some of the comments that there are individuals in Barbados who would continue to believe that, for example, you could have the Grantley Adams International Airport being run as a department of Government, not in 2005, or you should have the Queen Elizabeth Hospital being run as a department of Government. Those kinds of structures do not lend to the kinds of efficiencies that we would want to have in more sophisticated institutions.

I believe that the only issue really has to do with whether or not we are transparent in what we are doing and,

in our view, we can see nothing that is not transparent in the process. Therefore, I would wish to commend this Bill to all Honourable Senators.

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

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

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND, the Senate resolved itself into Committee, Her Honour SENATOR Dame Patricia SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 2 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motions of SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND, Madam CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the PRESIDENT the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Guarantee of Loans (Companies) (Amendment) Act, 2005.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO NOTE AND
APPROVE PROTOCOL FIVE OF THE
SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP,
2005–2007

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, as we are all well aware, the Social Partnership of Barbados first formalised its relationship in 1993, with the signing of the protocol for the implementation of a Prices and Income Policy for 1993–1995. There was then a second Protocol covering 1995–1997. There was also a third Protocol and a fourth Protocol which was extended until March 31, 2005.

The full body of the Social Partnership then mandated a subcommittee of the Social Partners to review Protocol Four and to draft a Protocol Five. When we look, therefore at, what is an addendum to the existing Protocol, we would see that there are a number of issues which the Social Partners have agreed are to be the major objectives of that Social Partnership and also of Barbados.

There is a focus on the further positioning of the Barbadian economy. As we all know, the economies in the world are in a state of transition and it is important for Barbados to position itself in such a manner that none of the gains that we have made in terms of establishing high benchmarks for our standard of living are eroded and that indeed we continue to develop higher standards.

There is also reference to the reduction of social disparities amongst Barbadians focussing on the right to decent work, freely chosen by individuals in the society. This is considered to be one of the major objectives of the Social Partnership. There is also a national commitment to increase competitiveness through improved productivity and efficiency in the workplace. Of course, this is intimately bound up in the issues of repositioning the Barbadian economy, consolidation and protecting our regional and hemispheric interest.

There is also focus on the maintenance of an industrial relations environment, conducive to a continuation of stable industrial relations within the country and the protection of the domestic economy specifically through the preservation in the existing parity of the exchange rate and the achievement of balances between prices and incomes. There is, also fundamentally, the continuing objective of consolidating the process of tripartite consultation.

This Protocol, which replaces Protocol Four, is to commence on April 1, 2005 and end on March 31, 2007.

I am sure that Members of this Honourable Senate will be persuaded to support this particular Resolution as it now stands before us.

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

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Mr. President, I believe that this arrangement between these three important partners is a crucial and critical mechanism that, if put to work at its most effective, can assist in creating a society where there is a desirable kind of balance between and among how Government, the private sector and the unions work in this society.

Mr. President, when we study modern societies, we realise that it is always important for Government to lead the way in deciding what kind of society we would have for tomorrow. So while the Government must rely on the participation, through consultation of important partners, at the end of the day, the people elect a Government to guide the development of their country and to ensure that, at the end of the day, they would be given their just due in the society and that whatever becomes of the prosperity of a

country is shared among all the people reducing the kinds of social gaps and economic deficits that we see existing in some societies and to some extent that we see existing in this country of ours.

Mr. President, the Social Partners have designed and forwarded a number of important objectives. Under the social compact, it speaks to creating a modern, efficient economy which is able to produce high and sustainable economic growth accompanied by increase employment and societal well-being. We, in the Opposition, have argued that when you look at a country, you must look at two elements of the country's journey, one that is economic in nature and one that is social in nature.
3.30 p.m.

We believe that whatever becomes of the economic good of a country, must be translated into a well-structured, well-defined and a measurable sense of the quality of the social journey of a society.

Mr. President, we know that Barbados has come a long way over the years and for sure we on This Side are always willing to give credit to those political organisations that have become Government's, which have made contributions to the development of this wonderful society Barbados. We also understand that, over the course of time, the economy of Barbados has gone through its challenges and that again in all cases, successive Governments have had to negotiate some very strenuous economic terrains, to ensure that the Barbados economy and its State, would have remained one of which we can be proud and one that we can continue to grow, as we go across time.

Mr. President, I know there are those persons who like to point to the early 1990s as the period where the Democratic Labour Party was not as effective and efficient as it should have been, but I would like to say that the times of the early 1990s were especially difficult times across the globe and that the Democratic Labour Party Government of that day did what I believe was a very incredible job, in ensuring the stability of the country, in ensuring the value of the dollar remained high, and in ensuring that with a restructured economy, Barbados was able to recover and move forward.

Mr. President, I, therefore, do not believe that any of us in this Honourable Chamber would deny the fact that the work and decisions taken then, were critical enough to sustain some element and hope of recovery of the economy and a growth path, one which the current Government has been able to enjoy for many years. As a matter of fact, they have boasted of the eight successive years of economic growth.

Sir, as a matter of fact, I make the point that in spite of the conditions associated with the 8 per cent cut, as the Barbados Labour Party likes to talk about, that the immediate industrial climate following that period was far less turbulent than it is today. Sir, in today's Barbadian society, even though we are expected to have experienced such great growth, the industrial climate in this society has now reached a stage where, from day-to-day, we have to ask ourselves which Government department would walk out and protest working conditions.

Mr. President, I believe it is important that as we look at economic efficiency, that economic efficiency must be interpreted within the context of the social mobility and well-being of the people. Sir, we can borrow as much as we choose to borrow. We can invest as much as we choose to invest, but at the end of the day, when we look across the landscape of Barbados, in the Heights and Terraces and in the corners of the country, we must be able to point to a kind of quality of life that is suitable and fit for a king, whether that king lives in a castle or in a corner of this country.

Mr. President, we know we now live in a day where politicians have lavished or have almost gorged themselves into prosperity, almost to the point where the sharp contrast in the society cannot be restricted to looking to what we define as the 'haves', who are those merchants in the society who control the majority of wealth. We now must throw into that, 'them' versus 'us'. Sir, there are a lot of the modern-day politicians in this country, who seem to be more concerned about their own comfort, than that of the people.

Mr. President, I believe that the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados is on record as frowning on such a movement in this country, where he has vowed to ensure that he separates his political Party and his Government, from those persons who now seem to be so focused on their own status, on a society that they wish to create, that may not include the persons that they have been chosen to represent. Sir, I can surely endorse the Prime Minister's concerns on that particular matter.

Mr. President, these are some of the pledges in creating an efficient economy. Sir, we have discussed an efficient economy earlier in this Honourable Chamber, that is the concern over the depletion of the foreign reserves. We talked about the country having to spend more of its foreign reserves to do business. I would want to make a point here that until this country comes up with a strategy to earn foreign reserves, there will always be a situation where this country has to borrow, to prop up the foreign reserves of Barbados. Sir, we have not yet been able to understand how to create the kind of niches, so that we can become engineers of the growth of our own foreign reserves, without having to borrow.

Mr. President, I had a very interesting experience with a number of farmers, where one came to me with a can of imported okras. The goodly gentlemen said to me: "Dr. Lowe, look at this. I am a farmer. I grow okras and have so many here that I do not know what to do with them, still I can go on the shelves of any of our supermarkets and I can pick up a can of imported okras."

Mr. President, I am assuming that if we are going to be able to give the kind of credence to our partnerships, we are going to have to find a way of reducing the appetite for the consumption of foreign reserves in Barbados. We have to create an appetite for the creation of foreign reserves, by earning our way in the foreign reserves markets. We cannot continue coming and saying that we are going to borrow to prop up Cricket World Cup, 2007. As a matter of fact, we are not really sure. It is to prop up Cricket World Cup, 2007, or it is to prop up the foreign reserves?

Mr. President, the fact of the matter is that we have to come up with the kind of creative endeavours in the society, where we put some of the money behind those endeavours, that would allow us to create the kinds of products that could be exported, and we have been talking about that in this Honourable Chamber for some time.

Mr. President, let me talk about the establishment of low inflation and the equilibrium between prices and incomes. Sir, you cannot ask a society to stand low on earnings, while, at the same time, prices go up. Sir, are we going to ask Barbadian workers to engage in wage restraint, while, at the same time, prices are going up almost every day?

Mr. President, as one goes to the supermarkets, one has to pay more for chicken, sugar, and for basic things that people need for a basic sustenance of life. Sir, added to that, one still has to pay more for gas products, water, electricity, *et cetera*. As a matter of fact, in one store you pay one thing for the same item and in another store you pay a different price. Therefore, these kinds of things impact upon people's capacity to sustaining a quality of life. Therefore, the equilibrium promised by the Social Partnership is one that must be pursued and one that the society must experience in Barbados.

Mr. President, we have argued that in spite of the political tactic that includes a theory of inclusiveness, there are still a lot of people who are left in the corridors of need. 3.40 p.m.

A lot of people are asking where they belong. We know that in human development that there is a sense of belonging which does not belong to the immediate family but to a person feeling significant within the society. Sir, to

feel significant one must be able to see the relationship between his or her ancestral effort and where they are in the society today.

Mr. President, ordinary Barbadians who people do not see are finding it hard to find their place in this society. Therefore, I am suggesting that there is something missing in the mechanism that allows us to reduce the distinction between those who have and those who want to have in this society. The Government boasts about the employment rate but I wonder how much they study underemployment in this society. Those persons who work hard every single day and are not being compensated at a level commensurate with their efforts. The talk about whether they should be a minimum wage or not continues to go on but there is not steady effort on the part of the State to ensure that when a person sweats by his or her brow that he or she is paid commensurate with the effort that is put out. Perhaps that is why Indians can come to Barbados and be paid \$10 for people to make an excuse that they were not hired. Unless the contractor believes that there is a climate in this country where something like that could happen. I am sure that perhaps they would want to be more guarded as to how they do business in this country.

I call on the Government, the private sector and the unions to be vigilant in this country to ensure that those shortcuts are not taken in this society in the name of progress because we believe all humans should be treated in a humane fashion. Sir, whether you are Indian, Arab or whatever your racial background might be in this country, we believe that humanity must be treated humanely.

Mr. President, I frown on any agency of the State, private sector or any other sector, which does not apply the highest standard of human regard to individuals whether they are looking for opportunity or see Barbados as a place of opportunity. Sir, once they set foot on this country that they must be treated and accorded with the same human dignity that we treat and accord our own people.

Mr. President, there are cases where even our own are not treated with the kind of dignity and respect they deserve in this society. Sir, from time to time there are situations where persons because they have a different view, political, religious or otherwise, they can meet with elements of persecution emanating from quarters of the State, private sector and, from time to time, other places in the society.

Mr. President, I am suggesting that we have to ensure that inclusiveness means that persons regardless of their station or state in life are regarded with the highest courtesies of human dignity that should be extended to all persons in the society as well as, Mr. President, the

distribution of benefits of economic growth fairly and equitably.

The reason why I believe this Protocol is vital, at least in its written form, is because I believe that those of us guided by conscience believe that all persons are indeed created equal and that all persons should be allowed to share in all the returns of a country they call their own.

Mr. President, I am sure you know that there are Barbadians today who honestly and sincerely believe that there are two societies in this country. There is a society where the affluent and those who know persons in high places get things done and come into all kinds of economic and social benefits. Then there are those who seem to be born into impoverished circumstances to sojourn through those impoverished circumstances, and to die in those circumstances. Yet still we talk about the modernisation of Barbados and how much progress we have made. We talk about how good it is in the country and persons are not far outside of the social web. These are persons who are ordinary hard-working persons driven by good moral ethics but just cannot seem to find their place in the society where, from their perspective, the society has a most glowing vision of what it must become as is interpreted around certain types of people.

Mr. President, those people who really define the backbone of the Barbadian effort. It is not their fault because they have not chosen their parents or social or economic circumstances but the fact that they are here, they deserve the opportunity to be able to get from point A in terms of the origin of their life journey to point B in terms of their progress and where they ought to be.

Mr. President, I am proud to be a part of this Chamber. I feel honoured to have the opportunity to say that I am one of those persons who never thought there could ever be an opportunity for me to sit in this Chamber but because of personal effort and the blessing of the Almighty, I have worked hard and have been able to gain a place in This Place where many Barbadians have not had the honour of sitting.

Sir, I believe that the social engineering of the late 50s, 60s and 70s and onward, should give each Barbadian a feeling within his or her bosom that once the social circumstances are right, that they ought to be able to move from where they started to where they need to go. It cannot be an easy thing when a man or woman knows that he or she has spent their entire life toiling, for after toiling they should be the enjoyment of a good reward. Sir, some of us do not seem to understand this.

Mr. President, I have had the occasion to work with people around and out of the church. I remember a specific

experience where a member of the congregation of a church used to go abroad in the early 50s to work. He had reached an age which was not so ripe but disease had taken hold of his body and he was in his final moments of life. I went to visit that man and he said what hurt him about knowing that he was going to die was that he had lived a life of hard work in his country and had so very little to show, that his children would now have to do what he had done and, perhaps at the end of their lives would not have a lot to show for it.
3.50 p.m.

Sir, these are not men and women who have abhorred work, these are men and women who live in society where it does not matter how much effort you put in. If your social circumstances of origin are of such, the climb to what is considered an acceptable level of success, is a long and arduous climb for many.

Mr. President, while some of us, as the Right Honourable Prime Minister notes, who have been given an opportunity by the people now enjoy lifestyles that are beyond measure, we seem to forget that there are those out there who rely on the system to ensure that there is a ladder for them to move from one stage of social existence to another. So the Government and the social partners have a responsibility.

Sir, I heard the private sector getting some 'licks' in here today, because we all agree that very often the private sector sits back like a calf that does not want to wean and allows the Government to go forward and set up all kinds of initiatives with commitments, but never really put their worth in the process until they have identified some element of benefit and success from the process.

I believe that if you are partners you must share a vision, believe in that vision and your input must be at the same value or higher than the other partners in the process. So, perhaps, those who represent the private sector need to understand that prosperity and equitable sharing are not simply about them accumulating their millions. It is about creating an economic society where all Barbadians are able to access the success enjoyed by the work of the partnership in this particular regard.

Mr. President, this partnership talks about the right to decent work, freely chosen and the provision of opportunities to increased employment. It goes on to talk about the workplace. I am anxious to get there because for many years I heard the Barbados Labour Party talk about the 8 per cent cut and the ravish that it took on the workers of Barbados. I would argue that the immediate post-8 per cent period, the industrial climate in Barbados was much better than it is now. We have a case in the country where almost every week an agency of Government is out there protesting, not wage based concerns in many cases, but conditions of work, and we want to push productivity and efficiency.

Sir, I want to push the notion that if persons are not happy about where they work, chances are, that productivity and efficiency will be compromised.

Mr. President, we are not talking about concerns over the lack of airconditioning, although sometimes that is it. We are talking about ergonomics concerns, where the health and wellness are put at risk. We are talking about sanitary concerns, where from time to time the chase is not after the clock. The chase is after rats. I do not think sometimes that the Government understands the relationship between work and life, because in many cases when a person leaves home, the workplace ought to be a kind of home where they are going to.

Sir, Sigmund Freud once proffered the view that there is no difference between love and work. He said that to work you must love to work and you must work hard to love right.

Asides.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Sir, there are some of us who like to extract the titillations of love, while sitting or lying as though we were waiting to be interred. It requires some level of effort and passion. It requires some level of deep revelation of self, love and the vicissitudes of what makes me a human being to love and to want to be loved.

Sir, the truth is, those who get the higher level of job satisfaction in the workplace are persons who have been able to develop almost a romantic relationship between who they are and what they do.

Sir, I am saying that one of the challenges of modern Barbados is to somehow fix the workplace to an extent where all of the distractions that normally create irritants in the workplace are handled and managed. There will never be a time where you are able to completely clean a workplace of all of the virulent affects of bad management, poor supervision and poor physical conditions. Sir, a commitment of the Government and the Social Partners, if we want to see a smoothing of the industrial climate of the country, should be to begin to examine what is wrong in the workplace.

Mr. President, I would want to believe that productivity can only be measured by output. If there are barriers in the workplace, the barriers can be from human driven barriers, physical conditions, lack of job satisfaction due to compensation and the like. Sir, my concern is, we have to fix the physical environment first. You should never bring human beings into an environment where there are

impediments that will negatively impact upon a person's capacity to deliver 100 per cent effort every day.

Sir, the truth is, if you cannot fix those kinds of circumstances, it then becomes necessary for you to try to engineer a process where you can detoxify the work environment. I think that detoxification is an appropriate word in that regard.

Mr. President, you have persons out there who complain about supervisors who are ineffective. There are persons who are technically strong and because they have achieved much in that regard, you put them to supervise people but they are not people's managers. Therefore, you run into some significant challenges because persons who are good in the technical field may not necessarily be good at managing people. This is something that I believe has to be studied and worked through as we understand and think about what is happening with the work situation and the industrial relationship in the country.

Sir, beyond that, you have cases where persons complain about the lack of succession planning, which leads to supersession. When there is not a clear succession planning strategy in any department of the public or private sector, you run the risk of putting people over other people. That is something that has been a menace in the work environment in Barbados and the work culture in Barbados, and it has to be addressed.

Sir, when the Honourable Senator Sir Roy takes his stand in this debate, I am looking forward to being educated on matters relating to how these things can be fixed. I believe that it is important if we are talking about creating that kind of work environment, and if we are talking about reducing the levels of disruption in the workplace, then it seems to me that you would have to ensure that those kinds of things are set right before we get any further.
4.00 p.m.

Therefore, the Social Partnership is something that must work and it must work well for the reduction of unacceptable high levels of unemployment and underemployment, recognising the relationship between unemployment and poverty and the attendant risk of social dislocation, particularly among young people.

Mr. President, I must tell you that even the OASIS Project is not solving the problems of those youths out there who seem disconnected from the system. There are people out there who want to believe that this quick-fix process can alleviate the systemic problems in the system. The system requires that when you have systems related problems, you have to fix the system and you cannot simply just do a

distribution of tokens and expect that the problems will go away.

The Social Partnership is about creating, I believe, a new social order in the society. It really is about seeking to map out the refurbishment and advancement of the social culture in the society where, as we look across the future, the social partners will be the vanguards of securing a path that is progress, productive and is people centered as we go forward. I believe, Mr. President, that as long as the partners play their role, this can become the major driving force in defining tomorrow's society in Barbados both at the economic and social levels.

The truth is, Mr. President, a lot of people do not seem to understand that it takes the collective efforts of a society to be able to engineer positive reconstruction of that society. When some people feel that they are left out of the process, they will not take ownership of the effort and sponsorship for the success.

I believe that, even in terms of labour, as unions begin to look at their role in this society and as they begin to redefine themselves to face the challenges of today, they too must become more people driven and not driven because of any elusive, romantic relationship with the State. They must be driven from a position of conscience where their fight is not to quiet the conscience of the State but to protect the interest of the people, the workers of this country and to me, Mr. President, that is where the departure falls out in some cases.

Mr. President, we had people who have been openly critical of this union versus that union. We had people who have been openly critical as to whether or not the unions have been infiltrated by the State, and now the distinction has become so blurred that you do not know the purpose for which either is driven. Those are accusations.

I believe that at the heart of the union, culture of any country has to be an insistence in defending the rights of workers, even when that defence creates discomfort for the State. I also believe that the history of the union movement in this country will suggest that we had and we do have those warriors who have gone forth and have defended our workers, even at times when over aggressive political leaders have attacked them.

I think it is important in going forward, as we begin to shape a modern and a new workforce that the workers of this country and prospective workers of this country see a very harmonious relationship between themselves and their representative unions. Sir, that relationship will help shape the way workers approach work and the way they approach the employment culture in the country.

Mr. President, I am praying and hoping that as we go forward in this country, particularly over the next medium range period, and we begin to tussle with the Government on matters related to wages, working conditions and the like, Sir, that there will be a vigorous advocacy on the part of the unions, ensuring that they play their role in preserving the work ethic of Barbados.

There is a difference between the work ethic of Barbados and what is prevailing in a lot of work places in Barbados. The harmony that we are talking about, the avoidance of social dislocation and the stifling of talents because of the aggravations of the workplace, I believe, Mr. President, those virulent and toxic elements will begin to increase in terms of their impact and presence in the workplace.

Therefore, I believe that those who conceive and brought to life this whole principle of social partnership, understood what it would take in today's and tomorrow's Barbados to ensure that balance in the society, the reduction of that gap among people and a reduction of that disparity, in terms of the social and economic return to our people.

I constantly ask myself what kind of Barbados do I want to leave for the next generation, and what role must I play in helping the State to ensure that the Barbados which is left behind is one that is better than the one I found.

Mr. President, I realise that no one political party in Government can be the chief engineer of the kind of society that would please those who come after us. The spirit of the Social Partnership should become the benchmark for how the society cooperates, in seeking to alleviate some of those troubling features of the society. When we talk about HIV/AIDS, crime, the proliferation of drugs, domestic violence and all of those social elements that seem to be eroding the quality of our society, it would take the collaboration of all those players who have an interest in the society both at the formal level and the informal level.

Mr. President, we must not ever forget that the Church must play its role, and the Church must be one of the systems that is allowed to participate in how we shape tomorrow's society. Sir, what we are fighting for now may not be so much for us but for those who would come after us to occupy the space that we now hold.

I do not believe it should be brought down to an issue of who is on This Side versus That Side because I want my offspring, present and to come, to enjoy a life in this country that I would have had a hand in seeking to secure for them. Sir, those who now think this plea to be a casual one driven by partisan politics, must understand that it is one driven by a heart. The intent of my heart is to ensure, not so much so that I would be plastered across some historical symbolism

as a person making a contribution but that those who walk after me would say that I, in fact, have made a contribution to ease their life and perpetuate a higher level of social graduation for them.

Mr. President, to me the Social Partnership is not about power brokers, as much as it is about social planners who must always seek to move the society from one stage of development to another.

Mr. President, I am obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds.
4.10 p.m.

Her HONOUR SENATOR Dame Patricia SYMONDS: Mr. President, I read the Fifth Protocol with great interest and much pleasure. It includes the National Initiative on Service Excellence Declaration and the May Day Declaration. When I looked at the May Day Declaration, one of the sections, which particularly caught my eye, says that the work of our performers, our artists and our sports persons should be designated as decent work and should be protected from the current levels of disrespect which it suffers. I thought that word disrespect was significant because it is something which I think we all owe each other as human beings and which we should pay each other in any workplace.

Mr. President, this Fifth Protocol, perhaps more than any of the others, is meant to improve the interaction and interrelationship of all groups in the society and has a core, I understand, working towards the workers' position and that of their families. As has been stated, the emphasis is on decent work and encouraging people to do the right thing at all times. This embraces Government as employer, as well as governance, other employers as well as employees and the wider civil society.

Mr. President, the very first Protocol emerged out of a crisis, no one can deny that, but admittedly too, it provided the opportunity for cementing a position and it has allowed both the private sector and the labour movement to have a greater degree of formal consultation. Since then, it has grown and grown and obviously a philosophy has developed.

In this Fifth Protocol, there has been greater emphasis on persons with disabilities. I was happy to see that. I am sure that Senator Linton rejoices to learn that. Sir, I would just like to quote precisely what is said. It says that:

"The Social Partners acknowledge their individual and collective responsibility to ensure the existence of an environment which will allow the full integration and participation in society of all persons with disabilities, but more especially their obligation to eliminate

marginalisation and discrimination in respect of the access of persons with disabilities to education, employment, and involvement in the socio-economic development of Barbados.”

This is a very important step.

Mr. President, I noted sections on child labour and migrant labour. Obviously, this was done with great foresight in regard to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, trade liberalisation and the World Trade Organisation.

There is also a section on law and order which is wider than hitherto and would have been partly as a result of the Report from the Commission on Law and Order. Environmental matters which were not dealt with before are also spelt out.

Mr. President, to be effective, there has to be commonality of purpose in approach and what has to be done. The Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados provides an opportunity to discuss matters in an intellectual and calm setting. I understand that discussions are excellent and even when they are heated and animated, yet there is nothing personal.

Mr. President, to me the greatest attribute of this Fifth Protocol is that, like others, it is built on good faith and reasonableness. Things are evidently, and from what I understand, done at a high level and there is a general attempt to use offices of people for the betterment of the island. I think that we should all be proud of it and be proud of the work that the Social Partners are doing for the good of this country.

This Protocol is designed to protect those in the world of work. Although it is true that we are not the first, the way in which it has been used, has been hailed as remarkable in other parts of the world. Again, I think that is something of which we can be very proud.

Therefore, with those few words, Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I wholeheartedly support the Resolution.

SENATOR Sir Roy TROTMAN: Mr. President, quite naturally, I wish to support the fact that we are having this document laid before this Honourable Chamber and I welcome the opportunity on behalf of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados to be able to make some comment on the document.

I hope that I would be allowed to say, without there being any offence anywhere, that I am particularly pleased that I am sitting next to Sir John Stanley Goddard on the

occasion of this discussion, and if I go wrong perhaps he would be able to remind me that my memory is failing because of oncoming senility.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir Roy TROTMAN: The first comment I wish to make is that before there was the suggestion of any crisis in Barbados, the First Protocol was being spawned. Sir John Stanley Goddard assisted by Mr. Darcy Boyce, a well-known public figure, and yours truly had been in discussion for some considerable time in an effort to understand what was happening in the world of work and in trying to see the extent to which we had to endeavour to position relationships in governance at the level of employer behaviour, at the level of protection for the worker and at the level of the worker's contribution to his and her workplace. Mr. President, no doubt I will have more to say about this later on.
4.20 p.m.

Mr. President, on July 31, 1991, when we were invited to meet the Prime Minister of the day, the Right Honourable Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford, he indicated what the difficulties were within the economy. At the time, the workers' side were able to understand that immediately we had to strategise, in an effort to bring about some form of change.

Mr. President, in that strategising, we were able to have a number of early discussions with employers and, therefore, the opportunity came for groups to meet very early, so much so that Barbados is one of the very few countries that has not suffered an invasion from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Sir, in this process, people at all levels in the country were able to come together, pit their resources against the stereotype approach of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which was an approach that said one suit for reform should fit all countries, regardless of size, ethnic origins, traditions, cultures, wealth or otherwise. Sir, Barbados said that is not good enough for us, that we must have our own model. Sir, it was that Barbados model which, in my estimation, has saved the Barbadian population at all levels and has caused us to stand out, even now as we speak.

Mr. President, this occasion is one that allows us to note and to review exactly what this Fifth Protocol seeks to do, and for us to make some comment on what otherwise there may have been. What it did not seek to do, was to bring about the disquiet to which Senator Lowe spoke. I think, therefore, that it would be instructive for us to bear in mind that even today, at a meeting of the Subcommittee of the Social Partnership, that same question of the disquiet which there is, particularly in the public service, was openly brought to the meeting by the Congress of Trade Unions and

Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB) and particularly by the President of the National Union of Public Workers.

Sir, we would wish Barbados to know that President Maloney was very forthright in saying that it was his union's position that we should welcome an inquiry into the causes of this disquiet and unrest. He was making it quite clear that it does not spring from there being any negotiations for money, but that there were weaknesses and difficulties within the workplace, many of which spring from environmental conditions.

Mr. President, I wish to make the point to those attorneys who point to these difficulties, who suggest that unions are too strong in Barbados and that they should be put in their place, that unions are very conscious of their responsibility to this country and that even before the crisis of the 1990s, unions have been behaving responsibly. Sir, unions have been willing to take their position as part of the planning, to which Senator Lowe spoke, and that they have not seen themselves as part of any dictatorial tendencies in the society. Therefore, any attorney-at-law, 'brown', 'sugary', or otherwise, must be able to understand that and to treat to it with the respect that is due and not with snide and cheap personal attacks.

Mr. President, this Protocol speaks of the commitment of the individual partners, a commitment to be an instrument of policy, on the one hand, and a commitment as a means of furthering national development. I believe at page 43, one would be able to look at these kinds of commitments.

Mr. President, we think it is important for people to understand why it would be necessary for the Labour Movement to sit with the employers and with Government, to consider that we had to be part of an effort to further national development. If we say that we, in this particular exercise, wanted to do this, then one has to ask the question as to whether there had been any other proper machinery or vehicle which provided this avenue, in a manner that was acceptable.

Mr. President, I would like to posit the view that until the 1990s, there was a confrontational element which we do not ever want to remove, as it has to remain part of that element. It is an element which very often said that if the Trade Union Movement was not there at every stage, and was not able to win the day by having industrial action, then the concepts to which we have spoken, not only of... I cannot express it the way – but Senator Lowe spoke about the lack of fancifulness and love, but there would not only be the romance of this particular relationship, but if we were not able to fight a bruising battle, then the rights of workers could never be addressed.

Mr. President, we became very conscious as a Labour Movement and we will say this without fear of contradiction, that we realise the time was coming for changes in the way in which we address matters. We do not ever want to have anybody telling us that we must not have the right to strike but we were equally conscious that the right to strike ought not to remain the only means by which there could be a resolution between employers and workers or between Government, as an employer, and workers, but that there had to be another way. Therefore, we sought to find that other way.

Mr. President, in using our experience from the International Labour Organisation, using our experience from the tremendous opportunities which there have been, for all of us to recognise that in other places, there have been other approaches, we thought we should establish a Barbados model of Social Partnership.

Mr. President, in this regard, we are not for a minute saying that there are not weaknesses in this Social Partnership. One of the big things we have in it is that we have failed to inform the public, as we had promised to in the last Protocol and again in this. We have failed to inform the public on a regular basis of what we do when we meet on a monthly basis. We have been asking for a Secretariat because we think that it is necessary that the public be able to understand if all we do is meet and talk, or if we endeavour to bring about change within the body of national politics – and not partisan politics – and if we endeavour to change society for the better because of those meetings.

Mr. President, we are at fault because the full Partnership should meet once every quarter, which is an obligation that we have breached. We have said to the Chairman of the Social Partnership that he is responsible for honouring that commitment and that there has to be a means by which we will meet with that obligation because if we do not meet, if we do not reflect on what we are doing, then the public does not get the opportunity to benefit from the Social Partnership at the level at which it should benefit.

Mr. President, even so, one must not use those issues to believe that there has not been a steady movement towards a change in approaches and a change in getting things done. Mr. President, my view was that if labour had remained as it was before, we would have been left in the dark. We would have been left out of the consultation process. Workers would have been alienated and marginalised, and laws would have been passed against them in this country, in much the same way as in many other countries have proceeded to pass laws that have been anti-worker, anti-union and anti-working class.

4.30 p.m.

I understand some attorney told the radio station that we should do like Australia. I asked myself what he was talking about because in my most recent mission overseas, I left the ILO one afternoon at 12.30 p.m., to keep an appointment with the Embassy of Australia in Geneva, to hand in a protest letter which I had drafted on behalf of all the workers all over the world, to tell the Government of Australia that their anti-worker legislation was an abomination to people around the entire world but an attorney who is opposed to workers' unions want to put that forward as the way we should go.

Mr. President, I have a difficulty with that because a number of people all over the world begin to believe that as globalisation bites on the society, as the urge for greater competition takes over, the thing to do is to take shortcuts. They believe that an organised workforce is a hindrance to that kind of shortcuts they want to take.

Mr. President, you do not have to name any country because we all listen to the news and see the attacks that are made on labour movements all around the world because it is felt that if we are going to take a competitive advantage in a globalised, liberalised community that we have to remove the conditions that workers enjoy at the workplace, so we have to put trade unions in their place, bring legislation to lock up the trade union leaders, to prevent demonstration, agitation and even to prevent them from having public meetings as has happened in the Caribbean itself.

Mr. President, we saw that bigger picture and realised that the thing to do was to recognise that worker power is preserved if one gets into the system and influences from within. We do not believe for one minute that joining the Social Partnership means that we have accepted invasion by any Government, political parties or employer groups. We believe we leave ourselves open to dialogue in much the same way that we force Governments and employers to listen to the workers' cause and to try by means of consultation to create a better society.

Mr. President, what are some of those things that the Protocol is? Sir, well I daresay that the best thing to do is to say what it is not. Sir, first of all the Protocol is not a cure-all. It is not an instrument that suddenly is able to take care of all the problems that workers have at their workplace, that employers have in their community and, therefore, there is no point in having any employer, worker or Government Minister to say that the Protocol is there and, therefore, x, y or z should not happen. Sir, nor is it a magic provider like Alladin's lamp of all the answers for what they can be in the future and so if you want to be able to get the level of production in your workplace higher, then you can call on the Protocol.

Mr. President, management still has to manage according to the best principles of decent management to provide for decent work in decent conditions to allow workers to respond in such a way that there is reciprocation at the level of the workplace to create a better workplace society for the advantage of all people.

Mr. President, the Protocol is not an end in itself. Nobody should believe that because we signed this Protocol on May 1, 2005, that at the moment of signing, suddenly there was a big bursting of the clouds, that some voice spoke out from somewhere in the upper region and invested everybody there with holiness or righteousness and that those who are evil will be evil no more and that those who are good are better. What this ensures is a means by which we can provide some change. It is a means to an end and not an end in itself. It is a means to having a national programme through which together we can develop the Barbados person as a worker, a manager, a disabled individual, a young person and as a church person.

Sir, all Barbadians should be able to benefit from this exercise because although we are a tripartite social grouping, we have agreed that there must be provision in this for us to embrace into ourselves, other groups as they are formed and as they show an interest.

Sir, only yesterday, the farmers and vendors in agriculture were meeting so that we can sit with them so that we can be of help one to the other in furtherance of the interest of those people who might be marginalised because they do not have a voice.

Mr. President, it is intended to help us, if we could, to recognise that our commitments to the world of work cannot be commitments to the world of work for itself but we have to be able to change human relations in the liberalised world in which we exist. I think you would realise that Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds spoke very well about some of the things we have endeavoured to cover. Though I do not have an awful lot of time, I would like to draw the attention of the public to the fact that the Protocol tries to put out a position on national employment policy. I cannot develop it but I will simply put it out there. It seeks to treat the matter of human resources development, recognising that what Barbados has is not a large supply of mineral wealth or oil but tremendous resources in human kind and that there is a need for us to develop that human resource in such a way as to be able to note that the disabled, the youth and the migrant worker, all have a role to play and a contribution to make. We also recognise that the environment has got to be made proper as has been put forward by someone else.

Mr. President, we spoke to the matter of industrial harmony in the country because we believe that industrial

harmony has to be the wherewithal through which we achieve the objectives of creating a better society for all. We have made it clear that the society has to be based on mutual respect. It is no longer a situation of having a master and servant relationship where the master at the workplace tells the worker to be seen and not be heard but a relationship mutually respectful each of the other's views in which the worker must have a voice at the workplace, in which consultation becomes the order of the day and in which there is a shared vision with the employers understanding that although he may have put the money in, that the worker also has the investment of his or her labour. There must be the culturing of an attitude that says we have a shared vision in where this company is going and how it can get there and how we are going to share the fruits resulting from using that shared vision. Sir, if we are going to do that, then the Protocol speaks to a need for security of employment. Particularly important in these days because, although we have the document, as we have had to say elsewhere, there is no denying that there is now a new approach in some areas, like the new Pharaoh that sprung up in Egypt that knew not Joseph.

4.40 p.m.

Sir, there seems to be a new kind of employer that does not understand that this Protocol speaks to encouraging workers to give a greater sense of commitment and dedication to the workplace. We have, as Dame Symmonds said, to recognise that we built into this Protocol the National Initiative for Service Excellence. Whereas, a body of people, we have said that people should understand that each of us has to give according to our ability to give to the workplace, but this new Pharaoh said that you can give as much as you like, but I am taking the position that you are with me only for my better and surely not for long. So, long servers are beginning to recognise that they do not share the confidence of the security of employment that this Protocol speaks to.

Sir, maybe one of the things that we should have to do is to find a way by which we must encourage the Government and the employers to translate this commitment of the Protocol into more than a commitment, into a legal arrangement, which attempts to give the security that has been promised. In much the same way that when it speaks to security of employment, it says that people must also have the freedom of association either when they are in the job, in the same way they should have that freedom to associate before they get the job. Sir, we should not have to be arguing the law of contract as the basis by which to show that a worker should not be asked to sign a document, the signing of which puts him outside of the law because it denies him his constitutional right when you tell him that he cannot join a trade union.

Sir, we have this Social Partnership to tighten up the legislation in such a way that nobody, with due respect to all attorneys, must be in a position to deny anybody, employer,

worker or government, the rights of each member of that Social Partnership to be able to engage in his or her part of the exchange and responsibilities due under that partnership.

Mr. President, there is as well a desire for us to exercise the best practice. It is very interesting to note that in many other parts of the world when people are talking about best practices, they are now referring to the Barbados Social Partnership. They are referring to it because they have taken the time to get copies to read, seek to understand it and apply it. It would be useful if more people in Barbados, including the employers and some members in the hierarchy of government departments, were able to read this, understand it and understand the minds of the planners so that they would stop standing in the way. Not standing in the way to prevent danger, but standing in the way to prevent progress.

Sir, if we could have that happen, then we could have, as Senator Lowe said, a recognition that this is a moment for a redefinition of our various positions. That redefinition for us has come in the Protocol. They have come, as you may remember on February 4, 1998, when we had a problem with an offshore company at the Harbour Road. We joined together with the employers and Prime Minister and we drew up the Declaration on February 4, 1998.

Sir, when we came to the May Day Declaration, on which we committed ourselves to treating all men and women with a certain degree of respect, that is full respect, where we took the disabled and visitor and we recognised that we had to treat the visitor no less favourably than we would expect to be treated when we go to another person's country, for we think that the golden rule still applies today as ever it did.

Sir, I cannot go into the details of the May Day Declaration but I believe that it is important that it be seen as an integral part of this exercise. We think that the future could be better.

Mr. President, we believe that each member of the partnership can do better. I commit our side to saying that about ourselves, but we have to start from the position of understanding that the Protocol is a point of departure and it is not the place at which we sit, take off our shoes and relax to say that we have suddenly come to an end.

Sir, I would like to urge all people of goodwill everywhere, and even those who may not have goodwill towards the Protocol, to see it as an exercise arrived at by people of goodwill to bring about that better society and they should join with us in trying to make this country a better place. If this could happen, I am sure we could help to reduce some of the levels of disaffection that there is in the country.

I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Sir John Goddard.

SENATOR Sir John Stanley GODDARD: Mr. President, all Honourable Senators in this Chamber and all persons listening to this broadcast on Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation are indebted to Senator Sir Roy Trotman for a very clear explanation of the Social Partnership. He went back to 1990 and explained how the Social Partnership has evolved and today we have Protocol Five. It would be pointless of me to repeat what he said but I would like to go back further in time and give a historical perspective.

Sir, until the late 1930s early 1940s, there was a partnership of two, Government and capital, then we had the development of trade unions and political parties and Adult Suffrage came into being in 1951 in Barbados. A partnership of two remained but it is now a partnership of Government and labour. Sir, capital was relegated to the background. Sir, there were economic and social reasons for that, and from my perspective that was the reality.

Mr. President, it was not until 1980s, I think that President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative may have had something to stimulate that change in thinking when we realised that development had to be on three legs, Government, labour and capital. Sir, around 1990 Sir Roy and I asked what can we do as responsible Barbadians, he was responsible to this Member and I am responsible for the persons in the private sector – to see how we can help further the development of this country. Sir, as I said earlier, 1990 was not a happy time. There was the Gulf War and an international recession followed it. It was a time of grief internationally and it certainly was a time of grief in Barbados. I do not think that I have to go into any details. They have been alluded already.
4.50 p.m.

Sir, we sat down and worked out, on the basis of trust and good faith, what could be done. He was representing the Trade Unions and Staff Associations and I was representing the private sector organisations. It started in the Foreign Exchange Committee and then evolved into the Social Partnership.

Why I said the Foreign Exchange Committee, is that the Government was concerned that the foreign reserves were very low and there was a need to replenish the foreign exchange reserves, so the Government was very concerned that the private sector and labour assist them to rebuild the foreign exchange reserves in the island. As has been explained very well here today, the foreign exchange is the lifeblood of any small open economy, and we are no exception.

When we realised that we had so much in common coming out of these discussions with the Foreign Exchange Committee, we took it a notch higher until by 1993, we could sign the First Protocol and what we are looking at today is the Fifth Protocol.

I do not think that in Barbados we have a full realisation of the importance of this Protocol and that is the fault of the partners. I do not think we have done sufficiently well in communicating what it means, what it intends to do and what goes on in the Administrative Committee on a monthly basis. This is the fault of communication to which Sir Roy already referred and, I think it needs to be corrected.

Another matter that needs to be corrected is the implementation. There are two committees. There are the committees and the partners, labour, Government, and capital and that committee is to meet quarterly. It used to meet quarterly when I was head of the private sector. It is my understanding that it does not meet as regularly now as it should. It is very important that these meetings take place at that highest level to have a proper overview of what is going on within the society in the economy to signal to all and sundry, the importance of the social partnership, because, as I said, Sir, I do not know that we in Barbados fully understand its importance.

I spoke on this Social Partnership in Jamaica, St. Kitts and other islands. They literally marvelled that here it is, parties that are considered to be in adversity can get together in their own individual interest, and in the collective interest of the country and come up with a document like this with clear directions of what are their intentions. It is certainly not a perfect document but a giant leap from what we had before.

Mr. President, I think it is important that Barbadians, certainly in management in the private sector, with which I used to be associated become more familiar with this document and I would strongly encourage them to do just that, Sir.

There is one matter now which is probably more of an irritant but I feel I must comment on it and it has been referred to here earlier today, the so-called wildcat strikes. I think the Social Partnership committee dealt with it earlier today. It is not because of any breakdown in a contractual arrangement. It seems to have nothing to do with salaries and wages, but irritant, situations in the workplace that are annoying to the workers. At first, it would seem that the workers are acting irresponsibly, they are not taking direction from the union leadership, and the union leadership is remiss.

I have investigated this because I do not think that the whole aspect would lie in that direction. I have been told

that especially in the public sector but not exclusively in the public sector, these complaints have been made from time to time about these irritants that exist in the workplace in certain Government departments, agencies, and nothing seems to get done.

I think it was Senator Eastmond, but correct me if I am wrong who said that the Government is not focusing so much on these matters right now but more on developing the infrastructure, especially in view of the World Cup 2007. These irritants are just that, very irritating. It means needless shutdowns, loss of work, dissatisfaction and breakdown of discipline and as has been suggested, I think by the President of the NUPW, that an inquiry be held. I think this is important because it is a problem that will not solve itself but it needs to be addressed. The sooner these irritants can be removed from the scene the better for all because the public, customers or clients are inconvenienced.

The licensing office at Oistins, people went there to renew their car licences and drivers licences and it was closed, because of a wildcat strike or whatever and this is not good enough. I do not think it is a major matter but a question of irritants that needs to be addressed and hopefully this inquiry would be held shortly and remedial action would be taken.

Sir, I would like to get back to the importance of communication. Every manager should have a copy of this Protocol Five on his desk. I am sure the unions feel equally strongly that their shop stewards and other officers are familiar with its contents.

I come back to implementation. It is important that the partners meet at the very senior level. The Head of Government, the Head of the union, the Head of the private sector to monitor what is going on within the Social Partnership.

Sir, there is nothing else I can add and, once again, I would like to thank my friend, Senator Sir Roy Trotman for a very good review of the social partnership.

Mr. President, I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Stuart.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, I think this Chamber is lucky to have as two of its members, two of the original authors of the First Protocol and, of course, a third member whom I believe had a lot to do with Protocol Four. I believe it is very generally known that I am a Protocol skeptic but that does not prevent me from acknowledging the honest intentions, and the hard work that went into the formulation of these Protocols.

Sir, my skepticism, of course, has to do with the fact that one's attitude to a partnership between capital, labour and the State, is ultimately a function of one's political philosophy. As was indicated by Senator Sir John Goddard, in a manner of speaking there has always been some kind of social partnership in Barbados in the pre-30s period and the pre-50s period.
5.00 p.m.

In the pre-50s period there was a partnership between the State and capital, and as a result of that partnership the workers were virtual cinderellas in the society and the economy of Barbados. As a result of that partnership, there was agitation for the expansion of the franchise and by the early 1950s the franchise had been extended and adulthood became the only criterion on the basis of which people were allowed to choose those who would make laws and decisions to affect them for good or ill in their daily lives.

After the introduction of universal adult suffrage, that Social Partnership changed to one between the State and labour. That was necessarily so because labour had been so downtrodden in the very long period that predated universal adult suffrage and had so much catching up to do, that partnership was necessary. I think that on any objective evaluation and analysis of the period since universal adult suffrage, that the period during which there was a distinct partnership between the State and labour, workers enjoy perhaps the most bountiful period of workers' lives in Barbados. I think this replicated itself across other parts of the Caribbean, but whether there was a distinct partnership between the State and capital or the State and labour, I think it was always recognised that the State had to consult with and had to accept inputs from both labour and capital over the period, particularly since the introduction of universal adult suffrage.

Mr. President, when one therefore talks about a social partnership between labour, capital and the State, one has to try to disaggregate this relationship. One can easily understand how there can be a partnership between the State and labour, and one can easily understand how they can be a partnership between the State and capital, where the skepticism comes in is in trying to frame an argument that could explain a partnership between the traditional historical enemies of labour and capital. For the very simple reason of course that for labour by its very nature, labour has its labour power to sell, capital represents an opportunity to better self and to earn wages and so on, but for capital, labour is a cost.

Therefore, whenever one hears about, for example, Barbados being a high-cost place to do business and so on, when you strip the argument of its scholastic integument, one is really talking about the wages for which ordinary men and women work. Of course, the history of this region is the

clearest of indications that if capital could do without paying labour anything at all it would do it. That is why the State has had to perform a kind of protective role in respect of labour.

Mr. President, all of this has to be factored into the fact that we are now functioning in a neo-liberal world economy where the preeminence of capital is, as it were, the order of the day. Whenever one takes up what people like to call bourgeois economic text and listen to bourgeois economic commentators, one does not have to listen very long before one is able to conclude that the arguments go something like this, the wages of the labour are always too high and the profits being made by businesses are never enough. One therefore has to ask whether, in this kind of context, the State can be just an independent referee ensuring that too much acrimony does not develop between these two partners or whether the State has to be more activist and try to steer the fortunes of the more disadvantaged element in that partnership in a more favourable direction.

Mr. President, against that background we are now therefore on Protocol number five. I listened with very careful interest to both Senator Sir John Goddard and Senator Sir Roy Trotman, both of whose contributions I think place them everlastingly in our debt. I believe there was a seminar at the University of the West Indies about two years ago when all three architects of the First Protocol had their say. That has now been published in one of the journals of Eastern Caribbean affairs and makes very interesting reading.

One notes, of course, that about two weeks or so ago Sir Lloyd Sandiford, one of the first architects, had been expressing some reservations about an imbalance he perceives to be developing in the Social Partnership, where the State seems to be, according to the report as published, leaning more heavily in favour of the desires, the demands and the needs of capital than in favour of the desires, the demands and the needs of labour. He has cautioned against what I believe he is reported as calling corporatism, where the corporate element in the Social Partnership benefits substantially more from the relationship than labour. That, I think, is a caution which is at the heart of my own skepticism because I think that the workers of Barbados and the workers of the Caribbean after the 1930s, of which Sir John Goddard spoke, invested in two institutions both of which they look to for economic and social deliverance. Those two institutions were the mass political party and the trade union.

Mr. President, none, but the churlish, would want to deny that over the last 50 or 60 years these two institutions have rendered inestimable service to the development of the fortunes of labour in Barbados and across the Caribbean. Of course, it would be equally churlish to try to suggest that the

capital with which we are dealing in the year 2005, is of the same nature, quality and kind, as that with which this country had to deal in the 1950s and 1960s. I think a democratic ethos has overtaken the world and more civilised ideas have taken root across the globe, therefore, there have had to be adjustments.

5.10 p.m.

Mr. President, winning battles is one side of the coin; preserving the gains made by those battles represent the other side of that coin. Sir, in that regard, I was very pleased to hear Sir Roy Trotman making clear that while dialogue and good faith will continue on the part of labour, that the interest of the workers will not be compromised for the sake of being able to boast of a Social Partnership.

Mr. President, the point was also made that this Social Partnership, even though it may have been conceived in peace, was midwifed into effective existence by a crisis of 1993. Sir, the caution has to be sent out that the Prices and Incomes Protocol of 1993/1995, sought to do two things, certainly in the public's mind. I know that the Protocol made mention of other issues but the two issues that stuck in the public's mind, were the issue dealing with prices and incomes. Sir, therefore, whether one talks about Protocol One, Two, Three or Four, it is fair to say that the workers have kept their side of the bargain in all of those Protocols, but there was some difficulty in convincing the average worker that prices have been controlled in the same way in which wages have been controlled. We have some difficulty convincing the average worker that capital has been as loyal to its obligation, to manage and control prices, as labour has been in trying to ensure that incomes did not spin out of control.

Mr. President, this brings me to a point which I think has to be made. As a result of the other Protocols, particularly the Prices and Incomes Protocol, the value of the Barbados dollar was saved. Sir, only last night, I was reading the contribution to the University of the West Indies Symposium, by Sir John Goddard. Therefore, in that contribution, along with the contribution of Senator Sir Roy Trotman, both mentioned the importance of preserving the exchange rate of the Barbados dollar.

Mr. President, the value of the dollar was preserved. What we must not now allow, is for the value of the vote to fall. Sir, I listen very carefully to Honourable Ministers when they speak, but all too often one hears on the Floor of Parliament, where laws are made and major decisions taken, that these matters have already been discussed among the Social Partnership. Sir, if that is so, it would mean that Parliament is gradually appearing to becoming something in the nature of a rubberstamp for what is discussed in secret conclaves between elements of the Social Partnership.

Mr. President, I note, for example, at page 44 of Protocol Five, dealing with Commitments By Individual Partners, in Government's Commitment at 10.4 it says:

"The Government agrees to consult with the Social Partners at the earliest possible opportunity, on the formulation and implementation of fundamental social and economic policies."

Sir, when people vote, they know who they are voting for and why they are voting for them and the only point I want to make is this: what we must not allow to happen in Barbados, is that people vote for persons, who they intend to make enlightened decisions in their name and on their behalf and having so chosen, because this was the very rationale of the determination on the part of the masses of Barbados, to get universal adult suffrage in place, to get the vote, so that they could decide who should make decisions on their behalf. Sir, what we have to be aware of is that we do not allow what I have been hearing, called the deepening of this Social Partnership, and I heard it even being called the deepening of democracy, to become so deep that the significance of Parliament is correspondingly reduced.

Mr. President, I accept the honest intentions of all those persons involved in the Social Partnership and in the formulation of these protocols but I think that caution is absolutely necessary.

Mr. President, the final point I want to make is that it would help Barbadians successfully, if, when Protocol Six comes to be signed, a report card on the successes and/or failures of Protocol Five are shared with the country. Sir, for persons to say that we have moved from Protocol One, through to Protocol Five, without saying what conquests have been registered along the way, or where we have fallen, does not necessarily answer the requirements of the moment.

I, therefore, hope when we come to discuss Protocol Six, that the very lofty and noble objectives herein set out, would be discussed and we would be told how far along the way we have come, as a result of the signing of Protocol Five.

Mr. President, I am obliged to you.

SENATOR Miss S. C. V. HUSBANDS: Mr. President, I was somewhat concerned with what my colleague Senator Stuart was sharing because I have a problem with the situation where some people do not understand the value of the Social Partnership. There is no problem with the fact that it is not perfect and that it is not the cure-all, as was so ably outlined by Senator Sir Roy. There is also no problem with the fact that it needs improving and that we have to add other things to make it work.

Mr. President, there are a number of things I would like

to draw to the attention of the Senate, about the Social Partnership and how we see it. Sir, the interest of labour and capital are not necessarily divergent, to achieve their interest, they depend on each other. Neither can achieve its objective, without the other party achieving theirs. Therefore, for example, if, as labour, I want to increase my quality of life, that can only come from increased income; increased income can only come from increased salaries; and increased salaries can only come if capital is making profit. Therefore, the interest of capital becomes the interest of labour at that point.

5.20 p.m.

The union ensures that the interests of labour are satisfied by protecting the rights of the workers by ensuring that they get increases and more importantly to begin to encourage things like employees having shares in businesses because the interest of the two things converge.

Mr. President, years ago when economies were based primarily on physical labour, all you needed were the hands and feet of the labour to work and move. This developed an attitude towards labour that it was not important and was not making any significant contribution and that it could be treated anyhow. We took the needs of necessitous men to be able to put bread in the mouths of their children to use the need to unfair them with poor wages and poor labour conditions. Sir, the need of that labour made them willing to use their hands and feet to achieve the objective of capital and that is why we had the emergence of that type of thinking in capital towards labour where they see labour as not being important.

Mr. President, the economic conditions of the world have changed. We have moved from an agrarian society, we are shifting out of the industrial realm and moving into the area of services, financial services and the age of the computer.

Mr. President, capital today cannot afford labour that only operates at the level of their hands and feet but capital now means labour that functions with head and heart. Sir, a new type of employer is emerging who recognises the importance of labour recognising that if you pay peanuts you would get monkeys, that if you want people with good skills to use their initiative and give excellence in service, to be good problem solvers and to give of their energy, the right conditions have to be created and we should ensure that people are properly remunerated. Sir, there is a value being placed on labour that did not exist before and, therefore, it is important for us to recognise that the Social Partnership becomes an expression of the recognition of that transition.

Mr. President, it is important for us to realise that it is time for Barbados to come into the 21st Century and to

understand the conditions we are working with and the importance of the Social Partnership. What is going to be needed is monitoring mechanism to ensure that labour, capital and the Government are monitoring our obligations.

Mr. President, moving on the matter of the power of the vote. While I understand the concerns raised by Senators, I would like to put another position. Sir, the adults of the society get together to vote to decide who is going to represent them in Parliament and these same people own capital and provide labour. Sir, when the two get together with Government, it is just the people of Barbados coming back together at a different level to talk through what they want and what will best serve the interest they have. While we vote every five years, the Social Partnership meets every two months and every two years are able to put out a new Protocol so that there is deepening of the democracy and a better relationship to advance the interest of the people of Barbados through the existence of that Protocol. I want to commend the union, capital and labour for the efforts and work being done here.

Mr. President, in traveling, I have heard people raise the issue of our Social Partnership. It is true that we need more information about what it has been doing and what benefits it has created so that the average Barbadian is able to understand the types of returns we are getting through this partnership. Sir, I was pleased and happy to see within Protocol Five, the emphasis on small businesses and developing an enterprise culture in Barbados. This is extremely commendable and something that we in the Small Business Association are working towards. We are beginning to see some benefits coming out of a different attitude towards small businesses in Barbados. We literally have three banks creating small business programmes and are pursuing small businesses to assist them with loans. I see this as part of the cooperation between capital and financial services.

Mr. President, I want to highly commend Protocol Five to the Senate and to the people of Barbados. I want to encourage people to read it, be aware of the issues and be able to continue to speak in their separate entities about what they want so that it keeps flowing up to the Social Partnership to aid it in developing better and better Protocols for the growth and development of Barbados.

Mr. President, I am obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Eastmond.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, I like to start by thanking all Honourable Senators for their contribution, especially Sir Roy Trotman and Sir

John Stanley Goddard, who are both able to give us some historical facts that all of us were not totally conscious of.

Mr. President, a number of issues were raised by Senator Dr. Lowe but I do not propose to respond to all of them. There is a platform that the Democratic Labour Party usually takes, which seeks to play what are supposed to be the poor suffering masses of Barbados, who have not made any progress and have not benefitted from any of the advancements in this country. I think it is unfortunate because it does not serve the interest of anybody.

Mr. President, the fact of the matter is that people who now live in the heights and terraces come from the village. Sir, the majority of people in Barbados were very poor and came out of humble circumstances. We now see people living in the heights, terraces and gardens and I wonder where people think they come from. They came from a village, living in chattel houses and have been able to progress in this society so that they now live in what we call the heights and terraces.

Mr. President, somehow in Barbados there is this refusal to acknowledge our achievements and successes. Even to this day, there are children living in humble circumstances who go to school at Harrison College and Queen's College but come at the top of the class. It is unlikely that by the time they are 35 years of age that they would still be living in the same humble circumstances. Sir, that is the wonderful thing about this country. It is not the Barbados Labour Party alone which built the country. The Democratic Labour Party helped to build it too but now there is a mood of creating confusion, seeking to give the public of Barbados and the people the impression that we have achieved nothing.

Mr. President, I do not believe that those tactics should be used to give people the impression that they have received nothing because individuals feel that they are on the cusp of finding themselves in power. Sir, I wonder if we recognise that these broadcasts go far and wide across the world. Sir, people would believe there is absolutely no progress and the Government has no programmes for direct intervention within certain sectors of the society, who with the best will in the world could not help themselves up. This is why there is a Ministry of Social Transformation. Mr. President, I would not go into that any further. I would just make the point that progress has been made in this country. Sir, it is unfortunate that anyone would seek to create a platform to state that progress has not been made by the people of Barbados.
5.30 p.m.

Mr. President, with respect to the disquiet among individuals, I believe, mostly working in public buildings in

Barbados, it would be wonderful if the matter could be resolved in a simple fashion. Those of us who are allowed a budget every year know that there is a certain amount of money Barbados earns and that revenue has to be split across several different sectors. The issue is always among allocations, what could be considered productive - that is where you make your money – social services and infrastructure that help to facilitate the society.

Mr. President, unfortunately a lot of false impressions are given to the public. I recall at a meeting of one of my credit unions, during the dinner, the President said to me that she had a long debate with her husband whether or not I could possibly be the Minister because I was not driving an MP car. The impression is given to the public that a minister driving with MP number plates, is given a car duty free and those kinds of things.

Sir, by the same token the impression would be given that even though I work in a ministry, that somehow I do not suffer the same inconveniences as all the other workers that are living and working in old buildings. There are old buildings because we have had a strong civil service and a thriving democracy for several years.

For example, when I went into the Netherlands, I was surprised that all the buildings seemed to be newer than the ones in Britain. Someone said to me that their old buildings were destroyed, and replaced. So, the United Kingdom is still struggling with their old buildings that do not have any central heating.

Mr. President, these are similar problems that Barbados would face because we have had old structures for a long period of time. The truth of the matter is, if we are going to be honest, successive Governments experiencing financial difficulties, the first thing that they cut is the maintenance budget. That is a fact. It is the easiest area to reduce. Therefore, I believe that over the years, we have not maintained our buildings in the best way possible.

Sir, it is not that we do not care. Certainly, it is a personal inconvenience to the ministers that work in these buildings. I know of a minister that shared his office with two other workers for an extended period of time. People would say that there is no way that could happen in Barbados. He was in the same office as his Secretary and Personal Assistant because there was no more space. Of course, he cannot go on strike or anything like that. Sir, these are things that happen in the public service. Unfortunately, they are not that easy to solve.

Mr. President, of course, I am one of the more junior persons, who would dare to speak on a matter such as this,

the Protocol; but, in my view, there is much that we are doing in Barbados that is being taken out of context of the nation building discourse.

Sir, the Social Partnership is part and parcel of national building. Nation building is an evolutionary process. The Social Partnership can never be perfect at the beginning. Indeed, the Social Partnership will evolve. As it evolves, there are some individuals who would review it and comment that capital appears to have the upper hand.

Sir, if you have a social partnership, you are at all times seeking to strike some balance. Unless you are God, you are not going to get it right all the time. At some point someone will say capital has the upper hand. At another point, someone would say that labour has the upper hand and at some other point someone would say that the State is too influential in the process. That is because the Social Partnership is a living breathing organism that is changing over time from one side to another. Therefore, in my view, those matters should not cause us too much concern, even though we must be vigilant and we must take on board recommendations to improve it.

Mr. President, in my view, it would be extremely useful if we could form partnerships to deal with issues which have become part and parcel of the Social Partnership and if we could have more partnerships, with the State, private sector, labour, universities and NGOs. I am convinced, certainly, between 2001 and 2003, that the burden carried by Government is simply too much. Leadership must emerge from elsewhere. Leadership must come from the private sector as well as labour, NGOs and the State.

Mr. President, if you speak to any Ambassador of negotiations, he will relate that he is sitting at a table for three days with the United States of America and European Union, who would have five delegations to deal with five different issues, while we have one Ambassador dealing with five different complex and detailed issues.

Sir, we have done well in keeping our end up but Government is going to need an input from the private sector and NGOs like never before. I think that these partnerships are critical for us to address many of the issues that are going to confront us, not only international issues but domestic issues as well.

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

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

ORDER NO. 3 – THE SECOND READING
OF THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND:
Mr. President, this piece of legislation is an amendment to the Architects Registration Act, which was enacted in 2003. After its enactment, there were concerns raised by several members of professions engaged in the construction industry, both professions called themselves architectural technicians and technologists as well as architects and engineers.

Mr. President, the difficulties stemmed essentially from what would be considered to be the definition of architecture, and whether this piece of legislation required registration if one qualified as an architect; it could possibly mean that there were certain individuals who were not defined as architects by the legislation who could no longer conduct their business.

5.40 p.m.

There was also a concern by engineers that there was perhaps some encroachment by the architects, in terms of definitions used in the Act and what they saw to be their purview within the field of engineering.

First, it was not the intention of Government to put any class of persons engaged in this activity at a disadvantage. Sometimes this happens with legislation when we are seeking to address the concerns of a particular group. The architects were eager to ensure that they had a Registration Act in place, especially with the coming on board of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), and the idea that the Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA) would come into effect in 2005.

It was recognised that individuals who were involved in professions who were not registered, could find it difficult to work in other jurisdictions, where the question would be asked, under what piece of legislation have you been registered and how is your work monitored to ensure that you reach any particular standard in your particular field. This piece of legislation was enacted within that context.

Subsequently, after concerns were expressed, meetings were held with the parties involved and eventually, the Cabinet agreed to establish a subcommittee of Cabinet to look at this issue. The sub-committee included, of course, the Minister of Public Works who chaired the Committee, the Minister responsible for Housing and Lands and the Minister of Commerce. We were able to meet with the stakeholders and, we believe, resolve the outstanding issues that were of concern to all of them.

We met with all of them on more than one occasion. The amendments in the legislation seek to address those issues that were of concern. Therefore, if we look at the Bill, we will see that at Clause 2, the practice of architecture now excludes minor engineering services, which would have been a concern to the engineering fraternity.

As we all know, there are many professions that we practise where there is a grey line between what an individual is doing as a doctor and as a nurse. There is a grey line between what someone is doing as an Attorney-at-Law and a legal assistant. There are always imperfections that point where there is a transition from one to the next and it is always important to determine where is that point.

It does not mean that an architect's work would never include any minor aspect of engineering but at the end of the day, what you are seeking to achieve is to ensure that anyone who is going to hold himself or herself out as able to advise on engineering work, that person would be appropriately qualified. Therefore, within the law we would not like to encroach on that type of facility.

In addition, we have now included, under Clause 3 for the Architects Registration Board to provide for an examination. If we look at Article 5 in the original Act, we would see that there are certain qualifications that are required. Section 5A now provides a facility that if any question arises with respect to the person being qualified under section 5 in the parent Act that the Board would be able to recommend an examination to the individual.

Another issue that arose had to do with the fact that we do have in Barbados a couple of individuals who have worked as architects for all their professional lives, without actually having done the professional qualifications that most architects now have but they have their buildings within Barbados to show as evidence of their work, which a qualified architect coming out of school would not have. Sir, we had these individuals which, by the definition of our legislation also said that even though the individuals might not have the qualification, they were required to have worked as a qualified architect for a number of years.

The individuals we are talking about probably would not have worked under a qualified architect for a number of years, and we found ourselves in a position where those persons would no longer qualify as architects. Therefore, we have in Clause 4, inserted a provision which puts those persons in a position, where, if they had before the 21st April 2003, not less than 10 years experience in the practice of architecture that they would continue to qualify. The concerns of those individuals have been addressed.

Within the new Section 16A there is an appeals provision. As you recognise that within Section 5A, we have allowed the Architects Registration Board to recommend an examination in certain cases, so clearly, we must have an appeals procedure in place.

We have also cleaned up some of the provisions where for example, there was a requirement that an architect must have some local knowledge of the Barbados environment before they could practise here, and we believe that within the context of the CSME, that really was not a necessary requirement for the individual to argue that they are knowledgeable of local circumstances.

One of the major provisions has to do with the dwellings which can be built by persons who are not architects. After much discussion, we have agreed and we are proposing here in this legislation that such a person would be able to provide architectural services for family dwellings.

Previously, there was some limitation on this but, looking at it where we have circumstances that individuals would not necessarily be in a position to hire an architect to design their home, we believe that individuals who have practical experience should be allowed to work in this field. They could provide architectural services for commercial structures of no more than 5 000 square feet or 465 square metres and where no more than two storeys are involved. If you are going over two storeys or over 465 square metres, you would need to have an architect involved.

We have also recommended the inclusion of the establishment of an Appeals Tribunal as well as making certain recommendations for bringing the fines more in line with the fines in modern legislation because the old piece of legislation did have some rather antiquated fines in them. In principle, these are the amendments which are being recommended to this Honourable Chamber at this time for passage.
5.50 p.m.

We are very mindful of the fact that within this environment, especially among the professionals there is a possibility for them to sell their services not only within CARICOM but further afield. Of course, Government has been arguing the case that our professionals in Barbados are some of the best trained and most highly qualified in the world. Therefore, pieces of legislation, like the Architects Registration Bill, are important to ensure that those individuals can be recognised when they go to another country to perform their work.

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

SENATOR Dr. F. L. CHANDLER: Mr. President, I rise to give my full support to the present Bill to amend the Architects Registration Act. I am pleased to see that commonsense and fair play have finally prevailed and that there have been improvements on the 2003 amendments. It is also heartening to note that some attention was paid to public opinion in this matter, indicating that democracy in Barbados seems to be alive, and reasonably, if not totally well.

As I see it, the original amendment of 2003 was much too restrictive. It lacked the grandfather clause, which is normal in many other professions like accountants and engineers to some extent, and totally disregarded the sterling contribution made by the handful of local persons who filled a great need and in fact were responsible for the major building work done in Barbados during the 1960s and the 1970s.

At that time, as I understand it, there were no Barbadians with degrees in architecture, although they did have training in the field. In spite of not having the specific qualifications, which were being insisted upon in the last amendment in 2003, these persons ran their own businesses and their work speaks for itself, as the Minister said, and have stood the test of time. Why should they be penalised at this stage?

As I understand it, with the advent of architects from outside the region during the late 1970s, joined by the young brigade of newly qualified architects, this need for the overly restrictive legislation was brought forward.

Mr. President, I have nothing against regulation of any industry, we need regulation in every aspect of our lives, if not, we will have chaos. However, in my opinion the regulations originally being proposed were unnecessarily restrictive. While there is nothing wrong with having qualifications, I must say from my experience that some of the persons with these qualifications, the young architects, while having theoretical knowledge appear sometimes to pay more attention to aesthetics than practicality, which often results in a trial and error situation with electrical and plumbing systems more often than not at the expense of the client.

Mr. President, it is important to note that architecture involves not only form but also function. In my opinion, some structures like the Eagle Hall Market lacked both form and function. In my opinion, some architects also need to stay a little closer to the actual building operation both in the interest of their clients and also in their own interest since it is on the final outcome and not only on the design that their reputation would be based.

Mr. President, while I agree that these inexperienced but qualified architects must be given a chance to gain experience and to earn a living, it should not result in the sidelining of persons with over 40 years experience but who happen to lack this magical piece of paper. I am pleased therefore to see that these persons are now able to practise architecture without the restrictions of the 2003 amendment.

Mr. President, it is also ironic that the actual builders of building, though they are required to register under another Act, are not required to have a degree in their field. Again, I do not see this as necessary since there are a number of checks and balances because there is usually a team approach involving engineers and other specialists.

The addition of a tribunal to hear appeals is also a useful addition to the Act. However, there are two matters which are causes for concern. While the grandfather clause takes care of the older experienced practitioners, there is nothing to take care of the youngster who has a flair and a talent for design but cannot afford to attend university. To my mind, the Associate Degree, presently being offered for draughtsmen at the Barbados Community College should be upgraded so that graduates are able to practise as architects in Barbados. Also, the apprenticeship system may also be considered for these persons who find this type of learning more suited to them.

Mr. President, I see no reason why Section 12, Part (D) limits the size of commercial structures to 5 000 feet and no more than two storeys since size has nothing to do with design, but has to do with engineering, and engineers are always part of the building team for these structures.

Mr. President, there are also related areas where I think some regulation is needed, that is the area of real estate development. For instance, in the area where I live, Fort George, people purchased lots from a well-known insurance company with the understanding that certain amenities like a shopping area, daycare centre, senior citizens home, and cycle and jogging track would be provided. However, without seeking any consensus from residents, the developers unilaterally decided to shell these plans and have allowed the area originally designated for these amenities, which happens to be at the entrance of the development, to become overgrown and unsightly. This is certainly not in keeping with the considerable investments made by residents and the statement in the brochure that on entering the development, the pleasant surroundings would be immediately evident.

In fact, the only pleasant looking section of that area is a playground which was developed and is maintained by residents. Efforts by property owners to get some positive action on the matter have been met by an attitude of total

disregard. In my opinion, there should be some body to which residents could appeal. In the absence of a specific regulatory body, maybe this is a matter which the Fair Trading Commission should take on board.

I would like to reiterate again that I support the present amendment to the Architects Registration Act and trust now that all of the interest of the individuals would be served.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, there were two issues that were raised, one being whether or not an individual who has a flair for architecture should then be allowed to register. There is the facility for an examination if the individual does not meet the requirements as established under the Act in Section 5, but I do think that we would be defeating the fundamental purpose of the Act, if on the one hand you set out requirements for being an architect and ask individuals to register if they meet those requirements and then say someone who has a flair for it could also register.
6.00 p.m.

Mr. President, one of the things we have to recognise, especially now, is that there is a trading structure in the world, under the World Trade Organisation, which I do not think is going to come to an abrupt end any time soon. I think we have to remember that standards are being set around the world. Therefore, if a country drafts its Architects Registration Act in such a way that makes it appear as though, without meeting a particular standard, anyone can come, that country is not going to stand the test internationally. Therefore, those registered architects in that country would not find the easy passage in other countries, when they seek to do work, whether it is within CARICOM, the hemisphere or internationally, which certainly would be to our disadvantage, as well as to theirs.

Mr. President, the recommendations for the upgrade of courses, for example, the Associate Degree, I am sure that the Tribunal can examine those issues, to see whether an additional examination would be required, or whether there is any facility for an upgrade. Sir, the whole point about having Architects Registration Acts, is to set standards and, therefore, we have to abide by those standards.

Mr. President, there was also an issue raised about the square footage of buildings. Sir, the principal Act is the Architects Registration Act, which, in essence, sets out guidelines for architects. There is also a provision which says that a person does not have to be an architect to do certain things. Sir, Section 12 of this Act seeks to outline what that person, who is not an architect, is able to do.

Therefore, the legislation is not seeking to limit what the architect can do, but what the non architect can do within this context.

Mr. President, while there are certain roles that engineers play, it also became clear in our discussions that there are certain points of practice which architects are required to know and to practise. For example, issues such as ventilation, staircases, lighting, among others, are things that fall to the architects to advise on properly.

Mr. President, it is true that engineers would also argue that these matters fall within their purview. Sir, as I said, when there are professions that are so closely related, there will be an overlap and, therefore, to some extent, there will be a continuum. Of course, the law is always imperfect to deal with human beings, as human beings can be more flexible than the law can be and the law can only try to do its best. Sir, we have tried to do our best with this piece of legislation and from the feedback that we have had so far, we believe that it meets most of the concerns of the individual stakeholders.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. Miss L. V. EASTMOND, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill. Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 – 11, inclusive, were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. Miss L. V. EASTMOND, Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT reported to His HONOUR the PRESIDENT, the passing of Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Architects Registration (Amendment) Act, 2005.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP. 228, THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN, OF A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AT CHARLES ROWE BRIDGE, IN THE PARISH OF ST. GEORGE IN THIS ISLAND, FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DRAINAGE WORKS

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, this is a relatively simple matter which seeks the Honourable Senate's permission for the Crown to compulsorily acquire 401.8 square metres of land at Charles Rowe Bridge, in the parish of Saint George.

Mr. President, the purpose was a public purpose, as the land was used to build a canal to replace an earthen drain, which conveys storm water from an old box drain to a watercourse on the southern boundary of Chadderton Enterprises Limited.
6.10 p.m.

Sir, some of the land belonging to Chadderton Enterprises Limited had to be utilised in order to effect this drainage work and, in the circumstances, we are recommending the passage of this Resolution to this Chamber.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Dr. Lowe.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Mr. President, it is not my intention to detain us unduly but I wanted to register my concerns about matters relating to the flooding and the importance of this kind of work not only as it relates to the location specified in the Resolution but, as we all appreciate, flooding in Barbados is becoming of great concern to many and is imposing difficulty on a number of persons including pedestrians and other road users. I believe that the Honourable Minister needs to take note that the Opposition feels strongly about the Government taking whatever measures necessary to alleviate some of the pressures caused to citizens due to flooding across the country.

There are a number of reasons being proffered and some people have suggested that the massive construction around the country has caused some redirection of water passages. Other people have suggested that there is inadequate drainage which this particular Resolution addresses directly and others have noticed the infrequent servicing of wells across the country. Sir, now that a lot of rain has fallen recently, the earth is saturated, water is not finding its way through the earth and is running into a number of areas.

Mr. President, a few weeks ago there was a lot of rain in Barbados and a number of persons in areas across the country like Silver Sands, Sayers Court and other areas in Christ Church East were seriously affected. Sir, yesterday I was coming from the airport heading towards Chancery Lane and after one hour of rain, there was a lot of water running down the street, into the yards of people and water was half way up the door of my vehicle.

Mr. President, I hope the Government understands the urgency of this situation. I also believe that Government recognises that we are suffering grave inconveniences, one of which is that the rapid retreat of water is eroding the streets resulting in a lot of potholes and the passageway where people would ordinarily walk is now being affected because of the uncontrolled flow of water on the streets. Sir, yesterday a few residents in the Sayers Court area could not get out of their homes because of the situation with flooding.

Mr. President, I believe it is important that we address this issue because we are losing a lot as a result of the problem with flooding. Sir, farmers are losing their crops because the water cannot find an outlet and wells are blocked. I hope that the Honourable Minister would convince the Minister of Public Works that there needs to be some national strategy put in place in consultation with experts and residents who know the pattern of water flow in their particular areas and that something would be done as quickly as possible but with the appropriate planning and consultation that would see this problem corrected.

Mr. President, I think it is important for all of us that this problem should be conveyed to the appropriate Ministry that this is an issue that we feel strongly should be corrected as quickly as possible.

Sir, I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Eastmond.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, the concerns of Senator Lowe are certainly noted. I would say to Senator Lowe that he should not feel shy about approaching the Minister responsible directly. I have done so myself for those areas in St. Philip West, which are suffering from a similar problem.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORD-
ANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS
(VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP 225, THE
VESTING IN BUSH HILL TOURISM INC. OF
A PARCEL OF LAND THE PROPERTY OF
THE CROWN SITUATE AT BUSH HILL
IN THE PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL IN
THIS ISLAND TO FACILITATE ITS
RESTORATION AND PRESERVA-
TION AS A HERITAGE
TOURISM SITE

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, this particular Resolution deals with the acquisition of property at Bush Hill as a heritage tourism site. The company is a joint venture between the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated and the Barbados National Trust to own the property, undertake repairs to renovate it and to maintain this house, which is called The George Washington House, where the first President of the United States of America stayed when he visited Barbados in 1751.

Mr. President, many Honourable Senators who have travelled abroad know that these are sites which Government develops in order to earn income when individuals visit the country. This Government is seeking to utilise as many of these sites as possible for generating income for small businesses which may be able to conduct business at some of these sites.

Mr. President, it is important for us to do this because when we travel, we see how other countries have exploited these sites including having postcards, mugs, key rings and candles. Sir, all kinds of things grow out of these tourism sites.

Mr. President, with those few words I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Dr. Lowe.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Mr. President, I have no difficulty with this Resolution. I find it somewhat amusing but I understand the intent of the Government in seeking to exploit this site as a heritage tourism site. Sir, the Garrison is a picturesque area and, occasionally, I pass by and have lunch. Recently, someone solicited my view and had an interested theory which I thought I would make representation of in a brief intervention.
6.20 p.m.

Mr. President, I understand that what drives the Government, in terms of contemplating these kinds of efforts, which are important efforts, would be the historical significance of the location. I do not know that anyone can seriously frown on this particular location.

I made a point sometime in this Honourable Chamber and I wish to make it again. I am anxiously awaiting the Government to look at the property that used to be called the Empire Theatre. I still feel that there is something that could be exploited with that particular location. If you go through Bridgetown, it is really one of the most majestic buildings in the Bridgetown area. I think that if we could work towards investing to refurbish it, it could be and put into use for the country and to generate some significant revenue as well.

Sir, I must also make the point, speaking of historical sights, the Amerindians sojourned in Silver Sands, and there was some excavation work before. We know that is an area located within the hotel belt and I would like to seek the Honourable Minister's indulgence, that he takes note of the fact there may be some historical value, to Government continuing what was started some years ago exploring that location and probably erecting some kind of monument in honour of the tremendous contributions that would have been made by these early settlers in Barbados.

I am much obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Her Honour Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds.

HER HONOUR SENATOR Dame Patricia SYMMONDS: Mr. President, as a member of the Barbados National Trust, and until very recently, a member of the Council, I feel that I should speak on this Resolution.

Sir, one of the main objectives of the Barbados National Trust, as everybody knows, is the preservation of historical buildings. The Trust, over time, has been responsible for the restoration or preservation of Tyrol Cot and Arlington House. I am very happy to say that I had quite a lot to do with that and raising funds to help with its restoration.

Government has collaborated with the Trust in restoring Tyrol Cot and Arlington House. There is the Morgan Lewis Mill and Gun Hill, which is one of the most attractive of the Trust buildings and very popular with tourists. It is very beautiful, especially at night. Sir, there is Wildey House, our headquarters, which is bequeathed by Lady Leacock; Andromeda Gardens, which, I think, most people know and which, of course, is very beautiful and a great attraction. That is still owned by the Trust although it has been leased.

Mr. President, there is the Jewish Synagogue, which is vested in the Trust, but is diligently maintained by the Jewish community and this too has been restored to its splendid condition.

Sir, Tyrol Cot has been leased recently to Foster and Company, which is also investing some money in it.

Mr. President, the George Washington House is being restored, as indicated by Senator Eastmond, for historical and economic reasons. The Trust sees it as a shrine for Americans outside of the United States of America as well as an economic tool. In 1751, George Washington came from what was then a backward seaboard colony to what, at that time, was a place of development and Britain's richest colony in the new world. I do not have to tell you what that was, in other words, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Sir, George Washington came to Barbados with his family's connections. His elder half brother, Lawrence, had married into the Fairfax family, and Lord Fairfax owned much of what is now most of West Virginia. They in turn were related to the Clarkes in Barbados.

Mr. President, I want to emphasise that George Washington lived for almost two months, more accurately about six weeks, at that house and not just overnight. He lived there for a few weeks because his brother Lawrence was battling tuberculosis, and even then Barbados was known for its health promoting climate.

Sir, among the experiences which he enjoyed while in Barbados, this being in the biggest city he had ever seen, was Bridgetown. I smiled to myself when Senator Lowe was talking about the Empire Theatre because he saw his first stage play performed in Bridgetown. I do not think it is known whether it was the Empire Theatre. I do not know if that was built yet. He certainly saw his first stage play somewhere in Bridgetown.

Sir, moreover, he saw land put in fallow, he saw the strong fortification around Barbados and above all he contracted small pox. That is significant because twenty-five years later, during the revolutionary war when his forces were ravished with small pox, George Washington was immune.

Sir, George Washington House is nearly finished. It will be completed by 2007. Thus it will be another asset to our tourism stock and important to our cultural heritage.

Mr. President, Captain Croston was the original owner of the house and he rented it to the Washington brothers for what would have been then the exorbitant sum of £15 a month. That would have been a large sum in those days.

Sir, it is being furnished with imperial furniture which would be representative of Captain Croston's income, and some of the furniture is being reconstructed here.

Sir, we are doing well in tourism but those involved in tourism are aware that Barbados needs more than just sun, sea and sand. Senator Eastmond referred to those people who visit other places for different reasons. Therefore, it needs a diversity of product because visitors have become more sophisticated. In order to differentiate our product from others in the Caribbean, who also have sun, sand and sea, we need attractions that would make us more competitive and enticing than the rest of the Caribbean islands.

Sir, visitors want to explore the country and learn about its culture. Heritage tourism is growing around the world. Sir, people wish to have more cultural and spiritual experiences and leave more enriched by these experiences. For this reason, George Washington House will certainly resound through the US market and will enhance our product.

Sir, it is for those reasons that I support this Resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.
6.30 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Stuart.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, I just want a clarification from the Minister when she winds up, because I note from the Addendum to the Resolution that property was vested in the National Trust by a Cabinet decision on the 25th June, 1998. This decision was subsequently rescinded and the Cabinet agreed that the property should be vested in the Bush Hill Tourism Trust, Inc., a company incorporated under the Companies Act as a non-profit company, in order to facilitate the restoration of the property as a heritage tourism site.

Sir, who incorporated Bush Hill Tourism Trust Inc.? I am not clear as to what happened.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Eastmond.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND:
Thank you, Mr. President.

First, let me thank everyone for the contribution that they made. In reviewing the documents, what happened is that the restoration of the George Washington House is a joint venture between the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. and the Barbados National Trust. They have incorporated this company now to own and restore the property, so they both now own it because I would imagine that the resources are coming from the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. but the Barbados National Trust, of course, would have an interest in it so that a non-profit company was established for that purpose.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, this is our last Sitting before the Independence celebrations and therefore in the spirit of the season which celebrates our 39th Independence, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all Senators a wonderful and reflective 39th Independence.

Mr. President, I now beg to move that the Senate be adjourned *sine die*.

The question that the Senate be adjourned sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
6.33 p.m.

CONTENTS

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings on Friday, the 25th day of November, 2005 at 11.20 a.m.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR
THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT 1

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Senator the Hon Miss L. V. EASTMOND 2

1. The Value Added Tax (Old Harrisonian Society) Order, 2005.
2. Customs (Petroleum Products Bulk Storage) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005.
3. Annual Reports of the Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation for the years 2001 and 2002.
4. Financial Statements of the Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation for the years 2001 and 2002.
5. Annual Report of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council for the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004.
6. Statements and Audit Reports of the Industrial Credit Fund (ICF) for the year ending December 31, 2003 on:
 - (i) Loan Number 2660 BAR;
 - (ii) European Investment Bank Project; and
 - (iii) The Agricultural Development Project Loan Number 2782 BAR (Part C).
7. Annual Report of the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. for the year 2004.
8. Annual Report of the Barbados Tourism Authority for the period April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003.

9. Annual Report of the National Assistance Board for the periods April, 2002 to March, 2003 and April, 2003 to March, 2004.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR
SITTINGS OF THE SENATE

Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. EASTMOND 2

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. EASTMOND 2

1. Guarantee of Loans (Companies) (Amendment) Bill, 2005.
2. Architects Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 6 – TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF SUMS UP TO US\$125 000 000 ON THE INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS BY THE ISSUE OF SECURITIES THROUGH DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES INC. AS LEAD MANAGER FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING THE FOREIGN RESERVES 2

Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. Eastmond, 2, 21; Senator F. J. Stuart, 3; Senator G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, 6; Senator T. E. Barker, 9; Senator G. P. B. Nicholls, 12; Senator O. R. Marville, 16; Senator Miss S. C. V. Husbands, 16.

ORDER NO. 5 – THE GUARANTEE OF LOANS (COMPANIES) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005 23

Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. Eastmond, 23.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO NOTE AND APPROVE PROTOCOL FIVE OF THE SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP, 2005-2007 23

Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. Eastmond, 23, 38; Senator Dr. D. S. Lowe, 24; Her Honour Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds, 29; Senator Sir Roy Trotman, 30; Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard, 34; Senator F. J. Stuart, 35; Senator Miss S. C. V. Husbands, 37.

ORDER NO. 3 – BILL ENTITLED AN ACT TO
AMEND THE ARCHITECTS
REGISTRATION ACT 40

Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. Eastmond, 40,
42; Senator Dr. F. L. Chandler, 41.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF A
PARCEL OF LAND AT CHARLES ROWE
BRIDGE, ST. GEORGE FOR THE
PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DRAINAGE
WORKS 43

Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. Eastmond, 43,
44; Senator Dr. D. S. Lowe, 43.

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE VESTING IN BUSH HILL
TOURISM TRUST INC. OF THE
PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AT BUSH
HILL, THE GARRISON, ST. MICHAEL .. 44

Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. Eastmond,
44, 46; Senator Dr. D. S. Lowe, 44; Her

Honour Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds, 45;
Senator F. J. Stuart, 46.

SUSPENSION 12

ADJOURNMENT 46

Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. Eastmond, 46.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BARKER, Senator T. E.
EASTMOND, Senator the Hon. Miss L. V.
GODDARD, Senator Sir John Stanley
GOODING-EDGHILL, Senator G. P. I.
HUSBANDS, Senator Miss S. C. V.
LOWE, Senator Dr. D. S.
MARVILLE, Senator O. R.
NICHOLLS, Senator G. P. B.
STUART, Senator F. J.
SYMMONDS, Her Honour Senator Dame Patricia
TROTMAN, Senator Sir Roy