
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2003 – 2008

THE SENATE

Friday, November 17, 2006

Senate 58A, sequence 01, 10.03 a.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO TAKE NOTE OF AND
APPROVE THE DRAFT “NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN
OF BARBADOS 2005-2025: GLOBAL
EXCELLENCE, BARBADIAN TRADITIONS.”

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Griffith.

Senator the Hon. E.R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, this Resolution is asking us to take note and approve The Draft National Strategic Plan of Barbados for 2005 to 2025 and it is entitled: “Global Excellence, Barbadian Traditions.”

Strategic planning, as you know is the process of defining objectives and identifying strategies, which will enable us to reach those objectives, over time. Traditionally, we have done our planning by way of development plans, which on some occasions were for as long as ten years but it is felt that in this rapidly changing international environment, we need a new approach to the organisation and planning of our affairs.

We need, for example, to have a broader perspective of the issues and to have a longer view. Therefore, the Government has decided for the first time in our history, to move to strategic planning.

Mr. President, this requires us to first take stock of where we are, and to have a vision as to where we want to be by the end of the planning period, in this case, 2025. You will notice, as you peruse the document, that the

strengths and weaknesses of our country have been identified. The threats that will pose challenges for us to achieve our objectives have been identified, and the opportunities that we believe exist in the international sphere have also been identified. The document then, sets out the various strategies that we believe will enable us to reach our ultimate objective, as set out in Goal One, that is, to make Barbados a fully developed country by 2025.

Goal One, in fact, says that the cultural transformation that will reinforce Barbadian values and national identity and act as a catalyst for propelling Barbados into the Twenty-first Century, as a fully developed society. This goal will seek to create greater equity and social justice, while building an inclusive society with opportunities for all.

This is a very lofty objective, but it is one worth pursuing. I know that all of us subscribe to the view that we must reach for the stars. There is no point setting the bar low, because it will be easy to get over it. We must reach for the stars, if we truly believe that we have the potential to carry this country to the point where it becomes a small, but fully developed economy.

Sir, the plan was drawn up with inputs from a wide cross section of the society. There were inputs from all of the social partners of civil society and various persons at the university. Subsequent to the preparation of the draft, it was shared across the society with various communities, through a series of Town Hall meetings and the comments and suggestions made there will be taken into account in arriving at a final document.

This is important, Mr. President, because we believe that in order for us to achieve our ultimate objective of making Barbados a fully developed society, in spite of its small size and its slender resources, we must have the support of all of the citizens. Therefore, the Government thought it necessary to engage as wide a cross section of the community as possible.

There are six goals set out in the document.

Senate 57, sequence 01, 10:10:14

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SENATOR the Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH: Goal Two envisions vastly improved governance and foresees a Barbados with a fully Barbadianised Constitution free of all vestiges of colonialism, a modernised parliamentary and electoral system, greatly enhanced political participation and the empowerment of all communities.

It also envisions the radical overhaul with the administrative machinery of Government as a capitalist for change while also strengthening civil society as a critical part of the governance for the 21st Century.

It further envisages that there will be higher levels of self-reliance, less dependency on the State and greater diversity and tolerance. Mr. President, these are all objectives and goals which I am sure we wish to see become an integral part of this society.

Mr. President, Goal Three places people at the heart of the development process and promotes the building of social capital. This involves the development of the human resources necessary to function in a knowledge-based services economy and the creation of appropriate family and community values. This calls for a revolution in education which would unlock the productive potential of all Barbadians. A good quality of life will also be paramount and therefore well-developed public health systems and the eradication of poverty from our social landscape would all be part of the social transformation.

Indeed, Mr. President, the Government has already embarked on several programmes of this nature. One only has to look at what is taking place in the schools through the EduTech Programme, in spite of the negatives which are being made, and the establishment of resource centres in communities across Barbados so that those persons who do not have computers and have access to the internet can do so through those centres.

The programmes which are being put in place through the Ministry of Social Transformation, the Rural Development Commission, the Urban Development Commission and the other programmes are all aimed at removing poverty from our landscape. The proposed redevelopment of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will put it to the point where the quality of services there will be beyond question. Mr. President, the Government has already started to put all of these programmes in place.

Mr. President, the expansion of the University of the West Indies is another example. Recently, the Government

made additional land available to the Cave Hill Campus so that they can expand so that we will in due course have at least one graduate from every household in Barbados. This is part of the process of taking Barbados to a level where it can truly be described as a fully developed society and where all of its citizens have been prepared to take advantage of whatever opportunities exist in this hostile world.

Goal Four requires the protection, preservation and enhancement of our physical infrastructure, environment and scarce resources as we seek to advance our social and economic development. It demands that we find the right balance between our development and the preservation of our physical surroundings. It calls for access to adequate water and energy supply, a good transportation system and the development and maintenance of sound infrastructure. Here too, Mr. President, several of the programmes being implemented by the Government are in this direction.

The protection and preservation as well as the enhancement of our physical infrastructure is critical for our future development. That is why a few days ago, when we were discussing the issue of the country seeking to obtain, from time to time, additional resources, I made the point that I would like someone to tell me what Barbados would be like today if over the years we had not moved in that direction to supplement our scarce resources in order to develop our infrastructural landscape and to promote the development of this country.

Mr. President, I know that persons make statements from time to time about statistics and claim that in spite of the fact that the statistics look good that the benefits are not filtering down. Mr. President, all I would say to that is that there are many examples around the world to see what happens when the statistics do not look well. At least that is one time when the impact would filter down and people will lose their jobs and their businesses will be closed and other tragedies will occur on the society. Mr. President, that should be enough to tell us that if we do not get the statistics right that the alternative would be devastation to the society.

Mr. President, Goal Five seeks to enhance Barbados' prosperity and competitiveness in the world economy. This would require rapid and radical transformation in the way we carry out our productive activities. We must identify those areas of economic activities that are viable and competitive and that can contribute to sustainable growth, employment and overall prosperity for everyone.

Mr. President, focussing on the export of services such as tourism and international business while exploiting new ones such as culture and health will all contribute to a more diversified and prosperous economy.

Mr. President, that last statement about the need for a more diversified and prosperous economy is a very critical and important one because it is through balanced growth that all of our citizens would benefit.

Mr. President, that is what the Government is seeking to do by providing the type of framework which would enable all sectors of the economy to reach their true potential. Barbados is small and will never, in my view, be able to compete with the larger countries, even the developing ones, because we do not have the critical mass that would enable us to achieve the economies of scale that would be necessary for us to compete with those large countries.

Mr. President, it is an undeniable fact that if we make use of all of the various technologies that are around us that could be adapted to suit our circumstances that we could carve out for ourselves niche markets which would enable us to compete and to earn our way in this world. Mr. President, the focus which the Government is trying to bring to the entire country, is that we must focus on making our various activities productive, competitive and efficient.

Senate 58A Sequence 2

10.20 a.m.

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR the Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH: . . .

Mr. President, Goal Six: "Strict Guardians of our Heirtige" "Branding Barbados Globally". This calls for us to continue consolidating our image to the world. This image has served us well and has brought us considerable international respect, since Independence. Our political stability, education, democratic governance and good leadership, have all earned worldwide recognition for Barbados. Our duty will be to continue to show others how a small country can be successful and can yet retain its identity. In other words, we have to brand Barbados locally.

Mr. President, how true is this? In spite of our small size, there are many things which we have, that are unique in this in world, and we must make sure that we exploit all of the potentials that rest therein. Hitherto, we have paid very little attention to issues such as intellectual property, but the time has come for us to make sure that we place more emphasis on that area of activity and that we can truly claim what is ours, such as all of the various species of plants that exist in our gullies, Blackbelly sheep, West Indies Sea Island Cotton, the derivatives from our sugar cane and other areas of activities. We must all use these things to the fullest.

Mr. President, this evening, when I leave this Honourable Chamber, I will be going to the Cliff Restaurant, to participate in an event which will signal another step in the transformation of the sugar industry, where we will make another stride in demonstrating to the world, that we are in charge of our destiny. Sir, that is how Barbados would be expected to make its way in the future. We have to add value to our primary products. We can no longer expect preferential treatment from our former masters, neither can we rely wholly and solely on the exportation of primary products. We have to add value to them. We have to take steps that would allow us to reduce our dependency on high-priced oil and other commodities of that nature. Therefore, we must develop the habit of using the resources, which we have at our disposal, to the fullest. That is where we are moving with respect to our local industry and this evening's event will further demonstrate that.

Mr. President, the Barbados Labour Party administration vision for Barbados is that by 2025, Barbados could be, should be, and would be, a developed small economy. What we are seeking to do, through this document, is to identify the roles for various members of the community and to encourage all and sundry, to support our effort to carry our country to the heights that we are convinced it can achieve.

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

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, I rise to contribute briefly to the debate on the Draft National Strategic Plan of Barbados 2005-2025: Global Excellence, Barbadian Traditions.

Mr. President, I think it is both happy and gratuitous that this debate takes place in the month when Barbados is celebrating its 40th Anniversary of Independence. This is as good a time as any to do some introspection, to look to see the road we have travelled and to look at the "Mount Everests" that still remain to be climbed.

Mr. President, in the general suite of human history - of course, 40 years is not a very long time, given the fact that we are now being told that Barbados is an ageing society - there are people in Barbados who can speak as authoritatively about Barbados as a colony, as they are able to speak about Barbados as an Independent nation. Forty years is really not a very long time. There are many of us, who, as I have said in this Honourable Chamber before, know both Anthems, that of the former colonial master and the Anthem of Independent Barbados.

Mr. President, that fact has to be taken into account, as we try to evaluate our situation in Barbados today. In Latin America, for example, there is really no one alive

today, in any of the Latin American countries, who is able to speak about the country in which he or she lives, whether it be Brazil, Argentina or Mexico, as a colonial territory because those countries have been independent since the 19th Century. We, in Barbados, on the other hand, are still in that state of what the late Dr. Eric Williams called that “the state of in-betweenity”. We are still in transition from our status as a colony, to the status of a full nation.

Sir, this is necessarily so because a large number of people in the society still have a foot in both camps, as it were. The social, economical and political legacies of colonialism are still very much evident in the society in which we live, 40 years after Independence. Therefore, when we sit down to determine how to plan for Barbados’ future, it is that social, political and economical legacy that should substantially inform our thinking.

10.30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17, 2006

(EDITED)

SENATOR F.J. STUART: Sir, needless to say, Barbados has registered attractive and significant gains over the last 40 years. By the year 1994, for example, on the United Nations Human Development Index, Barbados was the No. 1 developing country. I think I am correct in saying that it still ranks very high on that index, even though I am not sure that it is still No. 1.

Asides.

SENATOR F.J. STUART: Sir, I am being told that it is NO. 5. Mr. President, that is not an achievement on which any thinking person would want to frown. Of course, our reputation for political stability is another gain, when contrasted with some of the misfortunes, which have befallen some of our sister States in this region.

Mr. President, there is a social, political and economic legacy of colonialism, which has to be confronted and, which has to be borne in mind as one plans Barbados’ future. We did not get to where we are using National Strategic Plans by name. I do not want to think that the Democratic Labour Party or the Barbados Labour Party administered the affairs of this country in the post-independent period and did not have some kind of strategic plan to guide them. What is happening here today is that we are discussing a National Strategic Plan, specifically so called but, the truth is that the development plans we have used in the past, were strategic plans and the Manifestoes of political parties are strategic plans. Sir, a rose by any other name is just as sweet.

Mr. President, the Government has said here today that for the first time in our history, we are resorting to a strategic plan. Sir, this is typical of this Government, it likes to claim that it has done, this, that or the other first. I am not necessarily swept off my feet by that because, when you really get down to it, Mr. President, who does anything first or who does not do anything first, the only persons entitled to claim, legitimately, that they have done anything first were Adam and Eve, so, I really do not get myself caught up in all this. We are all plagiarists and followers, as long as you accept the biblical story about the origin of man, the only persons, who can lay claims, legitimately, to having done anything first, is Adam and Eve. Let us get that clear, Sir.

Mr. President, when this Government is carrying on about doing this first and thinking up this first and so on, I really associate it with the one-upmanship of adolescent school children in their highly competitive relationships.

Mr. President, because of the social and economic contradictions bequeath to Barbados and countries like Barbados by upwards of 300 years of colonialism, certain deformations have been left; certain scars have been left on the society, which successive Governments of Barbados have had to confront. They have confronted these contradictions by strategic planning, even though, they did not tout a document called a National Strategic Plan. Sir, 40 years ago, it fell to the Democratic Labour Party to lead this country into Independence. We did so in the face of predictable resistance from well-known quarters but, we felt, at the time, that it was important to get one’s hands on the levers of power to seek first the political kingdom, so that all other economic and social benefits could flow to this country, therefore, we pursued Independence 40 years ago.

Mr. President, today, we can look back with pride at Barbados’ achievements over that period and, we planned, strategically, how to develop this country. Sir, this National Strategic Plan envisions a Barbados that is a fully developed society, that is prosperous, socially just and globally competitive. I do not know that anybody can find fault with those ideals, I certainly do not.

Mr. President, I have always had some difficulties with what the Government means, when it talks about Barbados being a fully developed society because one of the most divisive issues in academic circles and, of course, in political circles, revolves around the question, what is development. What does one mean by development? It is not unusual for countries or policymakers to confuse the concept of development and the concept of growth and to assume that because a country is making, quantitative leaps, it is ipso facto, making qualitative leaps. Sir, that is not true now, and it never was true because, when all is said and done, there is a distinction between growth and

development; growth being a quantitative concept that response to the question, how much and development being a qualitative concept that response to question, what quality and for whose benefit.

Mr. President, even if one gets past the whole idea of development; if one could reach some kind of agreement on what is meant by development, it is my view, that we still have other hurdles to scale because, the truth is that a country does not ever stop developing, certainly at the conceptual level, because all countries are developing countries.

Mr. President, there is no destination called development that, when you get there, you blissfully occupy some idealised state of stationary equilibrium. It does not happen that way at all.

S58A/10:40

Sequence 4

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR F.J. STUART: The United States of America is still a developing country, still looking for other Everest to climb and still looking for other targets to meet. One only has to bear in mind, for example, that when these islands in the Caribbean were settled, the developed countries of the world were France, Spain, England, the Netherlands and Portugal, on the Iberian Peninsula. These were supposed to be the developed countries. Today, all of those countries are not so regarded, but there are still developing. Therefore, this idea of Barbados becoming a fully developed country, as though there is some destination called full development, is, in my view, a bit elusive. Of course, we are never told when Barbados becomes a fully developed country, what are going to be the qualitative differences between our existence today and our existence when that state of vaunted bliss is achieved.

I really do not get myself caught up in these issues. As far as I am concerned, I identify fully with the commitment of any Government - and of course, this is the commitment of the Democratic Labour Party, whose spokesman I am here today - to create a state of affairs in Barbados by an informed policy outlook and by the requisite political will, where this country develops the capacity and the flexibility to absorb the social, political and economic demands of its citizens, and to realise their aspirations within the context of those demands. If somebody wants to call that full development, hip, hip, hooray, but I am not into the labelling.

The commitment of the Democratic Labour Party is to create a Barbados in which the country has the capacity and flexibility to absorb the social, political and economic

demands of its citizens, and to realise their aspirations within the context of those demands. Sir, that is why in 1966, we recognised that the strategic plan the country really needed, and of course, we have not resiled from any of this, the National Strategic Plan, which the country really needed, the vision that needed to be crafted for the society, had to bear some relation to the social, political and economic legacy bequeath by colonialism.

Mr. President, it is a fact that all post-colonial societies, and worse still, all post-slavery societies are unjust societies, unjust to the majority of their citizens. Sir, a small wonder then, for example, that even in the United States of America, as recently as the 1960s, President Johnson associated himself with the idea of creating a good society in the United States of America, a so-called developed country. In the 1960s, he was talking about creating a good society.

Sir, next door, in the 1960s and 1970s, although Canada had got its Independence as long ago as 1867, when the British North America Act was passed, the then Prime Minister of Canada, the late Mr. Pierre Trudeau, identified himself with the ideal of creating a just society in Canada. In fact, after his retirement, he co-authored a book entitled "Towards a Just Society". After many years of independence, the social, political and economic legacy of colonialism, French and British colonialism, in Canada, had left certain disequilibrium, as it were, certain contradictions in society, that led Trudeau to the conclusion that Canada was still an unjust society, and that the ideal, which his Government should pursue, should be the ideal of creating a just society in Canada. The French-speaking component of the population, of course, was not happy. One does not even know if it is happy now, but that was one the legacies that the late Pierre Trudeau had to confront, among many others.

Sir, the Democratic Labour Party, in 1966, in its Manifesto of that year, made clear its vision for Barbados, and it is still the vision of the Democratic Labour Party today. We do not need to get into the catch phrases and the sloganeering that is now so prominent a feature of Barbadian political life. Mr. President, our commitment, as stated in that Manifesto, was to build a just society in Barbados, because we recognise that the bequest of colonialism really resulted in certain injustices in the society that had to be reversed, if Barbados was to really occupy its place in the world, and bring that level of satisfaction to its citizens, which should be the aim of all Governments.

In the very cover of the Party's Manifesto, in 1966, the ideal is stated: "To build a just society." That is the vision upon which this country embarked in 1966. Now history does not develop in a straight line. There are zigzags in history, there are little reverses and so on, but

that is still the ideal of the Democratic Labour Party, to build a just society in Barbados. Sir, if we are going to build a just society in Barbados, the question that has to be asked is, just in respect of what.

The Government's National Strategic Plan talks about creating a fully developed society that is prosperous.

10.50 a.m.

Sequence 5

Friday, November 17, 2006

Senate 58A, sequence 06, 10.50 a.m.

Senator F.J. STUART: You can have an environment of prosperity or an environment in which prosperity exists, but that prosperity does not necessarily reach the vast majority of people living in a society. We know that only too well. At a time when people were saying that the Republic of South Africa was prosperous, the overwhelming majority of the people in that country were living in abject deplorable poverty. There are other countries in the world today, which reflect that same kind of dichotomy. Therefore, prosperity as an ideal has to be penned in, has to be qualified. There is nothing wrong with prosperity but the prosperity must be a generalised prosperity, as distinct from a highly sectionalised prosperity.

The Government's National Strategic Plan talks about a society that is socially just. Now, there is nothing wrong again, with the ideal of creating a society that is socially just. Sir, how one defines a society that is socially just is a function of one's outlook on how a society should be organised. If it is the view of a Government that certain sections of the society belong at the top and other sections of the society belong at the bottom, if it is the Government's view, as a hymn writer once penned, that the rich man belongs in his castle and the poor man belongs at his gate, and that God made them high and lowly, and ordered their estate, for some people that is a just society. Again, as far as we are concerned in the Democratic Labour Party, social justice cannot be divorced from civic participation, in the society and economy of Barbados.

Sir, the Government's third ideal about being globally competitive...again, a desirable ideal, but we do not feel that you can achieve any objective of global competitiveness, if there is an undercurrent of dissatisfaction in the society, about whether or not it is just. Ultimately, how globally competitive a society becomes, is a function of how the citizens in the society feel about themselves and about their relationship with institutions in the society, and the overall social, political and economic systems.

As I stand here today speaking on this Draft National Strategic Plan, I have no illusions at all. Ultimately, I relate to the experiences that I encounter from day to day, as I interact with Barbadians at all levels. I have no illusion that the three dominant psychological states pervading this society, as we discuss this Draft National Strategic Plan to take us down to the year 2025, are frustration, disillusionment and insecurity.

Sir, you cannot walk around Barbados and interact on any sustained basis with the average man and women on the street, and not encounter one of those three psychological states. The question that this country has to answer is whether, if people are frustrated, disillusioned and are feeling insecure, they could be mobilised to make the country globally competitive, as is this Government's ideal. I say, no, because there is a perception in Barbados that this society is not just.

I really do not want to rely on what the Democratic Labour Party says, what it feels or what it perceives. The Government set up a National Commission on Law and Order, and the Commissioners went all across Barbados and talked to Barbadians in all walks of life and in all situations. The Commissioners wrote a report, which I think, must guide public policy in this country for a very long time. They wrote a report in which they said that in their movings around, they were left in no doubt that all is not well in the Barbadian society.

Mr. President, at page 66, column 3 of this report, which is already a document of this Chamber, there is the loud and resonant sentence and paragraph, which says: "At this juncture in our history and development, there are signs that all is not well in Barbadian society."

On that same page, but before the Commission came to that conclusion, it said as follows in column 1 of page 66: "It is important to note that during our consultations with the public, the Commission came face to face with an attitude of nihilism among the youth, growing feelings of marginalisation, disillusionment and disenfranchisement. The Commission also encountered a disturbingly high degree of anger. This anger is compounded by uncertainty about the future, and a scant regard for life itself."

Sir, if Honourable Senators thought that I was just trumpeting the preoccupations of the Democratic Labour Party, this Chamber now knows that it is not just the Democratic Labour Party that feels this way, but a government commissioned report, had found that this is the state in Barbados today.

In that context, the question is: How can you mobilise people who feel this way, who are uncertain about the future, the insecurity of which I just spoke, who are disillusioned, the disillusionment of which I just spoke, and

of course, who are frustrated, to achieve the lofty goals that been set in this draft National Strategic Plan?

Senate 57, sequence 06, 11:00:14

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, it is easy I suppose to say that all of this is negative talk, that is quite fashionable in Barbados too, but the reality is that if you live in an environment where people do not believe that institutions are working for their benefit, if they believe that the social and economic systems are ranged against them, the anger of which this Report speaks is bound to ensue and the results can be social anarchy, as of course is also mentioned in the Report of the National Commission on Law and Order.

Mr. President, I really accept that the country needs to have a vision. The Government has said what its vision is. The Democratic Labour Party's vision still is what it was in the year 1966 because the realities have really not fundamentally changed. After 100 years they have not changed in Canada, and after more than that they have not changed in the United States of America. The ideal is to create a just society in Barbados; just in social relations, just in the sight of the law, just in the exposure to opportunities and just in freedom. When that kind of society is created, the belief, again mentioned in the National Commission on Law and Order Report, that there is some dichotomy between your law and our law, would be removed and there would be genuine civic participation in the economic, social and political life of Barbados.

Mr. President, I do not believe that this draft National Strategic Plan 2005-2025: Global Excellence, Barbadian Traditions is really making contact with the harsh and blinding realities in Barbados. I applaud those persons who devoted their efforts to its creation, I think they are all men of goodwill and all men who love Barbados, but they are not all men who are always right. Sir, it is my view that the vision, while it is a noble vision, is much detached from the social, political and economic realities that confront this society.

The fundamental objectives of politics in Barbados today still have to be creating an environment where every citizen feels that he or she has a chance in this country, where civic participation can be relied on because people can connect the expenditure of their efforts to the receipt of their rewards and where merit is recognised and where of course anger, frustration, disillusionment and insecurity are kept down to a minimum.

Put in that context, there is really no need for me, Mr. President, to leaf through this document as I have done before and read from page to page and say what the

Government plans to do in this area or that area, because overall at a philosophical level, at the level of the diagnosis of this society's ills, I do not think that the draft National Strategic Plan is on target. Sir, I therefore think that it is going to make no fundamental difference to the lives of the people of Barbados beyond what we are seeing and experiencing now.

Mr. President, as far as I am concerned, there is really nothing new, if they needed to be something new, about any strategic planning because no Government can really manage a country's affairs without planning strategically for the administration of those affairs. Perhaps, the only person who did that for a short while was Benito Mussolini in Italy in the 1920s. He came to power with his black shirts on a quest of popularity, and as that quest of popularity waned, seven years after being in power, he called the Party's Philosopher and Education Minister, Mr. Giovanni Gentile and said: Look, I have just discovered that we have been operating without a philosophy, could you please put together a philosophy for me by the time of the next Party conference. That is a fact of recorded history. You cannot get away with that for very long and the diagnosis of the society's ailment has to be right if the prescriptions are to make a difference to the lives of the people those prescriptions are intended to serve.

Mr. President, I do not intend to delay the Chamber any longer. I think this Chamber must be clear and I think that Barbadians must be very clear as to how the Democratic Labour Party feels about this draft National Strategic Plan. Mr. President, I therefore thank you for your indulgence.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Mr. President, this National Strategic Plan of Barbados 2005-2025, is outlined in 190 pages, so it would be impossible to do justice to it within the time allowed to us, but we can deal with certain aspects of it. I would like to commend those who contributed toward it. It reflects a lot of thought, it must have been a lot of discussion and it must have taken a lot of time, and I commend them for their efforts.

Mr. President, I would like to start with the vision and make reference to the Old Testament proverbs which says where there is no vision, the people perish. The Barbados Workers Union have adopted that slogan, where there is no vision the people perish. The vision of Barbados as outlined for 2025, is a fully developed society that is prosperous, socially just and globally competitive.

Senate 58A Sequence 7

11.10 a.m.

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Mr. President, it lists 10 points, and I would like to comment on a few of them. The first is that the fully developed Barbados that we envision by 2025 will be:

- "A society driven primarily by a services economy, fuelled by a steady rate of export growth, with a state-of-the-art information and communication technology infrastructure, a high savings rate, widespread material prosperity, full employment, and an equitable distribution of income and wealth, and an enhanced quality of life.

Sir, to be more specific, it goes on to say:

- A premier world tourism destination and a centre for high quality financial, information and other service, augmented by reinvigorated manufacturing and agricultural sectors.

Mr. President, it goes on:

- A society that places people at the centre of development and, through economic enfranchisement, offers each and every individual the freedom and opportunity to develop their talents to their full potential.

Mr. President, it further goes on to say:

- A society of religious and enduring moral values, diversity and tolerance, imbued with a strong sense of public spiritedness and an abiding sense of trust and community.

Sir, the final point in this Vision is:

- A society of order, self-discipline and respect for the law, relatively free from the scourges of illegal drugs, corruption, crime and violence".

Mr. President, this is truly a noble and bold Vision and it would be difficult to find fault with it. The Draft National Strategic Plan then sets out strategic goals. First of all, there must be a vision, then goals and strategies for achieving those goals.

Mr. President, in the Strategic Goals, it says:

"As Barbados arrives in the turning point in history, the world is engulfed in change..."

And I say change at an accelerating rate.

"Old arrangements are breaking down; new ones are emerging. The era of inward-looking protection is over..."

Mr. President, we know that from our own experience. "The age of global competitiveness is upon us. Barbadians must show unity of purpose, strength of conviction and clarity of vision, if we are not merely to survive but also to prosper."

Mr. President, Barbados faces two broad challenges:

- Unleashing the full potential of its people and securing the wholehearted commitment of all generations, classes and races, to building a prosperous, peaceful and inclusive Barbados."

Repositioning Barbados competitively, and in a way that preserves our Barbadian identity, in the new global economy."

Mr. President, six strategic goals have been listed and the Honourable Leader of Government Business has spent some time on them. In my view, they are all achievable but they would not be achieved automatically. It is going to require a lot of hard work and changes in attitudes.

Mr. President, the first goal just highlighted, speaks to our cultural transformation, that will reinforce Barbadian values and national identity. Sir, with regard to cultural transformation, we are very quick to talk about 'we culture', about the fact that we are Bajans and that this is 'we culture'. We use it to justify our sins of omission and commission. We use 'we culture' to explain what we refer to as the 'ZR culture', with its 'milkshake', 'rocking the cradle', and the loud and lewd music that is played on public transport. Sir, as far as I am concerned, there should be no music allowed on transportation, public or private, of any kind or type.

We use 'we culture' justify 'wukking up', as part of our heritage from Africa. Mr. President, I have seen African dances and I have never seen 'wukking up'. I think we have to move from that state, which I have tried to explain, to a culture where there is greater refinement, in speech, in dress and in behaviour. Generally there is a higher sense of responsibility, reliability, integrity, courtesy and respect. These may sound as very old-fashioned values but I do not apologise for them. They have served the human family well throughout history and we cannot think that we are the exception and that we could run away from them.

Mr. President, Goal Two envisages a vastly improved governance. We have a Draft Constitution that was submitted in 1998, where Senator Linton and I both served on that Commission. The question is: "What has happened to it? It has gone dormant. We have had a Committee on the National Reconciliation, where the Bill

was debated in Parliament. Are any of its recommendations being implemented?

Mr. President, furthermore, we have had a Commission on Law and Order, a very important Commission, with very important findings and observations. What has been the outcome of that, other than to be filed away on bookshelves? We have had Public Sector Reform. We keep talking about reforms. I am far more concerned about the implementation of the reform. Talking about Public Sector Reform is one thing but until those reforms are implemented, the status quo remains.

Goal Three places people at the heart of the development process. It promotes the building of social capital. Nobody could fault that, but that has to be based on discipline and a higher sense of responsibility. It means dealing with the educational system, at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels, and in this regard, I think that the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, has been doing a very good job. It talks about a good quality of life and a well-developed health system.

Mr. President, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is an institution of which we should all be proud. I regret to say that it is an embarrassment to many of us. I know efforts have been made to change it, but those efforts have to be doubled and redoubled. It should be the primary healthcare center, not only for Barbadians but for persons in this part of the Caribbean.

Goal Four requires the protection, preservation and enhancement of our physical infrastructure, environment and scarce resources, as we seek to advance our social and economic development. This applies particularly to the collection and disposal of waste and to preserving our beaches. Tourism is our number one foreign exchange earner. I would say that I do agree with them all.

11.20 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17, 2006

(EDITED)

SIR JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Goal Five seeks to enhance Barbados' prosperity and competitiveness in the world economy, not just the regional economy. How much longer can we go on tolerating these 'sick-outs', especially in the public sector. I think the unions have a great responsibility in dealing with that situation. These are unofficial 'sick-outs' and if there is any discipline within their membership, they have to address that problem. We would also need to place greater emphasis on information technology and communications technology.

Mr. President, I think we have to attach more importance to the Public Accounts Committee, of which I believe I am still a member. I do not think it has met for over two years and that is not good enough. It is through the Public Accounts Committee that Parliament has an oversight on what is going on in Government and I really would like that matter placed on the front-burner. I understand that there are plans to reorganise the Public Accounts Committee but, whatever it is, it is not functioning, has not functioned and that is not good enough.

Mr. President, Goal Six calls for us to continue consolidating our image in the world. This image has served us well and has brought us considerable international respect since Independence. Our political stability, education, democratic governance and good leadership have all earned, for Barbados, worldwide recognition. We have two opportunities coming up, to enhance that image and reputation, the International Golf Tournament to be held here at Sandy Lane next month and then, there is Cricket World Cup finals to be held here in April 2007. Sir, these are two wonderful opportunities to enhance that image.

Mr. President, I go next to the weaknesses and strengths of every organisation and, Government is no exception. The Report says that the Barbados' economy possesses the characteristics of a small island developing state, making it vulnerable to external events. We all know about the physical vulnerabilities because we all live here, exposure to hurricanes, limited land and natural resource base, et cetera. Another weakness listed here is the public sector bureaucracy.

Mr. President, those of us, who live and work in the private sector are probably more aware of that than people, who work in the public sector, the largest employer of persons in the country. It is frustrating and we are always looking to see how Public Sector Reform will work. Sir, recommendations are one thing but, unless they are implemented and monitored, we are not going to make any progress.

Mr. President, another weakness is the weak management tradition. Managerial practice and technology lag behind international standards in the public and private sector. I think that is a lot to do with our small size. We are, in one way or the other, all connected, family, school, the places where we live and we are so people-oriented, that sometimes, we lose sight of issues and getting things done. Sir, that is what management is all about, getting the right things done and looking for results.

Mr. President, many threats have been listed. The one that I would like to comment on is the global degradation of the environment, greenhouse gas emissions

contribute to global warming, which has a very negative effect on our climate. Sir, global warming means that the level of the oceans could rise, there is nothing that we here can do about it and we need to be aware about it. We also need to be aware of the recent report of the depletion of fish stocks, through over-fishing and pollution and, of course, we are all aware of HIV/AIDS, chronic non-communicable diseases, rising crime and drug abuse. There are no surprises but I just try to comment on what I think are the most important ones.

Mr. President, for us to achieve the noble goals outlined in this document and, I support the goals, even though they might seem idealistic and discount, too heavily, the shortcomings and weaknesses of human nature in Barbadians. Sir, these weaknesses also exists in other people throughout the world. I believe that we will not even come close to achieving the objectives and the strategic goals, if we do not observe keenly, the core values, which are being outlined.

Mr. President, these are important, necessary and key factors for success. These core values provide an ethical framework for the transformed Barbadian society envisaged and they exemplify the best of Barbadian identity. They have served us well in the past and will continue to do so in the future. Many of them are anchored in our National Anthem. Sir, I would like to read what was listed here in the core values, which have done so much for us in the past and, which we need to stick to steadfastly for success in the future: friendliness, confidence, steadfastness, pride of nationhood, industry, loyalty, faith in God, strength and unity, excellence, family value, independence, discipline.” Sir, these are our legacies. It is for us to preserve and strengthen them and to pass them on to our children, grandchildren and future generations.

Sir, I thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds.

HER HONOUR SENATOR DAME OLGA PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, thank you.

Mr. President, those who have conceptualised the Plan and those who have crafted it, are to be congratulated to a great degree. It is not a utopian concept but a practical well-conceived idea, unparalleled by any other Party in Barbados, whatsoever Senator Stuart may have wanted to say about its lack of originality. It is unparalleled by any other Party in Barbados. It shows the kind of society we can build, a society which can continue to lead to the values which are timeless and absolute and, at the same time, look to the future. Clear strategic goals are set out that, if attained, would allow Barbados to accomplish

national goals, which would also benefit the next generation.

Mr. President, I too, observed with much interest, the core values cited and Sir John and I often see eye to eye on some things. I am not going to repeat them as he just mentioned them but I would like to say that there are four which are not mentioned, which I think should be included.

S58A/11:30

Sequence 9

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR Dame Patricia Symmonds: .These are courage, discretion, courtesy, self-respect and respect for others. Sir, courage, meaning the ability to do something that frightens one, as distinct from confidence, which is mentioned, but confidence really means self-assurance, so there are not synonymous.

Sir, of course, I looked carefully at the social sector, and in the interest of time, I wish to dwell on some aspects of education. I refer particularly to cultural education. One of the objectives is to develop sport and culture, and one of the strategies, I see, will be to place emphasis on culture and education. This set me thinking about how this could be defined. I think that it is important. I do not think anywhere there was a definition. We cannot take for granted that everybody would interpret it the same way.

Sir, definitions of both culture and education can be very broad or they can be very specific. Where you draw the line depends to an extent on your ultimate aim and your ideological framework. At its broadest, cultural education implies a comparative culture in relation to other cultures, so as to explore common ground and differences.

In a country like ours, with a history of colonialism, cultural education, inevitably, bears the burden of redressing some old wrongs. I am not saying that there were only old wrongs, because there are many things which we have inherited, which have helped to give us stability, culture and other things like that. In the form of denigration of the colonised culture, by a dominant colonising culture, the question of what is culture arises here, and with it the question of identity. Our leader spoke about identity, I believe.

Sir, the danger is that in the quest of a positive identity in which to inspire a populist, cultural education becomes, sometimes, subsumed into a narrowly nationalistic framework, which emphasises exclusivity and ownership. For example, the concept of African origin, which is often invoked, can point in two directions. It can imply a timeless and unchanging identity or it can

recognise the fact that the West African cultures, from which slave ancestors came, were and are some of the most syncretic in the world. Sir, what this boils down to, is a concept of culture as a single unified and identifiable object, or a concept of culture as dynamic, not so much an object, as a process.

Sir, cultural education, in the former case, tends to treat culture as archival, resuscitating forms which have lapsed and attributing value to what is considered authentic and traditional. In the latter case, cultural education acknowledges the significance of the past, while emphasising change, borrowing and innovation as integral to cultural growth. Mr. President, I trust that this will continue to be one of our objectives.

In this regard, I am pleased to see that another strategy is to develop Barbados as a location for quality film and video production, and introduce an internationally recognised national film festival as a showcase for viable film industry. This, I think, is a very good thing. Apart from what it can do locally, it has the potential to bring in a great many people. If it is placed on the tourism calendar every year, and properly promoted, it would be advantageous culturally and for the tourism industry.

Mr. President, the basis for such a festival has already been established in the form of the Barbados Festival of African and Caribbean Film, a project of the Cave Hill Campus, Faculty of Humanities and Education. The Committee has already held three successful festivals, which were strongly supported by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture. If collaboration could continue, it would assist in accomplishing the objectives of the National Strategic Plan, in terms of marrying culture and education at every level. The present Committee, which has experience and expertise, could be enlarged and more funding obtained.

I wish now to turn to the suggestion of the Teachers Service Commission. I note that one of the strategies of the effort to revolutionise the education system is the establishment of a Teachers Service Commission, early in the plan period. A separate Teachers Service Commission will take out over 2 100 persons, and this is a sizable proportion. It will streamline the process and enable the Commission to deal with any problems. It will also create a methodology, whereby it can service the needs of a school swiftly and efficiently. However, I have to say that members of such a commission must have some concept of organisations, which deal with workers. Sir, decent work entails treating people in a human way.

Sir, I have noted too, with considerable interest, another strategy to introduce an incentive system to retain excellent teachers in the classroom. I have said over and over again, and I repeat it here, that Barbados has one of

the best educational systems to be found anywhere. Mr. Speaker, it also has many fine teachers, and there is a need to retain certain good teachers in the classroom

Sir, not all teachers want to become school managers or part of the management team, such as Principal, Deputy Principal, Head of Departments, Senior Teacher or Year Head, but they are teachers whose expertise is in teaching methodologies and in other effective classroom strategies and skills. These people should not feel disadvantaged by choosing to remain as outstanding teachers in the classroom. Therefore, the position of Master Teacher should be introduced as an incentive, which would enable such a teacher to remain at the classroom level, and still be recognised through a monetary allowance and increased status.

11.40 a.m.

Sequence 10

Friday, November 17, 2006

Senate 58A, sequence 11, 11.40 a.m.

Her Honour Senator Dame Patricia SYMMONDS: Another important strategy is the establishment of a teacher substitute system. Sir, with the level of continuous professional development that is necessary for the teaching force, a teacher substitute system is required.

There is reference to a truly literate society, with 100 per cent literacy. I think all Honourable Senators here know that I feel passionately about language, standard of English and, if I were to really start on that, well, I know I am not even sure if Mr. President would be able to get me to stop, without reminding me that time is up. I will only say here - because I am sure I would have other opportunities to speak on that - that a truly literate society can be achieved with reading, for instance, and modelling oneself on excellent writers and speakers.

There are so many other areas in this excellent plan that I should like to speak on, but I know that there are so many other of my colleagues who wish to speak on it, Sir. Therefore, I may just repeat that it is something most praiseworthy, something unique in our history.

I would just like to add in closing that Senator Stuart went back to 1966 and the attempts at a just society. We on this side can boast of going back to 1938. There are so many examples in the past, in the future and in the present, like Project OASIS, and changes in the form of our educational system, which we can speak about with pride. Sir, in the interest of time, I just want to say here that it is with the greatest pleasure and with the greatest confidence that I support this Plan.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Parris.

Senator Miss P.E. PARRIS: Mr. President, I rise to lend my support to this Resolution which takes note of the draft of the National Strategic Plan of Barbados, 2005-2025. I know that this is the first plan in the history of this country and I am indeed grateful to be given the opportunity to make a contribution to the debate.

I would like to commend the Government and all the persons who were involved in the preparation of this plan. It is my belief that in order to achieve, and to be successful at anything you go to do, you first have to chart a course, and set yourself targets as to how you would achieve these targets.

Mr. President, this Government with its visionary leader, is charting a course that would provide a better life for the people of this country. This significant document is coming on the eve of this country's 40th Anniversary of Independence, and it clearly demonstrates that despite the development, there is still room for further development of the country. This framework is being used to assist us in achieving these developments and to provide a better life for the people of this country.

Mr. President, we would see transformation of the Barbadian society, and the six strategic goals, clearly defining how the transformation would be realised.

Goal Two speaks to new governance for new times. We are all aware that good governance is important to any country. We know that good governance exists within this country at this time, because Barbados was recently rated as the least corrupt Nation in the Caribbean by Transparency International.

This is an achievement and we should all be proud, since it shows that the leadership of this country, creates a positive impression as to how business and politics should be conducted.

Efficient and professional public service is essential for the development of any country. One of the objectives of Goal Two is to remodel the public service, our hardworking and dedicated civil servants. Yes, we do have some civil servants who work on and beyond the call of duty, without getting the recognition and support that they truly deserve. For example, we have our policemen and our committed nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, who unfortunately at this time are being ridiculed by the people. I think it is unwarranted public ridicule.

Mr. President, listed as one of the targets of Goal Two, is the introduction of the revamped performance

management system, which would be appraising the performance of employees. It would be used to measure their work output. I believe that this would bring a greater level of efficiency to the public service and overall, it would benefit the public. We often hear of persons who complain about the service they receive when they go to some public departments.

However, Sir, performance appraisal should not be viewed by Public Officers as a weapon, or a tape to measure their output. When effectively administered, performance appraisals would be a benefit to both the employee and the employer. I am optimistic that with the implementation of performance appraisals within the public service, we would see a reduction in industrial unrest, which results in loss of productivity.

If we carefully analyse some of the reasons for the Wildcat strikes that are present today, we would see that communication, which is vital in any organisation, is often sadly lacking. In some instances, we see persons going on a strike, for simple matters that could be resolved, if the employee was given an opportunity to communicate their feelings to management.

Sir, very often, the supervisor is the only person who is aware of any grievances and, sometimes, fails to bring them to the attention of management, until it has reached the stage of industrial action. An important element of an effective performance appraisal system, like I said, is communication. This gives the employee, an opportunity to communicate, beyond the supervisor.

However, I trust that when the performance appraisal system is implemented in the public service, that public officers would embrace the appraisal system, since it gives them an opportunity to identify to Government, their training needs and development needs. It would also allow them to give feedback to management.

Senate 57, sequence 11, 11:50:15

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR Miss P. E. PARRIS: However, management of the Public Service must be prepared to accept this feedback and act on it in a timely manner so that we would not have the level of industrial unrest that we have now and that employees would be heard and their training needs would be met.

The system is designed to encourage and recognise performance. We know that we have public officers who do not produce and who would see this system as targeting them. However, they should not be blinded by this fact but should take a critical look at the benefits that are to be

derived by such a system and use this system to motivate them to perform.

Sir, I welcome the opportunity to see more public servants in the media being recognised for their hard work. As part of this Development Plan there would be a 5-year training plan and information would be gathered from the civil servants to assess their training needs. Mr. President, I believe that training and staff development is compulsory for the growth of any organisation and Government is taking a step in the right direction by investing in training for its employees.

Goal Three of this document speaks to building social capital. One of its objectives is to expand the level of education and training. This would be achieved by providing universal access to early nursery education. Mr. President, there are still a number of children of pre-school age who are not benefiting from this programme. Mr. President, this Early Childhood Education Programme is an excellent programme. This National Strategic Plan makes provisions for the admission of three and four-year old children into school. The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports must be commended for implementing Operation Head Start.

Mr. President, I can speak from a personal level of this programme because I have a three-year old nephew who attends the St. Matthew's Primary School. I had reason to visit the school recently and I saw the work that the Principal and the staff of this school are doing. The children, from an early age, are engaged in activities to develop their social skills. They know how to wait their turn in a line and they use polite expressions, things like excuse me, you are welcome and thank you at the appropriate time. This helps to foster self-control. In the Language Arts Department they are taught to explore thoughts, ideas and feeling by repeating what is said and reading predictable picture text. These things would help the children to develop at a very early stage.

Mr. President, I believe that the money that is being saved by parents, because they are not taking their children to the day care centres, they are taking them to school and are not incurring a cost, should be used to open an account for the children to help them later on in life with their education.

Mr. President, Goal Three speaks to eradicating poverty and assisting with the development of employment opportunities. The eradication of poverty would assist in relieving pressure on the resources of the country and would give persons a sense of independence and raise their self-esteem. We are aware of the programmes that are presently being done by the Rural Development Commission and the Urban Development Commission.

Sir, I have addressed the need for a dedicated school bus system in a previous debate. Therefore, I am happy to see that this Strategic Plan in Goal Four, as part of a modern transport infrastructure, will provide a dedicated school bus service by 2008. Mr. President, I look forward to this system being implemented.

Mr. President, I cannot see how a Party, which has as its Manifesto pledge in 2003, "A Fair Share For All", not embracing this document. Senator Stuart in his earlier presentation spoke about the manifesto and how they believe that the manifesto was used by them as a plan. I smiled when I heard him said that because I know that they do not take the manifesto pledges that they make seriously because they have said that a manifesto is not a social contract. Mr. President, I do not know if they were using that manifesto as a plan. This clearly demonstrates to me that the Democratic Labour Party lacks the skills and the visionary leadership needed to take this country forward. Mr. President, I failed to see how the people of this country, on hearing Senator Stuart's presentation, could select the Democratic Labour Party to be the next Government to take this country forward or at another level.

Mr. President, I wholeheartedly support this Resolution and again offer heartiest congratulation to the Prime Minister and all those persons involved in producing this framework for the country's further development.

I thank you.

SENATOR Dr. F. L. CHANDLER: Mr. President, this draft National Strategic Plan 2005-2025 is a very wide-ranging and ambitious Plan with mostly laudable goals. There are a few goals which I do not agree with, but I will deal with those at the appropriate time.

Mr. President, as I read the document which is supposed to be a road map to a fully developed Barbados, I could not help but feel that in order to go forward along this road that we need to stop and take a few steps backward and reflect before moving forward again. I, like many people of my generation, feel that too much emphasis is being placed on the high level economic issues while the moral fabric of our society, which is our foundation for the future, is decaying before our very eyes, and we seem not to have the will to stem this destructive tide.

Mr. President, I agree that it is easier to go with the flow than to take a stance, but we must ensure that this rock of ours does not develop any cracks which would weaken our foundation.

Mr. President, if, as is stated in the Plan, people are at the centre of our development then more emphasis must be placed on ensuring that we have good, loyal and

productive citizens who can take the country forward. Too often, you hear people say that is how it is these days, we have to move with the times, you cannot change this or that, but I do not agree with that. I think that for some time now the society has been out of control and we need to pull it back before we can move forward with confidence.

Mr. President, I have seen many Development Plans in my time and I tend to keep everything - that is why I can hardly fit in my office at the moment - so I can refer to these things over the years.

Mr. President, if you compare this Plan with the original development plans you would see a regurgitation of many of the same old phrases and buzzwords, things that were said but that were never done. We just cannot wish that these things would happen or declare that they would happen like the declaration that all of a sudden, last Crop Over Barbadians were going to bag their garbage and they would become all of a sudden environmentally conscious. Of course, that did not happen.

Senate 58A Sequence 12

12:00 noon

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR Dr. F. L. CHANDLER: Mr. President, another laudable initiative is that of the National Initiative on Service Excellence (NISE) but the success of this would require a great change in mind set, skill set and communication skills. We have to make things happen by instilling discipline in the society, from childhood. This is not a job for the Government alone. It must involve all sectors of society but if persuasion does not work, then measures must be taken. These measures might not always be politically palatable must they must be taken, if we are to progress. I also think that the curricula in schools need to be changed somewhat and to reflect more life skills and training towards entrepreneurship. I was glad to hear Senator Parris speaking to the early preschool programme, which appears to be doing justice.

Mr. President, it is ironic that the very things, which are seen as development, are impacting negatively on our attitude, work ethic and general outlook on life and this will hinder true sustainable development. We have changed from a caring, hardworking community-oriented society, to that of a self-centred, materialistic and an impersonal society. As someone wrote in the newspaper recently, we are trying to be a carbon copy of metropolitan countries. We must get back to where we were, in terms of our own unique core values, before we can move forward.

Mr. President, that is why I support local Government, which I feel would instill a measure of pride

and cohesiveness in communities, which will redound to the benefit of the nation and its development.

Mr. President, we are sadly lacking in the care of our physical infrastructure and environment. We continue to build new buildings, while neglecting those which we already have, allowing them to become dilapidated, sometimes beyond redemption. Similarly, with our roads, we need to carry out repairs on a consistent basis, rather than waiting for the situation to become critical, where it would then cause severe disruption and inconvenience to every sector in the community.

Mr. President, there are six goals listed in the Plan but, in my opinion, if we concentrate on Goal One, which speaks, among other things, of reinforcing Barbadian values and national identity, we will be well on our way to achieving the remainder of the goals, and ultimately achieving global excellence.

Mr. President, along the way, we need specific action plans, with specific persons identified as being responsible for each task, and I believe Senator Sir John has spoken about implementation being important, rather than having plans on paper. These action plans must be monitored closely, to ensure that they are on target and that those with responsibility are held accountable. I believe accountability and transparency are important aspects of governance and that our leaders must demonstrate the two qualities, in order to gain our confidence in going forward.

We, as citizens, must ensure that we get answers to our questions and that we do not treat issues as 'nine day wonders'. We seem to be always setting up monitoring devices, but we never seem to use them. For example, the Public Accounts Committee was changed, to make it more effective and then we do not hear any more about it.

Mr. President, Barbados has come a long way and has gained recognition worldwide. We must maintain the ground that we have gained over the years, by having zero tolerance for crime, violence, indiscipline and the other scourges which seem to have taken hold in recent times. Again, I would say that the Draft National Strategic Plan is quite far-ranging but that we need to concentrate on a few things and try to get them right and then everything else would follow.

SENATOR G. P. B. NICHOLLS: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution in respect of the Draft National Strategic Plan for Barbados 2005-2025. Sir, during the course of my contribution, I want to speak primarily to Goal Two, in respect of the issue of new governance for new time.

Mr. President, I believe that notwithstanding the protestations by Senator Stuart about the Draft National

Strategic Plan and the cynical way in which he described it, I do agree that most right-thinking Barbadians would agree that the challenges we face, as a small country, in an ever-increasing volatile international environment, require strategic planning far into the future, with clearly defined goals.

Mr. President, it is a travesty that a serious debate in this country has lacked the consistency of expressions of points of view, in relation to how this Draft National Strategic Plan would enable Barbados to meet the strategic goals of a challenging future.

Sir, I am not only talking about the Democratic Labour Party. Nowhere in the media have we seen a dispassionate discussion on the strategic goals outlined in the Draft National Strategic Plan. Sir, we live in a country in which the political class is being pilloried but, at the same time, a lot of development that has gone on in this country, for the last 60-70 years, have been as a result of the inspired work of the political class of this country.

Mr. President, in the pre-independence era, prior to the riots, the goal of the colonial office was for the promotion of the conditions conducive to the cultivation of sugar cane. The issue of economic development did not arise. In fact, the role of the State, in the liberal economic thinking of the day, was that the State should not get involved in economic activity, that it should be left to the private sector. They spoke about *laissez faire*.

Sir, we look back to our early colonial origin, the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1940, was the first response of the British Government to the issue of development planning, in the context of the Caribbean. In relation to Barbados, the first development plan, in 1946, only provided for \$50 000 for the development of minor industries and \$10 000 for tourism. The rest of the money, in relation to that development plan, was associated with preparing the roads and the road infrastructure, so as to facilitate the movement of the carts that drew sugar cane to and from the factories. Sir, this is the context in which our debate about the development of our country has evolved.

Mr. President, when we got Cabinet Government in the 1950s, the focus shifted to creating a development plan for the country. I heard the contribution of the last Honourable Senator who spoke and to a large extent she is correct when she spoke to the fact that a number of these plans come, from time to time, and there is not a sufficient commitment in meeting the great ideals in these plans. I do believe there is a lot of repetition because we are now carrying on a debate as to where industry would fall, within the context of our development.

12.10 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17, 2006

Senator G.P.B. NICHOLLS: Sir, in the 1960s, Sir, Arthur Lewis, after designing a model for the industrialisation of Puerto Rico, decided that he would create a model for the industrialisation of the British West Indies. He made the point that Caribbean economies are so small that you could not have a domestic manufacturing sector that would be competitive in your own market. The only way for industry to be successful was if the industry was designed for markets abroad. Sir, we are discussing these same issues in the 21st century, when in the 1950s and 1960s, Sir Arthur Lewis made that point.

Mr. President, I also want to say that AFTER Independence, there was a great temptation to make policy shifts away from the theories espoused by Sir Arthur Lewis in the context of creating a development platform for the Caribbean. We have had, in the Caribbean, instances where policies, that have been implemented by some of our sister Caribbean countries, have failed. Sir, in small societies, anytime you have a policy failure, these countries cannot sustain the effects or the fallout from policy failure because they are so small and vulnerable to shocks that occur, so they spiral until they cannot stop.

Mr. President, it is noteworthy that the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, was a student of the great Harold J. Laskie and so was Lyndon Forbes Burnham from Guyana and Michael Manley from Jamaica. Sir, those countries, Jamaica and Guyana decided to embrace a culture of nationalisation of every sphere of economic activity. What the socialist spoke about, running the commanding heights and the corporate economy from the reins of the State. It is interesting to note that Barbados eschewed the whole principle of nationalisation of every facet of our economic activity. Sir, I say that against the background of the point which I made earlier. Every leader we have had in this country, has had an opportunity to make an input in relation to the policies that we have today that have led to the kind of development, which we now enjoy.

I am saying that Barbados made a good start in the 1960s in terms of our development by eschewing the principles of nationalisation and trying to exclude Barbados out of an international economic environment, where 300 years of history have shown that we have always been incorporated into that environment.

Mr. President, we have ventured into limited entrepreneurship. We have built the Barbados Hilton Hotel, we invested in the Barbados Flour Mill, the Pine Hill Dairy and things of that sort. We established the Barbados Development Board, which was the precursor to the modern Barbados Industrial Development Corp. We established the Barbados Tourist Board, which was the

precursor to the modern Barbados Tourism Authority. This has been the context within which our development is placed.

Mr. President, the point that I am making is that we have always had strategic planning and if this country is ranked No. 5 in terms of the developing countries of the world, it has been because of good strategic planning. What I found most interesting, Sir, is that the Democratic Labour Party in the Other Place and in here, has not even collided with any of the major concepts set out in this Strategic Plan. They have not taken the country through any of the goals, objectives or missions involved in this Strategic Plan to say where they agree or where they disagree. What we heard was a cynical assessment as to whether or not any of the objectives in this Plan could be realised because of the moral structure of the society being under threat.

Mr. President, that is a very opportunistic position to hold. I do not believe, as responsible lawmakers, that we can eschew the concept of strategic planning in where we want to go but that is a position they can hold because their leadership had said that they are not going to bring a single idea about the development of this country to the fore. Sir, that is the contrast in which the people of Barbados can clearly see between this side, the Barbados Labour Party, and the Democratic Labour Party. Mr. President, the Prime Minister is right that never in the history of this country has the contrast has been so lopsided.

Mr. President, I always say, and I tell Senator Stuart this, from time to time, that I welcome any opportunity to debate any young person in the Democratic Labour Party on the future development of this country. Sir, I want to debate and defend the policies in this Strategic Plan with any person in the Democratic Labour Party. Sir, Barbados is not perfect and no country is perfect but we have conceived of a vision in which we want to develop the country and we have carefully chosen our goals.

Mr. President, we want this country to be prosperous. This is why we have spent all the time in this last term that we have, had ensuring that the tourism industry and the offshore financial services sector, are allowed to drive development in this country. Sir, the second task that this Honourable Chamber was requested to do, was to vote for a Resolution in support of the tourism industry. I remember in that debate in 2003, I made the point that when the history of Barbados is written, the historians will have to give attention to the fact that we were undergoing the third economic recession in our post-independence era, without the prospect of Barbadians losing their jobs and their homes because of the commitments that the Government has given in relation to making sure that the industry, which we call the tourism sector, has the comfort, the capacity and the resources to lead us out of an economic recession.

Mr. President, we ran a deficit against the advice of the international lending agencies to the extent that we have said that we would give comfort to the tourism sector and, it is doing its job. What we are doing now is to create a more comprehensive and holistic development plan that would allow the other industries to play a particular role, within the context of our development.

Mr. President, I have always been of the view that the concept of economic development is a non-evolutionary concept. There is nothing called development that is piecemeal. We have always been treated to an attempt by the Democratic Labour Party, in the person like Senator Stuart, that there is a fundamental distinction between social and economic development. I do not want to repeat that argument but, suffice it to say, that the comments made by my colleague, Senator Sandra Husbands, on Wednesday, in an earlier debate, in relation to the importance of not dividing social and economic development as two separate subsectors is importance in that context.

Mr. President, Senator Stuart spoke today about the Barbados Labour Party being preoccupied with the quantitative leaps in society and not the qualitative leaps but, Sir, development is about having both quantitative and qualitative leaps in the way in which societies organise, to open up wider horizons for our people and wider horizons for human growth.

I always like to resort to the introduction by the author V.S. Naipaul in his book, "A Bend in the River", in which he traces the journey of Celine from the center of the African continent, along the river to a village where he sets up a new business. He begins that novel by saying that the world is what it is and that men who are nothing and men who allow themselves to be nothing, have no place in it. Mr. President, you could not want a more graphic assessment of our condition as a small society as that treatment given by V.S. Naipaul.

Mr. President, we have to do something about our future. I have said before and I will say again that if we do not organise ourselves to incorporate into a global economic environment, in an orderly way, that suits the development plans of our country, the global economic environment will organise our incorporation into that sphere. When we told the people in the last Election that we were looking to build an agenda for the next five years, the first years in the 21st Century, we contemplated an entry into the Free Trade Area of the Americas with expanded markets.

S58A/12:20

Sequence 14

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR G.P.B. NICHOLLS: Sir, what do we in Barbados do? Senator Stuart said that it is not likely that you are going to be a member of the United Nations Security Council. It is not likely you are going to have a big military. It is not likely that you are going to have a big central bank and your currency being used as the central monitor of the world's industrial and economic activity. In that cynical way, what the Democratic Labour Party is saying, is that this talk about Barbados being a fully developed society, is a 'puffed up' view of the Barbados Labour Party. Sir, Barbadians have to demand better from a responsible political Opposition.

Mr. President, he indicated that it would be dishonest to say that one Party is responsible for the development of Barbados and that both political Parties have contributed to Barbados' development. He spoke how the Democratic Labour Party was responsible for us coming to our state of Independence. The evidence is clear. Sir, what he cannot say is that after Independence, the people of Barbados have chosen the Barbados Labour Party to lead it more often than they have chosen the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. President, the Democratic Labour Party left office after Independence, and came back and could not finish the two terms the people gave them. Barbados has been on a plain and trajectory of economic development, where the material welfare of our people has been improving over a successively long period of time. We have had the longest period of economic growth in our country in the post-Independence era. That is a fact. There are material opportunities of people in areas of self-employment, self-employment in Barbados was not necessarily a way towards you own material advancement in this country. It was always thought that you must get a good education to get a job.

Sir, more and more people are building their own careers and economic fortresses across Barbados. We cannot be a nation that is antagonistic to development. We do not have the resources to sit outside of the global context of development, wo, we have a choice. We could either be innovative and adapt, or we can be a follower, as a nation.

Mr. President, the difference between the two is, the societies that are leading their development challenges, that are building the strategic capacity to lead a greater material improvement of people's condition, are the ones likely to reap the biggest benefits. If we are a nation of followers, we might imperfectly assimilate some of the development's abundance that abounds when there is change in the international environment, but we would pay heavily for it, because we do not create those technologies that are important for our development.

Sir, it is within that context that I wanted to speak to the defense on the cynical attack on the Government for putting together a strategic plan. I do not believe that the people of Barbados should accept the Democratic Labour Party's position in this debate. The people of Barbados should demand a greater level of debate about the strategies of how Barbados, in the mix of things, would be able to be a prosperous society, that is socially just and to be able to compete in a global environment. It is not sufficient to give short treatment to those objectives by being cynical and to pretend that the Barbados Labour Party does not know what is going on.

Sir, it was the Barbados Labour Party that created the National Commission for Law and Order, because we saw the need to address those circumstances. In an earlier debate we addressed the concerns in that report and we have committed ourselves to bringing the right legislative policies to deliver on the recommendations in that report.

Sir, to give the perception that it is only the person in Barbados Labour Party who does not have its hand on the pulse of what is going on the ground in the Barbados is. It is not true and it is not fair.

Mr. President, I now move to Goal Two, of the National Strategic Plan, which is sufficiently adumbrated at Page 47, of the Report:

"Firm craftsmen of our fate."

Sir, the objectives therein are:

"1.1 To Strengthen the Constitution.

1.2 To Enhance Popular Participation.

1.3 To Strengthen Civil Society.

1.4 To Remodel the Public Service.

1.5 To Protect our Nation.

1.6 To maintain harmonious industrial relations."

Sir, time does not permit me to go into each of the six objectives under Goal Two. I want to give some treatment, in the allotted time that remains, to the issue of the Strengthening of our Constitution.

Mr. President, the Constitution of Barbados is, perhaps, the most significant and preeminent definition of who we are as a people. It tells the story of the higher moral structure that grounds the democracy in which we live. It intones the nature of the political society. It gives the right of some people and members of that society to govern over others. It therefore gives character to the

political structure and shape of our country. It also enjoins all agents and citizens to observe the rule of law and respect the fundamental rights, privilege and freedoms of other people in our country.

Sir, the Constitution, as you know, makes provision for Parliament, Cabinet, Judiciary, public service, matters of finance and the issues of citizenship. Barbados is therefore a constitutional democracy. As a student of the law, I have always understood that Barbados is not nothing other than a constitutional democracy. Sometimes we hear that Barbados is in fact a constitutional monarchy, a concept in the law, which has no particular meaning. In fact, the concept constitutional monarchy is not derived from the Constitution of Barbados. Nobody in this country can show any reference that Barbados is a constitutional monarchy. That statement, perhaps, was intoned by Lord Justice Dicklock in the pre- Cooperative Republican Constitution of Guyana, in the John Doo case, in which he spoke of Guyana, prior to the 1970 constitutional reform, as a constitutional monarchy.

Sir, I must tell you, that the Privy Council, in recent decisions, on similar points, have so far moved away from that earlier thinking, that perhaps if John Doo and even the Ophelia King case, in Barbados, were to be decided by the present Privy Council, they would be decided differently.

Sir, the reason I am saying this, we are speaking about the strengthening of our Constitution. As I said, the Constitution is perhaps the preeminent statement as to who we are as a people. It defines the political morals in the society and it gives certain rights to our citizens, for which this Parliament cannot, by simple majority, override. On the basis of that is the majority view of the people.

In other words, the Constitution sets aside certain moral grounds and certain fundamental rights as so important, as so preeminent, of high moral status, that not even the majority view of the people can overturn persons' ability to be afforded those rights.

12.30 p.m.

Sequence 15

Friday, November 17, 2006

Senate 58A, sequence 16, 12.20 p.m.

Senator G.P.B. NICHOLLS: We know who what they are, and that is what the Constitution of Barbados, like most of the other Constitutions in the Commonwealth countries, would say.

We also hear, Sir, that Barbados has a Westminster style system of Government, and that might be true on the

face of it. A number of our institutions in the context of our system of Governance, derive their origins from the Westminster style institution. Sir, there are three fundamental issues that make Barbados' Constitutional arrangements different from that of Britain. If we are speaking about strengthening our Constitution, as part of our National Strategic Plan, it is time that we start to speak to these issues, as if we have been removed from the Colonial scaffold by 40 years.

Sir, the first is that we have a written Constitution, as I said before, which sets out the structure, nature and character of the political society that we live in. The British Constitution is unwritten.

The second fundamental point I want to make, Sir, is that the Constitution in Barbados is supreme. This Parliament must do what the Constitution says, and not the other way around.

Sir, in England, Parliament is supreme, so they can change the Constitution at any time, without reference to the Constitution.

Sir, I will give an example. In England, after the second World War, there was a debate as to whether or not, companies that suffered as a result of the destruction of their property during the war, should be compensated by the Crown.

The courts held that a citizen's fundamental right to protection of property should be upheld, to compensate those companies, which suffered as a result of the war. The Burma Oil Company was one of the companies, which brought an action against the Crown. The House of Lords, the highest court in England, held that they should be so compensated.

Sir, it was not the view of the Government of the day that the compensation should be paid, so what the Government did, was to pass the War Damages Act in 1940, so as to negate the effect of the decision of the House of Lords, retroactively. Therefore, no person who brought an action in the courts of law could get a remedy. Sir, that was a fundamental distinction, in terms of the nature and structure of our constitutional arrangements, in Barbados.

Mr. President, this Parliament cannot retroactively deny the right of any citizen to constitutional redress, and that is a fundamental distinction that has to be made. Our Constitution, Sir, is supreme in the context of the Commonwealth Caribbean.

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

Senator G.P.B. NICHOLLS: Sir, I know that you are being fair to me, but I must tell you that I feel robbed of some time. Perhaps, another opportunity would arise.

Sir, another fundamental issue that is intoned in our Constitution, as I said before, is the Chapter on the fundamental rights of the citizens. This is not a feature of British constitutional arrangements.

In fact, only in 1998, did the British Parliament say that they are going to incorporate the European Convention of Human Rights, by passing the Human Rights Act in 1998. Our Human Rights provisions have been enshrined and intoned in our Constitution since 1966.

Sir, in the last two minutes that are available to me, I think it would be remiss of me, if I were not to make a passing comment, on the recent decision in the Caribbean Court of Justice. I had the distinction of being a Member of this Honourable Chamber, when we abolished the Privy Council in Barbados.

Sir, the Caribbean Court of Justice, in my view, has rightly held that the local Mercy Committee, must uphold the process of the citizens' fundamental right to the protection of law and, therefore, its powers in relation to the decisions that it make are justiciable, and they are reviewable by the courts, if the courts are to deal with the issue of whether or not there is a breach of the rules of procedural fairness and justice.

Therefore, the ouster in the Constitution, which says that you cannot inquire into the actions of the Governor-General, in relation to the advice he receives from the local Privy Councils are not reviewable, was rightly decided, and a number of other interesting issues in that case, which time does not permit me to go into.

Mr. President, I support this Resolution and I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Marville.

Senator R.O. MARVILLE: Mr. President, I am indeed grateful to be allowed a few minutes to offer my views on the Barbados Strategic Plan for the years 2005 to 2025. I appreciate that a great deal of work has been done on this document. It is a considerable document, excellent within its limitations.

I assure you, Sir, that it is possible to go through more than one or two goals in 20 minutes. I will try to do them all, but briefly.

Goal One, talks about cultural transformation. It is quite clear that culture is a total sum of everything we do, and how we do it. It ranges from food to dance to

technology, et cetera. This is a task that is not doable only by Government. There has to be an engagement of the society in the transformation, and the engagement must be serious and real. I must say that we need to see a change of attitudes in Barbados, to affect the type of cultural transformation that is envisaged.

Goal Two is a fully-Barbadianised Constitution. Here I have to deal with one of our shortcomings. We have had what is essentially a colonised Constitution in some ways. We have conflicting elements in the Constitution because the new Constitution envisioned freedoms that were not necessarily envisioned in the old one, which was more concerned about protecting certain segments of the community, et cetera.

I am happy at the notion that we could have this total transformation of the legal system in 25 years, but I am worried about the fact that we have not done anything in the last 40 years. We are very good at expressing ideals, but rather poor at implementation. A lot of the changes recommended were made in the Forde Commission, which had a number of very good minds, I should say, including my colleague Sir John, Senator Linton, and the Honourable Oliver Jackman, whom I consider to have been one of my mentors.

The recommendations are straightforward. We have not done anything in eight years and I am a little worried that we propose to do something in the next 19 years. We have a habit of saying the right thing but not getting to it.

Goal Three is about putting people at the heart of the development process. Again, we have very admirable goals there. I would like to see what we propose in specific terms. In fact, I have a slight difficulty with a strategic plan of 25 years, not because it represents any odd length of time, but because both technology and other things are changing so rapidly, that we may have to alter those plans, rather drastically over time.

Goal Four: I am pleased about what is said about the environment and making the environment better but, I think, we have to do some fundamental changes, that we have not looked at, at all. We have not looked at one of the most important elements in this society, and that is, the reuse of garbage. We have always thought of garbage as something to be disposed of, and we need, if we are going to protect the environment, to reuse it. This is an extremely small vulnerable country and if we do not do that much of the rest of what we are talking about, is not going to make a not of sense.

Goal Five: I think we have the same problem in Goal Five, as we have in Goal three. It is all good like mother's but I do not know that we have a specific set of plans in place to do it.

Goal Six: Excellent. I have always been worried, in fact, about the way we treated our rather unique name. I am not sure for instance that it is not patentable as a name. If Bordeaux or Champagne is, there ought to be some method of getting the notion of Barbados out there so that it is Barbados.

I should explain some things. There are Barbados jeans made in Chile. There are Barbados solariums in Germany. There is a Barbados-style hot sauce coming out of Costa Rica. You could go on endlessly.

Senate 58A, sequence 16, 12:40:14

Friday, November 17, 2006

Senator R. O. MARVILLE: We obviously have a name that is attractive, the question is how do we brand it, not only to represent what we considered our achievements, but to exclude other people from using it gratuitously. This is a very great concern to me.

Mr. President, I wish to drift away from the question of the goals as such and deal with a few things that I think are necessary. On pages 21 to 24 of the document, we detail very carefully our weaknesses and threats. This is done in good business fashion. I would like- this has nothing to do with the document, this has to do with the fallout - to see us deal with these things realistically in plans that make it possible to deal with them. I think a lot of what we say is good but it is not necessarily hard enough. We are also not always been very honest with ourselves. I think self-criticism is terribly important if you need to understand who you are and to improve yourself.

Mr. President, we talk glibly about a 99.7 literacy rate. Anybody who is honest with himself or herself knows that is not a reality anywhere. Mr. President, we talk about literacy without defining it. If we are talking about functional literacy, how is it defined? Mr. President, I will listen to that.

Mr. President, if we are talking about functional literacy, Barbados, like everywhere else, would probably be 80 per cent or less. That is a very interesting theory. It is not a theory because when we attempted first to look at functional literacy, the result was really quite disastrous, so we left the idea and maintained this thing.

Mr. President, I notice too that in Table 1.2 we quote a number of UN Development Index statistics, but for 1993 and 1994 we have NA for our position in the Human Development Index. I am not sure whether NA means not applicable or not available. I think it means not available, but if the other figures were available, I wonder why this one is not. Mr. President, the fact is that in 1994 we were 21st on the UN Development Index, just below Luxemburg

and just above Italy. Greece, Portugal and Spain were below that and we were the number one developing country without any doubt at all. Now in 2005, the latest statistics which are available, we are at number 30, Singapore has taken our place and Cyprus is above us.

Mr. President, Senator Griffith made an important point about being vulnerable as a small economy, meaning a small State with a small number of people. I am not sure how one treats Singapore but Singapore is certainly a small place, it is about 38 square miles larger than Barbados but it treated planning differently because not only did they come up with plans but they implemented them.

Mr. President, Singapore's most recent Strategic Plan is of some interest to us, in that Singapore has achieved, starting at a lower level than we were in the 1960s, a level of education and skills that were so significant that they could compete with all of the large countries because they had set out exactly where they were going and what areas they would compete in, and so on.

In fact, there was a very interesting situation once when Singapore was approached about being a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. They replied diplomatically, but their answer was to the effect that the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development was a very expensive club and they did not know too much about development, which is a very interesting point.

As regard the second point he made about small countries, I would like to mention Iceland, a country that is number one or two in the Human Development Index which, in terms of living space, is the same size of Barbados and with the same size population. Of course, there are several differences. Iceland has done exactly the opposite of what most people think they should do and maintained their position. Unlike the other European languages they did not make Roman or Greek forms to their words, they have an indigenous language which has not changed. In other words, where Norwegian or Swedish or Danish has become modernised, Icelandic has become sort of stylise, old Iceland. If you are talking about a country that has branded itself, Iceland is that country and it is an extremely successful country.

Mr. President, there are other countries that are small like us and with the same sort of mixes of population, for example, Mauritius. Mauritius too have decided on specific things which they move at and move well at. They decided on a form of tourism which was based on the monies from the sugar industry which has become very successful. They had a policy of air transportation which says they are going to have an airline because that is going to determine the price of flights between Mauritius and elsewhere. They have decided that even if they do not take a serious

percentage of the traffic, they are going to control prices. They also decided that they wanted to go into an industry which was completely different from anything that they had ever done before, and they said woollen garments. They got wool from Scotland, made woollen garments and became the largest external exporter of woollen garments to the European Union. I do not know what the situation is now since China has taken over just about any specialised area. However, Mauritius did this very effectively and maintained it for more than a decade.

Mr. President, there are specifics like that, that I would like to see. I cannot knock Barbados, this is my place. Mr. President, a comment was made about me in another incarnation, which is, that when I talk about Barbados, I talk about it with pride. We have done well. Whatever standards you want to evoke, in 40 years we have done well, but the few good, if I may copy an advertisement, is not good enough, there is always better. I think that is where we should be.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR the Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 1.50 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 1.50 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

Senate 58A Sequence 17

12.50 p.m.

Friday, November 17, 2006

RESUMPTION

MR. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Senator SENATOR The Very Reverend H. CRICHLAW:

SENATOR The Very Reverend H. CRICHLAW: Mr. President, I rise to speak on the Draft National Strategic Plan of Barbados 2005-2025: Global Excellence, Barbadian Traditions.

Mr. President, I find this document reads like a Party political Manifesto. I say this because in the acknowledgments, I did not see any contributions coming from the Opposition. I do not know whether the Opposition was invited to contribute to it and did not, or whether they were not invited at all. I feel that if it is a National Strategic Plan, then I think that the Opposition should have been

invited to contribute to it, but the Honourable Leader of Government Business would be able to say if this is so or not.

Mr. President, I find in the document there are a lot of promises that can never be fulfilled. I know some of the Honourable Senators would have already spoken on this but I think that we have heard, over the years, of successive Governments, of promises that have never been fulfilled. Therefore, when one reads this document, one gets the impression that these are lovely words, beautifully written but as to the possibility of the policies being implemented, that is a very different matter.

Mr. President, the assumption behind this document is that the present Party in office would be there in 20 years' time, hence the Honourable Leader of Government Business says these hopes would be realised, in 20 years' time. Sir, I am not so sure whether the Honourable Leader of Government Business means that whichever Party is in power, in 20 years' time, that these hopes would be fulfilled. I would like to think so but I fear that this perhaps is not meant to be.

Mr. President, no group of serious leaders in a democratic society, who know anything about human nature, would speak in such authoritative terms, when they say that these promises will be fulfilled. To say this is to say that it will be fulfilled because they will be here and they will see that those promises are fulfilled. Sir, people change.

Mr. President, the Draft National Strategic Plan is produced by civil servants, for civil servants, in my view. Civil servants have been paid to do this and have done it quite well. The language is unmistakably that of the civil service. From time to time, they have included strange words like "radical" or "revolutionary" but also saw to it that these words were balanced with words such as "moral", "ethical values" and "Barbadian traditions".

Mr. President, this country needs inspired leaders. It needs a leadership that operates from upfront and not from behind. This need for leadership by example, is stressed throughout the Law and Order Report. We must remember that Report states that Cabinet has to take a lead in almost all of its recommendations because our people are still at the stage where they expect this kind of leadership, that of leading being by example.

Mr. President, you may say that it should not be, that they should be independent of leadership but even in private businesses, the leaders are very important. Sir, we have had very good economic leadership that has made us proud in the region and beyond. I do not think anyone could gainsay that, but economic leadership is not enough. Sir, most people in Barbados do not understand economic

matters at the level of Government. They understand it at the level of the individual and the family. We are not saying that economic prosperity is not important. It is very important but there is a lot more to development than the economic side.

Mr. President, I am very pleased to see that, in recent weeks, the leadership has been calling for attention to be paid to our moral and spiritual aspects of our culture, et cetera, but there has been too heavy a dose of economic policy, in my view, and this is not being understood at the level of the family and the individual.

Mr. President, Barbados needs people who love Barbados. Very few people in this country have a deep love for Barbados. They love themselves and their families, to a large extent. Our people love what they can get out of the Government of Barbados. Not only is this so with the lower income groups, it is also so with private enterprise. The private sector wants to get as much as it can, whatever it is entitled to, out of Government. I want to say this is fair enough but that Barbados is not their primary concern. The primary concern would be the business, the family or that individual.

I think that Barbados should have a solid group of people, who are willing to sacrifice on its behalf. This love for Barbados must be nourished in our schools, college and university. There, they must set their houses or schools before their individual interest or desires. Next, they must learn to put the school before their houses or self. Finally, they must put the nation or its national interest before their school. They must be trained to love their nation above every other group and to sacrifice for it.

Mr. President, Goal Two of the Draft National Strategic Plan: New Governance For New Times, speaks to 'Barbadianising' the Constitution; that is, the Head of State is to be a Barbadian, but it does not say whether the Head of State is going to be a ceremonial one or an executive one.

2.00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17, 2006

(EDITED)

SENATOR the Very Reverend H.E. CRICHLLOW: but it does not say whether the Head of State is going to be a ceremonial one or an executive one. It says a republican form of Government in the Strategic Plan but is the Head of State going to be the equivalent of the present Governor-General or is the Prime Minister going to be the Head of State. I think that people would want to know before they commit themselves to this barbadianising of the Constitution. Sir, then we were told about the Caribbean

Court of Justice so we will have to speak, not just in terms of Barbados but in terms of the Caribbean region.

Mr. President, I am not going to comment on any other goals. The entire document is very repetitive and, in my view, not progressive in character. Most of what is recommended, we have been trying to improve for a long time and we have not succeeded. Sir, if 20 years would make any difference, if we continue in the same way for 20 years? Over the years, we have had many reports on many important and fundamental issues. Much time has been spent by many busy people, who sacrificed time they could have spent with their families in order to contribute to the national welfare and there are many in this Chamber, who have done so.

Mr. President, about 30 years ago, a commission on which I sat, recommended universal nursery school education in order to repair the damage, which was done to our pre-primary school pupils and it has only been implemented a few years ago, that is to say, it took over 20 years before we could get the pre-school nursery section established throughout the island. We saw that between two years and five years, our children, learnt nothing or were subjected to negative influences.

Sir, many of them did not have parents who could read to them or would read to them and all that was left undeveloped. Then, when they went to the primary school, many of the head teachers selected the brightest of those coming into Infants A and prepared them for the Common Entrance in six years time and the others were not treated with the kind of urgency or importance which one would expect. Of course, we can see why this is so because a head teacher wants to see his or her school recognised and would want to get as many children into the better schools - I hate to say that, but that is what it is. I hope one day that we would have a system where all the schools would be good and our children would be able to go to any of them. Sir, by that time, most of the teachers would be qualified and also qualified in education as well but it is still a little way off. Sir, we have it now at the secondary school stage. This is why I have always contended in this Chamber that we can now distribute the good material throughout the 22 schools and not have the pecking order that we do.

I think that we are not getting the most out of all the money we spend on secondary education, if we put all the bright children together and all the weak ones together. Sir, that has to be said a few more years before it could happen because, in Barbados, you have to say a thing for 20 years or 30 years before it becomes a reality, that is our Barbadian tradition. I hope that we could do something about it.

Mr. President, I think the same fate is in store for the Report of the Law and Order Commission because of its

very insightful recommendations, which go to the heart of our social problems and, also offers tactical and realistic solutions to those very difficult problems. I fear that this Report will just sit on a shelf. I was glad to hear from Senator Nicholls that it is being acted on and that legislation is being drafted to include some of the recommendations and that is very good for Barbados because we have a way of just putting these Reports away, which does not seem to be sensible. I think that the Report of the Law and Order Commission would go a long way to solving the many social problems in our society but we have to have the courage and persistence to stick with it and see that the law is observed. It is not good having a lot of laws, which are not enforced. It is better to have a few laws that you can enforce than a lot of laws, that are not enforceable because you do not have the number of people to enforce them.

Mr. President, 20 years will go very quickly, as the last 20 years have gone and we shall have the same human weaknesses then, in 20 years time, as we have now.

I do not think that we should raise the hopes of our people to that degree, when we know that they are not capable of being fulfilled. Sir, if you say that the next 20 years that we will have no crime, that is not possible.

Asides.

SENATOR the Very Reverend H.E. CRICHLAW: Sir, I know it does not say that but it says that we will have 100 per cent of this, that and so on in 20 years time. Mr. President, as long as the human being exists, there will be crime, war, disease and all the things that we do not like. I think people should be given practical hopes that could be realised.

S58A/14:10

Sequence 20

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR the Very Rev. H.E. CRICHLAW: We do not have to be the best in the world in every thing. Little Barbados tends to feel that it has to be the best in the world, and on top of the world. We are leading the world, that is why we speak of all the other places as being down. You go down to England, Canada, et, cetera, because little Barbados is there resting on top of the world.

Mr. President, we have changed that . We are beginning to think that little Barbados must be among the developed countries of the world. Sir, people who live in those developed countries, when they come here, they would prefer to live here rather than in those developed countries. Barbadians should be made to understand that.

Sir, we want a society in which social justice is practised. This is not a new thing. Countries, five thousand years old and older, are striving for social justice. If you want to read a Book of the Bible about social justice, the Book of the Prophet Amos, is that book, that was written almost 2 700 years ago. All these are not new, and we must not give people the impression that in twenty years time, Barbados will achieve that sort of status. Sir, it would be a pity, because if we did achieve that, what would happen after that? There will never be a time when our society will achieve fully developed persons. Notice I said fully developed persons, because if we are talking about development, we cannot only talk about roads, airports, seaports, buildings and so on. A highly-developed society must train highly-developed persons. The person is worth more than anything.

Sir, we have to speak with greater humility, I think, when we say that Barbados, by 2025, will be a socially developed society. I cannot see us getting rid of litter in twenty years time. We have tried for much longer and we have not been rid of it yet. Sir, in terms of social development, you will want people to think of each other in kind terms and speak about each other like that. Sir, if you can imagine the time when Barbadians will stop gossiping, then I cannot.

Mr. President, there will never be a time when our society will achieve fully developed persons, using all their potential. The opportunities may be there. I think we should supply the opportunities for people to develop, but if we are still a democratic society, we cannot make them use the opportunities. If the opportunities are there, we can encourage them to develop themselves.

Mr. President, in all conscience, I cannot fully support this Resolution, but I will not oppose it either. In any case, we were asked merely to note it. In that respect, I support the Resolution. I know that a lot of work has gone into it, but I really think that we should not make promises to people that we know full well cannot be realised. Sir, not because we do not have the material resources to provide these opportunities, even if we did have those resources, we still cannot be sure that all of our people will want to use those opportunities, because they have free will.

Thank you very much.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Grant.

SENATOR R.W. GRANT: Mr. President, I wish to join with other Honourable Senators, on this side, in giving support to this Resolution, where we are asked to note the draft National Strategic Plan of Barbados 2005-2025: Global Excellence, Barbadian Traditions.

Sir, it is my view that this document provides for us a road map towards achieving the objective, which is clearly stated and defined in the Vision Statement for Barbados to be a fully developed society, that is prosperous, socially just and globally competitive.

Mr. President, I believe that a country will always be confronted with challenges, but the issue must not be whether there are challenges which we must confront, but how as a country we are able to respond to those challenges and as a country we are able, having confronted those challenges, to learn from the experience and to move on.

I believe that Barbadians can be proud of our growth and development over the last forty years. Our country has not been blessed with an abundance of natural resources; our country has not been blessed with a vast land mass, but we have been able as a small country, with limited resources, to continually improve our standard of living. Sir, do you know why that is? We have been able to seize opportunities. We have been able, as a people, to believe in ourselves.

Sir, forty years ago, when Barbados became independent, the global environment was significantly different to how it is today. Forty years ago, when Barbados became independent, the Cold War existed. Indeed, the Cold War defined the global economy. The United States of America and United Kingdom provided significant assistance to small developing countries, which shared a political ideology similar to theirs. Forty years ago, the United States of America and her allied partners were prepared to focus significantly on assisting small countries such as Barbados.

14.20 p.m.

Sequence 21

Friday, November 17, 2006

Senate 58A, sequence 22, 2.40 p.m.

Senator R.W. GRANT: Sir, with the end of the Cold War, the enthusiasm to provide support and financial assistance to small countries has diminished. We exist now in a world, where countries like Barbados have to operate in a global environment with large countries, which have an abundance of resources, where we no longer have access to concessionary financing, where we, as a people, have now to truly achieve, based on our own ability to be innovative, and take full advantage of all of the opportunities that exist, while confronting those challenges that we must confront.

Sir, this National Strategic Plan, in my view, looks at aspects of development in a much broader context, than

were ever looked at before, in a development plan. One would not expect a national strategic plan to speak with specific detail, on every aspect of that plan. It provides, in a broad and general way, how as a country we must move forward, in order to ensure we are able to achieve the overall objective that we have for our Nation. It requires, if we are going to achieve the successes that we have identified, that all Barbadians must get abroad.

Sir, this Strategic Plan was developed, not by this Government simply sitting with our civil servant and asking that the National Strategic Plan be drafted. Sir, at page 10 of the document, it speaks to the fact the formulation of the National Strategic Plan has benefited from the collective effort of the public sector, the private sector, labour and civil society. It also states that representatives of the private sector, labour and civil society review the Plan, in its draft form.

Sir, let me just say to this Chamber that those entities do not review manifestoes. This document is not like a manifesto. This National Strategic Plan, charts for Barbados, a course we must follow, if we are truly to achieve the vision as provided for, in this document.

I must tell you, Sir, that when I listened to the last speaker, I could not but reflect on a biblical phrase: "Can any good come out of Nazareth?" Barbadians have clearly demonstrated, over the last 40 years, that we are competent and capable of using our limited resources to take this country forward, and to facilitate growth and development.

Mr. President, the mechanisms that we used in the past, we cannot use those mechanisms today. We cannot view the world today, in the same way as we viewed the world in the past. Therefore, it requires that as a country, we find new, imaginative and innovative ways to take Barbados forward.

Sir, over the last 40 years, we would have seen significant reductions in trade barriers. Continually, there have been negotiations to remove barriers to trade.

Indeed, we are moving towards a politically borderless world. We have seen advances in technology, which have resulted in lower communication and transportation cost, and that has facilitated the expansion of global trade.

We have been seeing, Sir, a shift in the global economic strength of countries, new industrialized countries in Latin America and Asia are gaining greater global significance and importance. Therefore, if we are to continue to be successful, we must respond to the changing economic, social and environmental realities.

Sir, we live in a more interdependent world. This document makes reference to the fact that we would have moved from being dictated by the colonial master, to becoming an independent Nation, and the necessity now to move even further.

Sir, page 29 of this document speaks to two broad challenges. It speaks to:

- Unleashing the full potential of its people, and securing the wholehearted commitment of all generations, classes and races to building a prosperous, peaceful and inclusive Barbados."

The other broad challenge, Sir:

- Re-positioning Barbados competitively, and in a way that preserves our Barbadian identity, in the new global economy."

Mr. President, we must hold on to those aspects of being Barbadian, which have been good, positive and able to allow us to achieve what we have thus far, and have relevance in the future, but that alone will not do it. Therefore, this National Strategic Plan is a very important document.

Senate 58A, sequence 22, 14:40:14

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Mr. President, I have here the 1993-2000 Development Plan, which I believe is a document of this Chamber, which states: "Prosperity Through Increase Productivity". Mr. President, I want to ask this simple question: If one was to compare that Development Plan with this National Strategic Plan, could one honestly say that these two documents are essentially the same thing? Mr. President, I say to you no, it is not so.

Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to encourage all Barbadians to get a copy of this National Strategic Plan and read it because no matter how good the Plan is, no matter what programmes may be identified and no matter what innovative things might be highlighted, at the end of the day all Barbadians have to buy in to this National Strategic Plan in order to ensure its success.

Therefore, every Barbadian, whether one is a manager, a maid, a doctor or a carpenter, or whether one is black or white, or Hindu or Muslim, has a role to play in achieving the vision that we have set by 2025 because the National Strategic Plan provides for strategic development where there are different and competing interests. Sir, there is a role for labour, there is a role for the private sector and there is a role for the non-governmental organisations because there is a role for all Barbadians to play.

Sir, those who come to our shores and wish to join us on our crusade must accept our basic principles. There must be respect for workers representatives because we will achieve the successes that we have highlighted by everyone playing his or her part and everyone must give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay.

Sir, we have to let go of the shackles of classism where they exist. Where prejudice exists, we have to ensure that it is removed. Sir, that does not exist in our society in a significant or in a large way, but we have to deal with all of the negatives. If we are truly going to be successful, we have to deal with all of the challenges. We have a framework which allows us to increase our productivity and to become more efficient in our daily task.

Sir, as I encourage all Barbadians to get on board and to fully participate, because the success depends on us, and as I ask Barbadians to remove any shackles that exist, I remember the words of Martin Luther King in his famous mountain top speech, where some people said he had a premonition of his death. Sir, he said that with this faith we will be able to achieve this new day where all God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, would be able to join hands and sing with the Negroes in the spiritual, "Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we are free at last".

Sir, I referenced that because not only is it necessary for all of us to get on board but we have to believe that we can achieve what we have in this National Strategic Plan. No matter how ambitious any of us may consider the objectives to be, we have to believe that we can achieve them because that is where it starts.

Sir, I remember the motto of my Alma Mater, "We can because we think we can", and that is very important.

Asides.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Mr. President, I am tempted...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not unfamiliar with the quotation.

Asides.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: I am not sure that I remember it accurately, so as you would know; when in doubt, don't.

Mr. President, the Honourable Leader of Government Business made reference to some of things we are doing because we have already started to take the country along this path. Transformation is taking place in agriculture, we are utilising the information and

communication technology, we are starting to focus on aspects of tourism that we would not have been focussing on in the past, we are moving away from just sun, sea and sand and we are seeking, as identified in this document, to branding Barbados globally.

Mr. President, I believe that this is a very good document. I believe that as we strive for excellence and as we strive to maintain our Barbadian traditions we will be able to create a global brand of Barbados where persons recognised the quality of service, the quality of infrastructure and the quality of the institutions which we have.

Sir, sometimes when you talk about bleach, you remember the word Clorox, when you talk about vacuum cleaners, you remember the word Hoover, and when you talk about tissue, you remember Kleenex. Mr. President, when you speak of global excellence, once we buy into this National Strategic Plan, you will think of Barbados.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

Senate 58A Sequence 23

1.50 p.m.

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR the Hon. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, it is really a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to speak on the Draft National Strategic Plan of Barbados 2005-2025. Of course, I would like to start by congratulating all of the individuals who have participated in the Draft National Strategic Plan, including civil servants but of course not limited to civil servants. There were other members of the Barbados community, who participated in developing the Draft National Strategic Plan, and those individuals have to be commended.

Mr. President, I believe that you would also know that the Draft National Strategic Plan was put out for comment by all Barbadians and that there were series of Townm Hall meetings that were held, so that the entire population has the opportunity to comment on the Draft National Strategic Plan. I believe that is important.

We, of course, recognise that Barbados faces several challenges and the Draft National Strategic Plan makes no attempt, whatsoever, to hide those challenges. There are a number of issues that Honourable Members raised in this Honourable Chamber that confront Barbados and they speak of them as though they have not been identified in the Draft National Strategic Plan. Sir, it would not be a proper Draft National Strategic Plan if we had not identified the opportunities, strengths, weaknesses and threats which face Barbados. This is usually referred to as a

SWAT analysis and is used in the private sector and by individuals.

Mr. President, it is clear that there are some individuals who do not quite understand how you approach strategic planning and therefore do not quite understand that you have to set goals for yourself and for your country as well, in order for the plan, to be effective.

Mr. President, if we are going to sit here and say that we are not going to achieve anything, we might as well shut up shop. I cannot imagine what point it would be to our existence if we believe that we could change nothing and that nothing could ever be changed; that we would always be the way we are; that no improvements could be made. In my view, this is completely counter to what we understand, certainly from any kind of religious perspective or from any nation-building perspective.

These are not the dark, dire days, when, for example, Barbados was a slave community, where, at that point in time, individuals had no idea that their children's, great grandchildren could be sitting in the Barbados House of Assembly, and could be making a contribution. Therefore, for any of us to take the view that we cannot be better than we are now, is a betrayal of all those who went before us for generations, who could not. I do not even know if they could see that any of us could be here at this point in time, sitting around this table and yet they work and worked hard to ensure that even though they could not see what it would be, that we are here today.

Therefore, it is our duty and responsibility to continue to plan, for Barbados and for future generations of Barbadians.

Mr. President, we would be letting down this country if we did not make plans for the generations to come, that is what all societies are required to do. Sir, I find it strange that there would be individuals, who would believe that we are being too ambitious.

Sir, we have set out in the Draft National Strategic Plan that there are certain weaknesses that we have; that Barbados is vulnerable from the perspective of natural disasters; exposures to hurricanes, et cetera; that we suffer from a lack of economies of scale, because of our small size. We note that there is a high incidence of monopolistic and oligopolistic behaviour in our domestic markets. We admit it. It is here written. It is stated in such a way that we recognise these are the circumstances in which we live. We are not seeking to blame any one person or the other because of the circumstances but we identified our weaknesses and move on from there.

We recognise that Public Sector Reform is important and that the Public Sector bureaucracy sometimes acts as a

hindrance. We recognise that in some instances there is limited capacity in the Public Sector; that we have a weak entrepreneurial culture and all of this relates to the fact that we have so many monopolies in Barbados, which does not lend scope for new entrants into the market and therefore this situation has caused us to produce a society where people have lost their entrepreneurial instincts.

Research development and innovation is also lacking. We also have a weak management tradition; poor maintenance of infrastructure; a loss of competitiveness; lack of food security; and also the fact that Barbados has an ageing population, with almost zero per cent growth. These are all of our weaknesses that we have identified and all of the threats that are facing us.

Mr. President, there are some of us who speak as though these matters are peculiar to Barbados, well, they are not. In 2000, a small States Initiative was taken in the Commonwealth and also with the World Bank to make an assessment as to whether or not it was a fact that small States suffer certainly difficulties that larger States do not. The conclusion that this study came to was an affirmative conclusion because there was the perception... In fact, I recall there was a statement which said that essentially, you were dealing with small States and therefore you were dealing with small problems.

Mr. President, there was a current view that small States should be able to compete exactly in the same way as larger States, not taking into account that size was an issue. Sir, I would never be one to argue that because we are small that we cannot be competitive but we have to understand that there are certain constraints.

Sir, many of us who work in the international community, recognise that often when we have to work in the international community and you sit across the table from a country like that of the United States of America.. The United States of America does not treat you any differently than if they were involved in negotiations with France or Australia. America does not treat you differently but you know that resources are limited.

Mr. President, in a country like Barbados you might have one official who deals with service, who is an expert in services but when you go to the United States of America, they have an entire department, centrally, in Washington, that does not have anything to do with the other departments they might have in other places. Sir, those are some of the things that we have to recognise realistically in Barbados.

I was talking about the Commonwealth World Bank Study, and it was done with respect to all small States and not with respect to Barbados only but you would see that the issues raised there, were similar; remoteness and

insularity, where many of the small States were of a significant distance away from major markets.

2.50 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17, 2006

(EDITED)

SENATOR the Hon. Miss LYNETTE EASTMOND: Therefore, transportation costs were always an issue and susceptibility to natural disasters, earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanoes. This is the same situation you have in Barbados and in the Caribbean but, we also have it in the Pacific and in other places where small states exist, limited institutional capacity.

Mr. President, it is true that the civil service could be more efficient. I would never say that they cannot be more efficient. I worked in the Civil Service as a civil servant and I know that you have to work hard. I was being required to represent Barbados and CARICOM at the highest level in matters of trade and still I had to represent Barbados and CARICOM on matter of finance. I also had to do it with respect to moneylaundering issues and when you went to face other countries, they had different experts, you did not meet the same person but they were meeting the same person all the time. I continue to hear representation about what Government should be doing. When you talk about Government doing things, you are talking about the civil servants and, how many things can you do, how many areas of expertise can you develop well. I commend the individuals, who take on this responsibility and execute it so well.

Mr. President, sometimes we have to pat ourselves on the back when we go out into the international community, people recognise that there is a great difference between how the Barbados civil servants perform and how others perform and they commend us for. I am going to hide it because it is a fact. I am one of those people who were commended and I am going to hide it because it is a fact.

Mr. President, when we have difficulty with understanding how we can succeed, I wonder about it. Sir, sometimes I wonder if we are not interfacing properly with the people who are going out there getting things done because people are not afraid as they were in the past. Young people, 18 years old are getting on a plane, going to New York, doing things, setting up businesses and coming back here as if it is the most natural thing in the world to do. I think we have to recognise that this is the generation of people you are dealing with and that you are not dealing with a population that is afraid. Mr. President, we are not afraid to set goals for ourselves and our country because we know that we can meet them.

Mr. President, the Commonwealth World Bank Report also recognises that even by 2005, there were still severe difficulties for small states, Barbados, CARICOM and all of those in the Pacific and elsewhere. There were problems with the fact that the preferential arrangements that you had with other countries were eroded almost within the twinkling of an eye, very quickly. Sir, I never imagined that the sugar industry in St. Kitts would disappear almost overnight. You did not expect that they banana industry would change so dramatically, almost overnight. You did not expect these things but it happened to our small countries and we had to be able to respond to them.

Mr. President, Barbados is engaged in a process now where it is seeking to transform the sugar industry into a sugar cane industry. Sir, everybody around the world is commending Barbados for having the foresight to know that changes would be needed, that we have gone ahead and started to make those changes. Why can we not say it is a good thing but let us improve in another place. I really think that in terms of trying to give the public the impression that everything is so bad in Barbados, it is much too negative, that we should refrain from it and be more honest and open with members of the public.

Mr. President, as far as Barbados identifying what are its weaknesses, my point is that when the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat did their study, they recognised that other small states faced these difficulties as well so, it is not just Barbados. Sir, we admit them in the Strategic Plan, they are written out and we are seeking to address them. There are other statements, which were made about the Strategic Plan in terms of goal setting from individual perspectives and I will give an example.

Mr. President, many young people come to talk to me about what they should do in the future and I ask them this question: If I could facilitate you in doing anything in the world that you wanted to do, what would it be? Sir, that is always a good place to start because on the last occasion when I was speaking to a young lady, I forgot to ask her that question and, if we spoke for one hour, we spent 45 minutes, in effect, talking about what she would do, taking into account the constraints which she faced. When almost at the end of the conversation, I asked her if she could do anything that she wanted to do, what would it be, it was vastly different from what we spent 45 minutes talking about.

Mr. Speaker, this is what the Strategic Plan is about. It is about setting a vision for yourself and putting yourself on a path, where you can achieve it. Sir, you always have to start from the point, where exactly is it, that you want to be, even if an individual says to you that it is going to be difficult to do that, or how could you expect to want to do that.

Mr. President, for example, there are individuals, who wanted to go, live and work in Ghana and, there are in Ghana living and working. When they were here in little Barbados, people would ask them how they expect to go to Ghana and how they would get there because they did not even have the plane fare. Sir, if you set yourself a goal, then you can work towards it but if you do not know what is your goal, you cannot put things in train, in order to reach that particular goal. Sir, that is what the Strategic Plan is about and, you have to be high-minded and visionary.

Mr. President, some times I think that we forget that we are human beings, made in the image of God, supposedly only a little lower than the angels but yet, we feel that in terms of our thinking that it cannot be high-minded, that we are being unrealistic. Sir, if we try to set a vision that is high-minded and we try always to say that if, up to now, we cannot stop people from littering, how are you going to stop them from doing so in 19 years time. I believe that if we put the right strategies in place that, yes, we can get it done. Why would we believe that we go to other countries and do not see the kind of litter that we see in Barbados and, for some reason, we feel that they can get it done but that we cannot get it done. Are we somehow lower than them, that we would set our sights so low?

Mr. President, I am very concerned that in 2006, that some of us have that type of attitude about what we feel we can achieve in Barbados. I want to give some kind of perspective as to where we will go, after looking at the National Strategic Plan and after it has been approved. Sir, already the Ministry of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development, is working on a National Project for Science and Technology. You will not see that in here. You are not going to see the Ministry's National Policy for Science and Technology. If you put every single policy in this document, we would not be able to bring it in here. You are not going to see a detailed Strategic Plan for agriculture or tourism, it is not going to be in here.

Mr. President, this is a National Strategic Plan, which gives you an overview. Sir, with respect to the Ministry of Commerce, we are working on our plan for the development of Science and Technology and, are working on our plan for the development of Information, Communication Technology, two critical areas to drive this particular Plan, especially in terms of competitiveness of the country and in terms of social inclusion.

Mr. President, I know there are some people, who said that the society has never been inclusive and that it will continue to be so but that is not true. Sir, with information technology, people can have access to so much more information. When I hear people speak in that way, it is clear to me that there are individuals, who actually do not access the internet.

S58A/15:00

Sequence 25

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR the Hon. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: This is one of the reasons that Government is putting in place a Government portal, so that very soon all of the information you need to know about Government departments will be on a website somewhere, so that you can go online, whatever time of day or night, and get that information. That information gives you knowledge and additional power to plan what you are doing.

Sir, I heard some discussion about approving this National Strategic Plan and putting it on the shelf. Mr. President, we are not waiting for the plan to be blessed. We have started to work on the plan. So, in terms of the information communication technology strategy, you would see that already Barbados has made significant leaps forward, in terms of the use of information communication technology.

Sir, in terms of information communication technology, you will recall that Barbados put in place, for some time now, a framework where we removed duties from the computer and computer related equipment. You will see that Government also started to put a framework in place for the use of information, communication technology. We passed the Electronic Transactions Act and we are now looking at the Data Protection Act. We have a framework for Freedom of Information Act. Sir, when anybody does an analysis of where Barbados is, at the moment, with respect to information, communication technology, the conclusion is, we had a slow start but we have leaped way ahead. Now we have statistics where, for example, you have over 148 000 people in Barbados who access the internet, over 55 per cent of the population. That is a remarkable statistic for us as a developing country.

Sir, in terms of the analysis, what the statistics say is, we are not one of the high-flyers, not yet, but we have made significant strides with information, communication technology. This is because we have a vision of where we want to be in terms of competitiveness. We have a strategy and we have started to implement the strategy.

Mr. President, while individuals talk about us having a great vision, doing a lot of talking and not implementing, that is not quite true, not in information communication technology. Sir, information, communication technology is one of the critical drivers in all of the economies around the world, and we are making significant progress.

Sir, in terms of personal computers, our most recent statistics show that there are 35 100 computers in use in

Barbados. As I said before, we are not one of the high-flyers, but we are doing very well. The statistics show, that we are even better than some of the developed countries, with regard to our statistics.

Mr. President, Economy Index, you hear people talking about developing a Knowledge Economy Index, the developing countries are talking about it, you will see that the indicators show that while in 1995, we were not featured on the index at all, in 2005, our statistics are very strong, compared to other countries.

Sir, I, therefore, use these examples to point out to individuals that the Government's Strategic Plan is an implementable one, we have actually begun the process of implementing it, and the international community recognises that we have made great strides.

In terms of us not being on the radar in 1995, I think that individuals should recognise, that when the Barbados Labour Party came to power in 1994, the focus on information, communication technology was one of the most important things that we felt we had to do. There were a number of measures that we put in place, including the liberalisation of the telecommunication sector, setting up the Fair Trading Commission, in order to regulate it properly, addressing the tax issue with respect to computer and computer related equipment, addressing the issue of pricing, addressing the issue, to make sure that Barbadians had access to cheap and the latest technologies. Sir, we are seeing now that access to ADSL is available to us, and we are seeing it in a number of other areas.

Sir, this Plan is implementable and we have started to implement it. Even in an area in science and technology, where traditionally in the past we have lagged significantly behind other countries, we are taking up that responsibility to put Barbados very much on the cutting edge, along with the high-flyers within the world economy. Mr. President, it does not make any sense looking back and saying that we did not do it before. What we need to do is, to go forward.

I believe that the young people of this country would like us to be a bit more positive about our future and theirs. We may be on the way out, but I do not believe that it is necessary, to put the burden on them of believing that their future life in Barbados is not going to be exciting. The young people are excited about life and they believe that we can achieve.

Sir, they are out there doing what they need to do at university and wherever else they are, and we are in here with a National Strategic Plan, so, do not let us take the perspective that all is negative, and all is doom and gloom, and there is no future for them. We have a responsibility to put a framework in place where the future is bright for our young people.

I am obliged to you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Linton.

SENATOR I. St.C. LINTON: Mr. President, I rise to give my fullest support to the Resolution before us, to take note of the National Strategic Plan for the next twenty years. First, let me commend and pay tribute to those Barbadians whose intellect and time were spent working on this Resolution and Strategic Plan to bring it before us.

I want to make the point that for years Barbadians have been asking, the intellect at Cave Hill, to come and let us know their thoughts on the development of this country. Certainly, they have turned up at this point in time.

Sir, it is interesting also to note, the leadership of the trade union in Barbados in the indomitable person of Sir Roy Trotman, who has demonstrated noble intellect across the world, and who has led the trade union movement to its full maturity, in 2006, in Barbados, and who continues to do so.

Mr. President, persons of civil society have also been part of this document, this strategic plan for the future, twenty years, and even beyond. Let us not forget our public servants who have contributed to these objectives. Let us not forget that a subcommittee of the Cabinet of Barbados also contributed.

58.15 p.m.

Sequence 26

Friday, November 17, 2006

Senate 58A, sequence 27, 3.10 p.m.

Senator I. St.C. LINTON: This is no Party Manifesto. These are thoughts of minds of high intellect, and have demonstrated the ability that Barbados had over the years in its development. Let me say at this point in time that this is no partisan matter. This is too important to be partisan. Let me also say that I view this Strategic Plan as a mirror in what is to be the future of this country.

I must also say that any mirror of the future of this country must know what the present is, and must also show and help us to know where we came from. Sir, being a mirror for the future, it connects with one of the most brilliant speeches ever made by a Barbadian, in the person of the late Rt. Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, when he asked the question, in the last night of an election: "What is your mirror image?" This was asked of every Barbadian at that time. I never took it as a partisan statement. It was too brilliant a thought in that speech to have anything partisan about it.

We have a Democratic Labour Party today, which has not demonstrated any future for Barbados, either in the Other Place or in this place today. I could imagine, Mr. President, and I think you would too, for us to have a Democratic Labour Party in Opposition in the late 70s, and the 80s, led by the late Rt. Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, and had Members like Mr. Branford Taitt, Mr. Philip Greaves, Mr. Keith Simmons, Sir Richard Haynes, Sir Lloyd Sandiford and Harold Blackman.

Sir, at this time, with elections just over a year to come, having an opportunity to speak to this Resolution in which their intellect would have collided with the positive things of this Strategic Plan, but would have stripped away any negative aspect with it and proceed to tell Barbadian people, what are their thoughts and ideas for the future, for the next 20 years. Sir, not a word about any future for this country, coming from an Opposition Party, which is not even present in this Chamber at this moment, after lunch.

Sir, let me look at this strategic plan in a different way. I want to individualize and personalise this document that is before us, because you can put down any plan, it does not matter how good it is, if the citizens of Barbados do not connect to it, we will go nowhere. I want to individualize it and personalise it, through my own experience over the years of my life.

I was fortunate to be born in a family in 1933 with a great-grandmother, still alive, over 100 years and who was the first born Barbadian, of a family, a mother and a daughter coming out of Ghana in the diaspora, on the ship. Though she was alive for the next six years, I could remember her outstandingly, because I have a very good recollect of my life from three years old, the last six years of her life.

I could recall my elder brother, who has passed away, and my cousin who spent 50 years in England, bearing global intellect, connecting with the Barbadian culture, in the University of Bath, in Somerset. He comes to Barbados twice a year. There were three of us. I was the youngest by days to him, and my brother was a year older than I. Sir, that great-grandmother, Ma Hunte, we would go in her room to see her and hear her speak to us and tell us of her experiences of over 100 years, as a Bajan.

Sir, I recall two days before she died, she summoned the three of us to her room. She lined us up according to our age. She had fair skin and long hair. She rested her hands on my brother's head and the words she said to him, she said to all of us: "Be a good boy, become a good man, and be the best you can throughout your life." Those words never left the lobe of intellect, even though I was just six years old.

My grandmother had the same ideals. I became a grandmother's son. Throughout the history of my family, the objective was that education of your offspring was to be the number one objective in our family. I must speak of those who had also impacted on my life and experience.

There was next-door neighbour, whom I call my Godfather, by the name of Samuel Reid, who adopted me, even as a son. He taught me so much of what a father should teach a son that I cannot forget the things he taught me. Another male member of his family, who did the same to me, was a man named Winston Allman. He took me shopping with him every time he went shopping. He also took me to cricket, and took me to join the library. Those are the kinds of things that impacted on my life experience.

Sir, in my life experience at school, at my Alma Mater in Kings Street, I do not call it Wesley Hall Boys' School, I call it Wesley Hall College, in which the teachers of that day impacted so greatly on my mind that I cannot forget any of them.

Senate 58A, sequence 27, 15:20:14

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR I. St.C. LINTON: I had the fortune of going through the lower school through to the upper school at Wesley Hall, under Charles F. Broome. Two teachers, a lady by the name of Gwyneth Farnnum, I will always talk about her, and a man by the name of Merton Oneale Bowen, who became the Principal of Parkinson Secondary School, taught me throughout the entire school.

Mr. President, there were others who impart knowledge in me, persons like Ivy Alleyne, Darnley Gibbons, a man who established his own school, the Washington High School, a man by the name of Mr. Skeete, I cannot remember his first name, who lived for over 100 years, who recently passed away, and who was the Principal of the Wesley Hall School and Neville Phillips who is still alive who became the Principal of St. Leonard's Boys School. Mr. President, education and development was a part of my entire life and I treasured every minute of.

Mr. President, if we really want to understand where we are, where we came from and where we want to go within the context of global excellence, according to the Barbadian tradition and linking it with releasing the Barbadian spirit, let us go to our immediate offspring. I am sure that Honourable Senators will replicate with me in their own experience when I talked about what we have inspired our offsprings to be in Barbados.

Mr. President, my wife and I were married for 49 years, next year would be 50 years. Our objective was to do

our best for our offspring. In those early days she worked as a maid at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and I worked as a store porter. The 'buzz wuzzy' in those days, even among people of all colours, was that the daughter of a maid should not become a nurse at the hospital and the son of a labourer or a porter should not become a doctor and every obstacle was placed in the way.

Mr. President, as my wife would tell me, I remember hearing them saying in the corridors that these maids got some children that are brilliant. Today, the sons of porters are doctors in that institution and their daughters are outstanding leaders in the health care delivery of Barbados. This replicates across every single profession in Barbados. Mr. President, let me be a bit more individualistic in this regard.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That I do not mind but could you connect it please with the...

SENATOR I. St.C. LINTON: I am connecting it because when I get to where I want to go, you would see the connections. I want to demonstrate today and bring some pictures of what my offspring produced when it comes to global excellence according to Barbadian tradition and exploring the Barbadian spirit of our people.

My two sons, through my inspiration as a builder, are in building today and can produce outstandingly, better than I did. I have three daughters who live in the United States of America, the youngest was educated in Barbados. All of my children attended the Seventh Day Adventist Secondary School. My wife and I sacrificed for that for a particular purpose.

Sir, each of those girls is making an outstanding mark and is demonstrating global excellence according to Barbadian traditions in their fields of endeavour. My last daughter who was trained here in the hotel industry worked at a top hotel in St. James. Today, she is a master at her station in outstanding restaurants in New York, in Manhattan and now in Atlanta, Georgia.

My second daughter who is a citizen of the United States of America left Barbados and eventually joined the American Air Force where she spent six and a half years. She came out and did her studies in medicine. Today, she has some of the finest touch of hand as a surgical nurse. Sir, when she tells me of the eye operations that she is involved in, it thrills my heart.

Sir, I hold this book in my hand. This is a book that came out of my first daughter who is now Dr. Wendy Holmes, who started her training in education in Barbados. She worked for 15 years as a teacher in Barbados. She went through Erdiston Teachers' Training College and the University of the West Indies Cave Hill, for four years

without study leave. She majored in education with higher second class honours. She got an opportunity with an OAS Scholarship, did her Master's degree between 1992 and 1994 and got credits to go on to do her Doctorate. However, she was not permitted to go, she would have had to come back and she took her life in her hands and in 1999, she got her Doctorate in Education Supervision and Management. Today, she is a teacher of teachers in the United States of America. That is the kind of the Barbadian spirit that prevails in our offspring.

Senate 58A Sequence 28

3.30 p.m.

Friday, November 17, 2006

SENATOR I. St.C. LINTON: This book has been dedicated to us as her parents from out of her doctoral thesis, which has to do with the impact of teachers in relation to having to deal, to educate and prescribe situations in education that impacts on the children of Caribbean Commonwealth immigrants. This book is now a resource book in the libraries in London and Canada. I do not know if any copies are here.

Mr. President, I have been unable, because of my circumstances, to go through it but I have asked a learned educator, in the person of Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds, to review it and to give me her thoughts on the writing. This thrills also my heart and we can speak about and replicate this, even you, Mr. President but that is not all. Sir, where are we going for this future? Has this strategic plan, mirror the future of Barbados?

Mr. President, it is not only what one's offspring becomes but what one's offspring's offspring becomes. I can say to this that the future of Barbados is in good hands. Sir, I want to put a statement that comes from one of the greatest Christian writers of all times, Helen G. White. She speaks to us in these terms and in many articles in her hundred thousand pages of writing, which she wrote over 70 years, from age 17, until she died in 1950. She said: "We have no fear for the future, except we forget the way that the Lord has led us in our past history." Sir, I want to adapt that statement to this Resolution of the future plans for the next 15 years and beyond. Do you know why? Because in our National Anthem, we would find the words: "The Lord has been the people's guide for past 300 years." We in Barbados must never forget that God has led us, in our history, that a rock, covered with bush and trees in the Atlantic, could be where we are today.

Mr. President, I am simply saying to you and to all Honourable Senators, we have a lot to thank God for, but the future is in good hands because our grandchildren - some of them like mine, I have five grandchildren: three

boys and two girls - have followed the trend of the family, when it comes to education and are poised to be part of the future development of Barbados in keeping with this Resolution, this Draft National Strategic Plan, and I hope that the Lord would allow me a few more years to witness their success.

Mr. President, I am obliged to you.

SENATOR the Hon. Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the Government of Barbados on the development of the country's first strategic plan. Strategic planning is the process of defining objectives and developing strategies to reach these objectives. The plan, should consist of goals which are generally formulated in broad terms but they have the effect of setting the stage. When the objectives are set out under the goals and the strategies that are to be used to meet the objectives.

Mr. President, strategic planning is important because even though one cannot foresee all eventualities and the best made plans can be turned on their heads, it is possible to make projections and try to achieve these certain goals. This means that the objectives of a strategic plan, should be both measurable and achievable. The Draft National Strategic Plan for the period 2005-2025, we are already one year late and a few of the objectives, such as Republican status by 2006, have obviously not materialised, but we should not allow that to dampen our enthusiasm or weaken our support for the concept of strategic planning, or the strategies in the document which we are here today speaking on. Sir, with the best will in the world, we do not always achieve what we set out to do.

Mr. President, the persons who have conceptualised this Draft National Strategic Plan, were well aware that in the current global environment some plans might not materialised and they have indicated that every five years some sections of the plan, would be revised. In fact, most strategic plans are for five years because it is not always possible to have the goals for longer period being realised, especially when you are dealing with a Draft National Strategic Plan, because of elections every five years and so on.

Mr. President, I would now look at some of the provisions the Draft National Strategic Plan in detail, and I will try to be quick. The theme of the Draft National Strategic Plan is Global Excellence: Barbadian Traditions. Personally, I would have inserted the word "best" before "Barbadian traditions" but I have no real quarrel with the theme. The Vision for Barbados in 2025 is a fully developed society, that is prosperous, socially just and globally competitive. Again, no quarrel with these laudable goals.

I would just like to focus on some of the goals stated and the first of these is one which provides for improved governance, under which it is envisaged that we will have a fully Barbadianised Constitution, free of all vestiges of colonialism, a modernised Parliament, an electoral system, with greatly enhanced political participation and the empowerment of all communities.

Mr. President, if by a fully Barbadianised Constitution, we mean the abolition of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, that has been done since last year. If we mean moving to Republican status, the promise at this point in time somewhat rings hollow because several years have now passed since the Constitution Review Commission reported. We have had that report. We then had a summary of the report. We then had Draft Bills providing for a referendum on the issue of removing the Queen as Head of State. There was nothing more.

Mr. President, I am not holding my breath on this matter. I believe there are certain vested interests in Barbados, which are happy with things the way they are and so I would be one, who would be pleasantly surprised if Republican status comes our way any time soon.

I believe that one of the reforms hinted at, under the aim to reform Parliament, is the abandonment of the Senate as a second Honourable Chamber. I am going to be very frank. The Senate, as presently constituted, may be considered a toothless tiger by some persons, and to some extent they are correct. The Government has a majority and therefore, it is unlikely that any Bill, which is introduced, no matter how many errors and how flawed the policy, will not be passed.

3.40 p.m.

M - 1 Wednesday, November 17, 2006 Continuation of SENATOR THE HON. V.E. NEWTON: Mr. President, why should the Government not have a majority in the Senate, not to do so would frustrate its efforts to govern and would be counter to what citizens elected the Government to do. Even if we do not have a Senate and there is a unicameral Chamber, the Government must have the majority of the votes within that Chamber to do its business. Mr. President, I am satisfied that the Senate plays an important role in educating the public of Barbados on the issues relating to legislation. I believe that on most occasions, not on all occasions, that there is a more thorough and clinical examination of legislation here than in Other Place. I think that if there is provision for greater use of Senate Committees to review legislation when serious reservations are expressed to any policy matter contained therein, that the view of the Senate as a mere rubber-stamp body would be reduced. In Jamaica, Senate Committees are widely used and this is something we

should consider. I hope that the matter of disposing of the Senate is very carefully thought out before any action is taken to abolish it. Mr. President, then there is the matter of the Public Accounts Committee, it comes under the head of governance. I have heard complaints about the structure of the Committee provided for in the amendment or the new Act, which we passed two years ago in this Honourable Chamber. The Public Accounts Committee is too important a mechanism for keeping Government expenditure in check for the Committee not to be meeting. I would think that any strategic plan, which envisages the reform of Parliament would include revisiting the Public Accounts Committee Act, to see if anything at all, other than political will is preventing it from working. Mr. President, I would like to inform you that a citizen of a neighbouring country brought an action in the High Court, in which he sought declarations that the President of the Public Accounts Committee, the Auditor General, the Speaker of the House of Assembly and a number of other persons were not performing their duties in M - 3 relation to public business, which should be conducted by the Public Accounts Committee. Interestingly and quite startlingly enough, the officers all responded to the accusations in affidavits saying that they had not been performing their duties but they blamed others. Even more startling, the judge invested the matter and came to the conclusion that the parties were indeed in dereliction of their duty and there was no attempt by the court to sidestep the matter by declining jurisdiction. Mr. President, I consider this case a landmark in the history of parliamentary affairs in the Commonwealth Caribbean. Unfortunately, I meant to bring it to make it a document of the House but I have forgotten and will do so at some other time. Mr. President, I would consider improvements in the civil service under the head of governance. One of the objectives at page 99 of the Strategic Plan being to remodel the Public Service. I believe there is a Public new Service Act and Rules in draft but I have reason to believe that some sections of the Civil Service are sinking under the weight of absenteeism and poor

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performance. I believe the issue is serious enough that there should be some mention in the section dealing with remodeling the Civil Service of the problem and the steps, which would be taken to deal with it. Mr. President, productivity in a small economy such as ours, in which we are heavily dependent on services, is too important for us to ignore anything that we do say. Then, Sir, one of the objectives of governance is to ensure social justice and the strategy is to use the law creatively. One of the targets is to expand the provision of free legal aid, something for which I have argued previously in this Chamber. At present, legal aid is available for minors, whatever the offence and for adults, subject to means, where they have trials for manslaughter, rape or where the charge involves a substantial loss of liberty. Mr. President, assistance is also

given for constitutional motions, matters dealing with maintenance, land under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, applications for habeas corpus and all family matters, a large number of offences, including drug and gun related

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offences. Sir, wrongful dismissal and property dispute are excluded from the scheme. Mr. President, it has been argued that legal aid should be provided for all indictable and summary charges involving a long period of imprisonment. Sir, I would be the last to advocate making legal aid available to those who commit drug offences and armed robbery, et cetera, where one of the objectives is making money but some of the excluded categories such as wrongful dismissal should be considered. Mr. President, one of the targets under the objective of ensuring social justice is also the review and revision of all laws that provide for the stigmatisation of the poor and disadvantaged. Sir, about four years ago, the former Chief Justice and I combed the entire statute book for these laws, which we were told exists and we could not find them. What we did find was that there were some obsolete laws still on the statute book, some with reference to the Governor and other officers, who no longer function or exists and, most of all, we found that

Government should be making considerably more revenue than

M - 6 it currently does, under a wide range of legislation, in which fines and charges for services were set many years ago. One of the objectives of this Strategic Plan should be to revise the fees charged for services by some Government departments. Mr. President, the next matter about which I will speak relates to land and I believe it falls under the Goal of Protecting, Preserving and Enhancing our Physical Infrastructure and Environment. Sir, since 1980, Government has been registering parcels of land in Barbados. At present, most of the parcels registered are in St. Michael and subdivisions are occurring all over the island all the time. The Prime Minister had indicated some years ago, that he would like to see the process completed by 2010. It is clear that objective would not be realised but, I was expecting to see some targets for the speeding up of the completion of that project in the Strategic Plan, but I have not. If all the land in Barbados is brought under the registration system and as soon as possible, title transfer would be quicker and cheaper for all parties concerned, Incidentally, M - 7 the fees charged by attorneys for land transactions would also be lower under the registration system and under current legislation but it could be adjusted.

Mr. President, while I am on the subject of land, I note with approval, the objective of maintaining an efficient land use policy, which includes discouraging the

conversion of arable land to non-agricultural production. Sir, this has been an objective of Government policy for many decades now but we have not kept faith and many persons and organisations have bought good agricultural land, waited a few years and then obtained subdivision for housing purposes. The suggestion would be that a list of areas in Barbados, which should remain in agriculture, should be drawn up, if this has not already been done, so that persons buying land with ulterior motives would be forewarned that permission for subdivision for housing will not be given.

Mr. President, still on land, one of the main problems of the Government is how to satisfy the demands of the poor for land. We have to accept that land in Barbados, like water, is now a scarce commodity, which we must use

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carefully. I endorse the concept of making more use of leases in land transactions involving foreigners so that the land is not permanently alienated from Barbadian.

Mr. President, I also make note at page 161 of the Strategic Plan, where we have been informed that housing continues to be a high national priority and that the National Housing Corporation will continue its Primary Home Programme, encourage joint ventures for low to middle income residential construction and continue the Primary Homes Programme, which includes community-aided self-help schemes. Sir, community-aided self-help schemes date back to Grantley Adams Administration and were quite successful then.

Mr. President, these and other strategies set out at page 161 are all well and good but, I am of the view that there must be a change in the philosophy of housing in Barbados. We have to start convincing Barbadians that, more and more, ownership of the piece of the rock will not mean a single family occupying 8 000, 4 000 or 2 000 square feet with a picket fence around it but rather, such a piece of land will contain four or six apartments with

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owners or tenants sharing services. This is the reality and if we continue to build on the models currently-favoured, both by Government and private developers, by 2025, there will be no more land for building purposes without seriously encroaching on agricultural land. S58A/15:50

Sequence 3 0

■, ■' ■/ Tuesday, November 21, 2006 Continuation of SENATOR the Hon.

Mrs. V.E. NEWTON: Sir, I move now to Page 160, which sets out a plan for eradicating poverty from the social landscape. Sir, this is probably an unrealisable objective, but every effort can be made to achieve it nonetheless, and, therefore, I fully endorse slum clearance, further assisting tenants to own land and assisting poor persons who have an interest in small business to set themselves up, and to upgrade the chattel houses of the poor and disadvantaged, who live in them. Sir, this is welcomed strategy, because it grieves us continually to see, ever so often, the older people living in subhuman conditions, in our midst, and nothing is done for them until the Press becomes involved. Sir, while on the subject of land and housing, I had occasion recently to peruse the Business and Professional Organisations Act, and discovered that the profession of valuer of property is provided for in the Schedule to the Act. In my view, this is a significant omission, because not all valuers are real estate agents, and not all real estate agents are trained valuers. In fact, very few of them are. This means that trained valuers must do real estate, if they register under the Act. Mr. President, the real estate industry in Barbados is too integrally involved in the disposition of our land and determining market values, to be unregulated, but that is the position. There is no pre-qualification whatever to be a real estate agent, and there is no body sanctioned by Government to oversee what these people are doing. Sir, there is legislation in Barbados regulating the operations of most professions. The question is, when will we move to regulate the real estate industry. Most developing countries, and a few in the Commonwealth Caribbean, such as the Bahamas and Jamaica, have legislation. We have none to set standards in the industry. Mr. President, I would suggest that the regulation of all major professions and industries in Barbados, should be addressed in the National Strategic Plan. Sir, other objectives, which I endorsed, are those for achieving gender equality and equity, by ensuring the integration of gender and development in all areas of national development plans and policies, so that women and men can benefit equally from existing opportunities. I also endorse the objectives of the elimination of all forms of violence or abuse in families and the strategies for its realisation. The National Strategic Plan is an important document, and I hope - it is stated at Page 10 - that a unit will be established to ensure that it is revised from time to time, and with public input, that the targets are being met or reasons provided why not, and that the public is involved with any developments, in relation to this strategic plan. I also hope that if and when there is a change in Government, the National Strategic Plan is not discarded, because it was formulated during the watch of another Government. That would be a waste of taxpayers money and an unwise move, which would not be in the national interest, because a considerable amount of time and ideas, obviously, went into the preparation of the Plan. Mr. President, with these few words, I declare my wholehearted support for a job well done. I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Husbands.

SENATOR Mrs. S.C.V. HUSBANDS: Mr. President, I rise to give my wholehearted support to the National Strategic Plan of Barbados 2005-2025. I want to first express my thanks, gratitude and congratulation to the people who work hard in putting this together. Sir, a perusal of the Acknowledgement Page, of the National Strategic Plan, demonstrates that a broad cross-section of Barbadians participated in its formulation. Sir, different groups have been identified, like the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados, trade unions, the Private Sector Association, non-governmental organisation, government ministries and departments, and statutory bodies, were mandated to go out and look at their particular areas. Sir, NGOs, who are operating within the same realm, were invited to put on the table, the various ideas they have for that area of the Strategic Plan. Sir, for me, the Strategic Plan that stands before us, lays out the dreams of the Barbadian person. It outlines what people want to see happen in their country and the areas that are of specific and particular interest to them. I know how easy it is to politicise this particular document, but I think that it is unfair to those persons in the society who took the time to come together to sit down and examine what is happening in Barbados, with regards to their specific areas, and what it is we the people of Barbados want to see as our future. Therefore, we should honour it for what it is, Barbadians sitting down together, drafting out a path for the future. Mr. President, why is this important? It is important because without vision, people perish. Why do people perish? Why do people perish? We perish because the realities of what is happening to us day to day can weigh upon us if there is no vision to give us hope for tomorrow, a direction to move our energies, to stretch towards something. Sir, without a vision, people perish. Sir, there is no Barbadian who takes the time to read this, whether they are Democratic Labour Party, Barbados Labour Party, PEP, NDP or no P, there is no Barbadian who sits and reads this document and does not find within it something that echoes in their heart, that this is what they want to see in this nation. I remember when I first had the opportunity to read this document, and I would say to this Honorable Chamber that I became excited, because it reflected some of the dreams and hopes I had as a Barbadian and what I wanted to see for my nation. No Barbadian can engage this document without feeling that passion and vision for taking a nation forward. Sir, are there difficulties? Yes, there are. Will this cause us to turn back? Certainly, not. Sir, from the time of our birth as a nation, we have faced difficulties and we have faced them bravely. We have faced them with energy and faith. It takes me back to biblical times, when God said to the children of Israel, that he was going to take them to a land of milk and honey. I know that there is no doubt that their eyes were filled with everything that is wonderful, and there would have been no struggle to get there, so, when they were actually confronted with the land and the giants,

they turned back. Sir, that is not the case of our nation. We are not afraid of the challenges that stand before us as we seek to walk into the 21st century. We know what we are up against. We know the challenges we have to face. We know our weaknesses and limitations, but Barbadians have never been daunted by any of those circumstances. We have never said die. We have never turned back. We have always set our sights on what we can do, and we have put our shoulders to that wheel, and we have driven that wheel forward. What we have been able to do in the last forty years, is testimony to the strength, character, ingenuity and the potential of the people called Barbadians. Sir, I personally have faith in what Barbadians can do. Sir, what is it we are seeking to do, and what it can achieve for us? I believe that in the wisdom of the ruling Party, they saw the necessity for not only having a vision, not only asking the people to share the things that are important to them, but it was important that we share it with every person, for them to have an understanding of where we want to go as a people, using this as our guide. Sir, I believe that when this is done, we are able to engage the imagination of people. I want to explain the impact of engaging the imagination of the people. Sir, earlier, Senator Linton shared the achievement of his sons and daughters, the spirit of excellence that come forward in their careers, and how they managed themselves. I believe that this document, not only says to Barbadians, that we want them to be the best that they can be, but it says to them that as a people, we want to craft a society, that allows every person to pursue their goals and be the best. More important, to take that best and harness it, using it collectively to build out a nation, that is competitive and that can take its place in the world. So while we are acting alone, we are harnessing our potential or prowess, and indulging our exploits. I think that this is important. S58A: 16.00 p.m. Sequence 31 Friday, November 17, 2006 Senate 58A, sequence 32, 4.00 p.m. Continuation of Senator Miss. S.C.V. HUSBANDS: I believe that when Japan sat and looked at its state after the World War, if they had not said to themselves that they could be the world's leaders in technology and electronics, they would have sat down and done nothing. The Japanese people were not daunted by the situation in which they found themselves, but they bond themselves together, both in mind and heart. They sat and developed a plan and, as a nation of people, they mobilised all their resources, and they used those resources to achieve the plans that they had set out before themselves. I believe that this document will do the same thing when it begins to engage the imagination of the ordinary man and woman, then it gives us a purpose, drive and passion to rise up and work together to make it a reality. I believe that one of the things that is going to be important for us, now that we have to document before us, is to take the discussion to another level. If we are going to make this, and continue to make this the document of the people that guides all that we do in whatever sphere we are in, whether we are in the private sector working in enterprise, whether we are in associations working on

HIV/AIDS or community development or whether we are civil servants working in Government, it is necessary for us to set up a structure that allows all of those entities to continue to engage in the process of building out this social and economic framework here. I believe that is the next phase that will be presented to us. How are we going to set up a structure that allowed the continued engagement of these critical partners, in developing and shaping how the economic framework will flow out, on a day to day basis? I am looking forward to the time when we will hear about that, so that Barbadians can see this is not a document that is going to sit on a shelf, but systems will be put in place to allow for the continuous and active engagement of people. Everything in this plan excites me, but what I am particularly interested in, is how we are going to build out competitiveness, over the next 25 years. I particularly like what has been laid out in creating an entrepreneurial society, in boosting productivity and competitiveness, in increasing our export of services and products, integrating into the global economy, and achieving world class excellence in the delivery of service. When I examine all of the elements that we have placed here, what I see as fundamental for the success of this Plan, is the transformation of the thinking of the everyday Barbadian. If we are going to engage in walking on this road, it is going to be necessary for us to look at the methods that we are using, whether it is in the schools, whether it is in workshops that we do at the workplace, whether it is television programming that we present, or whether it is in the discussion programmes that we have on the radio and the educational programmes. Sir, we have to begin to use all the media at our disposal, and begin to get the population engaged in how we are going to shape a better society for tomorrow. I think that would create better use of our air time than to use it simply to complain. We have to look at how can we together as Barbadians, engage and use our resources to build out this society, and make it the best that it can be. Mr. President, Barbados already enjoys a very high reputation in the international society. I truly believe that if all Barbadians were aware of what we have achieved over the past 40 years, they would recognise that, yes, we may be small but our size cannot limit us, as to what we can become. I also believe it would give them confidence to press on for tomorrow, to build Barbados into a place for global excellence with Barbadian traditions. I would like to encourage every group, every Church, every workplace, every family, and every community to take the time, as we reflect on our 40 years of Independence, for us to sit and reflect on where we have come from, and recognise that what the scripture says about the people who know their God will do great exploits, for one of the traditions of Barbados has been its spiritual base. Sir, because of that spiritual base and their faith in God, Barbadians have been able to press on and do what they have done so far, until this 40th Anniversary. I believe that if Barbadians continue to hold fast to God that Barbados is going to be able to do even greater exploits in the future,

because as they are pressing and become the best that they can be, they are going to be able to make their mark and be a model, a demonstration to other small nations like ourselves, what is possible and what it is we can do. I want to end, Mr. President, by saying that this work is a long-term journey. It is not something that we are going to accomplish overnight. There are many things that we will achieve in time, and there are some things that will go pass their time. I do not feel that should daunt us from stepping out on this particular journey. I believe that every single Barbadian owes it to themselves, owe it to the Barbadians of the future that we engage in how we are going to work through the details of this plan and making it a reality. Sir, in fulfilling each and every one of these strategies, what we are doing is fulfilling the dreams of the Barbadians present and the Barbadians to come. I want to give my heartiest congratulations again to the persons who worked on it, especially the persons who worked in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development. I had the privilege of working with them and looking at this plan. I will tell you that those young people are very excited about this. They want to see this become a reality. I want to say to them to hold the faith, hold the light, and to keep working very hard to make this a reality, regardless of who puts it down, who tears it down, who tries to politicalise it, to believe in what they have put together here and believe in what Barbados can be. I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Griffith Senator the Hon. E.R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I wish to thank the Senators for their contributions to this debate. Before I bring the discussion to a close, I feel compelled to respond to a few of the issues raised by Senator Dean Crichlow, who unfortunately is not in his chair. I trust that he can hear me from wherever he is. This document before us, as I pointed out in my introductory statement, is a Strategic Plan. By that, it identifies the objectives and strategies, which will allow us to achieve those objectives. I started off by making the point that it is necessary, from time to time, to take stock of where you are and to determine where you are going. This is in essence, what is being done. This Barbados Labour Party administration has been given the responsibility by the people to manage their affairs and it would be shirking from its duty, if during the time given to it by the people, it ceases to plan their affairs. Sir, that is not in any way to suggest that this administration is telling someone that it is going to be in office in 2025. In fact, if one takes that view about everything in life, we would all really do nothing. I am sure that even Senator Dean Crichlow, who is a man of God, will acknowledge that is not the intention of the Saviour for us. He has intrusted us with intellect, and he expects us to use those intellects to develop ourselves and to develop our country, so that we can truly be our brother's keeper. Senate 58A, sequence 32, 16:10:14 Friday, November 17, 2006 Continuation of SENATOR the Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH: I am sure that he, having read several times the

parable of the talents, will recognise that the one who took his talent and hid it in the ground, in other words, the one who did nothing, as is being suggested by the goodly Senator, is the one who was condemned by the Master and was told that he should at least have put it in the bank and made interest on it. Mr. President, the point is that the Administration led by the Barbados Labour Party is expected by the electorate to plan the affairs of the country. This document was prepared not as a manifesto, so it is not a question of any promises being kept or not being kept. These are objectives which are set for the future development of the country. This document was prepared with input from a wide cross-section of the society, as I indicated earlier, civil society, the Social Partners, persons from the University of the West Indies and from all and sundry through the various town hall meetings because as a National Strategic Plan, the Government acknowledges that it is not an exercise that could bear fruit simply by the actions of the Government but that it requires the support from the entire society, and that is why it was prepared in that manner. Mr. President, if you look at how we have done our planning in the past, you would observe that we have had, as I pointed out, national development plans spanning five years and sometimes seven years, as was the 1993-2000 Plan, and sometimes as far as ten years. Mr. President, there have been changes of Governments during that time. What happens is that when a new Government comes into position, if it has views that are so diametrically opposed to what is set out in the Plan, it makes adjustments to the Plan and then influences the outcome by its views and if it has no views that are opposed to issues that are there, it continues with them. Mr. President, that is what happened in many instances. I can point to situations in the past where projects that were started were continued and where some projects that were in progress were discontinued and where some that had not yet started were not started because the incoming administration had different views. Mr. President, there is not going to be anything different about this. What is certain here is that this Administration intends to discharge its responsibility to the people while it is entrusted with those responsibilities. Therefore, it would be negligent in performing its duties if it did not come up with a vision as to where it would like to see Barbados by 2025. It is not a vision for the Barbados Labour Party Administration, it is a vision for the country. That is why the administration sought to get inputs from a wide cross-section of the society and has taken those inputs into account in the development of the Plan. Mr. President, I really want to make that abundantly clear. Mr. President, I am a little disappointed that the Senator took the view that nothing good could come out of Nazareth, meaning in this case, that Barbadians are not going to achieve anything. I am sure that he does not mean it that way, I think he might have been a little mistaken with the issues before him. Mr. President, the truth is that we cannot encourage our people into thinking that they cannot achieve. Mr. President, the same Senator spoke at length about his suggestion many

years ago when he sat on a Commission, that was encouraging the implementation of Early Childhood Education. Mr. President, what would be the reason for taking the children into the schools so early if you do not expect them to reach for the skies. Mr. President, from the time I entered school in my early days, I was encouraged by my teachers to reach for the stars, so that even if I fell short that I still can achieve a reasonably high level of attainment. Therefore, I really find his statements a little contradictory, but I will excuse him on this occasion. Mr. President, let me make it clear that we in this Administration believe in our people and therefore we feel sure that if they are given the opportunities and are prepared to take those opportunities that Barbados can reach the vision as set out in its National Strategic Plan. Therefore, I commend it to all and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. The question that the Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT SENATOR The Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH:
Mr. President, that brings us to the end of our business for today and therefore I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn sine die. The question that the Senate do now adjourn sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly. Senate 58A Sequence 33 4.17 p.m.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

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

Q3. Order No. 2, closing pages. The last part of the record is badly set in the source. Senator the Hon. Mrs. V. E. Newton's speech is broken by page markers ('M - 4' to 'M - 9') and stray characters, and the continuation notes are run into the text. Senator Mrs. S. C. V. Husbands's speech is a single paragraph of about 2,000 words with take-slips (Sequences 31-32) run into it. Senator the Hon. E. R. Griffith's reply (about 1,100 words) is run into Mr. President's call 'Senator Griffith' and so prints under the heading 'Mr. PRESIDENT'. The passing of the Resolution, the adjournment and the final take-slip (Sequence 33, 4.17 p.m.) are run into the end of his speech. Printed as in the source; these passages need to be set by hand. Please confirm.

Q4. Order No. 2, Senator Newton's speech. The continuation notes inside Senator Newton's speech are headed 'Wednesday, November 17, 2006' and 'Tuesday, November 21, 2006', although the sitting was on Friday, 17th November, 2006. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Take-slips. Several take-slips read 'Wednesday, November 17, 2006', and some give morning times as p.m. ('S:No. 58A(3)10.30 p.m.', 'S:No. 58(6)11.20 p.m.'). Printed as in the source.

Q6. Order No. 2, headings '(EDITED)'. The source carries the heading '(EDITED)' after four take-slips, and the speeches that follow begin mid-thought (Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds's 'These are courage...', Senator the Very Reverend H. E. Crichtlow's 'but it does not say whether the Head of State...', which repeats the end of his previous paragraph). Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 2, Senator Griffith's speech. After the take-slip at about 10.20 a.m. Senator Griffith's speech resumes under a new heading whose only text is '...'. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Resumption after lunch. Mr. President's call reads 'Senator SENATOR The Very Reverend H. CRICHLLOW:'. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate resumed on Friday, 17th November, 2006 at about 10.03 a.m., with Mr. President in the Chair, to debate Order No. 2, the Resolution to take note of and approve the draft 'National Strategic Plan of Barbados 2005-2025: Global Excellence, Barbadian Traditions'. The Leader of the Senate, Senator the Hon. E. R. Griffith, said the Government had decided for the first time to move from development plans to strategic planning, and outlined the six goals, among them cultural transformation, new governance with a fully Barbadianised Constitution free of all vestiges of colonialism, and the branding of Barbados globally. He said the vision was that by 2025 Barbados would be a developed small economy.

Senator F. J. Stuart, speaking in the month of the 40th Anniversary of Independence, acknowledged the gains of 40 years, noting that by 1994 Barbados had been the No. 1 developing country on the United Nations Human Development Index, but argued that prosperity did not necessarily reach the majority and that the legacies of colonialism were still evident. Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard commented on the Plan's 190 pages and ten points, criticised 'sick-outs' in the public sector and said the Public Accounts Committee had not met for over two years. Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds proposed four more core values, courage, discretion, courtesy and self-respect, and spoke on cultural education and a teacher substitute system.

Senator Miss P. E. Parris spoke on the Public Service and feedback from the public; Senator Dr. F. L. Chandler called the Plan wide-ranging and ambitious, with mostly laudable goals, and discussed the National Initiative on Service Excellence; Senator G. P. B. Nicholls addressed Goal Two, new governance, recalling Arthur Lewis's model for industrialising the British West Indies; and Senator R. O. Marville spoke on branding Barbados and protecting its name from use by others. The Sitting was suspended until 1.50 p.m.

On resumption Senator the Very Reverend H. E. Crichtlow said the document read like a party political manifesto, with no Opposition contributions in the acknowledgments, that it did not say whether a Barbadian Head of State would be ceremonial or executive, and that it took over 20 years to implement universal nursery

education recommended by a commission on which he sat. Senator R. W. Grant said that since the Cold War aid to small countries had diminished and cited the 1993-2000 Development Plan. Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. Eastmond discussed the problems of small States in a Commonwealth and World Bank study, the efficiency of the civil service and a Government portal.

Senator I. St.C. Linton said the Plan was no party manifesto and too important to be partisan, and recalled his schooling at Wesley Hall under Charles F. Broome, being asked by the President to connect his remarks to the Plan. Senator the Hon. Mrs. V. E. Newton congratulated the

Government on the country's first strategic plan, spoke on improved governance, Government fees set many years ago, land use and the loss of arable land, leases to foreigners, and housing at page 161 of the Plan, and argued for a change in the philosophy of housing.

As the source records it, Senator Mrs. S. C. V. Husbands then supported the Plan, citing the broad cross-section of Barbadians in its acknowledgments and the example of post-war Japan, and Senator Griffith replied to Senator Crichlow with the parable of the talents. The Resolution was agreed to, and the Senate was adjourned sine die.