THE

SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 2008 – 2013

THE SENATE

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, August 13, 2008, at 11.10 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Dr. Brandrod M. Taitt, B.A., M.P.A. LL.B(Hons.)D.H.L.(Hons.)(President)

Her Honour Senator Kerryann F. Ifill, B.Sc.(Hons.), M.B.A. (Deputy President)

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN, B.Sc. (Hons.), M.A..M.B.A., (Minister in the Prime Minister's Office), (Leader of the Senate)

Senator the Hon. H.L. BENN, E.M.B.A. (Marketing),Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)

Senator the Hon.A.B. WALTERS,DPSA(Oxford), M.A., (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)

Senator the Hon. D.W. BOYCE,(Minister of State, Ministry of Finance)

Senator Mrs, V.I. SANDIFORD-GARNER, CIM,Dip.Mng.m, M.B.A.,(Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Community Development and Culture)

Senator Rev. P.A.V. MILLINGTON, M. (Theol.)

Senator D.M. Alleyne, B.A, M.A.

Senator P.W.B. GILKES

Senator P.I. INNISS, B.Sc.(Hons.)

Senator D.K.A. GRIFFITH

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senator J.A.C. HUTSON, B.C.H., MRAC.

Senator Miss H.E. THOMPSON, LL.B.

Senator K.D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Senate is in session. Honourable Members we are having technical difficulty, but the technicians have worked on it and all is well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received an excuse for Senator Chandler, who will be unable to attend the Sitting of the Senate.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR HON. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following documents:

1. Annual Reports and Audited Financial Statements of the Barbados Conference Services Limited for the years ended March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2007.

2. Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements of the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. for the year 2007.

3. Audited Financial Statements and Audited reports on the Activities of the Board of Management of Public Secondary Schools as Follows:

Parkinson Memorial Secondary School 2003 to 2007.

Queens College 2004 to 2006.

Combermere School 2006 to 2007.

Deighton Griffith Secondary School 2006 to 2007.

St. James Secondary School 2006 to 2007.

St. Lucy Secondary School 2006 to 2007.

Springer Memorial Secondary School 2006 to 2007.

Lodge School 2006 to 2007.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR HON. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

The question was put and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR HON. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that the following Bills be read a first time.

1. The Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. Bill,2008.
2. The Final Appropriation Bill 2008.
3. The Art and Sport Promotion Fund (Amendment) Fund Bill, 2008.
4. Financial Management and Audit (Amendment) Bill 2008.
5. Mutual Assistance and Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

The question was put and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. FINAL APPROPRIATION BILL (2007-2008) BILL, 2008

SENATOR HON. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Sir, I rise to place before this Honourable House the Final Appropriation Bill (2007-2008) Bill, 2008. This Bill is a request for Supplementals in the amount of $16 800 000 to finance the various measures announced in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals on July 7, 2008. I proposed not to engage in any lengthy discussions of these matters, as they relate to money matters. However, I will say that looking at the various proposals in the Financial and Budgetary Statement, this Government has sought to address a number of critical areas necessary to the proper functioning of its programmes and certainly to the implementation of policy. These are intended to cover matters to address the provision of incentives on the policies and programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, facilitating the support of services to assist farmers, as individuals, in the refurbishment of wells, et cetera.

Sir, there were also provisions made to facilitate our youth, in the form of grants to non-profit organisatios, more specifically the 4H Movement. As you can appreciate, in the context of world conditions, as they relate to agriculture and more specifically food security, it is critical that a small nation like Barbados pay some attention to the need to ensure that there is an ongoing commitment and participation in agriculture. In order to do that, we have to foster an interest at an age as early as possible. Thus, efforts to not only revitalise the 4H Movement, but to commit to fostering an appreciation and an understanding of the...

11.20 a.m.

Senator Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Thus, efforts to not only revitalise the 4H Movement but to commit to fostering an appreciation and an understanding of the critical role that agriculture and, by extension, agribusiness must play in a developing country like Barbados where there must be efforts to foster food security. This is one of the many provisions within the recent Budgetary proposals.

It is also necessary, Sir, to spend some time preparing our young people, again, to take their rightful place in the society and a critical component of the budgetary proposals is one that certainly continues the legacy of this Government and this Democratic Labour Party, as it sought to foster, in Barbados, an environment in which our human resources are developed from the earliest stages.

Therefore, we have taken the decision, some people say a bold decision but that has always been the case, to ensure that notwithstanding the challenges that families will face in this current economic environment, that our young children will be able to go to school. Therefore, provisions have been made to the tune of $11 million to permit free travel on Transport Board buses. I think that is clearly a demonstration of the commitment to our youth.

In addition to that, it is recognised that as we develop the programmes of our newly constituted Ministry of Social Care Constituency Empowerment and Urban Development, we recognise the need to further assist those who are vulnerable in our society. Therefore, additional preparations and provisions have been made to the tune of $3.2 million to expand the welfare grants offered.

Sir, I could continue to elaborate, however, given the nature of the contents of this Final Appropriation Bill, I

believe it is fully appreciated that in order to ensure the implementation of the necessary programmes identified in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, that the necessary provisions be made for the financing of these and, therefore, the need for Supplementals.

Sir, one may argue that Supplementals traditionally perhaps come later in the financial year. However, I would just want to reiterate the necessity to do this, given the timing of the last general election, and the time at which the current administration took office. I do not propose, Sir, to get into any lengthy debate on that matter. I just want to reiterate that it was necessary, having had to step into the shoes of Government, so to speak, and proceed along the Calendar of the financial arrangements of Government that we had to quickly get a set of Estimates in place. As we sought to put together our programmes, it was necessary to revisit those, in order to ensure that critical elements of our policies and programmes are put in place.

Therefore, I propose the acceptance of the Final Appropriation 2007-2008 Bill, and I commend that to you, Sir.

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I perhaps should begin by observing that it is not to the very best of my recollection, the practice of conducting of a full debate on this particular matter. I think though, Sir, and I will be guided of course by the Chair and the discretion of the Chair in this matter...

Asides.

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: As usual.

...in fact, perhaps I am seeking the guidance of the Chair, even as I rise. Hansard cannot benefit from soto voce communication and therefore to the extent that discourse will be permitted, I will be happy to proceed down that road. I was not entirely sure what the Chair's interpretation of either the convention or the rules were going to be and I give way to hear that interpretation, Sir.

Senator Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I think I was ahead of myself.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I take it that the Leader of the Senate is on a point of order.

Senator Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Yes, Sir.

I therefore need to very quickly correct an error and I am quite happy to do so. I think my Honourable Colleague on the other side probably recognised that I was speaking about something which was not properly before us. I was looking at the wrong document.

Sir, what I was seeking to do was to move that we accept the Final Appropriation Bill, in respect of the Financial Year that ended on 31st March, 2008, which made provision for the necessary Supplementals.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Senator Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, this Bill as been certified as a money Bill and therefore this is no requirement to go into Committee.

On the motion of Senator Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a second and third time and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 4 – THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

Senator Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Amendment of the Financial Management and Audit (Amendment) Bill, 2008. The genesis of this, Sir, is the need to make provision for some corrections, attendant on some changes in the accounting practices of the public sector.

Sir, consistent with international accounting standards, the Government of Barbados has moved away from the traditional cash basis for accounting for its transactions to what is internationally recognised, not only in the private sector but in public sector entities, to an accrual accounting basis.

Therefore, in this effort to function in accordance with these international standards and within the context of an effort to facilitate the reform of its financial systems, this movement away from a cash to an accrual accounting basis has been done.

Sir, in undertaking this changeover, it has required the reforming of the previous law, specifically as it relates to the control and management of public finances, and has made certain provisions.

11.30 a.m.

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: It has provided for the improvement of data collection for analysis and decision-making in relation to the economy thus facilitating economic planning. By moving to an accrual system, the Government of Barbados is in a better position to understand its true commitments in terms of financial obligations as well as to recognise not only its liabilities but also its assets to better account for its finances and to hold people to greater accountability.

Mr. President, it also provides for more accurate disclosure of Government's financial activities. This is very important as Government gets more and more involved in

the need to function in accordance with the greatest level of good corporate governance, as it aspires to promote greater transparency and as it seeks to give a greater degree of financial independence to the office of the Auditor-General.

As we know, in the context of an environment in which accountability is important, the role of the Auditor-General must not only be one that is assigned a responsibility, it must also be one in which it is able to carry out the responsibilities under the law which gives the office its authority.

Sir, as efforts were made to move from the traditional cash accounting basis used in Government to an accrual basis, there were some shortcomings or some omissions in the legislation. One of those critical shortcomings in the legislation was in the area of the outlining of the duties and responsibilities of the Accountant-General.

Mr. President, Section 18 of the repealed Financial Administration and Audit Act, which outlines the duties of the Accountant-General was excluded from the new Financial Administration and Audit Act, 2007-11 which came into effect on April 1st. Therefore, this amendment is intended in part to ensure that error is corrected.

In addition, in providing for that, there are some very specific responsibilities assigned to the Auditor-General who, as we know, is charged with the responsibility of the general management and supervision of the cash transactions and accounting operations of the Government and for all public moneys. Mr. President, given that major responsibility, it must be recognised that the law must fully cover the whole of that office and support all that is intended to be performed by that office.

Mr. President, this amendment seeks to do a very simple thing. It seeks to make clarifications to provisions under Section 2(a), Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. This makes provision for the adherence to standards and guidelines of international standards which would be applicable to the public sector.

Mr. President, it also seeks, in Section 10(1), to define the office of Parliament and to also ensure that consistent with the Constitution that there is proper authorisation of expenditure of section 6.

As I indicated, Sir, I believe that much of what we have to address this morning and during the day's sitting are matters which seek to either ensure the proper conclusion of regular business or to eliminate any omissions or shortcomings in the existing legislation. This provision is one that is important.

Sir, when we talk about financial management and audit, while these, on the surface, may look like simple amendments, there are critical amendments within the context of an environment where, as I said before, this Administration is committed to ensuring the highest standards of financial management and administration and that those with the fiduciary responsibility are able to do in a manner that is consistent with the highest levels of integrity and transparency.

On that basis, Sir, I recommend to you that we agree to the necessary amendments as specified in relation to the Financial Administration and Audit Act (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, the Opposition has no objection to raise at all to the legislation brought before the Chamber today. In fact, the amendment to the legislation comes out of an Act that the previous Administration brought before the Parliament as it was then constituted.

Mr. President, Senator McClean is right when she speaks of the whole role of the legislation. In fact, during the course of the early debates before this new session of Parliament, I saw some Honourable Senators run to the Auditor-General's Report to cite instances of bad practice, complaints and so.

At that point, Sir, I remember our eyes meeting and we exchanged a smile because if one was to read Auditor-General's Reports going back 20 years in Barbados, one would recognise that they all have exactly the same language under every Head. Mr. President, I was amused, I must say, with all of those coming with righteous fervour and absolute innocence about how horrific and horrendous management under the last Administration had been as is seen by the Auditor-General's reports.

Mr. President, if one reads them, there is a common thread which runs through them. It really speaks to the need, not 'steal in there' as has been put out or the notion that there is some great misdoing by the political directorate as it becomes popular to say...

Mr. President, what it speaks to often is the fact that in large bureaucracies, no single Minister or accounting officer really has absolute control of every single individual who is responsible along the chain for spending money or for carrying out processes, which have to do with Government business. As a result, there can be breaches, and myriad breaches, some intentionally, because people are manipulating the system to their benefit, but often because of massive innocence.

Unfortunately, Sir, one of the things that has been lost across the public system is really very serious training

when new people come into the system, so a lot of the traditional values in the system, a lot of the good accounting practices, a lot of the measures that were put in place by some of the older Permanent Secretaries, who are no longer in the system...

Mr. President, what was good civil service practice is not often followed because traditions have died and there have not been taught. When people come into the civil service, I often see it, they are with, let us say, the Ministry of Health, somebody calls about something relating to that Ministry and they tell you that it is not their Ministry, to call the National Conservation Commission not knowing the full parameters of what their own Ministry does because there is no training.

11.40 a.m.

Mr. President, these persons would come in and start to work. They would have learned from the person next to them, who would not have been taught by anybody, and who would have developed his or her own bad system. Sir, therefore, oftentimes some good accounting practices are not followed. Sir, later on, these persons would be introduced to some element of training along the system. Sir, the point I am making is that as people enter the Civil Service, there is no immediate training that says your role is "X" and that these are the particular practices that you are to follow.

Mr. President, apart from that, there was an attempt, by introducing the legislation, to ensure that there was greater transparency, a higher degree of accountability, and the aligning of the Barbados' model or practice with good international standards. Sir, the accrual system is used in many countries but we were not using it in Barbados. It allowed also for better understanding of what was happening with public funds. It allowed for better tracking of assets and capital. In fact, one of the concerns was that under the old system, it was often difficult to assess Government's true worth, in the sense that, for instance, a lot of the properties or lands that Government owned were not accounted for in the Financial Statements generally. Sir, with the accrual system, it now requires that Government records all expenditure and assets and that Government keeps very careful track of financial processes and that Government must follow rules in a very particular way.

Mr. President, I would like to see a greater level of teaching and introductory courses for people who are coming fresh into the Civil Service, irrespective of whether or not they have worked before. Mr. President, I see one Honourable Senator frowning, I am not suggesting that there is no training, what I am suggesting is that at the point of entry into the Civil Service, people are not trained and that there needs to be some degree of training at that level before bad practices could set in, out of ignorance, as opposed to out of malice.

Mr. President, the development of an accrual system of accounting and the legislation which previously came to the House, was intended to correct many of the practices which resulted in negative reports by the Auditor-General. It allowed for greater and better structured accounting processes and rules and for a more comprehensive assessment of Government's financial position, Government's expenditure, et cetera.

Mr. President, having introduced the legislation and striving for greater transparency, better public accounting processes, better scrutiny of Government's finances and attempting to bring all of Government's expenditure to book... In fact, one of the consequences of the new system is that below-the-line accounts are no longer allowed and therefore one has better oversight of all of the monies. It does allow for greater review of all of the accounts available to Government, at any given time.

Sir, the fact is that several Government agencies used to operate below-the-line accounts, which did not allow for a high level of transparency or an understanding necessarily of what the agencies were doing. Mr. President, oftentimes the monies were put aside or held in below-the-line accounts for good reason, with the absence, for instance, of virement within the public accounts process. People would have below-the-line accounts that would address issues that would be covered by virement. For instance, if I could give an example, when we were doing the bid round for the offshore oil effort, monies came in from offshore companies which were buying seismic data or paying for some service or the other. Those monies had to go to the Consolidated Fund.

We at the Ministry were seeking to operate a below-the-line account because what we were doing at the same time, was spending money on the marketing and promotional effort for the bid round, but we did not have a line item in the budget from the year before because we did not know what would have been the real cost. That cost was not something that we could have estimated, it being a new effort for Barbados.

Mr. President, since we had a revenue stream, what we wanted to do was to operate a below-the-line account, which would have allowed us to spend money on the bid round as it became necessary, out of the revenues that we would have been earning. Mr. President, with the new system, we were not in a position to operate a below-the-line account. Sir, that is an example of how some below the line accounts are not used.

Mr. President, I spoke of virement earlier, let me go back to that. In our accounting system, there is a practice

that if you put, let us say, $500 in the budget for a photocopier but you decided not to buy that photocopier, let us say, in the meantime the microwave the staff are using goes bad. Sir, you would have money allocated for a photocopier, which you are not now going to buy because your needs might have changed, but you cannot change that line item from the photocopier to the microwave, no matter how badly the staff needs the microwave. In fact, it may have been something critical to your function.

Mr. President, let us say, you had that $500 to purchase a new microwave but the photocopier breaks down. You cannot use the money intended for the microwave to purchase the photocopier, no matter how much it is needed. You would have to go back to the Ministry of Finance, get money allocated, then come back to Parliament for that Money Resolution to be passed, so that the photocopier could be purchased instead of the microwave. That is the virement where you can change those kinds of allocation without strict reference to the financial allocation at the beginning of the year.

Mr. President, below-the-line accounts came to be used by Ministries and agencies, where at the beginning of the year budgetary allocations are given to Ministries or departments. There may be a revenue stream, as in the case I just used, where there was no expenditure for the bid round but you have a revenue stream and so you want to create an account that allows you to make rapid payments for persons or companies that are providing services.

Without the permission of Parliament using the process of the budgetary allocation that department would have got at the time of the Estimates, it would not ordinarily be possible to do so, except that department operated what was called a below the line account, where money did not go into the Consolidated Fund, but was used by the Ministry or agency for whatever purpose.

Mr. President, over time, some of the accounts were misused or abused but some were used for very good reasons. In fact, if I could continue to use the example of the bid round, not having a below-the-line account hindered us because in the end, every allocation where somebody had performed a service and we had to find money to pay them, took a longer process because we then had to go to the Ministry of Finance and come to Parliament for a Supplementary to make those payments.

11.50 a.m.

...it took a much longer process because you then had to go to the Ministry of Finance and come to Parliament for a Supplementary to make those payment.

Madam President, the process, however, of accrual accounting even though it had a negative impact in terms of what we were attempting to do during the course of the .... Sir, on the whole, however, is anticipated that the accrual system would bring a higher level of transparency and stronger, better, international practice and best practices using international standards to Government accounting system and, that is a desirable thing, insofar as the amendment today seeks to strengthen that. I am in support of it and we, on this side, are ad idem with the Government.

Madam President, I would want to see, over time that the accrual system be appropriately used to bring all of Government's assets to account. I was concerned at the time that I held the portfolio of housing and lands, for instance, that Government owned large properties all over Barbados but there was not in our accounting systems at Estimates produced any list of all the properties owned by Government, the location or the values. In fact, Government often itself forgot that it owned property. There was time at which I asked the National Housing Corporation to give me a list of every parcel of land owned by Government because I was of the view then and, I am now, that if, for instance, in urban Barbados, National Housing Corporation and Government were able to identify every parcel of land that it owned, then a tremendous number of housing solutions could be brought to people but it has to do with our being able to account for what we own; to know what our assets are; where they are; what the value of assets are, and so on.

Madam President, I believe that the accrual system, which was introduced previously, which is clearly being perpetuated by the current administration will allow Government to have better accounting. We, therefore, support the amendment, which is before the House today.

Madam President, I am much obliged to you.

MR. PRESIDENT: Senator Symmonds.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, just a few words in support of both my learned colleague on the right, Senator Thompson and, of course, the Leader of Government Business because, as you said, we are ad idem. Sir, I think that this matter comes about at a very propitious time in Barbados because of the fact that there is so much dialogue taking place, much of which is well-intentioned, if not necessarily best-informed with respect to matters of transparency in public affairs. Sir, the irony, if there is in fact one in this exercise is that back in 2007, when the previous administration would have amended or brought to Barbados the Financial Management and Audit Bill, that piece of legislation was aimed at making specific provision for monthly reporting of accounting operations in relation to public money, therefore, creating a better atmosphere of transparency in the process of management of this country's financial affairs. The irony to which I

alluded, is that even as that was taking place one was hearing across the island that the problem in Barbados was, in fact, a lack of commitment by the previous administration to that said transparency.

Mr. President, I think that as the passion dies away and one is overcome with a sense of calm and hopefully better judgement, the country as a whole will understand that the very act of bringing that piece of legislation to the books was an intention on the part of Government to do number of things.

First of all, Sir, I think that one of the things we wanted to do was to emphasise the important of not only the transparency but, quite frankly, the improvement of the process of accounting in Barbados in public affairs. Sir, monthly reporting of accounting operations in relation to monies received by the Accountant General in particular.

Mr. President, why does monthly reporting of monies received by the Office of the Accountant General becomes critical? I think the first thing that we have to understand is that it is through that process that the country, as a whole, is better able to get an insight into whether or not there are, in fact, returns being made on expenses from the public purse. Sir, for argument sake, a Government may stand on the platform of saying that we need to build capacity for the storage of oil in Barbados so that in the unfortunate event of a replication of, for example, what happened in New Orleans with Katrina, severe devastation by a hurricane, an act of God, which no one could have anticipated, we have the ability to rely on a domestic source of oil and energy supply. Therefore, you build out additional capacity at the Barbados National Oil Terminal. Sir, that, in fact, happened in the last administration.

Sir, the reality is that there are expenses from the public purse that are involved in the process and one has to be able to monitor whether there is, in fact, a return on that investment. Sir, more tangibly, in the terms of an ongoing commercial enterprise, the same principle would apply to the Port Authority and the work done at the Barbados Port in order to build out capacity because you see it as a nerve centre of economic activity in the country and by building that additional capacity and equally, Sir, quite frankly, at the Grantley Adams International Airport, where you extend the breath of your parking apron, you double the amount of gates which are in operation, so you vastly improve the amount of seating capacity so that your ever increasing traveling public is given better comfort. Sir, those investments have to be seen on a month by month basis as being able to reflect some sort of return.

Mr. President, I am not just hearkening back to the last election, I think this has been a problem across the history of Barbados' political affair and, in a sense, this piece of legislation, perhaps, seals the deal and this is why we will agree with it. It seals the deal on the maturation process in terms of the management of this country's financial affairs.

Mr. President, in a real sense, what you are doing is accessing the performance of investment being made from the public purse on behalf of the people of the country and, Sir, you have to be able to do that, not only on the basis of a year down the road, looking back at it, but to be able to seriously make a clinical assessment of where you are going. Sir, as with any other commercial enterprise, you would want, from month to month, to be able to see where you actually stand and what is the performance truly like, not only then would the country be subjected to something more objective but, I think we would be able to close that unfortunate chapter, where people spoke on matters of financial affairs from the perspectives of "I feel" or "I hear" or "somebody tells me," and, Sir, that did not serve us well.

Mr. President, there is an aspect to this amendment, which I think is vitally important and that is we capture all the expenses that accrue as liabilities to the Crown but remain unpaid at the date of Balance Sheet being prepared. Sir, the question of capturing the liabilities to the Crown, I think, Senator captured that very nicely.

Mr. President, the reality is that which has been touted around and come to be known as "Below the Line Accounting," simply speaking, is people trying to make, at a rapid rate, a payment to persons or entities providing services or goods above and beyond that which has been budgeted in the Estimates. This Chamber would have heard some reflection on the accuracy of the Estimates exercise during the period of the Estimates only a few months ago and even by implication....

12.00 a.m.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: I think the slightly, and I say only slightly defensive posture adopted by my good friend, the Leader of Government Business, in her last contribution would have reflected that she too is sensitive to this only present part of the argument in our Estimates exercise.

Sir, the issue is a critical one, and the system of accrual accounting will help us, again, to get to the root of a problem that has long plagued the society. It is not necessary a bad thing to accelerate payment to persons providing services. In fact, all Governments in this country in recent times, both sides of the aisle, have agreed and, have sought in the process of sourcing goods and services, to assist that public procurement, you reach out to the so-called small businessman, the small business entity, and small person in Barbados. Sir, it is a difficult thing when those persons are contracted to provide the service, let us

say for argument sake, by the Urban Development Commission, we just picked up an Auditor General's Report which said that in the Estimates, X amount of money was budgeted but contracts to the tune of, let us say, 5 per cent per that X amount have been made, monies were not paid or the contractor walked off the job, because the implication is, that something nefarious has taken place in the process, and the finger points to the politician and minister, going down that happy or unhappy road of what often ends up in personal abuse and vituperative attacks, when quite frankly what you were trying to do was to make sure...

Asides.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: I am sure you are. You always do.

Sir, what you are trying to do is to ensure you make payments to persons who are professionally offering a service to the Government and people of Barbados, and who have been approached to do so as part of a deliberate political policy of procurement of public services.

Sir, it also helps us, on the flip side of the coin, to identify issues of which there has to be serious concern, or about which there have to be serious concern. Sir, that is why if you are committed to transparency, you just cannot talk about it, you have to support this. Sir, I continue to make the point, that is really what the previous Government was striving for when we brought the initial piece of legislation to the book in 2007.

Sir, the situation, for example, which was recently alluded to on the Floor of the Other Place, the Rural Development Commission, not necessarily to point a negative finger at anybody, or to cast an aspersion on anyone, but an issue arises whereby the allegation is made that a three-bedroom house, which previously may have cost, let us say up to December 2007, $59 000, now is being costed at $80 000. Sir, is there an issue that can be rectified without making a direct challenge to anyone's integrity. Is it an issue of transparency? I think that part as and parcel of the process, we must have the correct accounting technique, so that we are able to rationalise whether this is value for money, whether there are issues which are walking hand in hand with such an exercise, or whether, in fact, a cause for there to be a cloud of suspicion, and ultimately an investigation.

Sir, I think that one of the issues we as an Opposition certainly have decided that we would want to commit ourselves to, is to go down this road of trying to ensure that sweeping and wild accusations are not made, but a climate is created in Barbados whereby you have best possible opportunity for a framework to be put in place in this country, where there is an appropriate realm of transparency. It is only when that is violated that you can then properly justify the issues of accusations and that kind of thing.

Sir, I think that my colleague, as I said, captured the substance of this amendment quite nicely. I think it is really one of those pieces of legislation which should be compulsory reading for all new Senators. I believe it is a very excellent step in the direction of our management of this country's financial affairs. The omission, perhaps, is one that we need to reflect on, because the Bill is seeking to close a loophole in a Bill that was passed only a year ago. Sir, ever so often, in my experience, and I have been in this now only for seven years, I am sure that you have been in it for nearly 30 years, if not more, have seen it several times, where the drafting process often lets the legislative system down. Sir, we have to ask the question, why is it necessary to come and correct? Sir, I think on this Order Paper, there is another type of omission, another Bill dealing with it. I do not want to anticipate it, but we will see in due course.

Sir, there are too many instances where in the drafting process, you have passed a piece of legislation and then once it comes into operation and effect, you say, hang on a second, there is a loophole here which should have been dealt with by the technical people, upfront. I think a greater degree of caution has to be brought to bear. Equally, I am very much aware of the pressures which the drafters in Barbados operate under. There are in fact few and far between, not only here but across the region. The demand on their services is ever increasing.

Sir, these things ultimately do come back to being a question on the impact of the Parliamentary process, the time it takes for us to come in here, and go over a piece of legislation again just to amend it and so on. It should have been avoided.

Sir, those few things apart, I want to commend this Bill to colleague Senators and to pledge our continuing support.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Is there any other Senator who wishes to speak? It does not seem so. The Honourable Senator may reply.

SENATOR HON. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, you would have appreciated from the previous two contributions, the importance of this piece of legislation is obvious and clear. I would want to, in my brief wrap up comments suggest that in talking about the need to have, perhaps, and how we deal with the question of the line accounting is something that goes beyond people trying to make rapid decisions. We were given some examples of situations where that might occur.

I believe that in looking at the introduction and observance of accrual accounting in the public service, it is important to see this as, and I want to stress, one of the mechanisms which would allow for full and clear disclosure where there is talk about below the line accounting, that provision is made and practice does allow for the kind of basic examples that my colleague on the other side cited. However, I want to say and the actions of the current Government reflected this. The use of below the line accounting, there was a practice developing, or a practice which was introduced, of using that technique for substantial investments. If we talk about true and full disclosure, the new methodology, the want of a better word, the Build Operate Lease Transfer (BOLT), et cetera, financing arrangement for capital projects, was one in which such techniques, below the line accounting, et cetera, would have been used, and we would have seen the consequences of this.

Sir, I am happy to say that the issue of transparency, therefore, is more than just applying the correct accounting technique, but adopting it as a philosophy of how we account to the citizens of the country. Therefore, the notion of sweeping and wild accusations would not be made in a situation where there is proper and full accounting, particularly when we are talking of hundreds of millions of dollars, which would not necessarily be reflected in the day to day accounts of Government.

Sir, I am happy to say that this administration is committed to ensuring that as we make the necessary modifications and undertake to...

12.10 p.m.

Senator Miss M. P.O. McCLEAN: I am happy to say that this administration is committed to ensuring that as we make the necessary modifications and undertake to adopt the best practices in the area of financial management and financial decision-making that this piece of legislation is something that the Amendments - as I said before, the straightforward Amendments - will in fact, however support efforts to fully account to all our citizens.

Sir, on that note, again, I reiterate that I am supportive of the Amendment and I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the separate motion of Senator Miss M. P.O. McCLEAN, the SENATE resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR Miss K. F. IFILL in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 13, inclusive, were called and passed.

On the motion of Senator Miss M. P.O. McCLEAN, Madam CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the PRESIDENT, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Senator Miss M. P.O. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Financial Management and Audit (Amendment) Act, 2008.

ORDER NO. 1 – THE CRICKET LEGENDS OF BARBADOS INCORPORATED BILL, 2008

Senator Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to support the passing of the Cricket Legends of Barbados, Inc. Bill, 2008. This piece of legislation is intended to provide a number of concessions to a company, The Cricket Legends of Barbados, Inc.

Senate A7, sequence 08, 12:20:14

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: In doing so, it seeks to support an effort to ensure the continued appreciation in Barbados, in the region and certainly in the world, both among those nations who currently play cricket and those who have identified cricket as a sport to be adopted...

Barbados, and indeed the Caribbean, has made over the life of cricket as we know it, and even as some of us did to know it - well not as we know it now, I think now we would not talk about legends, we would talk about something else...

Sir, in all seriousness, cricket has been a very critical part of the very existence of Caribbean people. It has contributed significantly to the shaping of our identities. It has carved out for us a place on the international scene. It has located in the hearts and minds of people some very important names. For example, Barbados has contributed to the world, cricket loving persons and others, the world's greatest cricketer, Sir Garfield Sobers, who has become one of our National Heroes, the only living National Hero.

Mr. President, in order to appreciate the importance of these concessions, because I am sure in some people's minds the question may be why do you give concessions to a company which is intended to benefit legends of cricket...

I want to suggest, Mr. President, that the benefit is not about those individuals who performed well in the name of the West Indies cricket team, but about building a legacy for our children and the giving of an opportunity to recognise the contributions of those great individuals.

In Barbados, cricket, as I said before, has placed us on the world map. It was probably inconceivable on the part of many... Many people may argue that I may not know the rules of the game but I certainly know something about the history.

Mr. President, if you think of a small country... I have focussed on Barbados in much of my comments because the legends that we speak of in this Bill are Barbadians. I was reminded quite recently that in the heydays of West Indies cricket there was a time when the team included eight persons from Barbados. That tells you something about the legendary nature of their contribution.

Mr. President, if we as a country and as a region are to perhaps help to resuscitate West Indies cricket... We know West Indies cricket is in the doldrums. We have had several analyses as to the genesis of the problem. Sir, if we think about it, the performance of the West Indies team against any of the other cricketing nations is not of itself problematic, but, I think, is symptomatic of deeper problems. Many of these problems may lie within the confines, for want of a better word, of a failure perhaps on the part of our current cricketers to fully appreciate the significance of the success of the legends of which we speak in this legislation and who form part of this company.

Mr. President, cricket has been the bedrock of communities. If we look at the origins of the Right Honourable Sir Garfield Sobers, the 3Ws, Worrell, Weekes and Walcott, and more recently Desmond Haynes, they all came to cricket from very humble beginnings. Cricket was able to make each of them greats not only in the Caribbean but around the world. Mr. President, I hate to use words that are often used which become buzzwords, but they have remained icons in this world.

When we think of cricket and its increasing popularity, not in the Caribbean because there seems to be a contradiction or an irony, I supposed I could say, Mr. President, that while many nations that have not traditionally engaged in cricket are seeking to do so, the young men of the West Indies seem to be finding the other sports attractive, the traditional football we know, not the north American game, basketball and even baseball because we are now exposed to all kinds of sports on the international television options that we have available.

The challenge therefore is how do we ensure that something is done and some very concrete things are done to place it at the forefront of the minds of our young people when they think of sports and of the options available to them.

Sir, I would argue that one of the shortcomings in terms of our building a legacy and fostering an ongoing interest and appreciation of the contribution of cricket would have to do with our ability to capture those moments in cricket's past which would allow our young people to understand what cricket means to many of us and what cricket can continue to mean and in fact what cricket can do to foster a sense of who we are as a people of the Caribbean.

Mr. President, when some of us here were young, we did not necessarily have the kind of media coverage in the form of televison, et cetera. I am seeing some interesting reactions. I do not know if they were part of us, but some of us were glued to radios and later on perhaps to a black and white television. When the West Indies team was successful, we were buoyed, we were jubilant and we felt proud.

Mr. President, it was around cricket, that the islands of CARICOM as we know them now would rally. Of course, we know of David Rudder's song "Rally 'Round' the West Indies" which is seen as the unofficial anthem.

Mr. President, we recognised that here as small nations we had models of what we could do against all odds. I believe that in the context of a changing globalised world, we need to find mechanisms, however small, however focussed or narrow in scope, that would help us to appreciate that. In this large sea of a globalised world, we, the dots in the Caribbean, remained forces with which the world has to reckon. I believe that it is through providing support through the Legends of Barbados Cricket Inc. that we can do this.

I am sure that there are many who would question if this is a business, why do they need support. Mr. President, when we look at the provisions, concessions are being made to facilitate the establishment of a museum. Therefore, in providing tax incentives, et cetera, to this entity, the Government is really and truly investing and partnering with the company, and by extension the legends, in ensuring that we retain that historical information and play our part not only in educating Barbadians but the hundreds and thousands of tourists who come to this country.

Mr. President, I was involved for almost a decade and a half with the cruise tourism sector. It was interesting that on those days when the ships came in - I will focus on the British - and there were passengers on, everybody were anxious to see the Mecca of the Caribbean, that great

Kensington Oval, but then they would come back and tell you that there was not much to see.

Sir, other than the physical building, where was the memorabilia, where is the history, where is the information, where are the pieces of evidence of the great performance of these West Indian cricketers who continue to be legendary across the world.

Mr. President, I believe that in establishing such a museum and in creating opportunities and supporting the efforts of this company, the Government of Barbados would in fact be supporting a very important piece of our history.

12.30 p.m.

However, I want to say that in supporting the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. Bill and the cricket legends themselves, that it must be a two-way process. There must be a process of reciprocity, one in which the beneficiaries should recognise, accept and commit to, in very concrete terms, the responsibility to deliver on their end. I believe that in providing these concessions, they should not remain on the statute books in the first instance, nor should they continue to reside in the offices of the Ministry of Finance. These concessions must be utilised in a way which says that in supporting the efforts of the Legends of Barbados Inc., the legends who run this company are supporting an initiative which intends to make a significant contribution to capturing the history of cricket and that thereby, in capturing that history, they recognise they are contributing towards the continued appreciation and education of Barbadians, of the people of CARICOM, of persons who visit this country, of persons who are able to access the products and services of this company, who are perhaps able to participate in a Cricket Centre of Excellence or to view the outputs of that centre. Sir, the legends must be able to see this country as being able to contribute to cricket in a meaningful way. Sir, people appreciate that.

Mr. President, I want to stress that there are a number of ironies in West Indies Cricket and that it is important that we capture that. Sir, I speak of the fact that in the heyday of West Indies Cricket, the financial rewards to cricketers and by extension their families, were nothing compared to what now exists. It is, therefore, ironic that when the players of the West Indies Team are best compensated, I would say without a shadow of doubt, that they are performing worst than we have ever seen before.

Sir, I said before that is not a problem in itself, I think that poor performance is systematic of a problem. Therefore, when I talk about the need to share and to assume the responsibility which goes with the benefits to be derived from these concessions, I trust that those in authority, that is in respect of the management of West Indies Cricket, would see the creation of this company and the work that it does, as one of the mechanisms for fostering a proper ongoing relationship between the masters and those players, who have succeeded in the past, those who are currently playing, and those who strive to become players.

Mr. President, a lot of people say that young people are not interested in cricket. They are perhaps not interested in cricket because nobody has made it out to be what it has been to this country and to the region. A lot of people would want to know more but the opportunities to know more have not been fully available. I believe that if our children are given the opportunity to understand, to learn in a very systematic and structured way about the origins of cricket, about the contribution cricket has made to the region, in particular Barbados, they would see there is glory in playing cricket and in seeking to be part of a sport of kings.

Mr. President, one of the things we saw was that kings have arrived, not out of royalty but that the royalty came in the form of competence, skill and dedication to being better. I believe that in doing so, we could make a major contribution to influencing the quality of young men.

Sir, I will speak nothing of women cricket because I might get into trouble if I talk about some suggestions in terms of what is happening, because some persons have suggested that where men are not interested that perhaps we should put women, but I think that cricket is both a man's game and a woman's game and that we must keep them separate at this point in time.

Mr. President, I believe that cricket has the capacity to help us rebuild community, to help us to seize the opportunity to readily identify ourselves as people from the Caribbean. It has the opportunity to continue to do something that few other institutions and factors have done, that is to maintain and to foster unity amongst the people of CARICOM. Cricket has been outstanding in that respect.

Sir, I trust that as we seek to provide concessions in relation to the various taxes and duties, that we would see this as an initiative to ensure that this company, which has the potential for making a significant difference in the lives of the people of the Caribbean, particularly Barbados, and contributing as another tourism product....Sir, I trust that we could look at it in those terms. There are socioeconomic benefits and other benefits to community development.

I believe if we see it in that way, if the beneficiaries are able to respond in the manner that is expected, they would seize the opportunity to establish a viable company, to establish all the components that have been identified, and to do it in a way that is beneficial, not only to the legends but also to the people of this country. Furthermore,

that we are able, through a process of working with young people, by informing and demonstrating to them that cricket and all cricket entails offers to them the opportunity to become good citizens of this country, of the region and of the world. It also demonstrates to them that the support and financial benefits that would be forgone by the Government would have been truly an investment in our future because we would have invested in a critical element of our glorious past.

Mr. President, I, therefore, commend this Bill to you.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, the Bill before us wholeheartedly attracts the support of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition. The fact of the matter is, how could it be otherwise? The fact is that it was in August, 2005, that the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. was created and the organisational structure which would now seek to empower, through a few windows towards financial opportunity and assistance, came about.

Mr. President, I think that as often happens when a good idea is embraced and another individual or set of individuals are asked to run with the ball, very often the baton passes but not necessarily with the same instinct and - dare I say - passion that was held by the original proponents of the idea. Mr. President, I want to share some of that passion which the previous Government held and continues to hold.

Sir, there is nothing wrong in the presentation of the Leader of Government Business. I think what is missing is the extent of the vision surrounding the legends. Sir, let us be clear, the Legends of Barbados Inc. is not parallel anywhere else in the Caribbean. Indeed, I do not think the Legends of Barbados Inc. is parallel in the cricketing world.

12.40 p.m.

Mr. President, the legends of Barbados are no parallel anywhere else in the Caribbean. Indeed, Sir, I do not think the legends of Barbados are parallel in the cricketing world. What we have sought to do, is to create a corporate structure around the old school of cricket and to seek, through a number of opportunities to ensure that we promote cricket in this country and, by extension, in the region and that, Sir, we make it the centrepiece of sporting development in Barbados. I do not think there are many who are going to gainsay or naysay the fact that cricket, certainly in my lifetime, has fallen from the pristine place, which it certainly held, when I was a boy.Mr. President, I want to say that, therefore, was part of what was called the legacy vision coming out of the hosting of cricket World Cup 2007. Sir, if you go to the draft Bill, you would see there were a number of objectives, which were outlined. I think we need to spend some time understanding what we are doing in great detail. It was intended that you promote the development of cricket amongst the youth. Almost every time one speaks about the game, that is the first thing that comes out of the speaker's mouth, that they want to promote it amongst the youth. Sir, I am sure that my friend, Senator Griffith, would agree that it has to go a lot further than that, that there has to be a genuine effort at empowering and making a link between the game of cricket and young people in their concept of personal development in this society.

Mr. President, the other thing we were looking at doing is selling cricket memorabilia, the sale of cricket equipment and the establishment of the centre of excellence. Sir, down the road, the museum arises.

Mr. President, where I think I differ with the Leader of Government Business on this matter is when she speaks in broad terms about the need to take up the incentives and not just leave them lying on the books in the Minister of Finance. Sir, there is an absorptive capacity issue. There is a very genuine concern that we have to accept that there needs to be a capacity on the part of the legends of Barbados to utilise effectively the incentives, which we are here deliberating today.

Mr. President, it is a fact to say that many among that gathering of distinguished gentlemen are some of the most outstanding sports persons to be seen in the Caribbean but I do not know that it is equally true to say that they have at their immediate disposal the necessary technical capacity, which is going to be necessary for them to be able to make the most out of this corporate structure that we have created.

Mr. President, the fact of the matter is that any company, how so ever well intentioned the shareholders and directors are, is going to face competition. Sir, any company is going to have to come up against issues of marketing strategy; any company, which is going to be in the business of doing what the legends are doing is to going to have at one point or another to deal with the very vital question of franchising of this operation because the legends do not begin and end in Barbados. The fact of the matter is that it has been a long time that people have been touting the idea of regional legends and, in fact, during the Cricket Cup cricket exercise they spoke to the legends of the Caribbean, just as we speak now about the legends of Barbados. Mr. President, the question of franchising, to my mind, is going to be an inevitable issue that the company would have to face.

Mr. President, then there is the inescapable phenomenon of changing technology. The question that we have to deal with upfront is the technical assistance that must be placed at the disposal of the legends of Barbados incorporated in order to help them deal effectively with

these aspects of an evolving commercial marketplace. Sir, franchising, marketing, technology, those are the first three that come to mind.Mr. President, the issue of sale of cricket memorabilia and cricket equipment, for example, automatically attract your attention on the issue of franchising. Sir, what you effectively want is to create a replica, for want of a better word at this stage, of that which exists in places like North America when they talk about the national football league or, indeed, the National Basketball Association and the National Baseball Association. Sir, what effectively you want to have is Barbadian young boys going out of their way to get a card with the statistics of Sir Garfield Sobers, West Hall and Charlie Griffith, collecting them the way in which we would have collected similar statistics of other sports heroes when we were boys. What we want is to have Barbadian young men and, indeed, Barbadian young women seeking to procure lines of clothing.

Mr. President, I remember during the famous English tour when we had Joel Garner, there was a beautiful tee shirt with Joel Garner bowling a yawker and humbugging Geoff Boycott. I remember, Sir, struggling to get my hands on one of those tee shirts many years ago and all the youngsters of my age wanted to get that type of tee shirt. Sir, those are the kinds of things that need now to be franchised so that the legends are in a position, in perpetuity, to be making substantial sums of money off their endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, I fear, it has not been said here but I have heard it said in other places, not necessary in the Other Place, that this is more about trying to looking after the old guard of cricket because many of them have fallen on hard time. Sir, to put it in that tone is to put a very simplistic colour on what is a fundamental commercial opportunity, which is being opened up in this country. Sir, what we in Barbados are sitting on is the cusp of a commercial opportunity that can cross national borders in this region. What we are also sitting on is an opportunity to lead in that commercial endeavour so that the trade in the business of cricket and cricket paraphernalia is something that Barbados can assume a premier position in.

Mr. President, I will give you a very personal example. A few days ago, I procured for my young son his very first cricket set, a bat, a ball and wickets.

Asides.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: He has to start young because the Chinese start theirs at two years old and I am starting him young too. Sir, the fact of the matter is, the disgust that I felt was that the bat was marked "Made in Pakistan," the stump were made in China, Sir, of all places. Sir, one has to ask oneself the question why is it that even though we have made so much from the process in terms of international recognition...

Asides.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: Sir, there is no where in the Asian that you can go, I have experience it and I know that you, Sir, who was a foreign Minister has experience it too. Sir, you walk through Malaysia and people will stop you and ask you about Wes Hall and Charlie Griffith as though they expect that West Hall and Charlie Griffith grew up next to you.

MR. PRESIDENT: In this case it would be accurate.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: Yes, Sir, in your case it would be accurate. Mr. President, the fact of the matter is that we now have to build that critical nexus because we have talked about it for a long time and here is a commercial opportunity where we can build a nexus between being great in the eyes of the world and then being financially powerful in an emerging sector. Sir, in the business of sports and arts, this is no secret to anybody, that is where the money is and, quite frankly, the spinoffs of it, which is what we are talking about in cricket equipment, memorabilia and so on are equally important, that perhaps is the engine that drives it.

Mr. President, I had looked at Section 5.1 in the legislation in some detail, that part of the legislation that speaks to areas, which is exempt from the payment of duties and taxes and, again, Sir, I feel that we have inherited and embraced a good idea and embraced a good idea. My quarrel, Sir is that I do not think we have been sufficiently visionary. The exemption goes through educational materials, articles, fines, office furniture and equipment and, Sir, I have no quarrel with that because it is trite, almost simplistic because almost every piece of legislation of this nature across the history of Barbados has had that.

12.50 p.m.

office machinery, almost simplistic, almost every single piece of legislation across this country has had that; audio visual equipment, film, books, pamphlet, and one motor vehicle that carries a seating capacity of seven or more persons, not very imaginative. Sir, my concern is, if we are going to be serious about this, we have to embrace the idea of competing effectively with persons who are our natural competitors in this business. Let us face fact, because we created the Legends of Barbados, and nobody created the Legends of else anywhere in the world does not mean that once they have heard about the Legends, they would not rush because they have Legends too. Sir, India would tell you that they have as many Legends as we do. Pakistan would make the same claim, Australia and

England as well. Therefore, we have to recognise that we now need to be giving this company, not only the technical assistance support, of which I alluded before, but additional budgetary support.

Sir, my quarrel is, perhaps, we may have been too halting before or limited in the scope of where we are going. I would envisage that this would be an excellent area for a permanent tax holiday, or exemption on cricketing equipment, so that the vital bowling machines, the issue of batting cages, which you hear about in every single ground in Barbados, Minister Thompson, I am sorry, Senator Thompson...

Asides.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: That is perhaps looking into the short future.

Sir, Senator Thompson and myself have had a very close working relationship with folks in Holders Hill, Hoytes Village and Haynesville area. That little area of Barbados, it may come as a surprise to you, has produced a large amount of the Legends. The Desmond Hayneses, Albert Padmore, Franklyn Stevenson, Philo Wallace, Carlise Best, Courtney Browne and the list is as long as my arm. Sir, one of things that you notice on all of those grounds, there is a very keen interest.

Sir, I take you back to the question of what the objectives of this company were - the sale of cricket equipment and cricket memorabilia. On the issue of cricket equipment, this is the opportunity for us to be getting into Barbados and into the mainstream of Barbadian cricketing society, into the hands of the Barbadian young people, the bowling machines, the all- weather batting wicket and batting cages, those things that the young men have seen the Australians using and have experienced on their overseas tours, BCL, et cetera, the English using, but are still removed from. Sir, I do not genuinely believe that we can speak to the development of cricket without placing at the immediate disposal of the grassroots of cricket, that is perhaps where the Barbados Cricket Association fails. We speak of these things in a very administrative way, as though they can be completely detached from the grassroot, actually going out there and playing and practising and developing the sport. Sir, if you go to any of those village grounds, that is what the fellows want. That is what their constant cry is.

Sir, I can tell you now that at Hoytes Village, and, in fact, even though I cannot spy strangers in the Gallery, it has been drawn to my attention that in the Public Gallery they are persons who can say from their own experience that in Hoytes Village the call was for an all-purpose batting wicket, and that the costing was only $40 000, but beyond the budgetary reach of the National Sports Council, or the priorities of the National Sports Council, therefore, beyond the reach of the community. Sir, those kinds of things will now be put at the disposal of the cricketing public of Barbados.

Sir, I want to say, as well, that we are living in a technological age. Again, I do not pooh pooh the list of exemptions, but I do say that while the office machinery has its place, and the office equipment and audio visual equipment have its place, I feel that if we are going to come to the point of talking about cricketing museums, let us be very frank. We are living in a highly technological age. We need to be positioning Barbados early, not upfront with an idea. This is what we do all the time. We create an idea, then we give it a little bit of help, not too much, and we leave. Others come, see what the good brains of Barbados have done, borrow it, gallop and go along with it.

Sir, you want to be able to come to a cricketing museum and have an interactive experience, the same way you can go to a sporting museum in other jurisdictions and have an interactive experience, so that you can simulate in a little chamber, the experience of facing a Wes Hall or Charlie Griffith, or you can simulate in a little chamber the experience of facing a Joel Garner or Malcolm Marshall.

Asides.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: Sir, the reality is, we have to do it in an information age way. I do not believe that in one fell swoop you will be able to budget it, but I believe that when you are creating in the legislation a framework for exemption, we now have to go beyond the point where we have just borrowed from previous pieces of legislation. Sir, I can take you back, if we had time, to several where you get a motor car, and you slap yourself on the back and say you have done a good job for that group, I gave them some office equipment. That is trite and almost irrelevant to the visionary concept, which was driving the idea of the Legends of Barbados.

Mr. President we also have to be very mindful of the fact when we are talking about this museum business, we have in this country a proliferation now of those which pass for museums. I am a little bit concerned. I do not wish to get into them. I am trying very hard not to go down on partisan political route. There is a place for an aeronautical museum in Barbados, I am sure. There is a place for a George Washington House, I am sure, but we come to a point where we now have to seriously look at the quantity of those things which we are calling museums and then compare then with the quality. Sir, I think that if there is going to be a serious attraction, and I go back to the example used by the distinguish Leader of Government Business, I think there is much in it as a tourist attraction. I put our locals first in the process, but I think there is much

in it as a tourist attraction. Sir, if that is to be recognised, then there has to be something very special about it.

Sir, I am just questioning the whole direction we are going in this country where ever so often another museum idea pops up and you run with that. I am not saying that we should not find a way of looking and preserving those critical parts of our past, but I do believe that if we are coming to priortise things, then this particular issue, this is a revenue bearing opportunity for young people in Barbados. It is something that will encourage young men in Barbados to see that sports has money in it and cricket has money in it.

Sir, there is a reason why they look to football. That is where the money is. Too many people growing up in Barbados saw a Barbadian, a former cricket star, treated as though he was nobody in this country. The tales of those experiences are in fact legendary. There are legends in details. Therefore, what we have to do now is transform and transmogrify that cultural outlook young people have insofar as their relationship with the game of cricket is concerned.

Sir, I feel as well that the community involvement is a very critical thing. I want to spend a little time on that, but before I go there, let me briefly say that I agree with the Leader of Government Business on the matter of a partnership with the Barbados Tourism Authority. It think that Herbert House, in particular, is a very strategically placed with regard to the Bridgetown Port. Again, what is needed is a helping hand, a genuine partnership in the Government, and a passion for the partnership, because this would fail if we allow that nuisance concept called Vertical Integration to come and run tourists from where we want them to be, as is happening already.

Sir, the fact that the owners of the cruise ships form a relationship with the travel agencies, then their in turn form a relationship with the tour operators, you can get on a cruise ship and before you have left the home port, you are pretty much given a list of places to go or not to go in Barbados. The fact is, the Legends, left to their own devices will never have the technical capacity to reach into the bosom of the tour operators...

1.00 p.m.

The fact is, that the Legends, left to their own devices will never have the technical capacity to reach the tour operators and the international owners of cruise ships and so on, in order to make sure that their product is first and foremost.

The Government, however, because it carries far more muscle and weight and because of the fact that it sits at international trade relation negotiating tables, the Government, because of the fact that it can bend a discourse on tourism along the lines of trade in tourism and the business opportunity that must flow from trade in tourism for the Barbadians national, the Government, Sir, is in a better position to ensure that the Legends' potential is reached. I think that is something we have to seriously look at, Sir. It is not for me at this stage to speak about that at great length. I share the idea and I share it, Sir, in the presence of those, I am told, who are the two most fertile brains in the Cabinet, and I go no further than that, Sir.

Asides.

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: That is what is alleged.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The President does not have any fertile brain in any Cabinet.

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: I said, Sir, not to you but in the presence of...You, Sir, are not in the Cabinet any more to the best of my knowledge.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would wish you to address the Chair.

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: I almost said that you should be but I would not go there, Sir.

Sir, on the question of community linkages, I feel again, that this matter is of first importance for the communities of Barbados. Herbert House is a little bit removed from St. James. It is a little bit removed from St. Peter. It is a little bit removed from a lot of places. The reality is, however, that we need to find a way of getting the Legends of Barbados out there and meaningfully involved in the communities.

One of the things that I noticed with some regret early in the life of this Government was the fact that none other than Sir Everton Weekes was relieved of responsibilities as a consultant with the National Sports Council. Sir, I am not going to make this a debate about Sir Everton but I would say this much and no more. Sir Everton, is perhaps in the minds of young people, and old people who know about cricket, more of a national hero than some of the national heroes. Therefore, it is a tragedy, if nothing else, that this unhappy circumstance befell Sir Everton.

Sir, there are several others, who are able to play similar roles. My argument is that it should be the Desmond Haynes and the Franklyn Stevenson and the Courtney Browns in every primary school in this country, for as often as it can be afforded, to interface with the young people. But I go a step further.

Sir, in Holders Hill, Senator Thompson and I were very closely related to a project that was intended to bring a Walk of Fame to that district, so that you immortalise by way of an existing visual monument, the success of all those Legends who had come from that district. Sir, 66 persons from that district alone, have represented Barbados. Can you imagine a Walk of Fame from the Courtney Brown Pavilion to the Desmond Haynes Pavilion, where you are at every stage of the way seeing a representation of the country's commitment to the young people who had made this country a place on the map?

Asides.

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: You would pooh-pooh it because it did not spring from your brain.

Sir, it is not an issue of politics. It is an issue of saying that which has been the life blood of people who did not go on a political platform and keep noise like you and I, but who perhaps did more than you or I could ever do to make this country something spectacular and of significance in the minds of people across the globe. Those people should be immortalised and recognised for their service. This is the issue.

It is not the question of if you did it and if you did not do it. The issue is there is an idea out there and it requires support and it requires bipartisan support. Perhaps, the major problem that the Legends will face is this particular peculiar, pedantic and prepubescent nonsense of persons who feel that their only contribution to public life must be to nitpick at what a political party did, or did not do. We have to be bigger than that, Sir.

This is not about the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party. This is about what a Governmental process can do to empower small black Barbadian men who, if it were not for them, half of England would not have known what this country is about, because it is through them that they come here.

Sir, if it were not for them, the Australians would not know what we were about because there was nothing that would have made them curious to come here.

Asides.

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: Do not tell me to calm down on this issue. I say to you that I would not apologise for feeling a passion about the development of the young people in this country, and a passion for the commitment of those who have gone before us, those past generations. Sir, this is why Sir Everton Weekes was treated in the way that he was treated.

Aside.

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I go little further to the larger point of that which caused this process to come into effect.

Sir, back in 2005 when the organisational structure was created, we had no difficulty with the idea that you would have, in the context of a museum and a Centre of Excellence, Sir, all of the DVDs and that type. Again, we have to see this as a business opportunity, and that is what it has to be about and it has, therefore, to be about mass production, and not just having a few DVDs for people to pass through and see. Sir, there has to be an urge to come and view the highlights of a particular cricketer's career, in the same way as you can view the highlights of Michael Jordan's Basketball career.

Sir, there has to be the engagement of people of literary skill, so that we can write, preserve and market the highlights of cricketers' careers in this country. Sir, by extension, we have to be very forward-thinking and understand that if we have done it successfully in Barbados, under the single market and single economy exercise, we as of right, can now go into other people's country in this region and take leadership on behalf of their Legends.

In the same way, Sir, that Trinidad comes into our country and pack down our supermarket shelves with their product, we have an opportunity in intellectual property law to go further than has ever been gone before by this country in this region on this particular matter. Sir, we cannot allow it to go abegging.

Therefore, I am saying that while I accept the initial position of the Leader of Government Business, I think that she fell short of reaching where she needs to reach, because the Government now needs to be in a position to say and to see that the exemptions and incentives which are offered, cannot just be taken up. There has to be an absorptive capacity.

Sir, that absorptive capacity will not exist in the Legends in and of them. You now have to marry the operation of the company with the necessary technical support skill so that the best that we can afford to have, in terms of marketing and building a franchising product can be sought and put to work, five days a week and seven days a week, if necessary. Sir, I believe this is a boon opportunity upon which we sit.

As I said before, my real concern is that you have an excellent idea but unless you feel a passion for the idea and a commitment to run as far as you can with it, then you will falter and if you falter, Sir, we do not fail ourselves. What we fail is that small and vulnerable group which has been set up there, called the legends.

1.10 p.m.

Sir, I will give you a practical example. If at Herbert House there is a bar and restaurant, but the bar and restaurant do not have in satellite television and all of those kinds of things, people would probably bypass there on a Friday night and go up the coast road at somebody else.

Sir, I do not want to market anybody, but you know what I mean. I would not use this place to market those people because they have not done anything for us. Other to perhaps give campaign funds to somebody, they have not done anything for us.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would just draw it to the Honourable Senator attention, the necessity to address the Chair.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, the marketing of that product is critical. Sir, I do not want to call any particular individual's name, but I think you understand the point and a reasonable person would understand the significance of the point. You cannot expect people who are not specialists in the area to assume the responsibility, nor do I think that we just leave it to them to work out or pull from the stars...

If you have no previous experience in business, you are not going to start as a spectacular success in your first business enterprise howsoever good your product. What you are going to need to do is to draw upon persons who have that experience and expertise. The State at this point must interface to help build that experience and expertise. That is my concern.

Sir, I am not going to use this place as an opportunity to castigate any part of the work of the National Sports Council, but I think there is a lot that can be done by way of the sale of the cricket memorabilia and the establishment of the promotion of the development of cricket process to offset some of the burden that exists on the National Sports Council of Barbados, that is a fact.

Sir, there is a marriage to be made between promoting cricket development and the sale of cricket equipment. Therefore, something as simple as the machinery, which is necessary to maintain a cricket ground... You may not know this, Sir, but there are several grounds in Barbados that have to sit and wait in turn on the one tractor. Yes, for the benefit of Senator Inniss, I was part of a Cabinet where it happened and it happened for a long time. It is something that I regret, but nonetheless life goes on.

Sir, what we have to do in this small economy where Government is called upon to do everything is to get beyond the point where we rely only on one entity. Therefore, if sit down mowers were made available through this process to ensure that cricket grounds in the BCL League were able to better look after their interest, that means that a fellow does not have to miss out on cricket on a Saturday or hope that he could get cricket on Sunday because the mower did not get there on time on Friday evening for them to have it cut on Saturday. Those types of nuisance activities that cause young fellows to say it is not worth the trouble, are the things that we have to avoid. That is what I am speaking to.

Equally, Sir, I think that a very vital point was made in the Other Place the role that we play as a country in this region where we have sat idly by and allowed foreign capital to come and change the course of the game of cricket.

Mr. President, that is something I too feel strongly about. Foreign capital has come to an island in the Caribbean and has changed the way we play the game of cricket. Sir, in that particular venture that foreign capital is involved in, you no longer have the game being rotated from capital to capital of the islands of this region, but is to be centred in Antigua.

Mr. President, that is not the developmental view that we have ever had for this region. It was a view where we shared the common experience of a common group of people who we call our National Heroes, our stars. It was through them that we projected onto excellence so that we could see the Caribbean as something that was worthy and dignified.

Sir, all of a sudden we have an individual coming who has perverted the course of that developmental process. Mr. President, I do not think he should be allowed to continue in silence. I do not know that we ever, on an individual basis, would be able to fight his capital on the basis of capital alone, but I think that there is a voice and a bar of public opinion and public persuasion. Sir, I truly believe that if you are serious, as he said he is, about the region's legends, because he has incorporated into them into his service, then I think you cannot do so to the exclusion of the region's capital and the region's people as a whole.

Mr. President, I think that if the voice of the country was heard on this matter and indeed the voice of the legends and all the authorities that be, then I think we would be much the richer for that experience.

Mr. President, I would not trespass on your time any longer, I know that we have passed the time appointed for the luncheon interval, and thank you for your indulgence.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.25 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2.25 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

1.20 p.m.

RESUMPTION

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This Sitting is now resumed. Senator the Hon. V. E. Newton.

Senator the Hon. V. E. NEWTON: Madam Deputy President, I rise to lend my support to this Bill which contemplates the payment of duties and taxes to the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. The purposes of the company are to:

a. promote the development of cricket amongst the youth;

b. sell cricket memorabilia;

c. sell cricket equipment;

d. create a Cricket Museum; and

e. establish a Cricket Centre of Excellence.

Madam Deputy President, while I am supporting this Bill, I have a number of questions in connection with it. Madam, the first question relates to the quality and type of the management of Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. We are going to be giving them exemptions from duties and taxes, yet we know nothing of how the company is managed or whether it has persons with the capacity and the expertise to do the things that are expected. Has there been any strategic plans?

In connection with the proposed Cricket Museum, I have reservations because a number of places described as museums have been established in Barbados. These places start with a few artifacts or other items and then languish, with no proper management or expansion. Has the Barbados Museum and Historical Society been consulted in relation to its establishment? Madam, I think that if a separate cricket museum is necessary, that the Barbados Museum and Historical Society should be involved.

Madam Deputy President, what about the Cricket Centre at the Cave Hill Campus? This is a department which has some of the same goals as the project outlined before us. In terms of museum items, the Centre has hundreds of photographs of cricketers from the region and elsewhere, going back to the 1930s. It is the finest collection in the Commonwealth Caribbean. The Centre also has a growing library collection which is used by the 12 students enrolled in the Masters in Cricket Studies and by other researchers. Has the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc., been in consultation with the Cricket Centre? I am sure that they would want to include information on this Centre and its holdings in any brochures, et cetera, which the legends produces.

The Centre has also recently published a biography of Sir Everton Weekes, one of the Legends of Barbados cricket. Sir Everton was interviewed for 24 hours. The book was published by Ian Randall Publishers in Jamaica, and Sir Hillary Beckles was able to broker a deal whereby Sir Everton is given 25 per cent of the price of each book sold.

The Cricket Centre has a plan for the production of other biographies, but lacks the funds for this purpose. So far the only funds received by the Centre for this project have been given by Sagicor, but more money is needed. It would be fitting if the Government donates funds for the production of biographies of all the legends, since information on these fine cricketers ought to be freely available, but researchers are needed to conduct the interviews and assemble the material under the direction of experienced scholars. The University has the expertise and a developmental plan, but needs funds for execution.

Madam Deputy President, the promotion of cricket among youth is also an objective of the Cricket Centre at Cave Hill. As I was coming here today, I noticed close to 100 little boys playing cricket. I noticed also that Desmond Haynes was among the persons who were showing them how to bat. This is yet another area for cooperation between the Cricket Legends and the Cricket Centre.

Madam Deputy President, I spoke of cooperation wherever possible between the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc., and the Cricket Centre, because this nation is small and does not have extensive resources, either in terms of personnel, nor money to be duplicating efforts already put in place elsewhere in the island. We have to think of stretching the taxpayers' dollars as far as it could go. Madam, for this reason, I would be inclined to ask the Cricket Legends some hard questions before the provisions of this Bill go into effect.

Madam Deputy President, I have never played cricket but I am interested in the game and I am of the view that both as a tourist attraction and as an initiative of which Barbadians could be proud, that the objectives of the Cricket Legends of Barbados are good ones, but we need to

ensure that it has the necessary skills and marketing plans in place, to ensure that the assistance by Government does not go down the drain. The Legends also need to work closely with existing institutions to ensure that duplication does not hamper the growth of any of the programmes.

Madam Deputy President, with those few words, I support this Bill before us.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Senator the Hon. Miss SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. O. P. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended for 10 minutes, due to technical difficulties.

The question that the Sitting be suspended for 10 minutes was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division and MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

2.28 p.m.

Madam Deputy President, I am not sure where I should start but I will start all over again. What I have said, and I am going to repeat is that I rise in support of this Bill to provide tax concessions for Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. In the Bill we have before us, we have a list of objectives of the company, which are to sell cricket memorabilia, cricket equipment, create a cricket museum, establish a cricket centre of excellence and promote the development of cricket amongst the youth.

Madam Deputy President, my problem with the Bill is that here we are being asked to give money to an organisation but we do not know anything about its management; we do not know if they have done the market research to do the things they would like to do nor we do not know if they have been strategic plans. It is a good idea but we do not have any idea whether this company has the ability and the management structure to carry out the proposed objectives. Be that as it may, my voice is only one and I am sure the measure will pass.

Madam Deputy President, the other point I wanted to make in connection with the Bill is that I notice there is a proposal to create a cricket museum and I am very wary of some of these objectives to create a museum because, if you move around Barbados, you will see that there are several places call museums of various sorts. There is the museum at the Garrison; there is a sugar museum and a few other but when you go to visit them, many of them fall sort, in my view, of what you expect a museum to contain and the standard to which it ought to attain. Madam, a few artifacts or objects are collected, purchased or whatever and are placed there. There is no one around often to explain much of what is going on to you and new materials are not added. A museum is supposed to be both a celebration of what has passed and, in a sense, a living institution that should make you connect with your pass and see where you are going in the future and some of our museums do not live up to that expectation.

Madam Deputy President, the other point I would like to make is to what extent, when this brainchild of the cricket legends of Barbados came up is the extent to which they would have consulted with or look to see what was happening at the University of the West Indies at the Cave Hill Campus where there is a cricket study centre that has over 500 videos and the largest collection of cricket photos going back to the 1930s and 1940s. Some of you may have gone to functions in the pavilion on the campus and see a part of that photo collection and it is an excellent collection.

Madam Deputy President, in addition the cricket centre has right now 12 students doing Masters in cricket studies and to facilitate their studies, the centre has been collecting books on cricketing from...

2.40 p.m.

SENATOR HON. Mrs. V.E. NEWTON: .. 12 students doing Masters in Cricket Studies, and to facilitate their studies, the Centre has been collecting books from cricketing, from all the countries that have published material, including the Caribbean. Central to all of this additional, I am hoping that the Cricket Legends would work with the University in realising their objectives. My view is, in a country such as ours with scarce resources, we cannot afford to be duplicating facilities of that kind.

I think that at the basis of a project to do with the Legends of Barbados or whatever, should be carefully provided to produce research and written biography of the Legends themselves. Such a project started at Cave Hill sometime ago. A biography of Sir Everton Weekes has been produced, after many hours of research and interviews with Sir Everton. It was published about six months ago at the Campus, and Sir Everton is benefiting from it to the extent that the agreement provides him 25 per cent of the royalties on each book sold.

I know for a fact that there is also a plan to provide a biography of Reverend Wes Hall. I am not sure how far that has reached because the Centre only received funding from Sagicor. While they have the strategy, the plans and persons with the ability and experience to supervise research projects of this kind, they need funding to do the interviews, and they need funding generally to assist in preparing the biographies for publication. My plea at this time would be for the Government to give some funding to the University of the West Indies to assist in its cricket

research project, just as if it is giving concessions to the Legends of Barbados.

It is all well and good, in my view, for Legends to sell memorabilia and equipment, but I repeat that the basis for any project involving the Legends should be information on the Legends themselves based on research conducted and are directed by persons with the necessary training and expertise. I would urge, as a general measure, that Legends and the University of the West Indies should get together before they execute any projects, if they have not started as yet, to ensure any money given to them is well spent and not duplicated, and at the end, all of the objectives which both parties would like to see attained for the good of cricket and the cricketing community and to assist in tourism would be achieved.

I would urge that we cooperate with each other and urge that the projects that are best executed at the University of the West Indies would be done so rather than the Legends attempt to do things for which they may not have the expertise.

Thank you, Madam.

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Marville.

SENATOR R.O. MARVILLE: I rise in support of the Cricket Legends Bill, but I am not quite sure I should begin as a student of history and culture, or whether I should begin as somebody who is contemporary, to some extent, with the Legends.

Asides.

SENATOR R.O. MARVILLE: I should not even speak for the cricketers.

Madam, basically, if I may refer to a couple points raised by the two former speakers, I do not think there is any conflict between what the University is doing, which is a very valuable academic exercise and what is proposed for the Legends. If you suggested that Government should, on top of Sagicor, support the University programme, then you might be creating a conflict.

It was pointed out, that one of the people looking at the present programme at the University was Desmond Haynes, who is one of the Legends. I think there is ample scope for both to work together. I supported a lot of what Senator Symmonds had to say, especially about the techonology of the new museum. I think that if we had a Kensington, the museum, but properly equipped so that people could come, even people who do not know anything about cricket, and have a real experience streaming the idea of interactive processes, the idea of videos of Sir Gary hitting six sixes or the test match, things that are of interest of cricket generally that people have not been able to see, but could see at that place, all sorts of other memorabilia, which I am afraid you are not going to gather exactly in books or photographs, but other bits and pieces like that would be a great idea for tourism.

I was tempted to talk about my own experience with the Legends and why I think it is important that these people become part of our living culture, as distinct from part of what might now be our dying culture. As a little boy I had the pleasure of going to Kensington, one day, and seeing Dennis Atkinson, who was an all-rounder, but a batsman, and Clermont Depieza, who had never made 40 or 50 runs in a match, bat against Miller and Lynwall. I think this was years before they went to Australia and got beaten there. They batted for the whole day to the extent that Miller, in rather typical Australian fashion, was bowling 'beamers' at Depieza's head. He never got anybody out that day. That was an experience that is worthy of recapture for every young person interested or not interested in cricket of today.

I think that the main purpose of this Bill is to celebrate an element of our culture which needs to be retained. Interestingly, that was not my only experience. We have made the argument that games like basketball and soccer are taking away from cricket. I should point out that several of the Legends, Clyde Walcott, Everton Weekes and Sir Frank Worrell all played soccer as well. There was a culture of general sports.

I had the pleasure, or honour, I should say, of playing basketball both with and against Sir Garfield Sobers. This was an era which was different. The point was, right at the beginning, the Legends had nothing but honour at stake. There were not paid, so there was not a way out. By the time we had got to the Malcolm Marshals, and I should point out, although Senator Symmonds was forced to mention them, Malcolm Marshall was arguably the best fast bowler in the world, ever. You could look at all of the statistics and all of them say the same thing. Incidently, Malcolm Marshall opened the bowling and betting on the same team of a cousin of mine, so we were involved in this thing. We were not the bright players but we were involved in this.

Asides.

SENATOR R.O. MARVILLE: We did not rub shoulders. We were involved. Nothing else, it was rubbing shoulders.

The point is, all of these people were vitally interested in cricket and not what else they played.

I think that what is happening is symptomatic of a lot of the society at the moment. We are so content that we

cannot be bothered. What is required is to bring back some concept of the energy, the seeking, the desire of that people. Nowadays you get the impression that kids make it to the West Indies team and they say, "I got it made". They make enough money to buy whatever they want to buy. That is how they live. They live without any aspiration of being the best.

I think that, apart from Chanderpaul now, who does not know how to stop batting, and who wants to bat all the time, and Brian Lara, before him, we have lost most of what we had before, which is why we are playing so badly. We need also to address those things.

There is one point mentioned by both speakers, which needs to be taken up, that is a question of management, essentially. However, it is quite clear to me that management of a private institution, which is essentially what the Legends is, although Government is duty-bound to facilitate the growth business, is not specifically the job of Government.

2.50 p.m.

Senator R. O. MARVILLE: I think in any other country and most certainly in Trinidad, if an opportunity like this presented itself, the private sector would rush in, help with management, help with marketing and make 'one hell' of a lot of money out of what is a well-created situation.

Again, we are too comfortable. We prefer to get into retail. We prefer to get into easy things. No risk taking. No initiatives. I do not know how we can change that exactly, but this is part of the problem.

I see the role of the Legends as important but I think too that the Legends have to be prompted into taking their responsibility in the community development of the game, in participation and training sessions, et cetera, et cetera. I know that not everybody who is a great player is a great coach but everybody who was a great player, knows things that many people aspiring to play do not, and it is important that knowledge is carried on.

Madam Deputy President, I will be brief. I am of course interested in all forms of cultural development. I was particularly pleased to see that the Government had taken up the case of Richard Stoute, whom I thought had made a very valuable contribution to our cultural existence. Sir, people who are now millionaires of the singing process and their performances, came through him.

I wish too, that there is one set of cultural ions that we look to. They are much fewer. I can only name two of the living ones, George Lamming and Kamau Brathwaite. I think we should look at our writers and Honour them in some specific way as we have done with cricket legends. I think that is important and it is a message I would pass on.

Thank you very much, indeed, Sir.

Asides.

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Alleyne.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy President. I would like to thank Senator Marville for setting the wicket, I think that the capacity he should always talk about cricket, as a groundsman.

Asides.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: This matter of cricket becomes very emotional to Barbadians, particularly since the Team had become the laughing stock of the cricketing world. As a boy, cricket ruled my veins. My every thought was cricket. I played cricket in bed: blind man cricket with a pencil with my eyes closed, hitting sixes and fours. I played with dolly heads, oranges, milk tots and breadfruits. Cricket ruled and we ruled cricket. What has happened that Barbados and West Indies' cricketers could fall from the lofty heights of the 1990s?

I find that often we concentrate on the performance of the team, the statistics and compare Greenidge with Campbell, and Campbell with Gale and we miss some of the features of what cricket really is, because cricket is more than just a game. We miss the interplay of race, status, class, community versus town, urban versus rural, the role of the groundsman, the village, and the mauby seller. We miss those issues when we discuss cricket and we forget that cricket must be managed because anything that is not managed will fail.

Therefore, 90 per cent of the responsibility for the decline is the managers of cricket and in particular, the Barbados Cricket Association (BCA). Its structure has not changed. If you look at the 1950 agenda and compare it with the 2005 agenda, nothing has changed. Therefore, we are caught in a time warp because the people who have the responsibility to manage cricket do not know what they are doing.

Asides.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: I am not a member of the BCA. A lot of people are Members and are afraid to speak the truth. I refuse to join the BCA, because I believe that if a management unit is to function, then the major players in that unit must have an interest in cricket, not to watch cricket and to get free passes at test matches. If the structure of Barbados and cricket has changed, then the BCA has to change its structure.

In 1956 there were 86 BCL teams. Today, there are 27 or 28 and that must speak something about the changes in our communities. The BCA moved from 32 teams and 20 clubs to now more than 100 teams and yet cricket is dying because the structure of the BCA has not changed to reflect that there needs to be a focus away, from the parties at Kensington Oval and the test matches, into an examination of what is happening to cricket.

Asides.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: The Government of Barbados paid, I heard, $1 million but I speak under correction and the document was prepared by David Shorey. I do not know why Shorey or who Shorey. I am not interested in that and they prepared the Barbados Cricket Association Strategic Business Plan 1999-2003. I could read some of the findings that would make everybody in here jump. The only thing that we were able to do so far is to prepare for the World Cup and to bring the Legends Programme.

In 1984, Mac Fingall was taken to the BCA, charged as the Games Master for the Lodge School for playing more masters than students. I happened to be at the meeting and Mac said, "I am guilty because I cannot find school boys who want to play at Lodge School."

Sir, not at Ellerslie that is a new school, but at Lodge School that played First Division Cricket and beat Empire and Maple.

Asides.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, Lodge, Harrison College and Combermere had Sixth Forms and they played First Division Cricket until they brought in the combined schools. At a school with a tradition of cricket Mac was complaining that he could not get 22 boys to play cricket. What did the Barbados Cricket Association do in response to a crisis at a school called, Lodge? If it is happening at the Lodge School, can you imagine what is happening at Foundation School? Can you imagine what is happening at - I do not want to say Combermere because the Combermerian people feel they are special.

Asides.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: Senator Crichlow, I apologise.

Sorry, Madam Deputy President, I apologise as well.

The point I am making there is a crisis developing in Barbados cricket and we look to the dressings: The Wesley Hall School needs cricket bats and pads. The primary schools need gear. They need help at that level. They need someone to come on evenings between 2.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. to help the young boys and girls understand the rudiments of cricket because cricket in the communities has died. There is no bat and ball in the road anymore. There is no tip-ma-twos.

Senate A7, sequence 19, 15:00:17

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: There is no waiting for the canes to cut to dig out a little piece in the middle. That does not happen anymore, so you have to move the focus from the community, because it is not there, and put it in the schools.

What has the Barbados Cricket Association done? The BCA, in conjunction with the Government, built a white elephant at Fontabelle. I say that it is a white elephant. Of course, we would find something to do with it because we have no choice. The only sport that fills the Gymnasium is volleyball. Outside of an English tour, cricket will never fill Kensington Oval. Australia will not fill it. India cannot half full it. When it comes to the regional cricket, it is going to be empty, so what are we doing? Who are we fooling?

Mr. President, I asked the Senate to join a chorus and force this Government, and keep on our case, to do something for cricket. Let us be the watchdogs for cricket. Cricket is not just the bat and the ball, it is discipline, respect and understanding how to lose. I do not believe that volume and quantity make quality otherwise we would have excellent footballers, but in order to get good, you got to play.

I heard Senator Symmonds said that he bought his son a cricket gear kit. I am sorry somebody did not buy him one. Each of us has a responsibility to do something for cricket rather than just complain. We have all benefited from cricket, whether we were directly involved in it, whether our brothers played it or whether we were members of a community. I heard people bragging about Desmond Haynes from their constituency and this body talking about Malcolm 'Maco' Marshall and his playing cricket with Sobers.

Madam Deputy President, I was in England a couple of months ago when they had the celebration of the tourists to bring over the legends to play against the British legends. Sir, when the match finished, you should see the warmth those English people felt, particularly the West Indian British. Cricket finished about 6 o'clock and we did not leave the bay room until about midnight because we were developing relationships and talking about Barbados.

Madam Deputy President, I want to come back to the central issue of the legends now because I heard people speaking about structure and if they have structure and so on. It is in this same document. Page 86 of this document talks about the structure for that group. I do not expect Wes Hall at his age to be running about bothering about whether the room got in pads and videos and so on neither do I expect Charlie Griffith to be doing it.

Madam Deputy President, every time a British flight on BA or Virgin Atlantic comes in, I would like to know that there is some discussion about the legends in the arrival hall because I am willing to bet that at least 20 or 30 of those persons would want to get an autograph from Hall, Griffith or Sobers. Sir, a presence of the legends at the airport every now and again, especially at the busy time, would help us to sell t-shirts, buttons and so on.

A space has been allocated at the airport for the legends since the Cricket World Cup, and they are just about to get it operational because the bureaucracy left it empty. The arrival hall had a lovely space marked legends and that was all. It did not even had in a chair. If we are serious, we got to get serious.

Madam Deputy President, I am saying that if cricket has changed, the BCA has to change. We have to either take cricket away from the BCA or change the BCA. Any time the BCA has a full meeting, it is election or there has to be a problem with a club in a fight with the BCA, otherwise it is business as usual. I want effort from the BCA in the primary schools. It says in this document that the BCA has a responsibility to join with the National Sports Council in developing programmes and activities at the primary level. Any blind elder could see that.

Madam Deputy President, I am begging the Senate to be the watchdog of this Government because this Government has on this side people who are willing to listen and to develop plans and programmes to improve cricket rather than just throw stadia at Barbadians because no cricketers would be in them. There would be no one to play cricket at Kensington Oval if primary school cricket or secondary cricket do not get strong.

Madam Deputy President, when there is American football, people cannot get in to the stadium. When a college team plays a basketball game, the stadium is full. When the Lodge School is playing Combermere, nobody is there. Can you imagine that the Foundation School is playing somebody in any sport and nobody has gone to watch? Why?

Madam Deputy President, tell me what is wrong? Why are young people not going to cricket? Why can the wildcats and the bobcats in the United States of America packed an arena because their college is playing against another college, and when Wesley Hall is playing against St. Stephens, and not a soul is at cricket?

Madam Deputy President, when Wesley Hall is playing cricket, I turn up. People brag about Combermere, the Lodge School and Foundation School, I brag about Wesley Hall, the greatest school ever.

The point I am making is that all of us have responsibilities to help cricket not only when England is down here and we put on our clothes and get a case of beer and some lunch and sit down and chit-chat and then berate the players. If we want cricket to survive, we have to do like Senator Symmonds, and that is the least he could do, buy some outfits for the children, and in the case of Senator Crichlow pray for them. We all have a responsibility to help cricket, that is all I am trying to say. Whatever it is we have to do, we must do it, whether it is to take the children and go and watch them. I have a nephew who loves cricket bad so I got to bowl at him after lunch on Sundays in the garage. He is not going to bowl at me. He is getting very good. He captained Westbury this year, so he is improving.

Madam Deputy President, all I am saying Honourable Senators is that each of us has a role to play. We must not believe that it must be left to the BCA otherwise nothing will be done. The second issue on the BCA is that we have to move it out of Kensington. We get too comfortable. I have some ideas about what we could do with the BCA, but this is not the time because the truth is that the BCA is stagnating our cricket. You cannot manage in 2008 on the principles and structures of 1921. Unless collectively, Barbados is ready to charge the BCA for sitting in the wrong place for too long, we are going to struggle. Competition for seats on the West Indies Cricket Board; who is going to represent the BCA this place and the next place; if they are going to fix a gate; if they are going to make in front of Kensington beautiful; who they are going to punish next week; who they want on the Board; and who they want on the committee dominate the discussions at those meetings.

3.10 p.m.

There was no discussion about the fact that in St. Lucy there are "X" amounts of primary schools and that we could organise competition amongst the schools in St. Lucy. The teachers from these schools could get together and organise these competitions. Sir, the Barbados Cricket Association could look after that. We could do the same thing amongst the other parishes.

Mr. President, the Barbados Cricket Association has left the promotion of cricket in primary schools to the National Sports Council. The Barbados Cricket Association is not interested in softball cricket. Madam Deputy President, to them that is not cricket. Madam, when

Australia went through a crisis in the early 1980s, they brought in mothers and fathers who played softball cricket every Saturday and called cricket the family sport. Every Saturday there would be mothers and fathers playing softball cricket because they were developing an interest and commiting people together.

Madam Deputy President, unlike the Barbados Cricket Association, it was about families promoting cricket. Instead, the Barbados Cricket Association wants to go to Kensington and talk rubbish, or wants to quarrel with each other about who is going to be on the next committee. Madam Deputy President, we have to change that, we cannot sit back and do nothing, if we are interested in cricket.

Madam Deputy President, I might get passionate about cricket because I have played a little. I am not as fortunate as Senator Marville but I got my 'back side' roasted every Saturday because of playing cricket. My mother told me not to go out until she gets back but because cricket was being played outside, I would go out and play.

Madam Deputy President, some of our young children have the idea that cricket could be played or not played, and something is wrong. I do not want to be negative, I want us all to think how we could use whatever skills we have to help it. Madam Deputy President, the Legends of Barbados Inc. is just one part of an overall programme in helping cricket in Barbados.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Madam Deputy President, those men - and unfortunately no women....Madam, probably that is where the problem lies, there has not been enough women around cricket at that time. Anyway, the younger women in Barbados would do something about that and take over the management of cricket.

Asides.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: I have no problem with that, I am not a male chauvinist, I believe that as long as someone has the skill or the talent they should be given the opportunity. We need every bit of help that we could get to help cricket.

Madam Deputy President, before I sit, I want to say that the work of the University of the West Indies is laudable. There is no competition between the University of the West Indies and the Legends of Barbados Inc. What they need to do is to work together.

Madam Deputy President, the University of the West Indies has some very lovely facilities - and about 90 per cent of those using it are over 40 years.

Asides.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Madam Deputy President, I took my godson to the cricket summer camp at the University of the West Indies. There were about 20 persons there but I would like to see about 100 more persons.

Madam Deputy President, the National Sports Council runs a summer programme. Madam, the National Sports Council has to get some lashes too; they have built floodlights and hard courts across Barbados, because politicians had called for them. I want one in my constituency too. Madam Deputy President, when one passes by these hard courts, which have these numbers of floodlights, you could see only about 12 men playing scrimmage with football. People no longer use the lawn tennis courts or the volleyball courts, except perhaps the one at Deacons.

Madam, we have 27 coaches in football and tennis, including a number of temporary ones, but I believe that there should be about 40 coaches for cricket. Those 40 cricket coaches should be concentrating on the 81 primary schools that we have. Madam, we have 81 primary schools, and we have the spectacle of one coach driving from Bayley's Primary School, down to Christ Church Primary, to run children in an hour programme. That coach then has to leave there and drive to St. George's Primary to run an hour programme. If we are serious about helping cricket, not only does Government have to change that but all of us have to change it. We have to make noise at PTA meetings about what is happening to cricket.

Madam Deputy President, as I take my seat, I want to say that I would be coming back on cricket with more facts and more details every time something happens in sports. Even if it is a land acquisition, I am going to talk about cricket, because cricket burns in my belly.

Madam Deputy President, I want to thank you and I hope that I have at least stirred each of you to do a little bit to help cricket. Madam Deputy President, I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. INNISS: Madam Deputy President, I rise to support this Bill, the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc., which grants concession to the Cricket Legends of Barbados. Madam, in supporting this Bill, it encompasses a number of things, including the legends themselves and their contributions to Barbados.

Madam Deputy President, first, I would have to admit that I am not a great lover of cricket, and that coming from the passion of my colleague Senator Alleyne and Barbadians generally, I am a little afraid of saying so because in Barbados there are many men, when you say

that, you can see the look of disbelieve on their faces. They wondered how could one not love cricket.

Madam, as I said, I understand the game perfectly but I am not a great cricket lover. However, I understand the importance of cricket. Madam, there is that well-known statement that cricket is more than just a game. I am sure Senator Benn is regurgitating those very thoughts as I speak because he accosted me a few days ago. It is a statement I have heard my entire life, that cricket is not just about a bat and a ball, that I have to understand where cricket has taken us from.

Madam Deputy President, I am fully aware of the fact that cricket has brought us here. I am not a great lover of cricket but I came from a family of seven brothers and sisters, and a father who would have died for cricket. Madam, probably it was cricket that took him. Madam, as a simple working man of negro-like persuasion, in those days when the Barbados cricket teams were doing well 'over in away', fighting with the more caucasian persuasion, my father's shoulders stood tall and his whole world would have changed. Therefore, one does not have to explain to me what cricket has done or about the legacy it has passed on because whenever cricket was doing well, the whole family did well. We all got the ice cream and there was celebrations. Whenever cricket did badly, we could even see the hole in the roof because everything used to fly and the world was turmoil. Therefore, I understand that for many and even today, cricket is still more than just a game.

Madam, it is from that concept and embracing of cricket as a youngster that I could understand the history of what the cricketing legends have done. Therefore, I embrace and support this Bill. Madam, I have seen it, probably from a less bias position because in supporting the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. and especially as we look at the purposes of the company, which include promoting the development of cricket amongst our youth, the establishment of a Cricket Centre of Excellence, among other things....When I look at what cricket has done for me, for it was cricket that propelled my father to think that we could have gone anywhere and could have done anything.... I remember one game, once cricket did well we had a tour and would have travelled all over Barbados, but now let us look at the present-day cricket, of which Senator Alleyne has spoken so well.

Madam, before cricket used to be played every year but now let us look at the present day. Today there are so many influences affecting the games. We cannot look at cricket as cricket of the past. If we intend to incorporate and sustain the values of cricket, we have to manipulate the systems. Therefore, persons like Senator Alleyne, who knows of such structures, where maybe I am a bit short, who says that the Barbados Cricket Association cannot function in an archaic system and that a Government cannot allow such to happen.

Madam Deputy President, I am in full support where we look at the National Sports Council and at what it is doing for cricket.

3.20 p.m.

I am in full support when we look at the National Sports Council and what it is doing for cricket, understanding that it encompasses this whole concept. Madam Deputy President, it is not enough to stand up in this Honourable Chamber and speak about passion. I know that Honourable Senator Symmonds may think I am being hard on the past Government and may say that I am always going back there but to coin a phrase "We are in a new innings and when we look at the board it is saying zero," and, Madam, that is what we are batting with. Madam, do we not have the right to say that we are batting with nothing. We have a collapsed system and when we speak of enacting such a Bill, we have to ask what systems have been put in place and what systems have been structured so that such an Act, which incorporates a purpose of helping cricket among the youth with the support of the legends, how it has been structured how we can establish policies to help us put those things forward. Madam, there are few and far between because we have system that has collapsed as it relates to cricket in this country and I am very sorry.

Madam Deputy President, sometimes when I look at the dilemma that we face, I have to ask what is being done. We have a problem with cricket and I am not going to take it to the level of the BCA because I see cricket at the community level and what has been done to develop cricket at the community level so that such an Act and such purposes can be fulfilled to allow the legends to support and develop cricket among our youth.

Madam Deputy President, even as it relates to community cricket, the area on which I speak, yes, we could speak of the BCA and the National Sports Council assisting and support for crickets in the schools but I would like to interject another aspect of cricket that you might not be considering. There are some young persons within our community, who will never be great cricketers but who just like the sport. Senator Alleyne said there are fewer and fewer cricket lovers, young men and young women but even looking at the constituency of St. Michael North East, there are a number of young people who still like cricket but they do not play or cannot play at a national level but there is no provision made for them within the structure of cricket presently.

Mr. President, after the age of 19, what happens to a good cricket player? Sir, for those young people who just want to play the game and for those people in our society

who are physically handicapped, who like the game, what systems are in place for them? Sir, there are young men and women in the constituencies, who are mentoring young persons in the community to play cricket, who cannot buy equipment or cannot afford to buy the gear. Sir, right now, there are two cricket teams that I am looking to assist in purchasing gear because they have to find the gear to play the cricket but, Sir, this is outside the scope of the BCA and the BCL; this is just community cricket.

Mr. President, if we are looking at developing such concept as values, discipline and excellence, which cricket does embody, what system do we have in a Government to facilitate these needs. Sir, I hope I have structured it in a way that you understand because cricket is not only about playing the game and big matches; it is about developing a community spirit and it is about developing the young person. Sir, very often it does not transcend to the area of political cricketers or legends but what structures are there within the community to help with such. Madam, there are few and I am saying that in supporting such a Bill, I believe that under this Government such realities will be focused on and I am looking forward to the day when systems are put in place to help community cricket and to help cricket even at the BCL level and to deal with a number of issues that are affecting cricket at the BCA level. Sir, with such structures in place, we can further develop the legends, the concept of the legends and incorporate them into the communities. Madam Deputy President, between 70 to 80 young people are today speaking with Courtney Browne and other persons, who have played cricket with support and financing from this Government, under the National Summer Camps.

Madam Deputy President, when I speak of passion, it is not to get up in this honourable assembly and speak about how much passion there is for the game. Madam, sometimes you can be a little less noisy and a little less verbose and do the work that has to be done in this country.

Madam Deputy President, cricket has been abandoned for too long and we now have to start with a collapsed system and put in place systems that work for cricketers. We have to look at community cricket; we have to look at young women and girls who want to play cricket in the communities. We have to look at those who are disabled, who want to play cricket and I am encouraging this Government to concentrate in such areas. We have to look at children within the school; those who leave the school at 3 o'clock to go home but want to play cricket and then at the BCL and the BCA level but this has not been done. It has been abandoned so when I hear Honourable Senators speaking about the passion they have for cricket and a walk of fame, I do not see it translated into the community or, at least, into the community that I have the most association with. Madam, this is where my concern lies.

Madam Deputy President, I support this Bill. I support not only the purposes that are set down in this Act but to giving the legends teeth because with no funding and, as has been said before, with no technical support; with no structures in this company to enable it to have structures within our community, we are just blowing air and, I am confident that this Government will look at such.

Madam Deputy President, we have to go beyond the air of a lot of talk. We have heard too many ideas of grandeur and what great thought we have. We have to go into implementation of the policies that would make a difference in this society and would make a difference to this country. I would like to see men like Henley Springer, an excellent motivational speaker, who speaks to young girls and boys, cricket lovers and develops them, who have spoken today to a group of between 70 to 80 children in the sphere of cricket to change their concepts and I would like to see systems put in place to help such. I would like to see systems where the legends can inculcate knowledge to the communities. Madam, all of this has to be done.

Madam Deputy President, when I speak about supporting such a Bill; supporting the whole concept of cricket; supporting the legends and looking at the problems within the cricketing system in this country; looking at the ways in which we are speaking about one area of support the cricket legends and the love of cricket and the void that is in another area and we have to bridge that gap.Madam Deputy President, it has to be done and I am confident that it can be done to save our young people.

Madam Deputy President, I thank you.

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Crichlow.

SENATOR the Very Reverend H.E. CRICHLOW: Thank you, Madam Deputy President,

Madam Deputy President, I rise to speak on the Bill on the Cricket Legends of Barbados.

3.30 p.m.

SENATOR the Very Rev. H. CRICHLOW: Madam Deputy President, I rise to speak on the Bill on Cricket Legends of Barbados and to support the Government in its plan to help unite it any way. Most of us know that cricket comes next to religion in Barbados, and by some it is even thought of as a religion. It has its ritual and all the things connected to a religion. Cricket is a game of life. Here I must speak of test cricket. Although I like 20/20s and One Day International cricket, I do not think the shorter game teaches us much about life but in the present circumstances, people want to be entertained and they way want everything now, and they want something that is short and

sweet, and so on. Cricket was not designed in that way. It is a game of life. If you are interested in how to live, then cricket is one of the finest games that I can think of.

I must first declare that I have no talent in this field. I was 'left feet'.

Asides.

SENATOR the Very Rev. H. CRICHLOW: I mean that my field was really athletic, track and field. I came near to it when I was made one of the Captains of the Nets, when Ronnie Hughes taught at Combermere. He was the cricket coach. I think he was one of the best coaches in cricket the island had seen, even though many people might not know this. He produced Wes Hall, Rawle Bracker, Peter Lashley and a number of them.

Asides.

SENATOR the Very Rev. H. CRICHLOW: I would have told people like that when to bat and when to bowl, et cetera. It was called Captain of the Nets. I was Captain of the school as well. I supposed they wanted discipline on the cricket field as well.

Madam, our cricket is in such a bad state today, that we are apt to forget that we were the champions of the world for almost 20 years, and people feared us as they fear the Australians now. The young people would not know about this. They would not know when the West Indians were on top of the world. They would not know that cricket in the other nations was waning when we were champions. I was in England part of that time, and what we are talking about in Barbados and saying that cricket is declining and so on, the same thing was happening in England because England could not win matches. None of the countries could not win matches when we were on top. It is the decline of West Indian cricket that has helped cricket. If, for example Australia continues to win for the next 15 or 20 years, of course, cricket in the other countries would decline, because young people would not even know of the last time their countries won text matches. We have to be very careful. We are too hard sometimes on the young. We are not conscious of the fact that the whole world has changed and our young people might not be able to think of the whole world being changed but certainly if they think of tiny Barbados, it has changed radically over the last 50 or 60 years. So we may be asking our young people to do something that is almost impossible for them.

I overheard two university students in England, one said, "I have an Essay to write about Winston Churchill. You ever heard of Winston Churchill?" This is the girl saying to the boy. He said, "Winston Churchill? I think he was British?". Then he said, " Winston Churchill, I am sure he was a Prime Minister." Madam, children who were born after the War knew nothing of Sir Winston Churchill. How many young cricketers you saw at the funeral of Clyde Walcott? How many young cricketers? We have to remember that the world has changed and young people have other interests. Ball games are not at the top of the list. They prefer to play video games, the computer and so on. You buy equipment for young people to play cricket, when in fact they are not interested in games.

Madam, these matters have to be considered. We are going to be at the top again. I am very confident about that because you cannot keep a good team down. The West Indies have done so much for world cricket. I think that the view is going around that the ICC should have two Divisions and we would be relegated to the Second Division. I think it is a great pity. I think we should remain with one Division and if you can make it to world cricket, then I think you should remain there. Madam, to have West Indies playing in the World Second Division, I think would be a tremendous lost to the whole game of cricket.

Madam, those of us who are older would know that to beat our former masters at our own game was really what cricket was all about and we have done that. Our young cricketers do not know about that. They do not know anything about beating masters at their own game. They know anything of the colonial experience. Madam, a number of the Englishmen said, "You West Indians are great. You beat us at our own game all the time." We beat them at cricket. We are better diplomats because they cannot read our faces. We would have to inspire our young cricketers...

3.40 p.m.

Senator the Very Rev. H. E. CRICHLOW: Therefore, we would have to inspire our young cricketers with some other goal. The goal has presented itself, money, the amount of money that is being spent in cricket and especially in the West Indies now, such as in Antigua. I hope that Allan Stanford's efforts would pay off, although I feel that there is too much money. If you pitched at that level, I think that it will be self defeating. Of course, give people incentives and so on, but the amount of money that is being thrown around now, I think most people will devalue the game and that would be a great pity but, I do salute the efforts of Sir Allan Stanford and what he has done for cricket in the Caribbean.

We forget too, that since we were champs, the other national teams have been practicing very hard, spending a lot of money developing cricket and they are seeing the results of it, so we cannot keep bemoaning the fact that we were once world champs and now we are nothing. This is for the good of cricket. We have to think of the good of cricket. Some of us can only think of the good of the West

Indies' Team. We have to think of the good of world cricket and it is good to see other teams winning.

Australia will not always be on top. We came very close to beating Australia in the last series. Cricket has become more scientific since we were world champs. We have very good cricketers but I do not think we have the ability to explain to the youngsters, the scientific development has taken place in the game.

Our cricketers say: "Well do it like this." When we were boys, we wanted to be a Donald (Don) Bradman and Len Hutton. I do not know if youngsters say it today, I want to be like Sir Gary Sobers. When you wanted to be like Don Bradman, you tried to bat like Don Bradman. Colonials are always good at imitating. Sir, that is part of our heritage and if you could think like Don Bradman, and bat like Don Bradman, you will become a Don Bradman. Imitation I quite a thing you know.

Then, originally cricket was a game for gentlemen. If you said, a thing was not cricket, that is not what gentlemen would do. It is not done. It is not cricket. It was for the wealthy because only the very wealthy could spend five days playing one game.

Asides.

Senator the Very Rev. H. E. CRICHLOW: Therefore, you would have to have money. You talked about people not going to watch cricket. I have seen cricket played in England between counties and very few people, in some cases, are there. The teams are there but in the end it is what goes in the book.

Our cricketers - and this is part of the West Indian way of playing cricket - do not play with the book in mind all the time. They play with the book in mind at all. They play to entertain the crowds. When it comes to playing to the crowds, we can entertain crowds. Sir, to watch Brian Lara, you would pay anything just to go to see him give an exhibition in batting and so on.

Therefore, that is why world cricket needs the West Indies because there is no other team that has the style of the West Indies. Some people were fearing that the Australian coach would want to give us the Australian way of doing things. The coaches from outside of Barbados have not been able to change the West Indian way of doing things. They have been able to help us to feel better and they have given us a number of fine points about cricket but world cricket needs the West Indian style.

I feel that instead of really berating our team all the time, we must think positively and help the team. Brian Lara for years was crying out for help. He wanted help. He said that when I am at the crease, I have to be thinking of all the millions of people around the world watching me and hoping that I will make a century or a double century. He should not be thinking like that. Somebody should have told him. He should talk to people who are popular, for example Michael Jackson who is so popular. He should be thinking of the next ball, instead of thinking of all those millions of people watching him. Sir, Brian Lara said that publicly but I did not notice that anybody tried to help him to think of the next ball. Anyhow, he has made his mark and we will never forget Brian Lara.

Sir, we are fortunate that in a tiny place like Barbados to have so many Legends. In a population of less than 300 000 when you compare it with the 70 million or more in England and so on, we could field a team to beat a world team, if you think of our legends and so on. Therefore, this has a tremendous effect on people.

When we play England, do you know what pride it gives West Indians living in England when we beat England? Do you know how depressed they are when we lose? The members of the team really do not think of this dimension at all. They give the impression that they want to go out and get back into the pavilion as soon as possible. These are the batsmen and I do not know if it is because the sun.

Asides.

Senator the Very Rev. H. E. CRICHLOW: The sun out there is hot and in Barbados we shelter from the sun. People are bound to say that West Indian batsmen love to be in the pavilion. This business of occupying the crease, I would have thought that people want the television cameras to be on them all the time, but they go out, five brilliant strokes or so and then they are back in the pavilion.

Therefore, we need to inquire why West Indian batsmen like to sit in the pavilion so much.

3.50 p.m.

I am suggesting that it is because they hate to be out in the sun. It is alright for people who live in temperate climates. They worship the sun in the summer, but we do not like to be in the sun.

Madam Deputy President, we are fortunate to have a living National Hero in the person of Sir Garfield Sobers. Government needs really to think about what it should do with a living National Hero. I do not think we have done so yet. I do not think we have considered this. Sometimes when Sir Gary is at big functions he is mentioned way down the list. A National Hero is the biggest thing that a country could offer to a citizen. In the order of precedent, a living National Hero should come maybe after the Governor-General. You cannot put him way down the list.

He is a National Hero. This is the first time we have had National Heroes and we do not really know how to treat them. I do not think that we are doing enough for our living National Hero. The children have to learn to follow the example of our National Hero. We should not be so uncertain as to his status. I think something should be done about that.

Madam Deputy President, I am happy that the Government is supporting the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. With the amount of work being done at the University of the West Indies and the enthusiasm of the Pro Vice Chancellor and others, I am feeling that we need to bring more thought...

Australia beat us mentally. They could come from nowhere but they know that they could beat us mentally. Just as we snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, they know that they could win. We had that spirit one time and people were afraid of us, now we are afraid of them. I hope that we would all support the West Indies team. Just as we were proud of the team when they were champions, we now have to support them in their weak situation and give them as much moral support as possible. We need to encourage them instead of saying so many negative things about them.

Madam Deputy President, that is all I would want to say at this time on the Bill. I heartedly support it.

Thank you very much, Madam Deputy President.

Senator the Hon. H. L. BENN: Madam Deputy President, I rise to support the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. Bill. I would not want to take up my entire half of an hour because when I was playing cricket, I never lasted that long at the crease. Of course, I was a bowler and nobody lasted that long with me either.

Madam Deputy President, I want to first of all commend those persons who gave first thought to this idea which arose out of a consequence of the staging of the International Cricket Conference during the Cricket World Cup here in Barbados where a legacy vision for Barbados was formulated. To this end, the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. Company was incorporated. It inspired a new generation of cricketers through contact with the national cricket legends who have successfully represented the West Indies. It is expected that the company is also to assist in securing a decent standard of living for the cricket legends of Barbados.

Madam Deputy President vacated the Chair and Mr. President resumed the Chair.

Senator the Hon. H. L. BENN: Mr. President, it was also hoped that a working relationship be established between the cricket legends and the young cricketers to inculcate in the youth the techniques, values and discipline that led to the success of the legends.

One of the reasons that I am in full support of the Bill, Mr. President, is that when we were boys growing up we had what we called cricket heroes. Some people say Sir Garfield was there. I like Rohan Kanhai. I like the way he played cricket. I knew about Basil Butcher and Joe Solomon. I used to emulate Wes Hall and Charles Griffith because I wanted to bowl fast. Some fellows wanted to bat long like Peter Lashley and hit the ball hard like Cammie Smith.

In recent times, we wanted to occupy the crease like Gordon Greenidge or Desmond Haynes and bowl well like Malcolm Marshall or Joel Garner. I wonder how many of our young cricketers today have the present-day cricketers as their hero. You turn up the collar and walk to the crease like Sir Garfield and when you get there to bat, you want to bat or bowl like the person. That is why I believe that cricket in my day continued to do well.

As a boy, there were not as many newspapers as they are now, but whenever we got a chance, we would do a clipping out of the newspaper and keep that clipping. We had a book full of strokes and fellows. In order to get into the newspaper, you had to score a century or take five wickets. Nowadays, when you look into a newspaper, you see a fellow top scoring with 18. Nowadays, if you get two wickets, you make it.

When I was a boy, we did not have the gear like the guys have today. We had to borrow a friend's pumps or sneakers to play cricket in. I played a match or two for Coleridge and Parry and I would borrow somebody pumps on a Saturday and go and play and carry them back the Saturday evening when I come back home. We would play cricket in the district.

We used to have one glove, so we shared the glove and the sweat of the other fellows' finger. We used to play cricket with one pad or no pad at all. We did not have the cricket balls and bats as of today. We learned to knit a cricket ball with twine and chord. We used to get an old tube from the bicycle and clip it out and put rubber over it for a ball and we used that ball to bowl. We used to make bats out of the clammacherry tree. We used to shave it down nicely and let it cure for a day or two and then bat with it. Today, the fellows could go into a store and buy a bat for $400. We used to go and get the coconut shag and shape it and make a bat. We used to cut some tree limbs and make the stumps.

4.00 p.m.

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Mr. President, we played cricket in the road, as there were not that many cars back then. We played cricket in the cart roads. We ran all over the gullies and cane fields and never pulled a muscle, but cricketers today are running on smooth surfaces and are pulling muscle.

Mr. President, as boys we built a community spirit by playing cricket. All like now in the vacation, Rose Hill would be playing Bend Hill, and tomorrow Mile-and-a-Quarter would be playing somebody else in test matches. We would share ackees and mangos and after the match, those of us who could go to the sea would go.

In those day, our parents knew that we would be together. We would also wait for the bread van to come round at l0:15 a.m, where we would get the stale bread for lunch. We would then go back and play cricket, but our parents who worked in the fields and other places in the countryside knew where they boys were. Sir, at midday we would all go and move the sheep to the shades and in the evening when cricket was finished, we would bring them back home.

Mr. President, fun was the language of cricket in those days. The boys from Rose Hill and Bend Hill would get together and choose a captain. We could also remember the cricketers of the Caribbean. I can remember Allan Ray, Andy Ganteen. Sir, in fact, I do not know of many cricketers in Barbados who would know of past cricketers. If I were to ask you who is the opening batsman in Guyana, you would not know. We no longer know the cricketers of the Caribbean. As boys, we used to know them, though we had little radio and no television.

Mr. President, as a boy, I remember getting to school early on mornings at Coleridge and Parry School - and there was no getting to school late. Of course, you could not get to school late because "Boo" Alleyne would not allow you to, but we got to school early because there was a always a cricket match being played on mornings. This match would then continue at break, then at lunch. If that game was not won at lunch time, we would then finished it in the evening. Sir, all across the field at Coleridge and Parry you could see the number of brown patches where cricket was played. Mr. President, this is not so now, if the fellows do not get to roll the wicket, they are not going playing; if they do not get pads, gloves, helmets, guards, boxers and leggings, they would not play.

I remember Keith Boyce, Wynter Philips, Gordon Greenidge, Malcolm Hall, Sam "Donkey" Harris, William Bishop, Archer, and Chetwyn Burnham. All our parents used to go down to Coleridge and Parry on Saturdays and watch us when we were playing cricket. There were always large crowds there, and people would come and sell mauby and other refreshments. Mr. President, if you were to go to any grounds today where they are playing school cricket, you would not see anybody there lending any support.

Mr. President, I remember in those days when my brother first went to England in the early 1960s, he would write me letters telling me what a hard time they were getting in England, with the English people. Mr. President, when the West Indies Cricket Team started to trounce England in 1963 and again in 1966, my brother and his friends could have walked tall. They could have gone into their workplace at the London Transport and looked the English people in their faces. Cricket gave them that sense of pride. Sir, out of that sprang many teams of West Indians who played cricket in England. Some of those very teams would visit Barbados. I remember every year the London Transport would bring a team to Barbados. We would then be able to interact with our families, because of the joy cricket would have brought us.

Mr. President, as Senator Inniss has said, cricket was more than a game, it is a way of building unity. Sir, when one a person was cricket captain in his district, he was regarded as more than an ordinary person because that captaincy was not given to just any and everybody. Sir, had that sense of pride then, but let us look at the state of our cricket in Barbados today.

Mr. President, I recognise, applaud and appreciate those who have the responsibility for the Primary School Cricket, ages 9 to 11. There is the Sir Everton Weekes Under-13 competition. There is the BET Under-15 competition. There is a BARTEL under-19 competition, but after that, there is not much happening with young cricketers. Sir, I would want to say that this is the time when the Barbados Cricket Association needs to use those cricket legends in getting those boys in secondary schools together, after they have left school at age l9. These school leavers are at an age where they are now growing and therefore their techniques would now need to be different. Sir, I was pleased to see in one of our newspapers where Desmond Haynes was showing young cricketers how to drive off the front foot and how to cut. That is one of the roles I believe these cricket legends ought to be playing.

I would have loved to see the legends getting the chance to manage the teams here in Barbados. I would love to see them getting attached to either a primary or secondary school team, or to Combined Schools North or South, or to a school team that plays on Saturdays. I would love to see the legends being more involved in the management of the West Indies Cricket Team because I do not believe that the present cricketers know too much about, or that they appreciate what these cricket legends have gone through.

These cricket legends are persons who have played cricket, who were not paid. Their got their passages and

living expenses paid while on tour but they were not paid such great sums of money like today's cricketers. I suspect it is because of the large sums of money being paid to today's cricketers that is causing them not to care anymore about what they are doing.

Mr. President, years from now, I doubt very much that one would be able to call these present-day cricketers legends. I consider legends to be the likes of Sir Garfield Sobers, Reverend Wes Hall and persons of that era. Those cricketing legends are like an oldie goldie, they are like Brook Benton, Percy Sledge and Otis Redding. The present-day cricketers are like today's hip-hop music, where you have to make a new one next year.

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Mr. President, I have seen that provisions have been made on this before but regarding the relationship of the Government and the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc., they have benefited from the restoration of "Herbert House," which has been leased to the company. They have benefited from a grant of $300 000 in the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund. Government has pledged to provide $375 000, to assist the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc., to develop coaching and other things such as cricket DVDs for sale to the international market.

Mr. President, I would have wished that for all those years when our cricketing legends were doing well, that we would have had a number of DVDs and other things. I would have loved to be able to go back and watch the number of matches that were played by Conrad Hunte, Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir Everton Weekes, Sir Clive Richards, and people of that era. Mr. President, in the same way we would have loved to be able to sit and watch the "Good, the Bad and the Ugly", "Sampson and Delila", or "Jesus Christ, Superstar", we should have been able to watch one of those old cricket videos from the library.

4.10 p.m.

Sir, we should be able to take one of those old videos from the library and watch. I am hoping that this process, which was started back in 2005 and I want to congratulate people like Senator Kerry Symmonds and Senator Elizabeth Thompson because I believe they had the thought and we in this new Democratic Labour Party intend to take this process forward and to treat those legends with respect and dignity. We are committed, through the Barbados Tourism Authority, to continue the partnership with the Cricket Legends of Barbados, which was started by the previous Government and we expect they would work closely with the authorities to continue to promote Barbados.

Mr. President, I am really call, therefore, as I close, on all the young cricketers in Barbados to start doing some research on all those guys who we consider to be legends. I want to challenge the Physical Education teachers and the sports department in each school to let youngsters do research on the various fast bowlers and batsmen to see how many centuries were scored; how many 50s they scored and how many wickets they took and this may provide an incentive not only for them to want to do just as well as the legends did but for them to remember. I want us to reflect on the good things that these legends brought us, putting Barbados on the map.

Mr. President, we want to show our respect for these guys. We want to pledge our continued support and I want to see Barbados Cricket Association, the National Sports Council play a greater role in the development of cricket in Barbados. I would like to see more coaching in the various school; I would like to see something done to affect the price of the expensive gear, cricket bats and ball and I would like to see the Cricket Association do something about the prize money that is offered to the clubs so as to create a greater incentive for us to develop thereby placing us again on the map.

Mr. President, I support the Bill and I can tell you that this Government takes great pleasure in offering its continued support. I trust that in the days when we would have retired that we would be able to sit back and enjoy the benefits of those who we are not yet today considering legends but because of this support for the now legends would want themselves to be placed among the names of Sir Garfield Sobers, Wes Hall, Gordon Griffith, Charlie Griffith et cetera.

Mr. President, I thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

Senator Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I rise to support the measure, which is before the Chamber. I would wish in doing so to commend my colleague, Senator Symmonds for what I thought was really an excellent speech today. Sir, not that he does not normally speak well but I thought that in terms of speaking to a breath of issue that he spoke exceptionally well. I think on the whole that it has been an excellent debate in terms of an exploration of a number of issues and the articulation of solutions and approaches.

Mr. President, I must confess, however, that I was dismayed though not surprised that the shouting, tone and comments of Senator Inniss, who though saying that people should speak less loudly, was herself speaking very loudly and cast a lot of the issues in political terms, when in fact, I thought that since we were speaking on cricket and everybody had spoken in a broad way that we really should

not have attempted to have a partisan debate. I was not going to speak at all on the matter up until then. Therefore, there are a few comments which I would wish to make, some responding to some of the issues raised by Senator Inniss and some generally speaking to what I think are the issue which we are confronting when we are seeking to develop cricket.

Mr. President, I will start with what I consider to be the developmental issues. Sir, Senator the Very Reverend Dean Crichlow made some interesting and critical points. Sir, part of the challenge that the last administration faced in relation to the development of cricket and that this administration and every administration will face in relation to developing cricket is the fact that the culture of the country has changed and, equally, the culture of cricket has changed.

Mr. President, there was a time when cricket was for many poor black boys, a significant means of upward social mobility, particularly in the days prior to free secondary education but then, as a result of changes in social developments, other avenues for upward social mobility came and cricket did not have the importance that it did. It was important too in a time prior to our independence and in the years immediately post independence, when we still felt the whip or the oppression of the colonial masters. Now, young people are not as interested in issues relating to slavery or colonisation. A lot of them celebrate Christmas more than they do Independence and there has been a whole change in the social structure and that has affected cricket.

Mr. President, I think it was Senator Benn, who made the point that cricket was for his brother, who was living in England, a means of national pride because we as a people, not only learnt the game of the master but mastered the game of the master and then beat him at it and beat him badly. So, when we won a cricket match the sense of overwhelming national pride, which gripped the country and the region was immeasurable but today, people do not feel the same way. We do not have the same degree of hostility towards the former colonial masters that we did because, in many respects, we have risen to be the ones in control so there is no anger at the former colonisers, not the level of anger that we had before. In fact, so much so, that one recently heard a Minister speak of the arrival of slaves and masters, all on the same ship.

Mr. President, we have come a long way from where we used to be so that cricket as a symbol; cricket as a weapon; cricket as a tool for upward social mobility, all of that has changed. In addition to that, this is the era of the microwave and the technology of the Concord; it is an era of fast-paced activity so you have very little interest in young boys now in coming out to watch test matches. Sir, there was a time when cricket was a means of major entertainment but not anymore. There are so many competing forms of entertainment and even in relation to sports, cricket is the slowest game of all the major sports. Sir, in football, you have a quick result; basketball is an aggressive, fast-paced game with a quick result and young boys, who have grown up in an era, where everything happens quickly are not interested in playing test matches or sitting around for long cricket matches so you have to see the falloff in cricket, not as a problem created by the last administration by mal administration and poor cricketing support but you have to see it in the context of what is happening in the culture and in the society generally. Sir, once you understand that, then you will better see that the challenges we face in cricket are reflection of how our society is changing and then we have to ask ourselves how do we address it.

Mr. President, one of the other issues; Senator Benn spoke to beautifully. He spoke about the power of the cricket game to mobilise communities in solidarity and against each other.

4.20 p.m.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: He spoke about the power of the cricket game to mobilise communities in solidarity and against each other. That is a very interesting point, because once again you see the change of the culture at work. People have moved out of these villages and communities, as we knew them before, to live in residential developments, where people do not know their neighbours' name and may only know them by car number or car type, "Oh! You mean the girl that drives the black Mercedes, or the girl that drives the black Toyota XL." That is how people identify their neighbours, or the person who drives MM94. They do not have a relationship with their neighbours. So on a street or a community as large as West Terrace, with 531 houses, you cannot find a large team or two teams willing to compete against each other in the summer months. Those are the challenges we are facing in relation to cricket.

There is too, I think, not the same degree of hunger for victory in a cricket match. There was a cricketer, after a very appalling display some years ago, who commented, when everybody was aghast at his performance and how poorly the team had done, he said., "What is the problem? It was just another game." There is no understanding of the perception of the community ...

Asides.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: When Kenya beat us.

Sir, I am not one who is an Encyclopedia for cricket statistics. My husband is a walking Encyclopedia for

cricket statistics. I cannot give you that kind of detail. I remember the comment because it shocked me. I realised then as now, that we were looking at a complete change in attitude, to cricket, at the level of that younger generation. It is no wonder then that former Member for the City of Bridgetown, in the Other Place, Dame Bille Miller - I do not think this is the context in which I can call her name makes the point that a friend of hers, was talking to a group of young boys and asked them about Weekes, Worrell and Walcott, the 3Ws, she did not call their names, one of them looked at the other and asked, "Do you know who they are?". Two of them shook their heads and another one said, " I know man, they are a new Rock group. I am sure I heard it on the radio." These boys were very serious. They had no notion at all who the 3Ws were. You may say that is a lapse in history, but it goes directly to what Senator Reverend Crichlow said about young British boys not knowing who Winston Churchill was. Sir, what we are seeing, therefore, is a problem that we have to address. How do we make these people love cricket in a culture where everything is changing from what we knew before.

Sir, this is why 20/20 cricket, despite the comment my Honourable colleague Senator Symmonds made, I understood the point he was making, but I think that 20/20 cricket, if it could be moved across the region and be more inclusive, it really has a role to play because it makes the game a lot more exciting, far more quick paced, it tends to hold the attention of younger people and it is a more marketable form of the game for persons outside to the Commonwealth jurisdictions. Those of us who grew up in the British tradition and are prepared to drink tea and have tea breaks can understand the five-day match and that culture. Sir, remember that a lot of our young men sit down at night to watch television and follow sports coming out of the US, more so than those coming out of the UK. Sir, the 20/20 format of cricket is therefore highly marketable, and we must do what we can to earn the revenue from it.Sir, one of the final changes one has seen in culture, in relation to that is solitary activity.

Mr. President, today a lot of young boys, I am not sure what young girls do, I must confess, spend their time playing video games and engaging in activities where they do not have to engage with other people. It is not the kind of activity to engage a whole team and bring people together to be of one mind and to act in unison and so on. They sit down and their thumbs go like crazy. You give them food and they do not look up or communicate. They do not interact with other human beings. That is part of how we socialise now as a people in the world. Sir, this notion of cricket is alien to how people behave now.

Sir, the average young boy is not so interested in playing cricket. Sir, put one of the new games, I do not know these things, Sir...

Asides.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: There is s new one. Put it in their hands, and in seconds they can do all kinds of things while you are still trying to figure it out. Sir, this is why texting has become such an amazing phenomenon. It is a solitary activity, they move very quickly with the thumb and the forefinger, and when I am still trying to figure out where two is or how you get to two, they have sent off ten messages and are laughing at me. Sir, that is the same with cricket, while we are still on our five-day journey waiting for the cricket result, they have gone on. They have played a football match, watched the baseball or basketball match and gone on to another activity.Hence, the role for 20/20 cricket came as a result of the social evolution in the country, the region and perhaps in the world.

I agree with Senator Crichlow that there has to be a more scientific way to training our cricketers.

Asides.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: I agree with Senator Crichlow that we have...

Asides.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President I am tempted to make a very mischievous comment but I cannot make it on air.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Feel feel.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Sir, I know that your tongue is as quick as your mind and I think that we would be about to cause a scandal.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wish you to be very cautious about what you say about the President's tongue.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Sir, the point that I am making is, there has to be a scientific approach to the way we train our cricketers if they do not have the same degree of hunger, because raw talent alone is not going to take them to the top of the game, because a lot of other cricketers are emerging with raw talent but with a more scientific and disciplined approach to the way they play the sport. Hence, our cricketers must adopt a similar approach.

Sir, there are some other issues in relation to the support of the Legends. I think it was Senator Newton who made the point about transparency, reporting and management. I would wish to support that. I think it is critical for us to give the Legends a proper marketing

person because they are the brand but they cannot market the brand. They need somebody with the requisite training and skills, to market them as a brand.

Sir, I heard people speak today about cards and so. I think that there are many opportunities we are missing. Senator Benn spoke to one of them. Sir, the packaging of video, short clips for sale to the cricket market is something we have not done. There are many records held by the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers - In fact, I heard the correct form of address used, as the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers still holds records. Also does Sir Vivian Richards and Brian Lara. There are people who would be happy to see them.

Sir, we have not only to look at cards but to look at the modern technology. What about screen savers? You can have these cricketing images as screen savers. You can have a short clip as a screen saver. You can go on the computer and see images moving, whether it is water or something. You can have a record-breaking shot marketed as a screen saver. We can have mouse pads. We do not have to go for the old format of the cards, though they might be useful, and clothing which is always very popular, but you can employ the technology and fill needs by selling memorabilia and items, which converge with modern technological use. I believe that insofar that is so, that is a marketing...

4.30 p.m.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I believe that insofar as that is so it is a marketing opportunity that we are missing for the brand.

A second issue which has to be considered is really what is the proper use of the Herbert House premises. I was very glad to see it brought back into use because it is one of the traditional urban villas, and a lot of them are really very stately. It was sensitively retrofitted, it looks good but it has to be and can be a revenue generating building.

There is a cottage in the yard of Herbert House that appears to be totally unoccupied. Something can happen there, whether you can show videos on weekend, I do not know. I do not purport that my strength is marketing but although I can think of some purposes for which we can put both the building and the cottage. What is needed, however, is not only the legislation on the measures today and the good intentions of the last administration, when we gave them the initial support and the building, but to make available to them the resources that will cause the brand to generate revenues, which Government itself can then benefit from, and which can serve as an impetus to reviving cricket, perhaps, among younger people.

Now, the question was raised, what did the last administration do. I do not share the view that Kensington is a white elephant. The old Kensington Oval lasted more than 100 years. It was important for us, I think, to show that the Caribbean could host a world class event and to get the attendant publicity and repeat visits from visitors that would come out of it, Sir.

It was never anticipated that you could pay for Kensington in one year, that is something that will have to be done over time. The old Kensington could not have held the numbers that attended world cup cricket matches in Barbados so if we wanted to host the Cricket World Cup, 2007, we had to find somewhere to put the people. The new Kensington really is a much improved site which was recently used for CropOver activities and I am told that some people preferred that location, rather than the Stadium. I was not one of those but, maybe, I am reaching the age where I do not like change.

Asides.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I am not speaking about political change in that regard because I have found it to be a very good thing for me.

Asides.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: What are some of the things that Government did to support cricket? One of the first things that I think the last administration has to be credited for is the development of night cricket in Barbados. Many will not remember but in 1994, there were very few cricket grounds in Barbados that had lights and a lot of communities had no grounds.

A number of grounds were built all over the country and many new grounds and playing fields have lights, so that communities which were not able to play any kind of night time sports or activities are now able to use many of these grounds. They do it in the Farm. It happens on Holders Hill. It happens in Lammings. It happens in Bagatelle. It happens to that site close to the Stadium at Bush Hall. It happens at Haynesville. It happens at many other locations so that communities were able to go out and play cricket, football and other games at night, and have other community events as well.

The establishment of more playing fields and lighting at playing fields, coincided with another initiative of the Government, and that was to increase the number of coaches for cricket in schools, particularly primary schools, and to allow more boys to take cricket classes and cricket coaching at the primary school level. Sir, that has resulted in an increase interest in cricket, and greater skill emerging in younger players.

In fact, we thought that it was important when the national heroes were named, to recognise what the cricketers had done for Barbados and therefore the premier cricketer was named as one of our national heroes, therefore elevating them to the highest possible status.

In addition to that, we noticed that there was no particular role for many of the cricketing legends, and some of them were being treated with tremendous indignity. I believe that they were all given a diplomatic passport as a measure of courtesy to allow their easy movement through the Caribbean and through the world when they travelled, as a means of saying, 'thank you', to them and recognising them for the work that they had done.

In addition to that, Sir, many of them were asked to be cricketing consultants. They were paid to go to schools, communities and various events to help to train young cricketers. This was a very important initiative.

If you read Sir Everton Weekes' book, and you hear him talking...I was fascinated by Senator Crichlow's speech, who make the point that young cricketers seem anxious to get back to the pavilion. I am not sure if he had read the book.

Sir Everton said in his book that once he got to the crease, his focus was on playing stroke after stroke after stroke and never being removed from the crease, which is a totally different mind set. He also spoke about watching the technique of other players, so that he could analyse to determine where their defects and weaknesses were and, therefore, when he got to the crease it was hard to get him away from the crease. Sir, he was not just looking to be flamboyant, he was not looking to play the stroke that would be taken by the television cameras, but he was looking to remain at the crease like if someone had cemented him there and make his best score ever. Again, a totally different mind set.

Sir, you know that everything begins in the mind, and the first thing we have to do with these cricketers is to train their minds, and get them to understand what cricket means when they stand on the field what they symbolise to a people, a region, a country. Then, get them to have the mind set, so that they can analyse other players, determine what their weaknesses are, understand their own weaknesses and play so well that they will not be removed from the crease or that whoever comes to the crease to face their bowling, will soon return to the pavilion, not because they like it there but because they are dismissed and sent back in the pavilion.

I want to commend the Professor Hiliary Beckles of the University of the West Indies for the work that was done in relation to developing the academic perspective of cricket. It is very important for us to have done that, Sir. I know that the former administration gave support to that initiative but writing on cricket is of extreme importance.

I do not know how many people in the chamber has read Sir Everton Weekes' book. I recommend it highly. It is a beautiful piece of writing and humour. It does not record only just cricket but it speaks to important parts of our social historyand some of the attitudes that he encountered and the difficulties he faced as a black Bajan playing cricket for Barbados, being loved on the cricket field and then having to face all kinds of discrimination off the field. It is a fascinating book and you also recognise the strength of character of the man, who came from the City and humble circumstances and dominated the cricket world, the kind of fine athlete that he was but more than that, the fine intellectual that he was, because many good sportsmen, if not all, are not just good technically at their sport but they have to think well, once they are on the field to achieve their successes and to be able to play out the game successfully and outmaneuver the other team.

4.40 p.m.

A significant role therefore for Sir Everton and the others was giving them the consultancy so that they could train younger cricketers and younger Barbadians. That was important too for the transfer of history, of knowledge and of technology.

Mr. President, when you read Sir Everton Weekes book, you would recognise the subtleties in bowling action and cricket stances and posture. That is a technology that needs to be passed on even to present cricketers in the present West Indies team who seem to have no notion of how to move either on the field when they are diving for a ball or how to move their legs to get into place for the shot when they are standing at the crease or how to move so that they are not in the wrong place when the ball is coming at them.

Mr. President, you cannot read that book and not develop a greater appreciation and understanding of cricket and its finer points. Therefore, the role of these consultants was critical for the transfer of that technology to the new generation.

Mr. President, despite some of the issues unfairly put by Senator Inniss, I am not speaking in political terms, I really want to say that it was very unfortunate when a decision was taken to terminate the consultancy of Sir Everton. I believe that those cricketers who had the consultancies were in fact playing a very useful role. It is a wrong thing to do to our cricketing icons. It sends the wrong signal to the cricketing community and to those who aspire to play cricket.

In fact, Sir Everton and persons of his era and since played cricket at a time when there was no money in it, they virtually played for the dignity and the honour of wearing the West Indies blazer. Therefore, to give them these consultancies was a means quite frankly of stopping them from, having served their country well and becoming international icons, but living in a form of genteel poverty.

I really call on the Government in the strongest possible terms - you do not have to call it a consultancy, I do not care what you call it - to restore some dignity to those who have served and who were getting those moneys because they deserved it. They have done enough for Barbados that we should write the cheques. The day that they do not go out to show anybody anything, we should still say God bless them because they have made their contribution several times over.

Mr. President, I know my time has gone and I am going to be in the process of coming home, I do not want to labour...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Pay no attention to the distractions. You are in the process of completing, you are doing well.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I will pay no attention to the detractors. Thank you, Mr. President, I am obliged to you.

Mr. President, I talked about some of the things that this Administration did to revive cricket, to support cricket, to finance cricket and to raise the level and the perception of cricket across the country at the national level, at the international level and at the community level in rural communities and so on. Sir, I have spoken about the marketing and so on and the importance of having books written by some of the cricketing greats that transfer the technology.

Senator Inniss spoke about her constituency, I do not know where that is now and I do not know where it would ever be. Mr. President, I do know that many parliamentarians present and past have pulled their pockets to give strong support to cricketing teams. There is nobody, and you would know, Sir, who has been a parliamentarian who has not been set upon by teams to finance all kinds of games, sports and cricketing competitions and matches. Many politicians and aspiring politicians and former politicians like the Honourable Senator Symmonds and I still continue to pull our pockets despite other Members of Parliament being in place to finance community games and sports and teams which are travelling.

Mr. President, I conclude by saying that in view of all the things that I have tried to put together to talk about the path of cricket and the presence of cricket...

Mr. President, I think that we need to ask ourselves in view of the changing culture, in view of the arrival of 20-20 cricket, and in view of some of the challenges that we are facing and the diminishing interest in cricket, what then is the future of the game and how do we start to build interest. In fact, I have not got to the fact that part of the challenge with cricket is not so much BCA and BCL but the West Indies Cricket Board of Control itself and the fact that it has not brought visionary leadership to cricket in the Caribbean and develop a revenue industry out of cricket despite getting resources.

Mr. President, the new Kensington Oval has served us well. So far it is being used for cultural, musical and so on, entertainment, because cricket is culture too. So far it has brought the largest number of people that saw cricket during the Cricket World Cup and made the most money of any of the new stadia built during the Cricket World Cup.

Mr. President, I look forward at another time to the Chamber having a discussion on what the future of cricket is because I think the Government has to have time to think and work through the matter and put a developmental plan before the Chamber on which we can have a discussion as to how to move cricket forward in light of all the issues that Honourable Senators has raised today as confronting the game.

I am much obliged to you, Sir, for having indulged me and I support this with great willingness.

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, as I wind up the discussion on the Cricket Legend of Barbados Incorporated Bill, 2008, I must say that there is clear consensus that the support provided by this Bill to the cricket legends is of significant importance. We have heard and we continue to hear of the vital role played by cricket in the socioeconomic development of Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean, those countries that provide players.

Reference was made in very nostalgic terms by my honourable colleague who sits next to me about the involvement of Barbadian boys in cricket, and I must say indeed girls because like the Honourable Senator Benn, I also played cricket. I had two brothers who were immediately after me and I enjoyed playing cricket at this time of the year, so I too had boy days.

Mr. President, we all recognise the contribution that cricket has made to village life, to neighbourhood development and to community cohesion. Against all of that however, it has been suggested by others that cricket is

in crisis. I believe that in several respects we can say so. In fact, one major concern for many of us, I am sure you share my concern, Mr. President, is the apparent crisis in the management of cricket at the official level. Several reasons have been posited for this crisis.

However, when we look at it, I do concur with the Honourable Senator from the other side that we have seen and continue to see cultural changes in Barbados. Of course, one of the questions I posed is: What are we doing to counter some of those cultural influences that penetrate us on an ongoing basis? I believe that if we speak specifically of sports, that we have perhaps not done enough to expose our youth.

Mr. President, I happened to have a very large family and while my son does not like cricket and maybe he does not think that he should play the game that his mother played when she was younger, I also have a nephew who is much younger who plays cricket, I might mention to Senator Alleyne, for St. Stephen's.

4.50 p.m.

I know there are a lot of young children - not even young men - who are seriously interested in cricket, but there is a vacuum. There is a vacuum of information and of time taken, because oftentimes there is no time taken to pass on the kind of stories. I am sure there are persons listening who would have enjoyed the contribution of Senator Benn, while reminiscing could relate in very serious ways to what he had to say, and who understood what cricket did for people, especially when there were few options.

Mr. President, as we look at the benefits of cricket, I would want to say that in the same way our youngsters learn to appreciate baseball, as they learn to get involved in those solitary games such as nintendo, play stations, et cetera, I believe there is scope to develop those games, which would introduce them to cricket through these medium. Therefore, as we seek to assist this company and the legends who make up this company, I believe that we would find several ways of engaging our population to come in and utilise the various technologies.

Mr. President, I want to speak specifically to some of the comments made by Senator Symmonds, who looked at the opportunities in tourism and suggested the inability of a company like this - and I think I heard the words used - to reach into the bosom of the cruise sector. Let me say that I certainly differ. As a Director and former Chairperson of the Bridgetown Cruise Terminal, we engaged in activities on an annual basis. This engagement facilitated the participation of companies and individuals such as the Taxi Cooperative in the Bridgetown Port, to attend and promote their businesses at the Annual Conference of the Florida/Caribbean Cruise Association.

Sir, to do it on your own, perhaps, would be difficult but there is a structured arrangement, which allows a company like this to sell its products and services, or to package those products and services with other existing entities. Therefore, I would suggest there are already structures in place that do that. Sir, I would want to say that the process of negotiating with cruise ships is not something hidden or unknown.

Mr. President, as a constituent of the St. James South constituency, I found it interesting that reference was made to the Courtney Browne Pavilion and to the Desmond Haynes Pavilion and the Walk-of-Fame that would take us from one end to the next. I suppose that while it was not completed, I could probably impress upon my current representative to take the mantle and to run with it. I am sure that the two Honourable Senators on the other side would be willing to do that.

Mr. President, a number of concerns have been raised by Independent Senator Newton about the work of the company in relation to what is happening at the University of the West Indies. Sir, I would hasten to say that there should be complementarity, there should be scope and room for collaboration. I am sure there is no one entity that should see itself or should figure that it has the sole right or monopoly to activities relating to the promotion of cricket, cricket culture, cricket history, et cetera. Therefore, there is definitely room for collaboration, and I am sure there is evidence of that.

There were also concerns about the management of a company. I believe those persons who would have come up with this concept would have done so on the basis of some assessment of the commercial viability or feasibility of a company such as this. Sir, sitting around this table today and listening to the various contributions, a lot of creative ideas were expressed, but I am sure persons here are not necessarily versed in all things cricket.

Mr. President, I want to say that in sitting among the legends are business people, and we know who they are. We have Mr. Rawle Brancker, the Reverend Wes Hall, "Charlie" Griffith. These people continue to be involved in viable commercial entities and so there is talent. There is also a management structure which is in place and will continue to be in place. Sir, more important, there is a commitment to provide technical assistance in the areas of management, marketing, technology, finance, et cetera. Sir, several meetings have been held to do this.

Mr. President, it is my understanding that while this is not something that falls under my direct scope of work, so to speak, is there are ongoing negotiations between the

National Sports Council and National Conservation Commission, to develop a working relationship. As you would imagine, there are several venues for playing the game. I believe that in all we have heard, there is much scope for this entity to take advantage of the concessions given. They have received sums of money in the past.

Mr. President, I know there was a concern raised about the giving of money. Sir, I want to clarify the point that beyond the giving of money, concessions, in most instances, are not necessarily grants of sums of money. If we give concessions on corporation tax, duties or waivers, et cetera, unless the company is functioning, then it cannot take advantage of those waivers. Therefore, to suggest they may be getting money and that they may not necessarily put it to good use, unless the venture is viable, the concessions would not be utilised and therefore there is no money given.

Mr. President, I would want to assure persons that some serious thought have been given to this. I understand also that there is a business plan in place. This business plan is a part of a bigger strategic plan and therefore whatever assistance possible would be given.

Sir, I believe that the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. Bill, 2008, would serve to act as a catalyst, one of the several catalysts that would be needed, based on the discussions I have heard. It will act as a catalyst to fostering a continuing appreciation of cricket, to fostering the interest in cricket, whatever its manifestation or version.

I know that cricket purists would tell you they believe that 20/20 Cricket is ruining the game but I believe there is scope for several versions of the game, as we have seen. In that process, I believe that the legends, through the support of all this legislation proposes, can make a viable contribution, working alongside Government and the various agencies, developing and operating a successful business based on the business plan, factoring in all that is required in terms of servicing a local and international community which have interest in cricket. Sir, by doing those things, it would contribute in a significant way to keeping cricket as an important game.

I want to stress that as we sometimes cry doom and gloom about cricket, that there is one country that has been expressing an interest in cricket. That country is China. Sir, in looking at the population of China, if only a small fraction of that population decides to become involved in cricket, if they decide to have a five-day match, a 30/30 match, like what we see being played at the University of the West Indies in a local competition, a 20/20 match or a one-day match, you could imagine there would renewed interest.

Mr. President, in that respect, there is need for information. We talked about books. There is need for information at the level of adults and at the level of children. I am sure that in terms of creating an initial interest, there could be various manifestations or expansions, for example, creating a cricket comic book.

Sir, in creating a comic book, that creates the opportunity for our young graphic artists to come on board. There are opportunities for the same company to utilise the skills of our graduates from the University of the West Indies, the Barbados Community College or the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, in the various programmes where they could develop memorabilia. Mr. President, we have lots of young people who are gifted at computer programming. This software could be used to develop a range of games to educate people about cricket.

5.00 p.m.

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SENATOR the HON. MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN: We have a lot of young people who are gifted at computer programmes development and so on and these software can be used to develop a range of games and whatever else to educated people about cricket. Sir, to me the opportunities are endless, if this company and those who own the company, understand the full potential and if they appreciate that what is being extended is an important helping hand, which should help them to, at the end of the day, create what can very well be a very successful international company doing business internationally.

Madam President, on that basis, I certainly recommend the adoption of this Bill to you.

I beg to move that the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. Bill, 2008, be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR the HON. MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN, the SENATE resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 5 were called and passed.

Clauses 6 and 70 were called and passed.

The Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of SENATOR the HON. MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN, Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR the HON. MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Cricket Legends of Barbados Inc. Act, 2008.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR the HON. MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 5.30 p.m. today.

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

5.06 p.m.

ORDER NO. 3 – ARTS AND SPORT PROMOTION FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008.

SENATOR HON. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to support amendment to the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008. As a matter of background, the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund was established by an Act of Parliament in 2004 with a specific intention to provide financing to a range of programmes, and other activities conducted by a number of organisations registered with the National Cultural Foundation, those are Arts organisations. In addition to that, support would have been provided to sports organistions registered to the National Sports Council (NSC). The intention was to facilitate and encourage the development of the Arts and sports in Barbados as two areas of activities important to the proper development of individuals in Barbados and offering opportunities.

Specifically, the support would have been provided to beneficiaries, who met a number of qualifying criteria, including residents in Barbados, and opportunities to contribute to the development of Sports and Arts in Barbados. These funds were provided with certain provisos, including the requirement to report to the Accountant General. Such reports containing details of the activities, undertaken, and proper audited statements of accounts, et cetera. In addition to that, to further ensure that funds were properly utilised, beneficiaries were required to post a bond with two sureties. Of course, there were provisions addressing the failure to utilise these funds.

Sir, the funds were created, generated and replenished by a number of sources, mainly from a percentage of the proceeds received from Lotteries of games of betting and games of chance, in accordance with Section 3 of the Betting and Gaming Duties Act. In addition, those funds could have been supplemented, were supplemented or are supplemented by monies provided by Parliament, in the form I would refer to as a subvention, and other funds generated by property given to the Fund.

The management of that is, within the purview of the Auditor General. In preparing that legislation, as we have seen earlier, there were some omissions in the drafting. In order to do that the amendment speaks to the amendment of both the Regulation and the Act.

The primary amendment speaks to the expanding of the Committee with oversight for the Fund and the amendment current composition of the Fund is intended to include the Parliamentary Secretary who has responsibility for sports. As such, the numbers would have increased from six persons to seven persons in order to make provision for the person who sits for the Parliamentary Secretary with responsibility for sports.

Sir, In addition, the Committee was also Chaired by the Accountant General. It also seeks to replace the Accountant General in the Regulations with the Chairman of the Committee. The amendment referred to as the Chairman would now be the Accountant General and therefore that provision had to be amended.

Mr. President, overall, I think it is a very basic amendment, in order to ensure the proper functioning of this body. We spent quite a bit of time discussing cricket, and by extension the importance of other sports and athletic pursuits and, of course, in a tangential way, the importance of the Arts, are persons who can contribute to the development of the Arts when we talk about the Legends Bill. Sir, with that brief description, I propose that these amendments be accepted and beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The question was put and agreed to.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

On the motion of SENATOR HON. M.P.O. McCLEAN, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, HER HONOUR Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

5.40 p.m.

Clause 4 was called and passed.

On the motion of Senator Miss M. P.O. McCLEAN, Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT reported to His Honour the PRESIDENT, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Senator Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund (Amendment) Act, 2008.

ORDER NO. 5 – THE MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

Senator Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill, 2008. As a background, if we look at what obtains, Sir, in the international environment, matters of crime continue to be a major concern, in both the developing and developed world. It is recognised by all jurisdictions that the ability to manage crime and criminal activity and to address the solving of such crimes, often require the assistance of others in various jurisdictions. Therefore, this piece of legislation was intended to provide assistance to other jurisdictions.

In one instance, for example, Barbados can seek the assistance of other Commonwealth countries. In another instance, it could seek the assistance of non Commonwealth countries. Therefore, the legislation makes provision for those forms of assistance.

For example, part II of the legislation speaks to the request by Barbados to Commonwealth countries; Part III speaks to requests by Commonwealth countries to Barbados; and Part IV speaks to application and for assistance to non Commonwealth countries. Of course, where there are non Commonwealth countries seeking assistance, there generally is an arrangement that this is possible, where bilateral arrangements exist between Barbados and other countries or where countries are partied to the United Nations Convention against illicit trafficking and such activities.

Sir, in order to make the Act effective or to effect the Act and the provisions of the Act, certain Amendments have to be made. What is proposed in terms of these Amendments is that there is an Amendment to insert a clause which speaks to the application of the Treaty. In doing this, it seeks to introduce a third scheme, which creates the opportunity for assistance under the Treaty.

Asides.

Senator Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: In order to ensure that we are able to operate under this legislation, there is also provision for an amendment to the title. It speaks to an Amendment to Clause 29, in order to ensure that the Treaty will have the force of law in Barbados. In doing so, it also speaks to the authority of the Attorney-General.

Again, in looking at this, do not anticipate that we are going to face any difficulties, in terms of the need for these Amendments. It is clear that as we function in this country, we do not do so in isolation. We want to ensure that there is the scope for assistance in all spheres and coming from all avenues where possible.

As partners to the Treaty, we are able therefore through these Amendments to seek the assistance from Commonwealth countries, and from non Commonwealth countries under the various provisions made.

Sir, on that very short introduction, I recommend that these Amendments be accepted and I commend them to the Senate.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I have promised colleagues, and I say ‘colleagues’ on both side because we have been very collegiate in our approach today, except for one brief unpleasant intervention. In fact, Sir, Senator Symmonds and I just had a discussion over whether the appropriate word was collegial or collegiate. I prefer collegiate, he prefers collegial but both are legitimate. We consulted Oxford and it tells us that we both have some understanding of the English language and that either would work.

Asides.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Sir, I have promised to be brief because we are trying to get through a lot of business today. I will keep to that commitment but there are just a few points that I would wish to make, in respect of this legislation.

It is an important piece of legislation though apparently, on the surface, very simple and not attracting a lot of debate. We have heard increasing incidents - since we speak of English, Sir, people like to talk about incidences but really we have heard increasing incidents and not increasing incidences - of crime being committed by persons coming out of the United States of America or developed countries, coming to the Caribbean, bringing their techniques, nefarious acts and approaches to the

Caribbean, committing crimes and moving through the region.

5.50 p.m.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: One has also heard of the large number of criminal deportees whose origins were in the Caribbean. Their grandparents may have been Caribbean people, but they have lived in the United States of America or the United Kingdom and once they commit crime up there, maybe their status sometimes is not regularised, they are immediately sent back to a society where they have no friends or relatives and for which the culture is alien.

In addition to that, there are two other settings in which this legislation becomes important. The first is the fact that with globalisation generally the movement of criminals for criminal enterprise as they pursue capital... Criminal enterprises are as much an investment and engage the use of capital as do legitimate enterprises. With globalisation, the increasing incidence of criminality and criminal behaviour has to be monitored. As a region, we have to have a capacity to have the exchange which this legislation contemplates, mutual assistance in criminal matters.

The fourth way in which this is important and the area which really I must confess concerns me most is the area of cyber crimes. Technology has made it possible for you to stay in the United States of America, Russia, Kenya or Nigeria and hack into somebody's account and take all their money and their identity. The whole area of cyber criminality is an extremely important area of crime.

As more and more services, goods, courtship, and activity... In fact, I think the statistics is that 40 per cent of the people in the United States of America are now meeting their partners online. As everything from courtship to criminality becomes more technologically based and more computer based, it is increasingly important for us to have the capability to track activity across jurisdictions and to be able to exchange information and obtain information from other jurisdictions on people who are perpetrating particular types of criminal activity that may very well impact on us. It is not an insignificant thing when one considers that with the switch of your finger you can steal somebody's identity.

Sir, I had a very unfortunate experience of having one of my credit cards stolen and somebody using it to get large volumes of jewellery from stores in the United Kingdom. I had hell. It took me six months fighting with American Express, getting affidavits, police reports and all kinds of things. Sir, I would have to say that it is only because I am a lawyer and thought like a lawyer when the incident took place that I was saved.

Mr. President, when the credit card was stolen, I immediately telephoned my Secretary in Barbados and told her to cancel it right away. Despite that, the persons were able within minutes of stealing the credit card...

Mr. President, often as a black person when I go into a store and produce a gold or platinum credit card, people always asked me to show identification. However, this person was able to get something like £10 000 in jewellery immediately off of my credit card even though I had immediately told my Secretary to cancel it.

Mr. President, thinking like a lawyer, I told her to call it in and not only call it in but to send a letter to American Express indicating that it was stolen and that she has already called in the theft. She was reluctant, but I insisted and she did as I told her.

Mr. President, six months later American Express told me that they had absolutely no record of the report. Not only was I able to produce the letter that I had asked her to send off but the letter stated exactly as I instructed and referred to the conversation that she had and at what time with American Express' agent.

Mr. President, I am making the point that you can have these things happen to you and be totally innocent and seriously disadvantaged, and it is therefore important that as people move...

There are people who spend their lifetime engaging in this kind of criminal activity. It is what they do on a full time basis and we have to be able to track it. It is important to protect a society and an economy because they can hack into the Government's system or the banks in Barbados and take out a lot of money in no time, so it is not a small thing. Mr. President, if we are going to have this legislation and be able to protect ourselves, to get valuable information and give valuable information to other jurisdictions, we have to develop a core of cyber sleuths who are capable of doing the hi-tech work that is necessary in the area. Therefore, I would want to see that we invest in making that kind of commitment to the training of sleuths so that we can be protected from the crimes.

Mr. President, there was a very interesting movie some months ago, I do not recall the name, about the use of the technology. In that case, an individual set up a murder and the more people click on to see it, it was streamed live on the internet, the faster the rate at which the person was killed because the click of the computers triggered a mechanism in the computer which controlled the killing mechanism for the person who was the victim. It was a very interesting movie which really opened your knowledge to what could in fact happen using computers for purposes other than good. It had not even entered my

contemplation that one could use a computer to effect a murder or a series of murders in that way.

I therefore want to give strong support to it. We would have to align however our criminal legislation with some of the legislation of the other jurisdictions. I have worked in extraditable matters. In those matters, the crime for which you are extraditing has to be an offence of the type which exists in your own jurisdiction. There are many types of crime which exists in jurisdictions outside of Barbados that we do not yet classify as crime, so there has to be an update of the criminal legislation to align it with other legislation outside of Barbados in order that this can be as effective as possible.

Mr. President, there is also the question of cost. I think that having this kind of technological capability is not cheap and therefore there has to be an investment over time in what it would take to make us fully competent to give effect to this legislation because the mere passing of the legislation will not of itself give us the capability to benefit fully from it or to be able to assist others.

There have to be other corollary activities and events such as those I have identified, like training, the technology capabilities, et cetera, before we could benefit fully from this legislation. Despite that, it is important to support it particularly in an era where technological crimes are becoming so prevalent and there is not a sufficient body of legislation particularly in the Caribbean region to effectively deal with these crimes from which people are going to suffer significantly as the technology becomes more and more use for all kinds of ordinary everyday activities.

I think in the context of my own records that I have been true to my word and I have been brief.

I am obliged to you, Mr. President.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I am happy that the Senator's briefness is so brief.

6.00 p.m.

SENATOR Rev. P. MILLINGTON: Mr. President, I want to start by saying three years ago I had the privilege of going to Trinidad and Tobago, to participate in a Workshop designed to discuss the issues of guns in our communities. It was an eye-opener for me. Out of that Workshop, an association was formed to focus on helping our small States deal with the proliferation of small arms across communities.

Mr. President, I have a problem with guns. I have never touched one in my life. I have never held one, never wanted one, never looked at one, never cared about one, but the ease with which young people in Barbados could get a gun worries me. Sir, when I saw this Bill, the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill,2008, I opened my eyes wide because I said here is an opportunity for Caribbean societies to get together and to develop a plan across communities, at the local level and the Caribbean community as a whole, to deal with guns.

Mr. President, the police has, over the last three or four years, made it more and more difficult for persons to apply for gun license and for those persons to get permission to own guns, but I am told that every time there is a shipment of drugs coming into this country, it is accompanied by a shipment of guns.

Sir, people do not want to discuss these matters, people feel that they have a right to own a gun. If any person owns a one-door shop in Swan Street or half-of-a-shop wherever, they feel that they have a right to own a gun. Sir, I have a problem with that. I have to speak from my conscience because I do not see anybody else, other than working class black people being shot or losing a limb. Therefore, any measures that would assist in the removal of criminal activities in Barbados, I would support it.

Mr. President, I am going to urge my colleagues on this side to do whatever possible in this Act, to give assistance to any association, particularly the one of which I am a part, to help fight this kind of activity at the community level.

Mr. President, I concentrate on the community level because each of us would want to put the responsibility on somebody else. We would want to say that we are not responsible, that it is the police or the Probation Department business to deal with it. Sir, each of us has a responsibility, in our communities and in our households, to deal with the matter of illegal guns; to deal with the matters of criminal activities in our houses and in our communities.

Sir, there are persons who encourage their children to become involved in criminal activities, who would then find excuses for them. We have people who go to court and tell lies to protect criminal activities. Sir, I am saying we have to strengthen our resolve. We must not step back and allow any criminal activity to gain precedence over the right to clean up Barbados. Mr. President, I am astounded by the extent to which a football match in a community could explode into "pax, pax, bum, bum," with people running and diving; with people running and hiding; people running left, right and centre, not knowing which direction to run. Sir, what is worrying is that no country in the Caribbean manufactures guns.

Asides.

SENATOR Rev. P. MILLINGTON: Mr. President, the guns are imported into Barbados and I do not understand why there cannot be a collective efforts on our part to fight this scourge. We have to fight against the scourge of guns in Barbados. Sir, the proliferation of guns in Barbados is causing the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the police to be under severe pressure. Sir, for example, because of the fact that a criminal may be getting treated at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, other persons would want to go there and threaten to kill that person who is getting treated. Sir, nobody is quarreling about it, nobody is talking about it, everybody is quite. It has become normal. We have to do something about the guns, we cannot be frightened for our shadow. Every child who shoots a gun has a mother or father, or should have.

Mr. President, with this piece of legislation, we have to stretch our arms wide enough. We must make sure that assistance is not only given between country to country but also to communities. We must be able to develop programmes so that we could fight these problems at the community level.

Mr. President, I have never touched a gun and will never touch one. If you give me a lollipop, I am to suck it; if you give me a gun, I am to shoot it, and because I treat life as being dear to me, I do not want a gun. I have never brought life to anybody and therefore I should not take a life.

Sir, what is so important about a gun? Why do people want guns? What is so important about owning a gun? Sir, furthermore, we sell toys that look like guns. People have pendants around their necks that look like guns. We have earrings that look like guns. We have pendants that look like bullets. Sir, where are we going with this? When are we going to wake up? Are we going to allow the undertakers to be the richest persons in the world?

Mr. President, I am appealing to my side that we should stretch this legislation wider to embrace all of us, that we embrace the youth groups, the community groups, the football association, the cricket association, to develop programmes that would assist the police in dealing with the proliferation of guns. Sir, I would also want to say that regional police must run workshops that deal with gun control. The legislation must be strengthened to deal with the proliferation of guns, to deal with gun detection, and most of all, to strengthen our homes and communities about the dangers of gun use, gun trafficking and deaths resulting from the use of guns.

Mr. President, that is my peaceful submission and again, I hope I have stirred some interest. Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. O. P. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I believe the brevity of the discussion reflects the appreciation of my Senator colleagues about the importance of this legislation. In wrapping up, however, I want to reiterate a point made by my colleague on this side, that is the need to move beyond focusing on opportunities for international cooperation in addressing crime, through the seeking of assistance within and without the family of the Commonwealth, within the region and internationally, but to recognise that such assistance becomes less needed if attention is paid to addressing the genesis of crime within our communities.

Mr. President, I believe when we look at much of what is happening within our societies, a lot of that is influenced by what is not happening in our communities. By that I mean that if we do not pay attention to addressing the needs of our children, if we do not pay attention to developing well-rounded citizens or young people who see themselves as having opportunities, et cetera, we would find ourselves faced with persons who may resort to violence, in order to realise their dreams and ambitions. Those person would not have the value sets which speak to less of a drive for material things and more of a concern about the quality of life.

I think in looking at the provisions of this legislation and the necessary amendments to operationalise the Objectives of this Bill, it is clear that as we battle a range of crime, which I think my colleagues referred to cyber crime, that we recognise the worldwide web is not only attracting persons who want to share positive information but also people who want to commit crime of various magnitude.

6.10 p.m.

SENATOR the HON. MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN: We recognise that the world wide web, the internet, et cetera is not only attracting persons, who want to share positive information but people who also want to commit crimes of various magnitude. Sir, with that I believe it is important that undertake to amend this legislation.

Sir, I beg that Bill be read a second a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR the HON. MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN, the SENATE resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 5 were called and passed.

The Schedule became the Schedules to the Bill.

On the motion of SENATOR the HON. MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN, Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR the HON. MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Act, 2008.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP 228, THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AT CONSTANT IN THE PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

SENATOR the HON. MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution to approve, in accordance with Section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap 228, the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land at Constant in the parish of St. George. This is 2.76 hectares of land and it is for housing development. While the business of the acquisition of this land would have proceeded this Government, I want to emphasise that it is priority for us because it fits very much into our programme to do something that has not been done for a decade, that is, to put in place and, I emphasise, execute, the delivery of a number of houses and/or land, particular to a segment of our population who has not been able to realise their dream.

Mr. President, as you know, in this country the desire to own a property and to own a house is critical. I believe that this would certainly allow this Government - it seems that my opening Government has stirred the ire of some - but I believe it is critical to be able to say to Barbadians and not only to say to Barbadians but to deliver into the hands of Barbadians appropriate housing. As a small country, the availability of land will become less and less a reality as time goes on. We have seen the continued attractiveness of Barbados to (18:18:36) Break in transmission to end.

6.20 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson. The noises that you are hearing are indications of technical difficulties. Senator Thompson, you may continue.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I had been promising that I was not going to speak, but since I am going to speak I will in fact be brief, consistent with my commitment that we would wind up today. I do look forward to having an extensive debate on housing. It is a matter which is of extreme importance at the national level. In fact, during the last election campaign there was much rhetoric, and much misrepresentation about the housing record of the Barbados Labour Party. There have been two mechanisms for building houses, over the course of the last administration. Let me say, first of all, one of the challenges faced was the lack of available land. Senator McClean spoke to that, and therefore the administration consistently acquired land to make available a land bank for housing. What did we do with the land bank? Part of the land bank is still there and there has been extensive housing construction on the land bank. The development of a land bank to facilitate housing was one.

Second, the empowerment of private sector entities to build an increasing number of houses. A third mechanism was to facilitate and encourage entities outside of the Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation, which was then owned by Government, to extend a 100 per cent loan facility. The extension of the 100 per cent loan facility, enabled a large number of people who would not have been able to save enough to get loans, once they were working, to get a house. I say that because prior to that, one would have had to save 10 to 20 per cent of the deposit of the house as well as monies to pay legal and other fees. With the introduction of the 10 per cent mortgage facility, once one was working, one did not have to have a deposit, one could get a house. Sir, that stimulated the market extensively.

In fact, if one checked, one would see that in 1994 when we came to Government, the residential mortgage loans in the banking sector was about $21 or 34 million dollars, and in the period we were in Government moved to in excess of $1 billion because the market had grown so extensively and many people were building houses.

In addition, there was a significant amount of housing development at the level of terrace units, the London Bourne Towers was one of them. That was one block. There was a second block at Constant, St. George. There were a set at the Pine and Wildey and in St. George, close to BBS. That is at least four. A set was constructed in St. Philip. There were a number of developments by the National Housing Corporation, Blackmans, Coverley, Lots at Arch Hall, low income housing at Hoytes, housing at Ellerton and Haggatt Hall. There is an area off Haggatt Hall. I cannot recall the name, but that was another large residential development. There was another area at St. Philip, outside of Rices. All of these are houses that were developed. It has also become very fashionable to say that there were no primary homes, being built anywhere in Barbados.

Sir, we have some at Westbury Road. We have primary units at Culloden Road and Westbury, and we have a large primary home residential development at Mount Poyer, St. Lucy with one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units. The Minister of Housing from the Other Place is fond of saying that you cannot get a butterfly, ladybird or bumble bee anywhere. Sir, at Mount Poyer, St. Lucy - it really is a gross misrepresentation to the public and it is not fair.

Sir, I was Minister of Housing for two years and in that time the development at Blackmans increased. We started the work at Rices and Coverley. We did the work at Hoytes, and developed the lots at Arch Hall in two years. We also built a full housing development of primary houses when people were saying that we could not develop houses for $50 000 or in that range in Barbados. We have a whole primary homes development at Mount Poyer, St. Lucy, with ladybirds, butterflies and bumble bees.

Asides.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: That is true. They have them everywhere, including in here.

In addition, in that same two-year period we had to do the entire redevelopment for Kensington, the persons who went to the area, before, to see where people lived and the kinds of housing people were living in know that the development at Barbarees Gardens, was also built during the time I was Minister, was an entire upgrading of a community. The quality of the housing given was superior.Equally, those who saw the conditions of Champman Lane from where people were to be relocated, that was another complete upgrading of condition for people.

Asides.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Sir, I must confess I did not bring the material today, but we will have a housing debate. I have spoken off my head.

In fact, the other area in which ...

Asides.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: You have a worse one now.

Sir, as a matter of fact, to make the point. It is being put out that 1 200 people have received terrace units under the present administration. The law in Barbados is, you can only transfer property by means of a conveyance. That is what the law says, not a letter. People have received a letter of intent. I do not believe that any individual has received a conveyance yet, so nobody owns any property conveyed to them in any terrace unit. All they have is a letter of intent.

In fact, some of the letters that have gone out are for areas where the National Housing Corporation is not...

6.30 p.m.

In fact, some of the letters that have gone out are for areas where the NHC is not fully the owner of the land, so it cannot be conveyed to anybody. Therefore, until people get conveyances in their hands, it is wrong to represent to them that they are the owners of the terrace units.

They are not paying rent but that means nothing in the context of a situation, where all of the new taxes and the increases in the prices of energy, food and everything else, are taking away more from them every week, than if they had been paying in rent, and that includes even when you add in what they save on the free bus fares. Sir, if we want to talk about the comparison of records, I regret that I did not bring my material today but we will have a debate on housing and I will get to talk it, Sir.

The other area in which a significant contribution was made was the General Workers Loan Scheme, where we extended significantly the amount of money available to people and this helped particularly those in the civil service who lived in chattel houses. Sir, it helped to provide funding to convert chattel houses to wall and to do upgrading of chattel houses. Sir, that was a very significant loan facility, which was highly subscribed.

There were other mechanisms used to promote and develop housing. For instance, in urban Barbados through the UDC, and in rural Barbados through the RDC, large numbers of people living in tenantries were able to get their lots at $2.50 per square foot, thereby when you couple that with the 100 per cent mortgage facility, allowed them to get loans and houses, which otherwise would have been beyond their means.

The record of the Barbados Labour Party on housing is really without comparison in this country. Quite frankly, one of the challenges that we had...and I concede that there is a long waiting list at the NHC, in fact, Sir, I inherited a long one. This Government inherited a long one. Sir, the fact that we were building so many houses prompted more and more people to apply.

It also meant, Sir, that whereas before, persons who would not have had access to mechanisms like the 100 per cent mortgage, or like land at $2.50 per square foot were now able to get these services and, in consequence, rather than living home, could afford to move out and build their own properties and own their own properties, where they could not have done before.

Sir, without the 100 per cent mortgage facility which the last administration put in place, a lot of people would not have been able to get houses. There is this notion that we did not build a lot of houses. Sir, not only did we build at the level of NHC, but we put in place several mechanisms which allowed the private sector to make housing more available to people. All over Barbados, in almost every Parish, there are large numbers of houses built by both the public sector and the private sector.

Sir, it is a fact that since this administration has taken over, the numbers of mortgage loans have significantly slowed, and there will not be as much housing construction in Barbados. The reality is that people who could have afforded a house on January 14, cannot afford it today. The increases in the prices of cement, steel, freighting cost and general construction costs, have risen by as much as 60 per cent in some instances since January 15, 2008. Therefore, people who would have voted for the Democratic Labour Party anticipating that they were going to get a house are not going to be able to afford a house.

Moreover, the Democratic Labour Party has already retreated from its policy of giving VAT on houses up to $400 000. They are now saying that it will only apply to $100 000 houses, when in fact it is virtually impossible to build anything now, other than a one bedroom house for $100 000 in Barbados.

Sir, under the primary homes facility, we were able to give people house and land for well under that. You could get a three-bedroom house and land for under $100 000. Both wood and wall. There are people in Barbados living in both wood and wall houses that were Lady Birds, Butterflies and Bumble Bees, all of the primary homes by their names.

Sir, we can disagree on a number of things. We can disagree on approach, but the facts speak for themselves. Sometimes people do not know and it not right to try to make the uninformed giggle or be resentful. The reality is, when you look at the numbers of houses that have been built in Barbados between 1994 and January 2008, it represented one of the largest housing booms ever in the history of Barbados, amongst every single social class, not just amongst commercial construction but particularly amongst persons who were building houses in every social class, repairing houses or upgrading houses. You only have to drive around Barbados and see it for yourselves the quality of housing and the improved housing.

For instance, you take a development like Oxnard Crescent, where people were given starter homes, a very basic house, there are now beautiful, almost palatial residences in that community. Sir, that is true, wherever we gave people a start with houses, they went on themselves to improve, upgrade and develop wonderful housing. In fact, in many instances, the houses that were given or sold - because I do not want to give the impression that they were given - were the absolute high qualities.

The land bank has proven a source for many people.

Asides.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Cave Hill is another district. I forgot that and Thank you.

I do not have the complete list here today but when we have a full debate I will bring the list and we can talk at that time. I do not imagine that it would persuade those, because we say that there is none so blind as those who will not see, but over time, we will have the opportunity to compare the records of the two administrations.

All of the promises to deliver houses within 100 days have now fallen by the wayside. All of the promise to hand over terrace units to people, is really just a political gimmick because you do not give a house with a letter. It has to be by way of conveyance and there are no conveyances, as far as I am aware. Therefore, this notion that some 1 200 people have gotten houses, means that 1 200 people have said, yes, I would like my house free, but no conveyances have been given to them to transfer ownership, and until they get those conveyances in their hands, they are not going to be owners.

In fact, in many of the housing areas, there are a number of challenges. One is the extent to which there has been a legal construction blocking a lot of the wells and drains and so, has been a difficulty for the town Planner, who has therefore not approved a lot of subdivisions that were requested. Apart from that, there was a matter of attempting to do the surveying of the housing areas, while they had all of these constructions that were not approved by the NHC. This meant that the surveying process, in some instances were not completed.

I know that when I hear the Democratic Labour Party speak, they seem to think that the delivery of housing policy is very easy. Up to now, as I have indicated, they have reversed the promise on the VAT to make housing more affordable for people. They have not delivered on their housing promises. There is one to do something outside of the 100-day period but I cannot even remember with it is, Sir.

6.40 p.m.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Outside of the 100-day period, they said they were going to build 500 houses, I cannot remember what is the time period. The point is that the Democratic Labour Party has been in office for six months and not a single house has been built when

they promised to build 2 500 houses a year. The Democratic Labour Party said in their Manifesto that they would build 2 500 houses per year, six months on and not even a dog house has been built yet.

The units have not been transferred because no conveyances have been delivered. You cannot transfer ownership without a conveyance. I could send you a letter telling you I intend to give you my house, but that does not give you ownership until you get a conveyance. Not one house has been transferred. Those are the broad issues.

Over time, I see the enthusiasm and the self-righteousness with which people want to say you all did nothing. When you listen to the Democratic Labour Party you would get the impression that nothing positive happened in Barbados in the last 14 years when in fact that is so far removed from the truth. In fact, there are all kinds of persons who are able to own land and property today because of the work of the Barbados Labour Party during the last 14 years.

Mr. President, I had a very interesting incident over this week when a man started to quarrel with me at a funeral. He lived outside of Barbados, sent his name to Barbados, in breach of the National Housing Corporation rules, to get a house here. Clearly the rule did not allow that. The rule does not allow people living outside of Barbados...

Asides.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The National Housing Corporation sold two types of lots. One set is strictly commercial and therefore could be sold to anybody. There was strict policy with regard to the majority of housing lots, that there were to go to first-time homeowners and were not to be sold to persons living outside of Barbados.

This man met me at a funeral and started quarrelling saying that he lived outside of Barbados and applied for a house and that I took his name off the list. How could you justify letting people who live outside of Barbados get houses from the National Housing Corporation when they can get from the private sector when the National Housing Corporation has an established waiting list that it has to serve first. That was a clear policy that was set. It certainly was followed during the time that I was Minister.

A second thing that was attempted during that time was to ensure that those who were first-time homeowners were able to buy housing or land at affordable prices. The new Administration would find that some of the challenge in relation to delivering housing would come from the mere difficulty of the bureaucratic processes which one faces when one is attempting to deliver housing at the level of the private sector.

I will pause here to ask whether or not the National Housing Corporation is in fact the appropriately structured institution to do the delivery. That, we could discuss later. Part of the challenge that we had was dealing, as I indicated, with the bureaucratic processes. Let me give an example. By the way Apes Hill is another place in which there was a large public housing development put up by the National Housing Corporation to cite another example of housing built by the Barbados Labour Party.

In St. James, land was allocated at Lancaster for the small business sector. There are a number of Barbadians who carry on what they call dirty trades within communities, spray painting, wrought iron work, car repair and so, where the whole community is blocked up and people with asthma are affected by the fumes from the spray painting and the other chemicals used in the operation. It was determined that people who have small businesses should be able to have access to parcels of land at Lancaster and that off Lancaster, going east and north, there would be extensive housing developed.

The plan was put in place. The application was made to the Town Planning Department. The Town Planning Department said that there had to be an environmental impact assessment before they approve it and they had to be a social impact assessment. It took years for these processes to be gone through. The environmental impact assessment was conducted. The Town Planning Department then asked for further things to be reviewed. They then wanted a traffic impact assessment and the social impact assessment had to be done.

Mr. President, you would find that with the very best will in the world it is not always possible to deliver land and housing as quickly as you want. There is no circumstance in which I believe a Government is lacking in the will to deliver housing. You do not create housing developments by snapping your fingers. The new Administration seems to believe that and the commitments in their Manifesto suggest it.

Sir, I am going to bet that the end of the first year will come and the 2 500 houses which they were to build this year will not have been built. In fact, next year will come and the 2 500 houses which they were to build in this one year would not be built by the end of last year either.

Mr. President, what they are going to find is that a lot of the land to which they have access now was part of the land bank which was developed and left by the Barbados Labour Party after going through the very onerous processes required of us by the Town Planning Department and other agencies, so they are starting with a

platform. When we came to Government in 1994, we found all of Cane Garden and other developments running to ruin and incomplete and so, but the Democratic Labour Party is starting with a platform where they have land coming out of a land bank where we have already gone through the difficult process of effecting ownership to the State.

Mr. President, when you come and do a compulsory acquisition that is only the beginning of the process. If it is a parcel of land that exceeds a certain size, you then have to engage the Town Planning Department and all other types of Government agencies in a process that takes a very long time.

They would also have a good fortune in that with the economy going into rapid decline under them, there will be no housing boom, so at least they would have quicker access to some of the heavy-duty equipment and earth moving equipment that we also had to wait weeks and months for because of the demand on them in Barbados and the limitations in getting access.

I hear the boisterous voices. I see the looks of disbelief or discontent or displeasure. I will have the opportunity to sit here and hear the voices less loud and less strident, and to see the expressions less cocky and the mouths turned up now turning down and the eyes downcast and so on.

It will get there because I know that even though the intentions of the present Administration are good, that a lot of what they have committed to cannot and will not be delivered for lack of all kinds of reasons.

6.50 p.m.

Mr. President, I also know they must not fool people that they have given terraced units to anybody, until they show that these units have, in fact, been conveyed to the prospective owners. Sir, until these units are conveyed, people do not own them, and so people are being tricked into believing that they own them. Sir, it is very nice to give people letters telling them that they are going to own their units and that they should not have to pay rent.

Sir, if these people want to improve on their units or want to sell them and buy something else in a different or residential area, these people cannot go to the bank and borrow money on their units. Sir, the reality is that people do not own these units until they get the conveyances, and nobody has been given any conveyance. Therefore, this notion that Government has already given 1 200 persons houses in merely six months is a joke, and therefore this Government really needs to stop misrepresenting that fact.

Mr. President, we will have an opportunity to debate housing at length. I could imagine the kinds of things that would be said by the other side, but we would have our turn to look on and watch the non performance. Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I have often said to the Leader of Government Business, not to take any of her words. Sir, my wife told me that I am often too brief and I could not understand it, but having heard Senator Thompson saying she was going to be brief, I now understand why my wife says I am always too brief. Sir, I say to the Leader of Government Business, take not her words to her words.

Mr. President, as I stand to speak to this mater of land acquisition, I understand the pain on that side, and I know it hurts them. It hurts them so much that they come to this Honourable Chamber and continually repeat foolishness. Sir, for the eighth time the Honourable Senator said that this good Government promised 2 500 house spots in a year. Sir, at page 9 of the Manifesto of this great Party, we said we will:

"Provide 2 500 house spots for sale to low and middle income wage earners in the first term of the Democratic Labour Party Government."

Mr. PRESIDENT: Is the Honourable Member quoting from a specific document?

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: I am quoting from the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, if, in fact, I have misrepresented this Honourable Chamber, I would like to apologise, but you cannot blame me, Sir, because I usually read documents of substance, which that would not have qualified.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Honourable Senator, that is not a point of order.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I would simply ignore that statement. Sir, you want quality in this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, that is no point of order.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I will repeat it because the pain is real. I am not an elected member but I get calls every day about houses and house spots. If the former Government had a record there would have been no calls. The Honourable Senator is painting a picture of beauty and of numbers.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, on a point of elucidation. Is the Honourable Senator saying that in societies everybody has a house, that everybody

owns a house, or that nobody ever wants a house? Sir, that is where the argument is going. The Honourable Senator seems to be saying that because the Honourable Senator gets calls, it means there were no houses built. Sir, this is a nonsensical argument.

Asides.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, the Government of the day, in recognition that the former Government, in response to the former Leader of Democratic Labour Party, Clyde Mascoll, in their 2003 campaign said that the Democratic Labour Party would provide housing in the estates, free to the owners. Sir, six months after that, the then Honourable Member made a statement of promise, and did absolutely nothing in five year.

Mr. President, in five years the past administration should they would have transferred the units in the Pine to the tenants, but that was not done. Within six months a survey was done of the housing stock in the Housing Areas, the quality of who needed bathrooms fixed, whose septic tanks were blocked, who got doors broken off, all because there had to be an assessment that if one is given a house, could that person....

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: On a point of order. Sir, in his anxiety, the Honourable Senator must not mislead this Honourable Chamber and by extension the listening public. Sir, there was, in fact, a programme to transfer homes to the occupants of the National Housing Corporation units. Therefore, all of the necessary background work to which the Honourable Senator is now referring, was, in fact, in train several years ago. It could not be the intellectual property or the endeavour of the new Government. That work was in train and was largely, if not entirely, completed. Therefore, the Honourable Senator must not make those sweeping and unfounded allegations.

Asides.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I heard the Leader of the Opposition, either this week or last week, saying that somebody is going to bring a class action suit because they would have gotten a house and not the keys or money, et cetera.

Asides.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. The point made by the Leader of the Opposition is that the commitment to give the houses to people was made but that there was no commitment to refund people who had already paid money. That is what the class action suit is about.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Honourable Senators, the both of you are on your feet.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, the Barbados Labour Party made people pay money on their units. The Democratic Labour Party came and said...

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. Mr. President, at page 9 of the Democratic Labour Party Manifesto, it says that the DLP will:

"Commit to building 2 000 housing solutions per year, in the first term of the DLP Government."

Mr. President, I made an error when I said 2 500 per year and not 2 000. When the Honourable Senator spoke, he gave the impression that I had totally misled this Honourable Chamber. In fact, it says 2 000 housing solution per year in the first term. Sir, when I said it was 2 500 solutions, the Honourable Senator sought to say that it was 2 500 in the first term, so as to lighten the burden of what they put on themselves, where they already know they cannot deliver. I was over by 500. Sir, they said they would build 2 000 a year and six months after they have been elected, they have not built any as yet. They cannot build 2 000 this year and they cannot build 2 000 between this year and next year.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Honourable Senator, your point has been made.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, Senator Thompson will be up and down, and down and up, and up and down, and yap and blap for the whole day. That is no problem with me, I am here until tomorrow.

Asides.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, this Government came to office with a programme. Sir, the first thing we had to deal with was a bill for $50 million in legal fees for a National Housing Corporation building located at Warrens, in circumstances where a contractor had put the former Government in court.

7.00 p.m.

(Continuation of Point of Order of Senator Miss H.E. THOMPSON:)...those legal fees were made public after the litigation. The whole of that issue was made public after the litigation so if the Senator is now telling us that you cannot build the houses because of that, then it has no right in here. This was a big trick.

MR. PRESIDENT: No point of order.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I am not saying that as a reason why we are not doing it. The Honourable former Minister of Housing has no reason or right - I mean she has real stomach to get up in here and defend a programme that was rife with corruption, wickedness, squandermania and wastage.

Senator Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Honourable Member cannot impute impropriety, which is corruption, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member, I am sure is clear on the Rules. I did not understand the Honourable Member to be imputing corruption to the Senator. The Honourable Member, as I understood it, said a programme that was filled with. I am, therefore, not going to rule that the Honourable Member imputed improper motives to the Senator.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, I never would. The Honourable Senator is upright and I have the greatest respect for her.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, on a point of privilege. (19:02:15)

MR. PRESIDENT: I have no difficulty accepting your submission and ruling against it as follows: The Honourable Senator said, and I heard him to say, that there was a programme that was filled with corruption. He did not impute improper motives to the Minister responsible in the previous administration. Under the circumstances, I have to rule that there is no point of privilege and I call on Senator Alleyne to continue.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, I do not get up a point of order because there is always a chance to rebut. I do not use any point of order but I heard the former Minister of Housing, the Honourable Senator Government chided this Government for seeking to transfer houses where the land was not approved by Town & Country Planning. Sir, she is chiding a Government of six months for non-approval of land that National Housing Corporation has housing on when the Honourable Senator..

MR. PRESIDENT: I am sure you mean the Honourable Senator.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: I will get it right in time, I promise you.

MR. PRESIDENT: I think you should pay attention to what your wife says.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, thank you very much. The Honourable Senator chided this Government after six months for trying to transfer houses on land that National Housing Corporation did not own. The Honourable Senator was a Minister of Housing, the Democratic Labour Party did not build houses on land that was not owned by National Housing Corporation but the Honourable Senator butts her chest and parades in this Honourable Chamber that this Government is trying to transfer houses on land that is not owned by National Housing Corporation.

Mr. President, the Honourable Senator's Government built the houses on land that they did not own.

Senator Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, on a point of order. The houses were built over time and both administrations, pre 1994 by both administration on lands belonging to Government but not to National Housing Corporation and the letters proceeding for transfer came from National Housing Corporation. Sir, National Housing Corporation cannot transfer to an individual land or property which is not in its ownership. Sir, that is the only point I am making. I am not bumping my chest, I am just saying, do not fool people.

MR. PRESIDENT: Point made.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I understand the pain. The truth is that in six months this Government has found so much mess, so many instances of wastage; so many instances of mismanagement that it is finding it challenging to get on with its work. It hurts me very much when an Honourable Senator, aware of the mess that was made, stands in this Chamber and says that this Government has found a platform and a foundation. The former Government left a land bank and there are 35 000 requests for house spots and houses at National Housing Corporation. Sir, there are not 3 500; there are 35 000 but they left a land bank. Sir, they should not fool the Honourable Chamber. The Honourable Senator can get up on a point of order.

Senator Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, on a point of order. At page 9 of the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto, the Democratic Labour Party promised to build 500 lots in five months and, Sir, five months have gone.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, can you imagine I said that 35 000 people are making requests and that the former Government had a land bank and the Honourable Senator reads from the Manifesto about 500 lots of land in five months. Sir, they have already been secured. I went up in St. Thomas in a place called Cane Garden and I identified 34 myself that belongs to National Housing Corporation that were there with bush and trees on them. I went and did that because one of my colleagues at work told me about and I handed it to the Minister. Sir, National Housing Corporation has already surveyed them and put them into square but the former Government sat

down in office and did nothing except talk. Now, the Honourable Senator comes to this Chamber...Sir, I am a platform speaker..

MR. PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member knows that in here we are not on the platform.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I am learning the art as I go and I beg your patience. I have already said to the Chamber that I ask them to be patient with. I am a platform speaker and I am learning the trade as I go, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Unfortunately, the President does not have the same patience as other Honourable Senators.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Yes, Sir, your wife told me that.

MR. PRESIDENT: My wife knows a lot about me.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, the point I am making is that when we come to this Chamber, we represent different sides and, therefore, there is a little give and take, there is a little banter; there is a little argument about historical facts; about direction and about policy but when it comes to challenging a Government of six months, it really upsets me, Sir, that a Government could have a facility called...

Senator Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, on a point of order. I am challenging the administration of six months out of unreasonableness but out of the time frame that they have given themselves in their own Manifesto. Sir, that is all. I did not make up these time frames. I did not come and say that six months have gone and that they have to deliver. These are the time frames that the administration gave to itself and to the public of Barbados. If they want to resile from it, they cannot be cursing us, they have to say to the public that it was either a trick or that they do not intend to it or we cannot get it done for whatever reason that has to do with their capacity to deliver. The six-month time frame was not mine. On page 89 of the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party they laid out the five months and the one month time frame, not me.

7.10 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The point made, Senator.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: I have said in this Chamber that the 500 house spots that we would deliver, if the Honourable Senator wants them delivered by transfer deed and title deed and so on, I am saying...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, the truth is, I just want to report to the Honourable Senate, that the gabions and barricades have been installed at the corner of Passage Road. The eyesore that was there for eight years under the Honourable Senator Thompson's leadership, we have just barricaded it and started work at the corner of Passage Road and Country Road.

Asides.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Thank you very much. Sir, it was an act at the highest level of mismanagement that will cost...

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. Sir, Senator Alleyne speaks to the issue of mismanagement. Perhaps I should rise on a point of elucidation rather than a point of order. I really do want to make a comment which would give an explanation, rather than to be provocative or adversarial.

Sir, forgive me. I am not going to detain the Chamber. We will have an opportunity for a debate on housing, and I will deal with it at that time because it was not just mismanagement as suggested by Senator Alleyne.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, let me just make the point about poor management and mismanagement and return to the Auditor General's Report of 2005, to prove who knows about management. I can get into a debate and jump up and down. At Page 22 of the Auditor General's Report it says:

"The Property Management Unit as a matter of urgency, should be determined by surveying which Government buildings are substantially undervalued and seek to have new valuations on them, carried out as soon as possible. It was noted that the Glendairy Prison was substantially undervalued and was insured for less than $1 million. In 2003 correspondence from the Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs to the Parliamentary Secretary to Ministry of Housing...", I wonder who was the Minister. " The Ministry of Housing indicated that the Minister of Land Tax had recently valued the property at Glendairy at $43.2 million, the insurance valued $1 million."

Sir, if that is not poor management, tell me what is. That is only one example. Sir, the Government Headquarters, $1 000 040. That is the insurance coverage. Sir, Ellerslie Secondary School, $359 000; Government Industrial School for boys, $452 000. Sir, I have a little mickey mouse house, and it is insured 1for more than that,

and the Honourable Senator is jumping up saying that it was not mismanagement. What was that? Sir, when Glendairy Prison burnt, this Government...

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: On a point of order. I am at a lost. I seem to recall that there are rules of relevance in the Standing Orders of the Senate. Sir, as I understood it, and listening to the Leader of Government Business, I was led to conclude that this debate was a debate of housing, not about insurance, not about schools, not anything that would fall naturally under the rubic of the Ministry of Education but the Ministry of Housing, land acquisition to be precise. Sir, if Senator Alleyne at least cannot collide with the substance of that which is before the House, there is an easy way for him, he can go home, take his seat. Sir, with great respect it cannot be proper for Senator Alleyne to be delving into matters which are not germane to the matter that is before us.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Alleyne.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, I really cannot believe this. It is not Derek Alleyne speaking.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There is no Derek Alleyne.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sorry, Sir, Senator Alleyne. There is no Senator Alleyne. This is the Auditor General speaking about the inefficiency in the Ministry of Housing, which is responsible for land. If Senator Symmonds cannot understand the nexus, in his world, well I have to help him.

Sir, Cheapside Market, $305 000. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Housing which is responsible for land. Therefore it is an allocation of funds. It has money paid by the taxpayers, and every year there is the Estimates and they put in $8 million for Cheapside, but they spent $305 000 for it. That kind of thing happened under the former Honourable Minister's watch. The Honourable senator comes into this Chamber...

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. The Honourabel Senator refers to a period when I was not Minister.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, some ministers have convenient memories to be a part of Cabinet. I heard the Leader of the Opposition, agreeing with the Prime Minister of Barbados, recently, that they made a mistake, and I had to smile, that the Bill was wrong. So if the Honourable Member said, that when she was in Cabinet she took no interest in what was happening, in what was around her, I was not there, Sir.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. A matter like, that as the Honourable Senator well know, would not come to the Cabinet. In fact, the Minister would not even be aware because the Minister of Housing has Property Managers and they would deal with this matter. When the report then comes from the Auditor General to the Parliamentary Secretary, the Parliamentary Secretary would need to draw it to the Minister's attention, otherwise you would not be aware.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, this Report covers 2005. I cannot remember what years the Honourable Member was Minister of Housing. May be she would tell me in her next jump up.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There is no jump up.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, intervention. I apologise.

Sir, I want to go to Page 25. I knew this was coming, so I walked with this document., Herbert House.

"A number of sites were visited to observe the condition of the buildings. These including buildings that were maintained by the Ministry of Public Works and buildings under the control of other ministries. The Site..."

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: On a point of order. In Senator Alleyne's argument, he said that if it is controlled by the Ministry of Housing, therefore it has to be germane. If he is going to the buildings which are now maintained by the Ministry of Public Works it cannot now be germaned, Sir. There has to be a limitation. Mr. President, I am begging you, Sir. The Standing Orders are clear.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Point taken.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, let me repeat it. The Honourable Senator loves to intervene. It says:

..."Ministry of Public Works and other buildings under other ministries, including the Ministry of Housing and Lands."

It says:

"Site inspection revealed that several buildings were in a state of disrepair and were not occupied."

They included Herbert House, Fontabelle, the for Personnel Administration Building, Collymore Rock, the former Probation Office, Welfare Department, Flodden, Enmore Health Centre, Fish Market, Bay Street, the Licence Authority, Oistin, Rates and Taxes, Oistins, Christ Church District Hospital, Oistins...

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: On a point of order. I believe that we have to take the process a little more seriously. Sir, you just ruled. You ruled that on the basis of the Ministry of Public Works meant that it could not be relevant. Therefore, if he is going into the Rates and Taxes Department and the Licencing Authority, the next thing I genuinely believe that he will be telling us about is the Embassy in Washington. Mr. President, there has to be a limitation. The Honourable Senator has no point to make, no speech to conclude, then let him conclude.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am waiting for the Senator to make his point.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE: The Auditor General said this, not Senator Alleyne. He said:

"The record shows that over the last 10 years..." That is 1995 to 2005...

7.20 p.m.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, the point is that the Auditor General said that the records show that over the last ten years, that is 1995-2005, rental costs had increased form $1.9 million in 1995 to $27.7 million in 2005, and the Ministry of Housing is responsible for paying rent for Government buildings. Sir, if you apportion $40 million to the National Housing Corporation and it has to take up $27.5 million to pay rents to commercial Bridgetown for some dilapidated buildings...

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, on a point of order. The National Housing Corporation does not pay rents for Government offices. The Senator said that if you give $40 million to National Housing Corporation, it has to pick of $20 million to pay to commercial Bridgetown for rents for these particular offices.

The National Housing Corporation allocation would not be affected by a matter like this because National Housing Corporation does not pay rent for commercial property for anybody. In fact, Sir, this is not a matter to do with housing at all. We really have strayed very far now.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The point has been made.

Asides.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, the point is the Ministry of Housing, which is responsible for the NHC, and the Minister of Housing is responsible for the management of NHC, took $27.7 million and paid for rent to house public officers, while at the same time, no fewer than 14 buildings owned by the Government were allowed to go into disrepair. Sir, that is the point, and I allowed the Honourable Senator to jump up because I knew that is their nature. Sir, if we are going to deal with land acquisitions and housing in here, we cannot do it in a piecemeal way. It has to be holistic. It has to look at what the Government's resources are and how to allocate them.

Sir, if you take money and hand it to Bridgetown for rents, and I do not want to call anybody's names because a debate is going to come on housing in here and the Honourable Senators will not like me, because I know who gets rents at exorbitant rates. I am waiting for that debate.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, on a point of order. There is a formula by which commercial rents to the Government are determined. The Commissioner of Land Tax is always approached by the Ministry of Housing to identify the amount of space, the cost of commercial rent in the area and the person who holds that office fixes the rate and that is what the Ministry of Housing is then guided by. Sir, no Minister or individual gets to say: "Give the rent to Mary, Jane or Sue." There is a very complicated and long process. In fact, frequently Government has lost good rental space because the process takes such a long time but it is the Commissioner of Land Tax, who will give what the value of rent in a particular area should be. Therefore, I do not know about who got rent at any kind of sweetheart arrangement.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wish to appeal to the Senators that since both Senators have indicated that there will be a debate on housing, at the time when we have this debate on housing such matters as you are now appearing to discuss will be properly discussed. I do not propose to have a continuation of the debate on housing until such time as there is a debate on housing, but I was waiting for Senator Alleyne to make his point.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: Thank you very much, Sir.

Sir, the other point that Senator Thompson made was that the former Government allowed people in Barbados to get land at reasonable prices and 100 per cent mortgages and again, clap/clap, it went.

Asides.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, land in Barbados has become more than a luxury. Sir, you cannot even ascribe the term luxury to land anymore. You cannot ascribe scarcity to it, Sir. My colleague is telling me it is now a delicacy. The Honourable Senator could tell Barbadians that the last administration should not receive the greatest vilification for its mismanagement of land policy. Land moved from $5 per square foot in Grazettes to

$18 per square foot in eight years, and today, it has gone up to $22 per square foo, and the former Honourable Minister of Housing, Senator Thompson, is beating her chest about the performance of the last Government.

Sir, I feel she should apologise.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have no recall of Senator Thompson beating her chest.

Asides.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: Sir, under the former administration land at zone one was changed from zone one to accommodate friends.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, on a point of order. This is one of the greatest myths put out by the last administration. Sir, I want the latitude because it really is an important matter.

I was the Minister of Physical Development which meant I had responsibility for Town Planning. I sent for the file to see the history of that matter. It is not true that land was taken out of zone one to accommodate any friends. The process for the parcel of land about which the Honourable Member is speaking, started in April of 1994, when an application was made to the Town Planning Department by the then Honourable Member for St. Andrew from the other place.

Asides.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: That is a fact. I read the file in detail.

I crave your latitude really, Sir, because it is an important matter.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Consider that you have it, Senator.

Senator Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Thank you, Sir.

The application for the land to be moved from agricultural to residential land was not approved before September of 1994. As consistent with the Town Planning Rules, an appeal against the decision was put in. This appeal went into 1995.

Sir, many people would not know the process. There are two means of appeal. You can appeal directly to the Minister or you can appeal to a Chairman of a Committee. The appeal went to the Chairman of the Committee. The person who owned the land was represented by a qualified Town Planner doing the case on their behalf. They were told on the appeal that a study was being done which affected large numbers of parcels of land from Christ Church to St. Lucy and that this parcel of land was in the study area, and that the appeal, therefore, would not be heard until the study was completed.

When the study was completed, this one was one of several parcels of land that were taken out of zone one. At that time, the process continued because the person who owned the land then applied to have the land subdivided for housing development, consistent with the original application which was made in April of 1994.

7.30 p.m.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: At that time, the process continued because the person who owned the land then applied to have the lands subdivided for housing development consistent with the original application which was made in April of 1994. By 1996 or 1997, the person who owned the land, who was the original owner, who was being represented by a qualified Town Planner, and a person who was a Democratic Labour Party parliamentarian, got the approval for the subdivision and the sale of the lots in zone one.

Sir, another application went in to subdivide the land differently. By this time it was 1997 or 1998 and an approval was given. The land was then sold and the person who was the purchaser of the land applied again for a different kind of subdivision, I think to make the lots larger than was the original application and that was approved.

Sir, the impression has been given that this zone one land was taken out of zone one and amended and so on. Sir, I read the file from cover to cover. This is a process that went on for years and I am saying to you that it started with the Honourable Member for St. Andrew at the time representing the landowner and he remained the representative for years. This is not something that has the kind of impropriety in it that has been put out during the campaign.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Alleyne, do you wish to continue.

Senator D. McD. ALLEYNE: I thank you, Sir. This is an Honourable Member who sat in the Lower House as a Minister. Sir, this matter has brought tears to a Barbadian man who originally owned the land. He left Barbados. Sir, there is promised to be a debate on housing and land when we all would be properly brief on all of these matters.

Sir, land in Barbados has been acquired to do many things without permission from the persons who own it and they have met with orders to move and so on. I am suggesting that this Government, whenever it has to make an acquisition, will meet with the parties and discuss

alternative arrangements for those people if it is compulsory and provide, in reasonable time, for those people to have new places of location so that persons can know where they are going to sleep.

Sir, I have two instances over the last eight years where people had to be shacking up and bothered because they had to move for highway expansion. I am saying that this Government would not allow that to happen. We will work hard to make sure that does not happen.

The other point I have to make about acquisitions is that acquisitions change communities. You have a rural community and you change it and put a highway right through the middle of it. I saw it happened at Spring Garden. This Government in office changed the complexion of Spring Garden by putting the Spring Garden Highway right through a community. I am saying that matters like that needs to inform us when we are going to make acquisition for road constructions, housing or whatever. Mr. President, I am hoping that this Government uses its wisdom and its care for people and that whenever it makes an acquisition that it looks after the interest of the people who live in the communities to ensure that the communities that have to move are provided with counselling, programmes and activities to bring them back together as a community.

Sir, when the people from Emmerton had to move, it was very traumatic. Sir, the Community Development Department was asked to go up to Clapham and to provide counselling and guidance and to put in some programmes and activities so that the people who were relocated could feel that they are going to build a sense of connection in the new facility.

Sir, in all of the earlier exchanges, this part of it is something this Government must take on board and develop any transfer from one district to another with activities, programmes, counselling and guidance.

Sir, I have no problem in supporting this acquisition and I am urging an early debate on housing and land. Sir, I cannot wait. I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, there is a recognition that fascist regimes damage democracy by a number of forms, one of which is the deliberate manipulation of the masses usually by way of mass information. Quite frankly, Mr. President, when you read people like Goebbels and so on and their thinking on the art of propaganda, it is quite interesting, because if you say it often enough it becomes the truth.

Sir, Senator Alleyne said that he is a platform speaker. I would hate to think that what we just witnessed in here was inflicted on the people of Barbados night after night. If it did, then perhaps that explains why there are so many people out there who are feeling that they were hard-done by and misled.

The fact of the matter, Mr. President, is that I have heard Senator Alleyne repeat over and over again that which I think he wants to believe and wants people to believe is the truth.

Sir, it is not for me to give guidance to Senator Alleyne. I did not even know it existed. I saw a little note come around allegedly ascribed to the distinguished Honourable Leader of Government Business, a very nice courtesy she extended yesterday by email saying that a parliamentary group had met. Sir, if there is some entity that can restrain and give guidance to that young Senator - he is not young in chronological terms, he is new to the institution - and that can help him become all that he could be, it is perhaps the parliamentary group of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wish you to be aware that I am not familiar with parliamentary groups from the point of view of the Presidency.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Indeed not, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have no knowledge of nor do I participate in any parliamentary groups, therefore you must not speak to the President as if he is familiar with these matters.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: No, Sir, I will not speak to you in that context; perish the thought. I know that you limit your action very carefully to other types of activity, retreats and so on.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, I am fully aware of the Goebbels thing because this particular President has benefited and/or suffered at the hands of propaganda and fully understands your point.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Very well, Sir. I am glad that you benefited at the hands of propaganda.

Sir, I really wish to speak to the harm that can be done because were I Senator Alleyne, I would have wanted perhaps to try...

Asides.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: I know I am not, and in many ways after this evening's display, I am glad I am not too.

Sir, were I Senator Alleyne, I would have wanted to perhaps try to give the benefit of some guidance as to what

the Democratic Labour Party's policy on housing really is especially as it is outlined in this document which has been called "Pathways to Progress". It is now being touted across Barbados as 'Pathways to Impoverishment', but that is a different matter.

Mr. President, Senator Alleyne ascribed to the Barbados Labour Party responsibility for the fact that the cost of a square foot of land had gone to $22 and above in certain parts in this country.

7.40 p.m.

Continuation of: SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS:

Mr. President, the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto, on that subject matter at page 8 said: "Barbados is a small country with limited supply of land..." - true. Sir, the true is my emphasis.

"In recent years, the activities of both local and expatriate speculators have pushed the price of land beyond the reach of persons who are seeking to build or purchase their first home."

Sir, it is not the Barbados Labour Party. Even in the middle of the broiling campaign, the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party did not go so far or was not so outrageous as to ascribe to the then Government, who is the Government now, that to which Senator Alleyne, were he not in this Honourable Senate, I might have said was dripping with malice but because I am in this Honourable Chamber, I cannot say that, as I do not think it would be Parliament proper. Mr. President, I would want to say that which Senator Alleyne ascribes to us, in that which approaches in the most malicious of terms, or begins to approach in the most malicious of terms.

Mr. President, I go further. The document Senator Alleyne introduced in this debate, having identified the fact that the price of land had been push by speculators, both foreign and locals - and not by the Barbados Labour Party - remains silent on that which the then Opposition, if it were, in fact, to become Government, would have been as a matter of policy.

Mr. President, this is a very serious debate. What we effectively are talking about is contrasting two policy approaches to an important issue. Therefore, whenever Senator Alleyne is finished trying, whenever this happy event comes, when he is going to be giving us this exposition on housing policy, I want to know from him what is the commitment of the precepts of governance known as social contract. Sir, I use the word trying because I noticed that you very valiantly protected the reputation of this ancient Chamber from being dragged into a circus-like atmosphere, and I congratulate the Chair for that. Sir, if it were not for you, woe betide this Honourable Senate.

Mr. President, what we have come to is a critical juncture at which we are now looking at a contrast between the policy approaches on the fundamental matter of housing in Barbados, between the Barbados Labour Party on the one hand and the Democratic Labour Party on the other. I say to you, Sir, there is no shame or apology to be made for the very vigorous commitment that the Barbados Labour Party had to the development of housing in this country. Equally, I say there is much about which the Democratic Labour Party, even in the space of six months, has to explain to the people of Barbados.

Mr. President, this document, if it is to be worth the paper on which it is written... Sir, I have seen Manifestos of the Democratic Labour Party being accused by former Members of the Party, who are in high standing, persons who would have been former Ministers of Finance of the Party. These persons have been saying that there was no commitment to the concept of social contract.

Mr. President, when we come to look at that which they pledge at page 9 of their Manifesto, it says:

"In the first l00 days of the new Democratic Labour Party administration, remove VAT from building materials on houses valued up to $400 000."

Mr. President, not only is the issue one of the first 100 days, the issue is that we have a Government of Barbados, which presided over a budgetary exercise in this country in March. Thereafter, we had a so-called fireside chat. Most people in Barbados referred to it as "Black Monday," when a Prime Minister and Minister of Finance came and used the public airwaves in order to inflict and increase fuel prices on the people of this country, only, in an unprecedented way, to reverse himself within a couple of weeks, as no Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance in this country has ever done it before. Sir, having said all of that, the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance came back again, in a third fiscal exercise, and had a Budgetary Proposal and presentation.

Mr. President, these are three occasions where, if one were committed to this fundamental issue of relieving VAT, this is what bought - and I say that, not ill-advisedly - votes for the new Government. Sir, where then is the commitment to honour that undertaking in the Manifesto?

Mr. President, I go further. The Manifesto says that Government will:

"Establish a Home Ownership Revolving Fund for public sector workers, providing interest-free loans to appointed public servants with five years' service, who are

first-time homeowners. This fund will be capitalised with an initial injection of $40 million."

Mr. President, there was a budgetary exercise and an Estimate exercise, and I recall standing here on this very spot and inquiring of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, through you, where was the Budgetary commitment to this Manifesto pledge. Sir, that Minister chose a route of stony silence then and I suspect he would maintain that posture today. Sir, the reality is that again there has been a de-filation of the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. President, Senator Alleyne has no moral authority to come here and to castigate people on these matters. Sir, there is a commitment which was given, that 500 lots of land, in five months, at $5 per square foot, for first time homeowners. Sir, Government having committed itself to a five months exercise, does not have the common courtesy, having failed to meet the 100-days commitment, having been alerted by the public as to the dissatisfaction in the way in which they have been treated on that 100-days promise, when five months are up and you have once again defiled your commitment to the public, you do not have the common decency or courtesy to come and state, through the mouth of the Minister of Housing and Lands or any other Honourable Member of the Cabinet, nor an after Cabinet Press Conference, to say this is the explanation that we offer to the public, or that this is where we are, but it just goes abegging, as though it was never said.

Mr. President, we are then censured because the public voted on January 15. Their eyes are no longer focused on the Barbados Labour Party. Sir, no matter how Senator Alleyne wants to dig into the trash can of history, no matter how far Senator Alleyne wishes to forage around in the trash can of history, the fact of the matter is that....

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Symmonds, you are doing a fine job of addressing the Chair. Please continue.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, no matter how much Senator Alleyne wishes to forage around in there, the reality is that the new Government is installed and is installed under a commitment that within a five months period of time, a fundamental.... Sir, it is an attractive proposal, there is nothing unattractive about the fact that people are being offered 500 lots of land, at $5 per square foot. They go further to say that these land have already been identified - and so there is no incumbrance there - and that the land will be acquired by private treaty where necessary, to speed up the process.

Mr. President, with all this, yet the people of Barbados have not got one word by way of explanation but Senator Alleyne, who nobody has ever voted for, who is not the Minister of Housing and Lands, the Prime Minister, nor the Leader of Government Business....Sir, the reality is that it is the most inappropriate way to treat the people of this country.

Asides.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, the DLP Manifesto goes on to say that they:

"Commit to building 2 000 housing solutions per year in the first term of a DLP Government. These will include rental units, terrace units and starter homes."

Mr. President, we are into six months of this new administration. Sir, during the Estimates Debate, this question was asked of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Lands. It was also asked of the distinguished Leader of Government Business, who presented and defended the Estimates. Sir, in her wrapping up, the Leader of Government Business also chose a path of stony silence on the matter, a posture which would not change tonight, because the simple issue is, if, in six months, you have not built a single unit, neither have you explained to the people where you stand with that commitment, then what is the value of that commitment.

7.50 p.m.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: ...a posture, which will not change tonight because, a simple issue is if you have not built in six months a simple unit and you have not explained to the people, where you stand on the commitment, then, Mr. President, what is the value of it. Sir, we know that if you have not budgeted for it and you have not started to build anything that six months to come before the end of this financial year you would not have the thing. Therefore, you have again taken the public into your trust and secured power. Sir, that is what this about and if Senator Alleyne wishes to make this a debate on partisan politics, this is a naked expression on the part of the Democratic Labour Party of a lust for power, which has been realised in this country and, having been realised, they have scornfully and usuriously turned their backs on the public, without nary a word of explanation as to why fundamental commitments that people would have rushed out on the morning of January 15th to vote for and cannot be heard again.

Mr. President, this is what causes the blood to rise. You come to Parliament with a budgetary exercise and say that you have a Manifesto, which is supposed to be worth the paper it is written on, the commitment that we will increase the tax deduction in Barbados to $20 000 per year and, Mr. President, the Budget came and the Budget went and I could hear an Attorney-General in whose charge the

drafting of the legislation lies and, Mr. President, you know what the Attorney-General did with his time? He spent a lot of time on the former Prime Minister; he spent a lot of time on the Leader of the Opposition..

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Senator, you are at the moment about to do that too. I am drawing to your attention that we are discussing a Resolution, which is dealing with a particular subject. I have allowed you the latitude to range far and wide and I want you now to let us concentrate now on the Resolution, which is an acquisition of a quantity of land in Constant, St. John. I draw it to the attention of not only the Honourable Member, who is speaking but to the Honourable Senators. I have been very tolerant of the latitude, which Senators have taken upon themselves. I am not going to permit it to the rest of the Sitting.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: I am very grateful for your latitude and I will not permit it, Sir. Perhaps I am sorry that you have put your foot down in the middle of my speech and not Senator Alleyne's but, Sir, that is the nature of life. It rains on all of us.

MR. PRESIDENT: It rains on the just and the unjust.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: Sir, that is correct. Sir, the point that I am making is that with an abundance of opportunity... Sir, please shelter me from Senator Alleyne, if I could get some comfort from the Chair.

Mr. President, it is not a matter to be taken lightly. If a commitment is made that you are going to reduce mortgages in Barbados to $20 000 per year, then, Sir, it cannot pass unheard and unnoticed and unspoken to. Sir, the reality is that those are the things, if I were in a position of being a young Senator, who had been trying to make a point about a policy differential, I would have started by preparing the batting wickets and saying, look, these are the issues that we put before the public and, perhaps, helping the public to understand why you turned your back on them or have seemed to turn your backs on them.

Mr. President, there are some other things that have to be said and made very clear. We are at a stage in Barbados where whatever the Government wishes to say, there are certain realities that are now facts of history.

(1) Before there was a Barbados Labour Party for the last 14 years, the concept of the 100 per cent mortgage was not know in Barbados. The fact of the matter is that the concept of a 100 per cent mortgage for a first-time home owner, under the age of 26 was not known in Barbados. Sir, I emphasise a first-time home owner under the age of 26 for the benefit of young Senators, chronologically young Senators, who have been misled to believe that an interest in young people began on January 15, 2008.

Mr. President, I go further, the concept of a loan facility extending for 30 years, prior to the last Barbados Labour Party administration was not known in Barbados. Sir, I am one of those people so do not tell me that it did not happen. I am one of those people and I have several friends mine, who have been able to benefit from that type of innovation in the marketplace.

Mr. President, the other thing that we have to be candid about is that if we have an economy - Sir, I am not going to bandy around with the figures because as far as I understand it, we have always had one way of measuring unemployment statistics in Barbados. Sir, if it was satisfactory to measure it that way in 1990, then, Sir, let us continue to measure it that way.

Mr. President, the acquisition point is this. If you have an economy in which you have 8 per cent unemployment, there are more people at work and it creates a demand in the economy and if National Housing Corporation had an issue, it was the capacity to supply to meet that demand. Sir, that is a complete exercise.

Mr. President, let us not fool ourselves because the National Housing Corporation has done good work in Barbados. Sir, not only the National Housing Corporation, it was the last Government that created the Rural Development Commission and the Urban Development Commission, which built homes as well. Mr. President, prior to the last Government, again I say this for the benefit of young Senators, who may be misled that prior to the last Government there was no institution of that decentralised nature that was out there trying to help supplement the work of the central Government departments.

Asides.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: It is hard to work with folks who do not wish to hear and Senator Alleyne has that problem, with great respect to him. You are trying to decentralise the provision of the service of supplying houses. We all know, Mr. President, all of us who have dabbled in politics know, you do not have to be in it for a long time to realise that there is a massive demand out there on the part of ordinary Barbadian men and women, who want access to housing solutions in this country.

Mr. President, the central Government could not do it itself, through the National Housing Corporation, and the e implementation of a Rural Development Commission and an Urban Development Commission, whatever their faults may have been and continue to be, because they would never be perfect, the reality is that they have helped to offset the issue of finding housing solutions. Sir, hot only there, they have also helped in the critical issue of improving the quality of housing in Barbados.

Mr. President, let us not forget that across St. Michael, they were literally people living as though they were in slums; in some of the most despicable and degrading circumstances and, Sir, you built institutions like the Urban Development Commission and the Rural Development Commission, which is able to bring water toilets to offset the situation of persons, who previously were relying on a pit; to repair houses for the elderly and the disabled, who previously, in some instances, could not leave their homes unassisted. Sir, all around Barbados you go and you find board houses with ramps on them and this was unprecedented before the Barbados Labour Party. Therefore, what we need to be honest about is not just to get caught up in this game about points at a marketplace, a Licensing Authority, an embassy in Washington, all around the country side and all around world, where you could find something that was owned by the Government to find out how much money it may have got.Mr. President, let us look at how people, who have relied on Government assistance were able, in fact to benefit.

Mr. President, I look forward to the housing debate because, I will say it again. There will never be in this country a capacity on the part of any Government of Barbados to solve all of the housing concerns and housing related concerns of the people. Sir, if you continue to go down the road of causing people to believe that is possible, then you set yourself up for disaster. Mr. President, I have had a lady come into a constituency office and she was able to present me documentation that she had been on a list from the National Housing Corporation for 26 years. Do you understand what I am saying to you, Mr. President?

8.00 p.m.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: ...and she was able to present me documentation, that she had been on a list from the National Housing Corporation for 26 years. Mr. President, do you understand what I am saying? Sir, 26 years waiting on assistance from the Government. Sir, when Senator Alleyne goes up on the partisan platform, because he said he is a platform speaker, and thumps his chest about the failure of the Barbados Labour Party, let us understand that if somebody is waiting fo 26 years it crosses Party lines. It crosses Governments. It encompasses about 3 or 4 ministers, and therefore 3 or 4 Cabinets. The reality is, you are pointing straight to institutional failure. Until we the people of Barbados who are involved in the legislative process, are prepared to speak candidly to the issue of institutional failure, and building the capacity of the institution, then we will be failing the people in the most sordid, miserable, and in my view, unforgivable way.

Sir, I go further. When we come to the point of walking about with letters in this country, it is not a personal attack on anybody and do not treat it that way. The Cabinet, three Members of whom, in fact four, because I count the Parliamentary Secretary as one, are here this evening, have a duty, and in my judgement, it is a moral duty, to say to the country, that the position is with the programme of allocating houses or conveying houses to person who live in the National Housing Corporation units for 20 years.

Certain remarks made by Senator Symmonds were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. PRESIDENT.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have not yet heard Senator Griffith speak and I therefore draw to your attention, that it is not the practice to refer to another Member, unless that Honourable Member has actually spoken.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: I withdraw, Sir, and ask that it be struck from the records as well. I do not wish to be unfair to the Senator.

Sir, the mere fact that people could believe, indicate that there is a capacity out there for misinformation to go abroad. I am not saying that it has been deliberately put abroad. I am saying that there is a capacity for it to go abroad. The large issue is this. In the Other Place on national television, in the course of a Budget debate, the question was asked by the Leader of the Opposition whether that policy programme did in fact end in 90 days? Did the programme of issuing the letters and giving the people that were there for 20 years or more, the opportunity to indicate that they want the house to live in, did it exists 90 days? The Cabinet has remained silent, mute. They are either mute by the visitation of God or, worse yet, they are mute by malice. I would not ascribe from the Cabinet from this Place. Sir, from the best of my knowledge all of them can speak. Therefore, why is it that every Member of the Cabinet, sits with his or her tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouths and we cannot hear a word on this fundamental issue of confidence in Government.

Mr. President, I caution you to start on a programme and you have committed people to believe that they are beneficiaries under the programme, and the programme has come to a sudden and inexplicable halt, and 90 or 95 days later I cannot benefit under the programme, and I have no explanation as to if and when I may be able to benefit again, then I think there is a duty which owing. It is a duty of care. It is a duty of good governance to the people, who you held yourself out to be committing to. That is not an unconscionable position. That is the same position that was taken when you all were in Opposition. So it does not make it wrong. You cannot erase it overnight and change the state of play. The fact of the matter is...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have to draw to the Honourable Senator’s attention that we are discussing an acquisition of land.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, you are saying to me that what I am speaking about is...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am saying exactly that. Let me tell me what I am saying.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: If that is what you are saying I would not trespass any further on you, Sir. I thank you for your indulgence and I wish you a pleasant goodnight.

Mr. PRESIDENT: And the same to you. Senator Benn.

SENATOR the Hon. H.L. BENN: Mr. President, I rise for a brief moment to give support to this matter before us. A few weeks ago I boasted to a friend of mine, in public, that the level of debate in the Senate appeared to me to be far greater than and at a higher level of that which is in the Lower House. I believe I might have to call the guy tonight and redraw my remarks. In the earlier debate during the day, we had a very good debate. It was mentioned by Honourable Senator Thompson. This level has deteriorated, considerably, on the hectares of land at Constant. We are debating 2.6 hectares of land for housing development. This new Government has a plan to make house spots available. It was mentioned in our Manifesto to build affordable houses. The amount mentioned is 2 000 a every year, and 500 house spots in a given period of time. I do not think we have to convince the Honourable Senators from the other side, that we have acquired the house spots. We have identified them and we know the process through which we have to follow in order to make these spots available.

Sir, I am not even going to say that the hundred day programme we had put in place was too ambitious. I am not even going to say that. It gave us a way to measure ourselves and we went after those house spots. The Minister of Housing and Lands knows what he is about and the Prime Minister knows what he is about. A few weeks ago, I, with the responsibility for rural development, Minister Lowe, with responsibility for urban development and the Minister of Housing took a drive, a Friday, around Barbados, in our continuing efforts to identify spots that fall under Government. The Government owns lands that are vested in the Ministry of Housing and Lands. Some are vested in the Barbados Agriculture Development Management Company. Those lands that we consider to be marginal, we will seek to go after them, so that we can answer not only to the Manifesto pledges, but those that have been outstanding for many years and wish, under the former administration, all needs could not have been yet met.

Sir, we have been in office for 210 days, today, and the Barbados Labour Party held office for 5 110, and could not satisfy the housing needs of Barbados in those 5 110 but expect the Democratic Labour Party to do it in 210 days.

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. H.L. BENN: Senator Thompson, I am not to worry about your saying - do not forget your earlier statement ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please, address the Chair.

SENATOR the Hon. H.L. BENN: Mr. President, Senator Thompson has made it clear and has wished that this new Government would perform worse than the West Indies team on its worst days.

Sir, I see the Honourable Senators with the Democratic Labour Party' Manifesto in their hands. They like to have our Manifesto. I would bet you that not one of the Senators on the Democratic Labour Party's side, has one Manifesto belonging to the Barbados Labour Party. They like to arm themselves because they like to copy from our document.

Sir, I also want to caution Honourable Senator Symmonds. He sought just now to hold up Senator Alleyne to ridicule, by making a statement about his feeling towards the President returning to George Street, only in a box. Sir, people that live in glass houses should not throw stones. Remember those words.

8.10 p.m.

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, on a point of order. I am not supposed to be taking any advice from Senator Haynesley Benn on those matters.

Because, when the issues in question with regard to the future of the now President, when he was not a President of the Senate, in George Street were taken place, when night after night at General Council of the Democratic Labour Party, and vicious battles were taking place, Senator Benn was not to be found.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The last remarks by Senator Symmonds must be struck from the record. I will not and I wish all Senators to take note, I will give latitude but I will not allow behaviour from this Senate that is unacceptably unparliamentary.

Senator Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Thank you, Mr. President.

I was just seeking to remind the Senator about similar statements he made, considering the weight of the Honourable Senator Thompson and two other Members of the Barbados Labour Party, when he was on the side of the Democratic Labour Party.

Asides.

Senator Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Sir, people who live in glass houses should not throw stones, so let us get back to the level of debate here.

Mr. President, we are debating the 2.76 hectares of land for housing development. We are going to do our utmost, Sir, to answer the housing needs of Barbadians.

Mr. President, the Members of the Barbados Labour Party in both houses seem to feel that they are in Government. They want to tell people what to say in both houses. They are still in mourning.

Asides.

Senator Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Mr. President, I can caution but he does not have to take the caution.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Benn, please continue. Senator Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Mr. President, I give way at this time and if people learn manners, I will continue at some stage.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Griffith.

Senator D. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I sat and listened, and I waited with bated breath for my opportunity to engage in this debate on the acquisition for a parcel of land at Constant in the parish of St. George for the purpose of housing development.

Sir, I will try my utmost this afternoon to speak in moderate tones regarding an issue, about which I am very passionate. We can listen in this Chamber and hear the concerns of the people of Barbados made light of, the fact that housing and other housing developments have not met the needs of the people of this country over the term of the last administration.

We can hear it said that we did some of everything to meet the needs of Barbados. Indeed, that might have been true because with every new Minister of Housing under the last administration, came a different policy.

Therefore, it might be confusing this evening to hear that we have one policy and it is very clear, but we intend to implement a policy that looks at the needs of young people in this country, that looks at the needs of the elderly in this country, that looks at the people of Barbados.

Asides.

Sir, looking across the Caribbean, we have to compare the living situation in Barbados with the fact that in every other Caribbean island, regardless of the level of development, you can see young people moving out from home at 18, 19 and 20 years old. Yet the average person in Barbados who did not come from a particular socio economic background, cannot look forward to owning a home until they are in their thirties and sometime in their forties. Yet, we are told that there is no problem in Barbados.

Sir, we are supposed to be the créme de la créme of the developing countries in the Caribbean. Why is it that we have no hope of owning our homes? I hear about how people under 26 years old can look forward to 100 per cent mortgages.

Asides.

Senator D. GRIFFITH: Certainly, I can say as a person under 26, I do not have that hope.

Asides.

Senator D. GRIFFITH: Oh, we now get to the crux of the matter, which is, that the persons who will receive this, do not encompass the gamut of the Barbadian population. Instead, we need to look at who have been benefiting from the policies of the last administration, and see what we can do.

Sir, if we look at the housing development that has come over te last 10 to 15 years, we see starter homes that are pale in comparison to those we were building 30 years ago. We no longer see starter homes where the person purchasing that home can look to expand and develop that property as their family and social situation change. We do not see that type of home anymore.

Sir, this speaks to the lack of a clear vision and policy in housing development that this is the situation we are faced with today. We need to now take stock, look at what we have and start to implement policies unlike what the Barbados Labour Party has done but looking at the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party.

Asides.

Senator D. GRIFFITH: Yes, there are many promises in there and many of them have already been put in place because I hear we have only sent out letters for the housing units, and nothing has been done and it does not

mean anything, because a letter does not mean anything to anybody.

Mr. President, what I say today is if we look at the fact that in the last six months, we have had a housing Minister who shares the pain of the people who cannot own a home after more than 20 years of renting from the NHC, we are in a far better position. Thank God that they have those letters.

Asides.

Senator D. GRIFFITH: Sir, it speaks more to the intent, vision and clear purpose of this administration that they will set to right the wrongs that have been done in the past. I remember the general election campaign before the last one, where it was said from the people on the other side - the persons on the opposing benches - that they will do the same thing with those housing units, but I am yet to see any of it materialise.

I hear about how policies were put into place. I do not see the letters that came with those policies but the policies were put into place. We have nothing tangible from those policies but they were put into place. Yet, in six months, the commitment had been clearly made that this policy will be implemented and that is to be pooh-poohed. Yes, we will continue to wait as we develop a housing policy that is consistent and progressive, pathways to progress, ladies and gentlemen.

Asides.

Senator D. GRIFFITH: Therefore, it says to me that in acquiring this parcel of land at Constant, we have done more than just put into place a tangible force to show that we are moving on, and we are starting the development that should have been started 15 years ago.

8.20 p.m.

What we have said tonight to the people of Barbados is that we have put our money where our mouth is and we are going to start developing with their interest in mind. Sir, in five years time we would have the backing of something tangible to take to the people of Barbados.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to wrap up the debate on this Resolution to acquire land at Constant in St. George. Sir, I did not believe that a few simple comments vis-à-vis the compatibility of the acquisition with the intention of this new Administration to embark on a significant housing initiative would have rattled Senator Thompson the way it did. I guess that is because in all honesty I did not remember that the Honourable Senator was a former Minister of Housing.

Sir, I remember, if I might digress a bit, that when we first met in this Chamber the Honourable Senator Newton took time to educate new Senators like myself in the appropriate behaviour in this Chamber. One of the Independent Senators, Senator the Very Reverend Harold Crichlow, also took the opportunity to chide me for what he thought was provocation. Mr. President, I really must say that - maybe it is because I am not feeling 100 per cent at the moment - I am a little appalled at the behaviour of some of my colleagues particularly those on the other side. Sir, it would be nice if people could extend the basic courtesies of allowing persons to speak whatever the word may be.

Mr. President, let me proceed because the night is far spent. A number of things were said by my colleagues on the other side. The former Minister of Housing sought to impress on us her contribution or her ministry's contribution to the housing stock in Barbados and made reference to the period 1994-2007.

Mr. President, I believe that when we talk about situations and when we refer to statistics, that it is necessary to disaggregate those statistics. When we take credit for housing, I trust that we would be given the chance, certainly in our first term, to put the statistics before the public.

Mr. President, when we look at the housing stock in Barbados and we want to take credit, there is a movement in Barbados of which I have been a proud and active volunteer for 25 years.

Mr. President, if we want to talk about the construction of housing, it would be remiss of me to stand here and allow the Honourable Senator to take credit for a lot of the housing that was constructed. A lot of that housing was constructed not on lands owned by the National Housing Corporation, provided by the National Housing Corporation or funded by the National Housing Corporation, but would have been funded by the two major credit unions in this country namely the City of Bridgetown Credit Union, of which I was a member from its inception on the 20th of October 1983, and the Barbados Public Workers Co-operative Credit Union of Barbados, which together have a membership base of over 100 000 people. Mr. President, when we want to talk about contributions...

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. The intention is not and was never to suggest that institutions other than Government do not build houses. The point is that Government created a policy framework and environment which allowed other entities to build and because the incidence of unemployment was low and

people were working and had disposable income, they went to the credit unions and other institutions in addition to Government to have houses built. When the economy goes into decline, as it is doing now, less houses will be built and the credit unions would not be able to put up as many as they did under us. Time is longer than twine and we are going to be able to measure it.

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I do not quite understand the point of order. Perhaps, the Honourable Senator in her rattled state did not understand the point I made. The point I was seeking to make is that when we seek to take credit, we have to give credit where it is due. I would leave it there because we need to press on.

In addition to that, houses constructed during the period of that Administration... I can certainly say so, because I constructed one on land purchased from the National Housing Corporation. That land was purchased several years before the Administration came into office and I was only able to build on that land subsequently, so to suggest... Again, that might have been looked at, so we have to be careful how we take credit.

Mr. President, several concerns were expressed by the other Honourable Senator from the other side about our ability to satisfy our Manifesto commitments to the people of this country. I suppose that fear stems from several things. I will probably illustrate perhaps one of them, but before I do that, let me make the point that a housing programme involves a fairly complex process, one of land identification, et cetera.

Both Honourable Senators on the other side are lawyers and they know this process. Sir, if I were to make a down payment for a piece of land and so on and I did not receive the conveyance, I still treat it as mine because I anticipate that transaction would be fully executed. Therefore, to make mockery of the fact that people have land, that is an important beginning of a process. If the Honourable Senator on the other side does not feel good about it, let me say that the thousands of people who got them feel good about it.

Mr. President, under our pledges, the commitment has been made by the Prime Minister that 185 houses would be started this month and there are plans to start construction each month thereafter. I also want to say that VAT refunds would be provided for those first-time low income householders with new properties under $150 000. Mr. President, while they talked about $400 00, let me say that this has never happened before.

Sir, I want to move away from the positive to highlight some of the difficulties or the genesis perhaps of where the difficulties may arise in terms of the concerns on the other side about our ability to deliver. Mr. President, I want to make reference of the report of the Auditor-General for the year 2007, at page 47, under the heading "Church Village Acquisition and Relocation", at Section 3.87.

"In 1981, the Government acquired several properties at Church Village, Bridgetown in order to redevelop the area. In 1986, property owners were compensated; however, it was observed that one of the properties acquired by the Government was rented out by a private citizen for in excess of 20 years."

What that illustrates is that there seems to be some difficulty in following up on all of these things.

Mr. President, let me move next to Section 3.88. This did not start prior to that Administration, so it was during the life of that Administration.

"In November 2002, eleven (11) persons - not 2 000, 1 500 or 500 conveyances - were relocated from Church Village to Lower Burney, St. Michael, where the Ministry had built replacement houses."

8.30 p.m.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. O. P. McCLEAN: These persons were to enter into a contact with the National Housing Corporation to purchase lots. Sir, nine of those 11 persons have already started the process of purchasing their lots, while the other two persons have not started, even after four years of occupancy.

Mr. President, let me give you another example, and I am not going to belabour the point. Between May 2003 and August 2004, another 14 residents from Church Village were relocated to their new homes at Lower Burney, with one similar proviso to purchase lots. Of these l4, one person has purchase his or her lot, four have started the process to purchase and nine have not started, after two years of occupancy.

Mr. President, I am going to move away from housing to other property, only to illustrate. I am going to talk about delays, and perhaps this is what worries or frightens the Opposition. Sir, in 2003, Government acquired a parcel of land at Weston, St. James, where there is a shop being operated by a private citizen. However, to date there is no rental/lease agreement between the Government and the shop owner. It is, therefore, not certain on what legal basis this property is being occupied.

Mr. President, the reason I sought to make reference to those examples is to assure my colleagues on the other side that this Government has undertaken this acquisition as part of its programme to facilitate the delivery of low-

income housing to the deserving nationals of this country, so that we could balance the former emphasis on upmarket housing, et cetera.

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. O. P. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I understand the concerns, given these few examples. I am sure if we look at others, we would see a host of other things but these are just examples of what not to do. Sir, I promise you on the behalf of the Honourable Government Senators and certainly on the behalf of Honourable Members in the Other Place, that we will commit to the people of this country that we will seek to put in place the necessary facilitatory mechanisms, to ensure that when we acquire this piece of property, when we utilise any of the land already owned by this Government, or any other lands to be acquired, we would do so in an expeditious and transparent manner, which, at the end of the day, would guarantee that Honourable Senators on the other side would sit and ponder for a long time.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. O. P. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Honourable Senate do now adjourn sine die.

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

8.34 p.m.

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CRICHLOW, Senator the Very Rev. H.
CRICHLOW, Senator the Very Reverend H.E.
GRIFFITH, Senator D.
INNISS, Senator Mrs. P.
MARVILLE, Senator R.O.
McCLEAN, Senator Miss M. P. O.
MILLINGTON, Senator Rev. P.
NEWTON, Senator the Hon. V. E.
SYMMONDS, Senator K.D.
THOMPSON, Senator Miss H. E.

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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. *Order No. 6, Senators Thompson, Alleyne and Symmonds.* The source carries two identical copies of the passage from Senator Miss H. E. Thompson's account of the zone one land application, through Senator D. McD. Alleyne's speech, to the opening of Senator K. D. Symmonds' speech (either side of take-slips both reading '7.40 p.m.'). The first copy is printed here and the second (about 1,250 words, with its duplicate take-slip) has been left out. Please confirm.

Q2. *Order No. 6, point of order by Senator Miss H. E. Thompson.* Either side of the 7.10 p.m. take-slip the source gives two reporters' versions of the end of Senator Thompson's point of order on the Manifesto time frames. The fuller version is printed and the second (about 90 words) has been left out; the two versions differ in the Manifesto page cited ('page 89' and 'Page 9'). Please confirm.

Q3. *Introduction of Bills and Order Paper headings.* The titles differ between the first-reading list and the Orders: 'The Final Appropriation Bill 2008' and 'ORDER NO. FINAL APPROPRIATION BILL (2007-2008) BILL, 2008' (no order number), 'The Art and Sport Promotion Fund (Amendment) Fund Bill' and 'Mutual Assistance and Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill'. Printed as in the source.

Q4. *Speech labels, Leader of Government Business.* The Leader of Government Business appears under several forms of initials ('M.P.O.', 'M. O. P.', 'M.P.A.'), and one label reads 'Senator the Hon. Miss SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. O. P. McCLEAN'. Printed as in the source.

Q5. *Committee stages.* In Committee on the Cricket Legends Bill the source reads 'Clauses 6 and 70 were called and passed', presumably clauses 6 and 7; on the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund (Amendment) Bill it records 'Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive' and then 'Clause 4' as called and passed. Printed as in the source.

Q6. *Order No. 1, Senator the Hon. V. E. Newton.* After the ten-minute suspension for technical difficulties Senator Newton said she would 'start all over again', so much of her speech appears twice; this is a restatement in the Chamber and has been kept. Printed as in the source.

Q7. *Chair and take-slips.* Senator Miss H. E. Thompson addresses 'Madam President' late in her speech on Order No. 4 although Mr. President is recorded in the Chair; a remark by Senator Hon. H. LaV. Benn is run into Mr. President's speech ('Senator Benn, please continue. Senator Hon. H. LaV. BENN: ...'); and one take-slip reads '12.00 a.m.' for noon. Printed as in the source.

Q8. *PRESENT.* The President's name is given in the PRESENT list as 'Dr. Brandrod M. Taitt'; elsewhere in these reports it is Branford. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met on Wednesday, 13th August, 2008 at 11.10 a.m., with the President, Senator Dr. B. M. Taitt, in the Chair; prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah, and Senator Chandler was excused. The Leader of Government Business, Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean, laid papers including the annual reports of the Barbados Conference Services Limited and the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. and the audited statements of eight secondary school boards. Standing Order 45(2) was suspended and five Bills were read a first time.

Senator McClean moved the Final Appropriation (2007-2008) Bill, 2008, first describing supplementals of $16 800 000 for measures in the Budget of 7th July, 2008, among them $11 million for free travel on Transport Board buses and $3.2 million for welfare grants. After Senator K. D. Symmonds questioned the procedure she corrected herself, explaining that the Bill covered the financial year ended 31st March, 2008; as a certified Money Bill it was read a second and third time without Committee. On the Financial Management and Audit (Amendment) Bill, 2008, which clarifies the duties of the Accountant-General after the move to accrual accounting, Senator Miss H. E. Thompson and Senator Symmonds gave the Opposition's support, Senator Thompson describing the misuse of below-the-line accounts and virement; the Bill passed.

The Cricket Legends of Barbados Incorporated Bill, 2008 occupied most of the day. Senator McClean presented the concessions as support for the legacy of Barbados cricket and a Cricket Museum. Senator Symmonds said the company had been formed in August 2005 under the previous administration and urged a modern, technology-driven approach to marketing and coaching. After the luncheon suspension Senator the Hon. V. E. Newton asked about co-operation with the Cricket Centre at Cave Hill, which had 12 students in its Masters in Cricket Studies. Senators R. O. Marville, D. McD. Alleyne, who blamed the

structure of the Barbados Cricket Association for the decline and noted that BCL teams had fallen from 86 in 1956 to 27 or 28, Mrs. P. Inniss, the Very Rev. H. E. Crichlow and the Hon. H. LaV. Benn spoke in support. Senator Thompson recalled the playing fields and lights provided after 1994 and praised Sir Everton Weekes' biography. The Bill passed all stages.

After a suspension the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008, which expands the Fund's Committee, passed without debate. On the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill, 2008, which gives a Treaty the force of law in Barbados, Senator Thompson spoke of cybercrime and the theft of her own credit card, and Senator Rev. P. Millington urged co-operation against imported guns; the Bill passed.

The Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of 2.76 hectares at Constant, St. George for housing produced sharp exchanges. Senator Thompson defended the former Government's record, including 100 per cent mortgages and land at $2.50 a square foot, and said no house had been built in six months although 2 500 had been promised a year. Senator Alleyne, quoting the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto and the Auditor General's Report of 2005, was met by repeated points of order from Senators Thompson and Symmonds, and Mr. President appealed for the matter to be left to a full debate on housing. Senator Symmonds later had remarks about Senator Benn struck from the record. Senator D. Griffith said young people under 26 had no hope of owning homes. Senator McClean replied that 185 houses would be started that month, with VAT refunds for first-time buyers of homes under $150 000, and cited the Auditor-General's Report for 2007 on earlier acquisitions. The Resolution was agreed to and the Senate adjourned sine die.