THE

SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2008 – 2013

THE SENATE

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Tuesday, December 22, 2009, at 10.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour SENATOR Dr. B. M. TAITT, M.P.A., LL.B. (Hons.) B.A., D.H.L. (Honorary) (President)

Her Honour SENATOR Miss K. F. IFILL, M.B.A., B'Sc. (Hons.)(Deputy President)

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, M.A., M.B.A., B.Sc.

(Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office) (Leader of the Senate)

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN, J.P.,E.M.B.A. (Marketing)

(Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)

SENATOR the Hon. A. B. WALTERS, M.A., DPSA (Oxford).

(Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and the Civil Service)

SENATOR the Hon. D. W. BOYCE, M.B.A.. (Finance), B.Sc. (Econ.), C.M.A., F.C.A.

(Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Energy)

SENATOR P. GILKES

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE, M.A., B.A.

SENATOR D.K.A. GRIFFITH

SENATOR Rev. P. MILLINGTON

SENATOR Mrs. V.I. SANDIFORD-GARDNER, M.B.A., C.I.M., Dip. Mng.,

(Parliamentary Secretary in the Minister of Development and Culture)

SENATOR Miss P.I. INNISS, B.Sc. (Hons.)

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

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN, K.A., M.A.

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD, K.A., G.C.M., B.Com.,F.C.A. (Hons.), LL.D. (Hons.) (U.W.I.)

SENATOR the Hon. Prof. V. E. Newton, S.C.M., B.A.

(Spec. Hons.), M.A., LL.B. (Hons.) (U.W.I.), F.L.A. (Gt. Brit.), L.E.C.

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

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

SENATOR R. A. HUNTE J.P.

SENATOR R.G. CAVE, CBE., B.C.H.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am in receipt of one Message from His Excellency the Governor-General. It reads as follows:

MESSAGE NO. 6/2009

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO THE
HONOURABLE THE SENATE

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable the Senate that, in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, Mr. Reginald Aldine Hunte has been appointed under Section 36(2) of the Constitution, as a Senator with effect November, 26, 2009.

The Governor-General.

(Signed)

Government House

BARBADOS

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let the Marshal escort Senator Hunte to this place in this Senate.

10.20 a.m.

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Hunte, it is my great privilege to welcome you to this distinguished Chamber. I know that the location is not new to you but we welcome you in your capacity as a Senator.

I have no doubt whatsoever that you will perform your duties in the same way that you have performed your task in the past everywhere you have been. I welcome you to this Chamber and I look forward to your participation with us as we go about doing the business of the people.

SENATOR R. A. HUNTE: Mr. President, I thank you for your kind remarks and your welcome as well. I am not the first, second or third Senator to have been elected to this Chamber, but I certainly would not be the last. Sir, I intend to hold very fast to the traditions of this Chamber and to make my contribution in the best way I can. It is my intention that being in a place of this nature, and the high regard to which it is held, that I intend to make my contribution in that regard.

Mr. President, thank you very much.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Leader of Government Business has the Floor.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to welcome our newest Senator, Mr. Reginald A. Hunte, well known to the people of Barbados, and even well known to the members and supporters of the Democratic Labour Party.

Senator Hunte has made a long-standing contribution to politics in Barbados. He is one of those persons who would have been working on the gound for decades to future the interest of not only the Democratic Labour Party as a political Party but during its several years and varying tenures as Government.

Mr. President, I believe that, like many Barbadians who have an interest in politics, not only for politics sake, but in politics as a conduit to the betterment of this society, Senator Hunte has made a contribution at the level of community. In recent times, we have talked a lot about community service. In more recent times, I have heard people being advised that if they want to get into politics, perhaps, they should get into community service.

I believe that Senator Hunte epitomises the opposite, that through community service you become very involved in politics. Therefore, I believe that as our newest Senator, he would make a substantial contribution in this Honourable Senate. I certainly look forward to his contribution, and to his advice and discussion in here and outside of the official Senate meetings. I believe that Barbados would, certainly, be the better for it.

Therefore, Senator, I welcome you warmly and on behalf of my colleagues. I am sure some of them would want to speak and, therefore, with those few words, again I welcome you and anticipate that you will make a sterling contribution to what obtains here.

Mr. President, I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I should like to join Senator McClean in welcoming Senator Hunte to the Chamber, to the cut and thrust and the discussion, which we enjoy some days more than others. I must confess that I know Senator Hunte's name but I have never before today met him, so I look forward to seeing him and hearing him as we discuss the business of the people.

Sir, community service is very commendable and I believe those who start and come to service at this level through the community bring a rich background, a knowledge of the community, an understanding of the aspirations of the people of Barbados and an understanding and grasp of the culture in a very fundamental way, so I expect that his contribution will be informed by the wealth of that background of service. I look forward to hearing it and to seeing the level of accord or discord with which I will receive those contributions.

I think he will find that it is a welcoming Chamber, apart from the formal welcome and that, in fact, the public listens very keenly to the contributions made; the quality of those contributions; the substance of those contributions. I imagine that those who remember him as a columnist, which I think my memory of Mr. Hunte is, would like to see then how he is when his pen has been put down and he is asked to use his tongue as a debater, so I look forward in the course of the next few months in hearing the keen discussion that will emanate across from me as Mr. Hunte goes into this new role, so, welcome Senator Hunte. We look forward to engaging with you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Sir Roy.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, I have a number of things to do but I could not let this

occasion pass without saying a few words on the occasion of the arrival to this place of Senator Reginald Hunte.

May I take the occasion as well, since I have been on public business for a while, if you would permit me, to say that I would also wish to welcome Senator Hunte and Senator Cave, who I have not had the pleasure to be within this Honourable Chamber. I am sure that they will perform excellently, but I am also equally sure that Senator Hunte would not only start, but he will do well. It is because when he started in 1969/1970, he started, not like a grave digger, wanting to be at the top, but he started wanting to do service and he knew that they also serve who stand and wait.

I will not mention other young people of the times, but he started as a young person wanting to make a contribution to public life, knowing quite well that because the teams were fairly heavily packed with good bowlers and batsmen that he might not make the test team of the day, but not believing that prevented him from the quality and level of service which we thought all people should aspire to and not necessarily aspire to leadership.

What impressed me very much has been his desire to serve, his desire to contribute and to help in the development. Sir, I do not speak from a partisan position, but I speak as a public-spirited person who has served in the trenches and who has been a bearer of wood and a carrier of water of a fellow bearer of water and carrier of wood.

I would like to believe that his services selflessly delivered over the last 40 years have reached a position where he has gained the notice of the leadership of the Party he has served.

S/A25/10:30 Sequence 3

Friday, December 22, 2009

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: It is my wish that level of service he has been able to present, which is respected by the public, the quality of service that he continues to give, and that he will not be slack in driving but surrender his commitment to helping to bring greater development to the people at all levels within this country.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am in receipt of an indication for absence for Senator Marville and Senator Chandler.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to lay the following documents:

1. Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 2009.
2. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments Exemptions(Sandridge Beach SLR) Order, 2009.
3. Land Development (Special Development Area), (Hastings to Rockley), Order, 2009.
4. Report of the Accountant-General for the Financial Year 2008 and 2009.
5. Annual Report of the Securities Commission for the Financial Year ending March 31, 2009.
6. Annual Report of the Barbados Oil Company Limited for the year 2008.
7. International Financial Services (Licence Fees) Regulation, 2009.
8. Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 7), Order, 2009.
9. Value Added Tax (No.4) Order, 2009.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 45 (2) be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of the following Bills and move that they be read a first time:

1. Health Services (Amendment) Bill, 2009.
2. Shipping (Incentive) (Amendment) Bill,2009.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – HEALTH SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the Health Services (Amendment) Bill, 2009, speaks to the issue of protecting minors from access to tobacco products. It seeks to prevent the sale of tobacco, as defined in the legislation, to minors. While one may question the importance of this, or this as a priority, I believe that it is critical to understand that in looking at a

matter such as this, one has to, of course, contextualise the amendment.

If we look at the level of smoking in Barbados relative to some other countries, it is clear that, in the words of some people, we do not have "a major problem" with smoking. Perhaps there lies the need for such legislation, from the perspective of our internal situation. Beyond our internal situation, however, we have to recognise that Barbados, as part of the international community subscribes to many conventions and situations, where we seek to function in accordance with the best practices in relation to health, wellness, et cetera.

As I indicated, the incidence of smoking is low. Perhaps, therein lies a challenge. Research has demonstrated that people start to smoke in their early teens, between the ages of 17 and 18 to 25, is the period commonly established or where a high frequency of initial smoking has been observed. It is felt, therefore, that in a society in which a large percentage of the population does not smoke, the generation below that population may be attracted to something which is not commonly observed.

Sir, in orders, if I can simplify this, a person like myself would not have smoked, and children of my siblings and my own would not have seen people and would not have been exposed to the nuisance that smoking is, therefore, maybe attracted by advertisement, or by observing others in other societies and so on to smoking, not recognising, of course, that it is an addictive habit. Once you experiment with something, even though you were simply experimenting, you may become very much addicted.

Sir, for Barbados, as I said before, while people may question this, there needs to be a recognition that in putting measures like this in place we may, in fact, be protecting some of our young people from a habit which may become a major problem.

We may also look at this from the perspective of the cost of dealing with the consequences of smoking. I have seen first-hand what smoking can do. We are very familiar with the issue of respiratory problems associated with smoking. I can tell you, on a personal note, that I came face to face about seven years ago with another problem. I did not know until that time that smoking can damage your peripheral arteries.

Mr. PRESIDENT: What kind of arteries?

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Sir, peripheral arteries, those arteries that run to the extremities, your legs, toes, feet, finger tips, particular in the larger arteries of your legs and into your feet.

S25 10.40 a.m. Sequence 4

Wednesday, December 22, 2009

Senate A25, Sequence 05, 10.40 a.m.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, what that does very unfortunately is that you see an effect similar to diabetes. In Barbados we are considered to be the amputation capital because diabetics often find themselves having to deal with damaged arteries in the same way. Smoking, in fact, can lead to severe damage where amputation becomes essential. I can speak to that personally because I can say here that my father lost both of his legs below the knee and he told me that he was a chain smoker for 60 years. He was lucky because this occurred in his 80s and he was also sufficiently fortunate to learn to walk with two prostheses.

Sir, the point I am making is that when you start to extrapolate from that, there is a cost as well to the society. There is a cost of health care of dealing with emphysema, circulation problems and things of that nature. Mr. President, I believe that I do not have to spend a lot of time justifying this piece of legislation. I believe it is one of those pieces of legislation in which we are putting in place what I consider to be a preventive measure.

The only concern I have, however, Mr. President, is that I have lived in a society for several decades now and I observe children going to the shop to buy cigarettes for their parents or grandparents. I have also observed persons as children objecting strenuously to doing that and, in a sense, we in my generation lived in an environment in which self regulation or self restraint was, in fact, the order of the day.

We did not smoke, not because we could not buy the cigarettes or we could not access them. We did not smoke because we saw it as the wrong thing to do and, therefore, my only concern is that as adults we have to take responsibility in positively enforcing and reinforcing the importance of not smoking and not simply imposing a restrictive measure and I will use a comparison.

Sir, I remember as a young graduate student in Ohio, being alarmed by the level of drinking that took place, not only among young male students, because I left Barbados in my early 20s where I did not see my contemporaries drinking, but I was appalled when I saw the extent to which teenagers did it illegally, and persons over the age of 21 drank legally. It was as though people waited for that moment when they became 21 to go on a binge.

If you had looked at the News items recently, we see the problems that Australian teenagers, high school students and college students are having, Mr. President,

and, therefore, I would want to support this piece of legislation, the Amendment to the Act.

I believe it goes somewhere towards protecting our children but, most importantly, I would want to counsel Barbadians that rather than negative reinforcement, we have to involve positive reinforcement, educating our young people to the importance of respecting their bodies and refraining from actions that can do them harm.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

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

This is a measure which I believe that we on This Side can support, and are, in fact, supporting, although I do not know that there was any need for a preventive measure in the sense outlined by the Honourable Senator.

I believe that what we need to monitor are parents who may ask their children to light their cigarettes, to bring their cigarettes, and parents who smoke in the house around their children.

We also have to monitor the incidence of shopkeepers who sell cigarettes to minors, not for themselves, but for use by adults and, therefore, while the cigarettes are in the possession of the minors, en route for whom the cigarettes were intended, the minors may be attracted to try it and therein might be caught. This is a measure that we can support.

Sir, I remember when we were having a World Health Campaign relative to tobacco and it was interesting coming out of that, the view and a position being put that cigarettes are the only consumers' product which kills when used exactly as intended by the manufacturer. This is very interesting, but it is a reality that they are the only consumers' product which kills when used exactly as intended by the manufacturer. We need therefore to ensure that our young people do not get their hands on this particular consumers' product, and we would want to support the Government in their attempt at this by way of bringing new legislation.

I believe too that young people may be attracted to cigarettes because of the very powerful advertising campaigns around tobacco, which are largely lifestyles related, where cigarettes are made to appear as part of the lifestyle of the rich and glamourous, the rich and famous.

I have noticed in recent times that there had been a period for a long time during the 1950s and 1960s when we saw movies on television and the star, whether it was a cowboy, or the Rock Hudson type, who projected the image of the macho man that they invariably had projected because we later found out, as Sparrow immortalised, that the image projected was not, in fact, the lifestyle followed.

Sir, the point I am trying to make is that in those movies, very often the star and the lead female had cigarettes. It was part of the powerful lifestyle for the lead actor to be smoking.

Sir, for a long time, as the lobby against the tobacco industry gained momentum, that kind of image projection in movies changed, and so there was not the same incidence of smoking in movies, but I am noticing now that again, cigarette smoking is creeping back in, to the image of the big screen because for whatever reason, the lobby against tobacco may have waned or, perhaps, it is the other way around that the tobacco lobby has become even more powerful and is able to influence the Hollywood lifestyle and the Hollywood culture, and so images of smoking are once again being projected in a positive sense to make them appear appealing.

Sir, if we are going to project our young people, I am going to support that, so I would urge shopkeepers to be cognizant of what it is the Government is attempting to do, and the support given by the Opposition on this matter is that they must be conscious that they are not to sell cigarettes to minors, even when the cigarettes are not for the minor's own consumption because, in a community, the shopkeeper may well be aware, that it is the parent of the child who is the smoker, but you should not allow the children to be handling the tobacco products.

I believe that parents should also consider smoking outside of their houses, rather than inside where they are likely to affect the children, not only by way of influence but by way of second-hand smoke, which research has shown is just as dangerous as the direct smoking of which the parents need to be conscious.

The Senator who spoke before me ended at a point that I would also wish to end at and it was on the issue of alcohol. It has been my observation - and I put it no higher than that, because I have no empirical data to support what I am saying, and I do not put things out as fact, without knowing the background or having data to support what I am saying - that while tobacco and cigarette smoking is not a problem among young Barbadians that alcohol is, Sir.

Senate A25, Sequence 05, 10:50:07

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: A significant amount of our young people, both girls and boys, are

drinking very heavily, not only the traditional beer, or the Stout, which has a higher level of alcohol than, perhaps, the malts which we were allowed as children...

Before, you used to have hard alcohol, whisky, rum, gin, et cetera, and now you have a number of mixed drinks, which I do not necessarily want to identify, but Smirnoff Ice and mixes which are rum blends, vodka blends, whisky blends and gin blends, which have a sweet pleasant taste but a high alcohol content.

When you go to social events, fetes and so on, you see young people drinking large amounts of vodka, gin and these blended drinks which are highly flavourful, but have a very high alcohol content.

I speak to parents who tell me about their concerns about their children drinking and driving and coming home drunk and so on. Sir, in my view that is a problem. We have not traditionally been collecting data to determine the incidence of drinking among younger members of the population.

Mr. President, from anecdotal commentary, from personal observation and from listening to young people who themselves drink... Sir, when you go to family functions and functions where there are older and younger adults, very often it is the younger adults who are heading for the alcohol before the older people. I see it, so I believe that my observation is not countered to the experiences of the people in the Chamber or the people of Barbados.

I believe that if the Government wants to address issues relating to substance abuse, that having dealt with tobacco or having attempted to deal with tobacco through this measure... I would want to sometime in the future be able to support the Government as it makes a thrust towards dealing with what I believe is an increasing incidence of alcohol consumption among very young people in the society who are 12, 13, 14 and 15 years old because once the older siblings in the families are doing it, the younger sibling is going to try and sneak and do it as well and try and keep up, therefore, I think that this is a problem that we need to start monitoring and addressing.

Mr. President, Senator McClean was very right when she spoke about the incidence of drinking on the major continent. Last year or earlier this year, I do not recall when, there was a very interesting article in the UK Times, which was taken up by the BBC, about the level of drinking among young people in European societies, particularly in the United Kingdom, where 60 per cent or higher, depending on the location, of young people and teenagers set out to get drunk every weekend. It was what they set out to do. It was not that they went out and they happenned to get drunk, or that other people were drinking and they were influenced to drink, they set out to drink to the point where they get drunk.

Mr. President, I believe that we need to protect our young people. If this is a creeping difficulty, we would not want it to get to the point where it escalates and so there may need to be some intervention, some preventative measure, or some assessment of the issue to determine whether or not an intervention is warranted, with whom, with what percentage of the population and at what stage because we would not want to reach the stage where we are able to stop them from smoking but have raised a generation of hard drinkers because alcohol is just as dangerous for the brain as is tobacco and so I would hope that in the future we can get to this.

Perhaps, part of the challenge faced is that we are, in my view, a very liberal society when it comes to drinking. People drink, you allow it, you excuse it, you know there are people within communities who are in the rum shops every day and we laugh at it and so on, so that maybe something which, because of a degree of cultural acceptance, is gaining some root. We might want to look at it and consider if that is, in fact, so and if it is so what we would need to do to address it.

With those words, Sir, I would wish to signal our support for this measure and to say that we hope that if, in fact, it is intended as a preventative measure that it will be impactful and have the consequence that the Government intends.

I am much obliged to you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Trotman.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, I promise you that given the season I shall not be lengthy but, at the same time, I wish to compliment the Government for wanting to commence a discussion on Government's approach to those areas of behaviour which have to be tackled within our community and which have, where possible, to be wiped out, or to be reduced considerably.

At this point, as I understand it, we are trying to deal with a matter of juniors who are dealing in cigarettes, and that is a good start. Both Senators who have spoken so far have taken the subject beyond the realm of cigarette smoking to the first cousin of cigarette smoking, that is, drinking, and have taken a position where they have sought to appeal through this medium for a serious approach and attack on habits which are likely to be destructive of the lives, the spirits and the brains of our future society and I think that we should on All Sides compliment that approach.

I am a little concerned though, Mr. President, that the Government, in the area of the tobacco, has only gotten at this stage as far as dealing with the matter of cigarette smoking, or cigarette handling for juniors. It was my view, and if it is not the view of others, it is still my view, that there is a ground swell of support in this country for a position of no-tolerance towards the use of tobacco in public. That ground swell, in my view, is not getting any smaller. There is no abatement so far as I am concerned. The view was in some quarters that the tourists would not be very happy if we took a position that said no smoking, not merely of tobacco, in public places.

Mr. President, we have been working with the hotel industry and it is our pleasant report that the tourists are amendable to such an approach. There are many other places in the world where that approach is accepted. The tourists themselves in their own workplaces and in their boardrooms understand full well that they cannot smoke in public places, and therefore, I do not see any reason why we should, therefore, be using tourism, if that is the reason, as the reason for not going beyond this tampering to a position that is much more aggressive.

I would like to suggest that we need to move from this to the bigger question of dealing with what the Barbadian community, in my estimation, already has accepted that there should be no tobacco smoking in public places. If people wish to smoke, they have the privacy of their homes or other areas where they might congregate.

In fact, if we were to travel outside of Barbados now, even though the reports speak about sub-zero temperatures, people freezing and in one or two instances to death, among those areas where people are freezing to death, it is likely that you would find some persons taking the occasion to have their compulsory puff because they cannot do without it.

Senate A25 Sequence 6

11.00 a.m.

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SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, people will smoke, and I am never going to be one who will deny a person the opportunity to take his or her own life, if he or she so desires, by smoking where he or she wants to, provided that smoking is not done in public, and provided that it does not happen to run the risk of contaminating other people who do not wish to have that secondary smoke. Sir, beyond that, provided that it does not affect the people who do not want that smoke into their clothes, so that by the time they reach their homes, their families are now found to be in trouble by that arrangement.

Mr. President, this measure is fine, but as far as I am concerned, I think it should be followed, almost immediately... Sir, since it cannot be immediate, I believe that in a week or two it should be followed by the bigger issue of dealing with tobacco smoking in public.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Chandler.

SENATOR Dr. F. L CHANDLER: Mr. President, I would like to support this measure. I would certainly agree with anything that would protect the public, especially minors, from this very dangerous habit of tobacco smoking. Mr. President, I note though there are no details of what these measures would be. I think that Senator Thompson mentioned that.

Asides.

SENATOR Dr. F. L. CHANDLER: Mr. President, I note there were no details but I trust that there will be very stringent measures put in place which can be effective.

Mr. President, I would have to say that I have noticed a lot less smoking over the years. In fact, it seems strange, almost, to see people smoking these days. I think there are smoke-free flights and some parts of restaurants that are smoke-free. Therefore, I think there has been some progress made.

Sir, I do not think that we could have a discussion on tobacco smoking and on the reduction of tobacco smoking without mentioning and commending the work of the Barbados Cancer Society, particularly Dr. Tony Gale, who has been advocating this over the years. I think he has written a book on it. Sir, that is very good work which I think has achieved something.

Mr. President, I would agree with Senator Sir Roy that we need to go further. Even though some persons have voluntarily introduced no-smoking areas, I think there needs to be legislation to make it definite that there will be no smoking in public areas.

Mr. President, I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Benn.

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Mr. President, I too wish to support this measure before this Honourable Senate. Sir, I have never smoked, neither was my father a smoker but I know, as a young boy growing up, we would sometimes try to hide and smoke rolled newspaper, bonavist or cane arrow. Sir, apparently that was fun for us at the time.

Mr. President, perhaps I should be the last person to speak on this matter because of the fact that I manage a ministry that grows the primary product that goes into alcohol. There are other countries that grow tobacco as part of their agricultural portfolio. Barbados too used to produce a lot of tobacco years ago.

Mr. President, I would wish that as we seek to address the issue of smoking in public areas, that we take a serious look at what goes on in some of our schools. Sir, I happen to come into contact with a number of young boys and girls on Sundays, who all relate stories of what happens in schools. They relate stories of what happens behind the hills, or down the road.

Mr. President, I have a l4-year-old boy in my Sunday School class, who has confessed to me that he is trying to stop smoking. When I talked with him, I learned that he has grown up in a house where cigarette butts were handed to him to be extinguished, or that when those butts were put aside and not extinguished, he would simply have a puff. Sir, at l4 years old, he is trying his best to stop smoking.

Mr. President, I congratulate this Government for putting a number of systems in place to prevent smoking. I am glad that as we go to some public places, we see "No Smoking" signs. We see them on aircrafts, buses, restaurants, et cetera. Sir, we will take a very careful look at this legislation.

Mr. President, I am not here to castigate or to accuse any school, but I know this is happening in some schools. There are no printed records about the percentages but I know from my contacts with those young people with whom I come into contact every Sunday, that there is evidence of smoking in schools. Sir, I wish too that we would seek to police that happening in our schools, in an effort to prevent it from spreading.

Mr. President, I also think that we should call on parents to exercise care. I know, from my growing up in the country, that parents would be tempted, from time to time, to give their youngsters $1.50 to go to the shop to buy a "nip" bottle. Nowadays, at this time, we buy a lot of liquor and take home. Sir, when children see us consuming this alcohol, they too may want to taste that liquor, to see if what is in the bottle is good.

Sir, I am, therefore, urging parents that whatever they seek to do, they should not do it in the presence of their children whom we are seeking to address. Sir, I wish that we could do a total job. While we are addressing what is happening in public places, I wish that we would address what is happening in the homes and in the schools.

Mr. President, from time to time, I look forward to hearing reports about the measures that have been put in place in both Houses of Parliament. I look forward to see that there are results that we can be measured, so that we could see the lessening of such incidents of smoking and drinking in public places.

Mr. President, I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Sandiford-Garner.

SENATOR Mrs. V. I. SANDIFORD-GARNER: Mr. President, the Government has moved to make it illegal for persons to sell tobacco products to minors, and I rise to support this measure. I would also wish to say this measure is timely, since last year the Pan American Health Organisation has focussed on children for World Tobacco Day. Indeed, this is a very timely initiative on the part of Government.

Mr. President, it is said that every six seconds someone in this world dies from a tobacco related disease. As was mentioned by Senator Thompson earlier, we do not have those statistics in Barbados and so we are not sure as to the incidents of death due to tobacco use.

Sir, in a survey done about two years ago, it was said that 22 per cent of youths surveyed were exposed to tobacco use and secondhand smoke. Sir, that 22 per cent surveyed would amount to approximately one-quarter of the number of children surveyed, who would have been harmed by tobacco use. Mr. President, this Government and the Ministry of Health, specifically, must be applauded for taking this initiative.

S:No.A25 (7)11:l0 a.m.

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

SENATOR Mrs. V.I. SANDIFORD-GARNER: Sir, all too often the most socially constructed and laudable legislation in Barbados falls short at the enforcement level. We have legislation and it is legislation that we recognise to be worthwhile legislation, but it is not enforced and, therefore, the legislation renders itself ineffective. Sir, we certainly cannot expect the Police Force to enforce this type of legislation. God knows they have their hands full as it is because they are understaffed and they do not have the resources.

Sir, today I am suggesting that if we are serious about the protection of our youth and the next generation, that we tackle this issue at a community level, that we as a people band together, examine the problem and augment the efforts of the Government at a community level.

Mr. President, my suggestion is that we engage in Barbados in grassroots mobilisation. Sir, what I mean by grassroots mobilisation is using community groups, associations and campaigns with the Constituency Councils and various Foundations we have in Barbados to launch educational programmes among themselves. Sir, in marketing you call them "direct merchant educational programmes" where you liaise with CEOs, managers of shops and managers of auto marts, to find ways of educating those grassroots people at the grassroots level to augment our legislation.

Mr. President, studies have shown that a well-designed community-based programme is actually sometimes more effective than the legislation itself. Sir, community groups and those councils have the resources and skills to plan and execute those types of activities. Sir, it is my suggestion that we use that method as well.

Mr. President, it is also time that our community groups and organisations be more vocal. The organisations that you would hear speaking about our supporting this type of legislation, are usually those formed for that purpose, like the Barbados Cancer Society and NCSA, the Barbados Workers' Union that support socially constructive legislation. Sir, I am saying that specific organisations support legislation such as this, but yet the ill-effects of things like tobacco use and second-hand smoke affect all Barbadians.

Mr. President, I am saying that by supporting the legislation through community-backed mobilisation and awareness, the perception among young people that purchasing tobacco or buying cigarettes is illegal, and it is not sanctioned, and it is not acceptable becomes heightened because you know there are others watching and there are others who are observing your action.

Mr. President, I am also saying the efforts of the community could be funded by the tobacco companies themselves because they are very rich organisations; they are billion dollar organisations and they are actually very supportive of activity such as this. I have been into shops and already I have seen signs where the tobacco company provides stickers saying that they do not sell cigarettes to minors.

Sir, the shopkeepers themselves do not provide them but the companies do. Therefore, if community groups could get together and band together to seek out funding for their marketing programmes, I am sure the tobacco companies would back them, so that they have the money and the skilled base to get the work done and, therefore, the programme can be effective.

Mr. President, in effect, the community would be assisting Government in marketing the legislation, as we move towards protecting the health of our young people.

Sir, while we are on the topic of the health of our young people, I would wish to revert to a topic that is also related and that is the subject of asthma and asthma-related complications.

Mr. President, it is said in Barbados that asthma is the most common chronic disease in children at present. I do not have the statistics but they said that pediatric asthma is the most common disease in children at present and I perceive that asthmatics are the most endangered subsector of the grouping that we are now trying to protect, meaning the grouping of the most vulnerable, meaning our children and, Sir, asthmatics are the ones most at risk for diseases such as this.

Mr. President, in 2007, there were actually 10 000 people pediatric asthmatic cases passing through the Accident and Emergency Department in Barbados and, Sir, that is no small number. I know that trauma that asthma sufferers have to undergo. The man-hours that parents have to spend in hospital rooms, the occasions that you miss, the harvest, the Christmas recitation time, the school tours and the school days missing from asthma because I have been one since I was born.Sir, mine is very well controlled but there are occasions such as when somebody lights a cigarette, or burns garbage without telling you that they are burning garbage, there are incidences that are outside of an asthmatic's control.

Mr. President, any action that Government can take to alleviate those risks that we have, have to be welcomed because once asthma is managed well, we all live very productive and fruitful lives. I would refer some of you to the Obadelee's article, in August 7, 2007, where he explained why he had to miss so many competitions, trial games and so on because the newspapers had said he had a chest ailment.

He said that while you might be trying to protect my privacy, the fact is, I am an asthmatic. He came out and told the world why he has to use an inhaler and why he has to take drugs because he did not want people to feel he was lagging or falling below the standard of competition. Sir, Obadelee is an asthmatic and he manages it well.

Mr. President, while the piece of legislation today is more than welcomed, we also need to examine the Law which prosecutes the owners of vehicles that belch out black smoke when we are driving and that prosecutes people who burn rubbish indiscriminately. I understand that we have environmental legislation somewhere and that it is called the "Environment Management Act" that has been gathering dust for about a decade. I would wish to ask that

we pull that Act out, dust it off and get it on the Statute Book in Barbados because we need that environment legislation in Barbados.

Mr. President, finally, I am calling on the authorities, all those who would wish to assist Government in such actions or activities to provide nebulisers in every single school in this country. They are not expensive but they can save lives. There are some schools in this country that are very far away from medical help and they have no doctors.

Sir, for example, I could speak about St. Andrew because it is an area I am familiar with, where there are 2 200 children at schools and in day nurseries in one parish. There is no medical doctor; there is no clinic and the closest clinic is the Maurice Byer Polyclinic, which is in St. Peter, and you have to climb Farley Hill to get there.

Mr. President, if you are unfortunate enough to have a child at school with an asthma attack, which has been the case recently, it is a very dangerous situation to be in. Sir, I am asking corporate Barbados to assist schools in this area, where every school or sickbay is provided with a nebuliser and that all teachers are trained to use them. Sir, they are not difficult to activate.

S/A25/11:20 Sequence 8

Friday, December 22, 2009

SENATOR Mrs. V.I.SANDIFORD-GARNER: They are very inexpensive. Barbadians use them at their homes every day, so it is not a situation where you need a nurse or doctor to administer the medication. Every school in Barbados should have one of those pieces of equipment on the premises. It will save lives. It is critical, and I am asking that my voice be heard on this matter.

Sir, sometimes the attack may not kill you but the panic that is engendered by the attack and the sort of panic that the teachers, health care providers and other helpers exhibit can throw an asthmatic into a tailspin, so that the medical condition may not be the thing to kill you, but the fear of having that attack and the fear and the panic that is engendered by those who are with you can also kill you.

Sir, I am reiterating it. It is not expensive. It is not at all a difficult feat to accomplish, and I would wish that this suggestion be examined.

Sir, with that final note, I wish to end by saying the Government has done a very good job in initiating this legislation, but I would wish us, as other Senators have said earlier, to go that one step further and enact the environmental legislation which would complete the process.

I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Griffith.

SENATOR D.K.A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I rise to support the legislation before us, specifically because I think, as highlighted by several other Senators before me, there is an important aspect of the legislation. We need a framework instead of relying solely on values of society. There is a need for legislation to achieve the objective.

My contribution today actually comes in three points. The first, we need to have in place legislation saying "No. You are not allowed to sell to minors." The point must be made clear. If in fact it shows our political will behind this issue.

As indicated so far, many of the problems we have with smoking is heavily influenced by societal factors, socialisation. I think anybody who has worked in the sectors on the Harbour Road, where there are many businesses which are influenced by expatriates with expatriate managers, you see that when you are talking about practices, they are coming from staff outside of Barbados who bring habits that are foreign to the Barbadian psyche.

You have employees taking smoking breaks. You get a break from work, not stretch your legs or whatever it is that we are accustomed to, but the break is to go outside and smoke. We want to socialise with our managers. That is what they are outside doing, and that started to creep into our system. Sir, given the fact that we do have this high influence from the wider world coming into Barbados, it makes sense for us now to look at this loophole and close it.

Sir, not anticipating anything brought to this House in the future, I think the second crucial point is the fact that we do now need to get our society to a point where we say that smoking in public is not acceptable. I agree with the Senators before me, who have said that. We are not talking about a world where in societies smoking is far more prevalent than in our own society. It is standard that you cannot smoke in public buildings of any sort whether it is controlled by the Government, places of entertainment or wherever it is, because the harmful side effects of secondhand smoke continue to be detrimental to people far beyond just the smoker. We have to ensure that we safeguard the workers of our country.

We have to ensure that we safeguard those people who cannot speak for themselves. This is one of the areas that I am very much supportive of legislation that says you cannot have smoking in public places.

Sir, we see many restaurants still continuing an old practice, which is again not indigenous to Barbados, of having smoking and non smoking areas. Sir, if you go out to dinner there is no smoking within the building. You have to go outside. It has been done in climates far more hospitable than Barbados, where if you need to smoke, you have to leave the building. I have seen countries that have banned it and countries who continue the system of allowing people to smoke.

Overall, the discomfort is far greater when you continue to allow people to smoke, where everyone is trying to enjoy it, as opposed to telling them that they need to take into consideration other people's feelings and views.

My third point, however, I think might be the most controversial, but needs to be the one to be said. We are speaking about tobacco smoke. I think if we refine this debate to just that, we have done ourselves a complete disservice. I think the smoking of marijuana in our country has provided several problems that we refuse to entertain discussions about.

We have not said yet that our schools are being overrun with children suffering the side effects of their parents' marijuana usage. If you speak to most teachers, today, they will tell you a lot of the anxiety that young children coming into school face have a lot to do with being in an environment where they are inhaling secondhand marijuana smoke. I think our structure really does not anticipate how to deal with this. It is an area where we are far behind.

Sir, we are still in an era where we say that marijuana is illegal, so we do not even have to talk about it at all. We can say now that we have very low incidences of people smoking, because extensive campaigns have been undertaken to get to that point. Nothing of the sort has happened with marijuana.

Sir, personally I would say that I do not believe the solution to the problem is to say that marijuana is bad and leave it there. I think we actually have to engage people. Marijuana usage is not going to be something that you are going to wipe out of our country, therefore, we need to deal with it.

In the United States of America they are moving and changing their policies from a law that punishes persons who use personal quantities of marijuana. It has happened in the United Kingdom and Europe already. We have to get to a point, here, where we can say we can actually deal with this above the board. It needs to be dealt with legally. We need to have the same types of programmes that we are talking about with tobacco usage.

You have to say you cannot be smoking around children. It is not good for their health. You cannot be smoking marijuana when you are pregnant. All of the things that have been said now apply to the usage of marijuana. If you are going to be a responsible parent, it is part of the consideration that you have to undertake.

Sir, for me, given the scenarios that I am seeing far too often, quite anecdotally in our schools, we have to get to the point where it must be addressed. We have to start the discussion, then we have to do something about it quickly and effectively, because at the end of the day, if we have many young people who have been traumatised and scarred early in their lives, it will mean that they are not going to become the productive and efficient citizens that we want when they reach the age of adulthood. It is not going to be their fault.

It is not that a five-year-old can stand up and say, Mommy or Daddy I cannot be in this environment. We have to put in place the legislation to do that, and we have to raise the awareness so that these parents understand that while you are entitled to make your own choices, you also always have to give consideration to your children.

I believe that is one of the more important things that we now have to focus on, because we have reached a point with regard to tobacco, but I would say that smoking in general in Barbados has not declined. It is just that we have managed to fight the battle very well with regard to tobacco usage. We need to start considering the new frontiers we have to fight, and it has to be a case where it is widely discussed in society, and there is this concerted effort on the part of the entire society that we correct these problems.

Thank you for the minimal time today. I would like to reiterate that I am strongly in support of this Bill. I think it is a necessary piece of legislation.

S25 11.30 a.m. Sequence 9

Wednesday, December 22, 2009

Senate A25, Sequence 10, 11.30 a.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Inniss, you have the Floor.

SENATOR Miss P.I. INNISS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Sir, I would just like to very quickly support this measure and its attempt to legally say that the use of cigarettes by minors is against the law. I think it is a very important step and it makes a clear statement to our young people.

Sir, I rise because the point has been made by most of the Senators that the great concern we have, and the great concern I have, is the enforcement of this Law. Indeed now, we have to look as a community to dealing with the matter of enforcing such. How do we get shopkeepers and store owners involved in a movement to protect our young people? Sir, as you are probably aware, the danger to our young people is a permanent one, in the destruction of the mind and the destruction of brain cells which cannot be replaced and so, the need for protection.

Sir, why I rise to speak is because of my passion and my present concern to the realities that enforcement needs to be placed on the front burner. Presently, as has been said by the Senator before me, marijuana is against the Law. Mr. President, I speak of tomorrow. When I leave this Senate today, as I head into the community to those persons who want hampers and the whole Christmas spirit, I am constantly faced with the reality, as I go into the little corner shops and sheds where there are a lot of respectful young people, boys and girls under the age of 14 and 15. Sir, today and tomorrow I am going into little corners where marijuana is used easily, where I go into an area and I say, "Gentlemen, you cannot do that, it is against the Law." They would say, "Respect due, respect due." And they would take out the marijuana and they would stop the smoking.

Sir, the issue that we have to follow through with that the legal resources are now taking, is the enforcement. We have to sincerely look at bringing a movement in Barbados which protects our young people. I remember, Sir, 10 years ago, going into areas where you would see a young person hiding and taking a little marijuana and you would even then enforce that it is against the Law.

Mr. President, I am very sorry to admit that this is no longer the case in Barbados. They openly smoke both marijuana and cigarettes so now we are at a stage in our society where we have to look at protecting our young people from themselves.

We have to bring all Barbadians on board and not only now educate them that legislation is there to further protect our young people, but to enforce systems that stamp out the open use of cigarettes and marijuana. It is frightening.

Mr. President, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, as we go into Christmas Eve - of which I am wishing all the greatest for the season - I am going into the realities of running a campaign of "You cannot do it. It is against the Law," and what is even more alarming as we go to a movement to stop the use of cigarettes and marijuana with our young people, they seem to think that it has more positive benefits than negative. The biggest argument that I have, even with those who helped me, who are young is that they say:

"But Ma'am, you know marijuana does use to help if you have certain diseases. There is nothing wrong. It is used for asthma. Mam, if you have cancer issues, you use marijuana. There is nothing wrong."

Sir, they do not understand that even if they argue this, it is against the Law. They have, seemingly, no consciousness that, even if I think it is the best thing since sliced bread, it is against the Law, and so, we have to bring a movement.

Sir, I had not intended to speak but I think I need to so that words, as the Honourable Senator before me, across the Table and Senator Chandler have said, our words in the new coming year must be transcended to more action. We have to explain to them that it is dangerous. They have been taught and they have been inculcated with systems or with ideas, which are incorrect.

Can you imagine telling a biochemist the benefits of marijuana and how it is better or worse? I said, do you expect to be telling me the dangers, the benefits or the disadvantages of marijuana, which I do not know? They are convinced that the society is wrong. They think that there is nothing wrong with smoking and there is nothing wrong with marijuana. Sir, this is the reality that we are facing in Barbados.

Apart from the legislation, apart from this august Chamber, apart from speaking at high levels, the reality at the bottom - the grass-roots - is that they are doing it regardless of the Law. Sir, I am also calling all of Barbados and all persons who care for our young people to help join in a movement, now that legislation is continuing to be rolled out to protect our young people. We have to do more to expect the best of them, to call for them to do more and to help them to realise that they are killing themselves, and they are killing the hope we have in them.

Sir, I support this legislation and I hope that we go further to protect our young people from the dangers of smoking cigarettes and marijuana.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Holder.

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: Mr. President, the Amendment being sought to the Health Services Act, should be seen within the wider social context. This is particularly relevant as it relates to the protection of minors. There is ample research, Mr. President, that speaks

to the fact that sustained use of tobacco products, which is highly addicted, is a precursor to the use, misuse and to abuse of illegal substances.

It is, therefore, most important that when we examine any piece of legislation which seeks to protect minors, we need to examine it from not only a preventive aspect, but the consequential aspect of it, so that there is informed research from the National Council on Substance Abuse, which speaks to the initiation process as it relates to tobacco smoking within our school system and among our young people.

What is also interesting is that the research does not only speak to cigarette smoking but it speaks to a tobacco product known as "imp", which has a very high degree of THC, tetrahydrocannabinol, which is the addictive component within the tobacco. Sir, the sustained use of a product high in THC will invariably lead to the use of the illegal substances, so that having smoked cigarettes for a number of years, one gravitates and graduates for the illegal substance.

It is, therefore, imperative that any legislation must also examine that aspect within this context, not only tobacco products but we must move beyond tobacco products so that it is part of the ongoing research to ascertain the age of initiation within our school sector, not only that, the amount of young people who are using tobacco products; not only that, the amount of young people who are addicted to tobacco products because there is a cycle of addiction, which speaks to use, misuse, abuse and addiction.

Senate A25, Sequence 10, 11:40:09

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

SENATOR A. E. HOLDER: Mr. President, when we seek to initiate legislation, it is therefore imperative to understand at what stage our young people are becoming involved in this process, which, prior to this legislation, was deemed legal.

There is also a trend among our young people to have a big bottle, not only with cigarettes but with other paraphernalia, which again speaks to what is being done. Mr. President, if you walk the communities, you see it at length.

There is a rationale for that because it is well-known in our society that we are a consumption-led society so that all you need to do is to start the process so that persons out there who can gain from either illegal or legal use will continue to so do and we have to address that problem. Even if we are in here initiating legislation, we need to get outside and face the stark reality that unless there is concomitant enforceability of it, that we are just wasting our time passing any legislation.

Mr. President, not only must we equip the Police Force and our protective forces to do such, it must also stem from our communities and within our homes. Mr. President, unless there is education from the primary school level past the tertiary level, we will not achieve what we set out to achieve.

Mr. President, what is also interesting in the amendment being sought is that it has widened what tobacco products entailed so as to encapsulate things other than cigarettes. With these few words, I lend support to this piece of legislation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Crichlow.

SENATOR the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLOW: Mr. President, I would like to endorse all of what has been said by previous Senators. I think that the matter is very important and very expansive. All Barbados knows that the Church has always spoken against excessive behaviour. It is only commonsense really when you read the news or listen to it that something that kills so many people every year, and people want to live, that they will try to avoid it.

What I see coming out of this debate is that there are more serious issues surrounding this matter than appear to be so. The most dangerous thing that I see is that there is not a recognition, and this goes throughout the whole community, but it is becoming more so among the younger members, that the Law is not to be obeyed. There is no concept among some people of Law.

Generally speaking, Barbados is a Law-abiding society and we need to get it over to our people at every stage, as many Senators pointed out, from the youngest to the oldest that the Law has to be obeyed. I am aware that enforcement of the Law is very necessary to ensure that the society lives in harmony, et cetera.

Mr. President, I do not think we take seriously enough the view that we make Laws so that our freedoms will be protected. For example, if you make a Law saying that there should be no smoking in public places that is to protect all those who would be damaged and hurt by the smoke. All Laws are meant to protect people. People have to remember that their freedom extends to the limit where other people's freedoms are involved. I think that we need a nationwide campaign to help people to understand why we make Laws and their part in legislation.

Mr. President, I support fully the Bill we are discussing now. I hope that we in Barbados will pay more attention to the fact that we live in a society that is governed by the Rule of Law, which is meant to protect

everybody, and that everybody has to be part of this effort of living a free life which involves allowing other people to live freely.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Cave.

SENATOR R. G. CAVE: Mr. President, I do not wish to take up too much time but it would be wrong of me not to make a few statements. I do not want to be a traitor to my smoking friends because I smoked for a very long time and tried to give it up for a long time too. I have been out of it now for at least five years, so not wishing to be a traitor what I would say is that I support virtually all of the Honourable Senators who spoke here today, particularly Senator Trotman, who called for the banning of smoking in public places because I think that the more you can impinge on smokers the better to cut it down.

My father died of emphysema and I know the pain he went through. I also lost my brother-in-Law two months ago from emphysema so I know the really bad dangers of smoking.

Mr. President, early in life, smoking was the thing to do and many people did it. I think that there is a lot less people who are smoking now than in years gone by but it is a constant battle and I think we need to try to get it over...

I think that the Government has done a good job in bringing this Bill and as well as other things that they have done in recent times. It is an area for sure that we need to do what we can to tell the young people of the dangers that you reach at an older age. So many people are suffering and death by emphysema is a very difficult and unpleasant one.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Senate A25 Sequence 11

11.50 a.m.

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I believe that the several contributions of my colleague Senators have demonstrated the importance of this Health Services (Amendment) Bill, 2009. I believe too that the call for us to move beyond the focus on the illegal substance, tobacco, and the explanation given by the Honourable Senators on the Other Side in terms of the full extent of the challenge with the high level of THC in tobacco, all reinforce the importance of this Amendment.

Mr. President, as was suggested by my colleague Senator Griffith, I want, first of all, to speak to the issue of smoking marijuana, particularly. It is an illegal substance, nevertheless. Sir, there is no scientific evidence on my part to say this but, perhaps, the incidence of marijuana smoking may be higher than the incidence of tobacco smoking in Barbados. This is an issue which we have to tackle. It is something of grave concern when we look at the consequences of smoking.

Mr. President, this comes against a background of what I would call a growing desensitisation to the realities of its illegality. Sir, people are so accustomed to seeing people smoking it in their homes and in their communities, as Senator Inniss pointed out, that our youngsters are believing that this is all right.

This also comes against a further background of calls for the legalisation of marijuana. Sir, as we have seen, there have been calls for the legalising of marijuana for medical purposes in some American States. Recently, we have heard one politician in Jamaican pushing for the legalisation of marijuana. Its legalising may serve in part to solve some of the economic problems in the short term, but it may create other problems.

Mr. President, I want to speak specifically to the impact of marijuana, as we have already talked about its medical benefits. I am not a scientist. Sir, I remember as a child and going to the dentist, I would have heard about cocaine.

Therefore, I presume there is a relationship between that and the illegal substance as well, but people do not advocate legalising cocaine because some form of it is used for medical purposes. If there are medical benefits, let the scientists do the research and produce the products.

Mr. President, I have a concern. Sir, in the same way that we can tout the benefits, we also have to focus on the negative consequences. Sir, I have had discussions with persons in the medical profession, for instance, about the apparent occurrence of some unusual things that are happening among new-born babies.

I have been asking persons in the medical profession if there is anyway that we in Barbados could do research to determine the incidence of smoking among parents, either one or both parents of new-born babies. I want for us to look at that, to see if there is any correlation between medical issues that may arise at birth or medical issues that may develop in the early infancy.

Mr. President, I get the impression - and this is anecdotal - that we may be seeing the impact of cigarette or marijuana smoking on our new-borns. Sir, nowadays, young men and young women smoke and you may have

situations where both parents of a new-born baby may smoke. We have seen medical evidence which shows the effects that cigarette smoking can have on babies.

It has long been established that babies born to mothers who smoke, typically are underweight and have other developmental challenges. Sir, I believe that perhaps we need to start doing research on this because we are already in a situation where chronic lifestyle diseases are costing the taxpayers of Barbados significant amounts of money.

Mr. President, before I close, I want to commend the recommendations made by Senator Sandiford-Garner in relation to a community effort that must be undertaken to underpin any legislation. In my opening comments, I made reference to the negative sanctions, so to speak, but we also have to engage in positive reinforcements. We need as a community and a society to demonstrate to young people that cigarette smoking and the smoking of other illegal substances have detrimental effects on their health.

I spoke personally about my experiences with my father. We heard from Senator Cave of his personal experiences. Sir, those are not the odd occurrences, that are fairly typical, as my father was a patient at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, having had rehabilitative therapy to learn to walk again, while he was over 80 years. I believe he was lucky to have survived for so long before having to face those problems.

Sir, when that is coupled with long complications, it leads not only to a cost to the taxpayers but also to major suffering for the individual. Sir, we, therefore, have to find a way to blend the positive, that is to ensure that we encourage our young people to engage in activities by which they will remain healthy, as well as to show them the consequences of these actions.

Sir, legislation alone would not do it, therefore, seeking to put in place the resources to police legislation like this ... Sir, if we think of the number of police and other Law enforcement entities that we have, in comparison to the number of shops, bars, supermarkets, we would see that to monitor this would become difficult. Sir, therefore, as was suggested, we need to support this by mechanisms where people are educated to the benefits of being responsible business persons, of being responsible parents, as being responsible members of the community, in a way that ensures that we are fulfilling the promise that legislation like this is seeking to achieve, that is to reduce the incidents of smoking, to reduce the consequences of smoking and thereby saving our people from some of the very harsh diseases and complications that can arise, either in the short-term or in the long- term.

Mr. President, nobody spoke specifically about lung cancer but that is one of the common manifestations or consequences of smoking.

Sir, with those words, I support the Amendments to this Bill and ask that the Bill 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. O. McCLEAN, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill. Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 4, inclusive, were called and passed.

S:No.A25 (12)12:00 noon.

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. 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 motions of SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Health Services (Amendment) Act, 2009.

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DUTY (SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT AREA)(HASTINGS TO ROCKLEY) ORDER, 2009.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, this Honourable Chamber would have in recent past debated the Land Development Duty (Special Development Area) legislation which sought to give effect to recognition of the value that has accrued to land in some areas of Barbados as a consequence of developmental work in those locations over the previous year or so; land that would have, in the case of the particular area we are looking at now and would have been the subject, perhaps, to beach erosion et cetera. Sir, as a consequence of that work, the situation of the land is that it has been substantially enhanced.

It is, therefore, important that the legislation captures this and that the necessary regulations be put in place and the necessary Orders be put in place.Mr. President, it is not, in my humble position, necessary to engage in the debate

as we have already done so in quite an exhaustive way previously.

Mr. President, this legislation seeks to put in place the necessary Order to identify one area under this particular legislation. Sir, specifically, the area referred to is the Hastings to Rockley Area and we are, therefore, talking about all land that would have been captured within that. Therefore, in citing the specific area, this piece of legislation allows for the clear identification and demarkation of that particular area.

Mr. President, as I have said before, the Resolution seeks basically to give effect to the broader legislation which covers similar areas of Barbados, which may be subject to this development. Sir, in speaking about that, even though I have said that I would not engage in a long debate, I am happy to say that in talking to some of the experts on the issue of climate change, Barbados was cited as an example of what we can do to seek to mitigate some of the consequences.

Mr. President, as we look at these special development areas such as the area of Hastings to Rockley, which speaks to the boardwalk, it is now being utilised by a number of persons, and that type of work has been identified as the kind of activity that could be supported under the new arrangements made to finance mitigation efforts as part of the recent agreements in respect to climate change. I think it is something that this Administration certainly would be focussing on in a significant way.

Mr. President, as I indicated before, this is a simple measure which builds on the broader legislation. It is one of several of these Orders that would become necessary as the work is completed on the areas, that they are brought under the Law to ensure that there is clear demarkation.

Mr. President, I am also happy to say, as we look at this, that one of my colleagues in CARICOM was highlighting Barbados as a country which has taken a serious step of initiative to ensure that public spaces, particularly beaches, are maintained and retained for the use of all, for Barbadians first and foremost and for visitors alike.

Sir, in a conversation I have had with a few colleagues recently, the issue of private beaches came up and they were very strong in their praise of our efforts to maintain these kinds of arrangements to ensure that the general public of Barbados, the average taxpayer is able to retain access and maintain access to what is part of our heritage, of our environment and of our culture.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Holder.

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: Mr. President, having examined the Order being sought, I am particularly concerned with Section 4, as outlined in the Order in that having examined the Principal Act, Section 4(b) runs contrary to principal legislation.

Asides.

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: Mr. President, I have now been informed that the Principal Act has been amended. Therefore, I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I would just wish to say that we had considerable debate on this some weeks ago now and, therefore, Members on This Side have no objection before the Chamber today. I have made the point and would wish to reiterate that this was a project of the last Administration, that the construction was considerable and really, the present Administration benefitted from having concluded it.

Sir, it is part of a coastal infrastructural programme. I have heard Senator McClean speak today in relation to the climate change initiative and the extent to which this is being praised outside of Barbados.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: It is a good project. There is another component of it for the West Coast, which I said on the last occasion, I hope will be continued, but we will support the measure before the Chamber today which arises directly out of the developmental activities taken by the last Administration. Senator McClean said that they will be building strongly on initiatives such as this. I will wait to see what new projects emerge. Though she did not commend it to us directly, the fact that she has indicated that it is being spoken about internationally, I will take your tangential praise and comments, particularly since the project originated at my desk.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have completely confused the Chair. I am not sure what it is we wish to do now.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I seek to recuse your confusion. I support the Resolution and it was supported by Senator Thompson. I therefore reiterate that the Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225, IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF A PARCEL OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN, SITUATE AT BREEDY'S LAND, IN THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH IN THIS ISLAND, FOR RESIDENTIAL PRUPOSES.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR the Hon. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the Resolution to vest a lot of land at Breedy's Land, Christ Church, in the National Housing Corporation is indicated in the documents for residential purposes. Sir, this is a single lot which would have been made available for sale to a national who, around 2000, if I recall correctly, would have been living on a piece of land rented from the Crown.

However, it was determined, nine years ago, that piece of land was not suitable for sale. I think it was a swampy area, an area prone to flooding. Let me put it that way. Therefore, it was agreed to provide the tenant with that unsuitable piece of land with another lot for sale.

As I said, it was a decision taken in 2000. It was therefore drawn out for some time, and the record suggests that in the interim while they were seeking to finalise the transaction, the tenant was offered another piece of land. It was therefore identified as a lot that should be vested in the National Housing Corporation to facilitate its sale as part of our strategy of filling in various housing developments. This single lot which was intended to be sold, and for which the transaction took some time and events overtook it, that it be put into the pool of lots to be sold by the National Housing Corporation.

Sir, that, therefore, is a simple vesting. A measure that has to be taken if the National Housing Corporation is to have that lot available. I believe that in quick time it will be sold to a Barbadian who is anxious to acquire a property.

With that explanation, Sir, I ask that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Sir, there could absolutely be no objection to this Resolution. I would just wish to make an observation. I believe there are many such single parcels which will be caught within the bureaucratic process. I would just urge that somehow a system be evolved.

Very often when you are doing acquisitions for transfers for large residential development, or for extensive residential development, the processes can be advanced because there is a known structure that is easily followed, whether it is a civil parcel, even though a family is affected, it seemed to get lost in the system.

Perhaps the time has come when methodology that would allow us to fast-track these single parcels and which affect individual families, that some mechanism can be developed. Sir, that is a suggestion, but we really do not have any objection to the passing of this Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Hunte, you have the Floor.

SENATOR R.A. HUNTE: Mr. President, rising to support this Resolution, I wish to take the opportunity to state that land issues, from time in memorial, have always been a problem, no matter whether it is covered by legislation. In fact, they say that our land is owned by somebody.

Sir, one of the concerns I do have has been going on for quite some time. There needs to be, in the future, some legislation or amendment to the Land Act. People should not be able to develop any land in Barbados unless, of course, that guidance in the legislation has been provided by the Town and Country Planning Department.

I am speaking of a recent matter that was brought to my attention where three or four houses are located in an area of Whitehall. Those persons have been living there all their lives and suddenly, not suddenly but recently, the landowner, and this has been happening for quite some time in Barbados, people can erect a fence, whereby persons who have been living next to those properties, in some cases within since there might be a dispute with the boundaries, and suddenly they cannot have access to their homes.

Sir, this is one of the things that has been going on in Barbados for a long time, where people who, suddenly could drive to their homes, or have access to an ambulance or fire engine suddenly cannot do it. Sir, what is the problem that this cannot be implemented, investigated and overcome? It has been a problem in Barbados for too long. Why should an 80-year-old woman suddenly find that she cannot get where she is living or if she takes ill.

Sir, this matter has been brought to my attention. The person who is the proprietor of this land has erected an entertainment operation, a bar and restaurant, and other

people who patronise that operation want to park on other people's property, those people objected.

I am saying that we know traditionally land disputes have arisen all over the world. People kill for it and they do all sorts of things.

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Senate A25, Sequence 15, 12.20 p.m.

SENATOR R.A. HUNTE: Sir, but in a civilised society like Barbados, where we take pride in ourselves in trying to own a piece of the rock, there must be the protection, whereby property owners cannot suddenly erect a fence, barricades or whatever else to stop persons who have been living in those areas for a long time from getting into their homes. I take the opportunity, Sir, of speaking on this after looking at the Resolution before us.

Mr. President, sometimes the Government has to take the responsibility. For instance, this matter took seven years to be implemented. I understand that the person who wanted to purchase the property then has gone on to purchase another one. I think that we are tardy, Sir, in a lot of areas, when it comes to land and poor people.

I have greater concerns about the issue of land because in this country, we have allowed, without any control, people to take up residence in this country, purchase large plots of land, and for the persons who are the practising attorneys, I am not but I follow events in this Chamber very well, and as a person who haS dabbled in looking through the legislation over the years when I had the opportunity to do so, I can say that we need to seriously look at this matter. We have to look after it for our children and grandchildren.

It is not easy. It is hard for a family living on a plot of land. Some of them are ignorant to the fact. They do not have the financial resources to secure that land but figure that because their grandmother or their aunt has been living on that spot, they are thinking along the lines that, yes, they will own it. Of course, we know that there are areas where we have to do the necessary things to become owners of the land but some people do not have the money and some are ignorant of the fact. Then suddenly somebody whether they are Chinese or Japanese, Sir - I am not being prejudiced - can walk up and say, well, we now own this. It is hard.

I am saying to you, Sir, that one of these days, Barbados is going to change to the extent that the young people we have now, are not going to accept these things. We are docile people in some cases. They say that we came from the most docile place in Africa - wherever that is - but I am saying that docility will not continue, if we do not do the necessary things.

Sir, that is why I said that I did not come here to look at the four walls. I respect this Chamber, Sir, because there were many people who were here before me and they have done their job. Some did not do it, but I am saying that as long as I am a Member of this Chamber, I am going to bring all of those things to the attention of this Chamber, because I have seen them, more than 30 years ago.

I saw all the little Acts and so on and the different legislation that still have not yet covered the areas for small people to own this plot because in some cases they deserve it. Sir, what I am saying is not new but we need to act upon it.

With those few words, Mr. President, I support the legislation and I thank you, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Trotman.

SENATOR Sir Roy TROTMAN: Again, Mr. President, without any desire of detaining the Chamber, I would wish to say that I support the measure but I should like to use this occasion to take note of a few elements that, for me are of a critical nature.

The Leader of the Senate spoke to the importance of environmental protection and it is because of her comments in that regard and those of Senator Thompson that I would wish to remind you, Mr. President, that Senator McClean indicated that this particular plot of land was one which did not have completion in the preparation and arrangement for the sale because it was prone to flooding. I think those were the words that she used.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir Roy TROTMAN: There might have been another problem but all I heard is that there was a problem of flooding.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir Roy TROTMAN: Mr. President, I am merely indicating to you that somewhere in the presentation there was the suggestion of there being an environmental problem that made it impossible for the administration of the day to proceed with the completion of the sale.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, on a point of elucidation. The issue of flooding

did not relate to this lot. It was a lot occupied by a tenant at the time when the lots were going to be sold, but that particular lot occupied was deemed to be unsuitable for sale.

Sir, this particular lot was the substitute lot so this was not subject to flooding. This was offered to the person who was paying rent and wanted to purchase the lot, but the National Housing Corporation deemed that it was not appropriate to sell the flood prone lot and offered this as a substitute, but the transaction was never finished prior to the person obtaining a third lot, so to speak.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Point elucidated.

SENATOR Sir Roy TROTMAN: The point elucidated, Mr. President, clarifies my concerns. Sir, my concerns were then and would be now that if we had such a plot which was not suitable then, but now we are seeking the permission of the Senate to have it available, what would have happened in the meantime which was not explained to this Senate? But, Sir, point elucidated, point clarified, subject happy.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to wrap up this debate and just so that the record is clear, this lot was offered as a substitute lot to Tenant A or Z - whoever he was - once it was determined that the lot rented by the tenant was unsuitable for sale. However, there was a long time which elapsed between the agreement in 2000 to sell and as a consequence, the tenant purchased a third lot and this was a vacant lot which must be vested in the National Housing Corporation in order to sell it.

Therefore, with that elucidation or clarification, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 4 – THE SHIPPING INCENTIVE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the Shipping Incentives (Amendment) Bill, 2009 seeks to offer greater incentives for persons who are operating businesses within the broader shipping Maritime subsector. As we are all aware, Mr. President, tourism in its many aspects has been the major segment of our economy. It contributes significantly to our Gross Domestic Product. It contributes significantly to employment and other economic indicators that we would use to measure the economy, the performance of the economy, et cetera, and therefore any initiative to ensure that there is greater growth and diversification of the sector is critical.

Sir, as we look at areas in which there is activity in the sector, it has become evident that we need to expand opportunities and, therefore, undertake the requisite amendments to the legislation.

Senate A25, Sequence 15, 12:30:07

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SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: This Act will create opportunities for both locals and regional investors.

Mr. President, I really would want to move away from the issue of shipping incentives strictly as they relate to our tourism industry in Barbados to talk about some opportunities that are created by incentives such as these.

If I could marry the sectors, that is tourism and agriculture, and look at it within the context of providing vital inputs in relation to food into tourism and from the perspective of our nation, the issue of food security, I believe that incentives provided under this Act can be looked at as we seek not only a national solution to new business opportunities but, also, as a regional solution to business opportunities which would address the servicing of our tourism sector, especially in the area of food inputs, and in relation to allowing us to pay more attention to agriculture. Let me expand on that a bit, Mr. President.

In recent times, from the perspective of tourism, we have been talking about the level of leakage from that sector. In other words, for every dollar that is earned at the gross level, a significant percentage of that dollar has to go in financing imports whether it is food items or furniture and fittings in the industry.

I believe, Mr. President, that as we look at this whole question of reducing the leakage or to put it positively, increasing the percentage of every tourist dollar that is retained in our economy locally and regionally, shipping and shipping services are two areas that we need to look at.

I believe, Mr. President, that it is possible for me to articulate a vision that I have. I will build on a model that was actually introduced by this Administration back in the early 1990s, which gave rise to the Bridgetown Cruise Terminal Inc. I am sure that at least one of my Honourable fellow Senators can relate to the success of that initiative.

That is a model which brought together investments from the Government and private sector companies that were operating within the cruise sector industry and investments from the public purse, individuals like myself. That company was set up. To date, it has been very successful. It is run as a private entity. It has representation on the Board by all three investor categories.

In terms of shipping, if we can use that model in the Caribbean to build our capital base to give rise to a shipping entity which would allow us to move cargo and, more specifically, in the short-term to move produces around the Region, I believe that we can contribute to building or expanding our tourism sector and, certainly, increasing the level of percentage of every dollar earned and the retention of that in the Caribbean.

For some years, I have heard talk of certain countries, particularly Guyana, as being the food basket of the Caribbean. I have said to my colleagues, now that I sit around a table to talk about this issue, that when we plant food in Guyana, Grenada, Dominica or Trinidad and Tobago, how do we get that food to Surinam and all of the countries within CARICOM.

I believe that when we look at shipping incentives that inherent in this is an opportunity for the Region and perhaps a Barbadian entrepreneur supported by the Government to not only take advantage of the opportunities that may exist in this but, also, to look at addressing how we, as a region, can get involved in the shipping sector in a major way.

Having spent about 15 years being involved at the level of directorship of the Bridgetown Cruise Terminals Inc., I saw the evolution of the cruise sector. Mr. President, there are several things that come to mind and I will link all of these things. I may sound like I am going all over the place but I am trying to talk about how we could use incentives. I will pull these strengths together.

Mr. President, when we look at the cruise sector in terms of the evolution or the trends, we have seen a growth in mega ships and we have seen the likely retirement, perhaps, of some of the smaller very good vessels as they deploy these large mega ships, et cetera. Mr. President, some years ago it dawned on me, and I have, in fact, spoken to several persons about this over the years, that we should look perhaps at identifying one of the small vessels which has the capacity to be retrofitted to accommodate a larger volume of cargo while, at the same time, perhaps, offering some indigenous travel options for Caribbean people and for tourists alike.

We have had over the years some challenges in our location as one of the southerly islands in terms of cruising itineraries, et cetera. Over the years as we looked at that, the idea kept coming, why cannot we find a way to bridge the gap of shipping cargo particularly highly perishable cargo and moving people around? We have had challenges with air transport for years so there are people who may want to move a business as well, but there is also the possibility of creating that movement.

As a youngster, I recall hearing persons talking about, and they did exist when I was little, the Federal Maple and the Federal Palm. I would not have travelled on them. I would have been very, very small, but they were talked about. I know, Mr. President, that some people may look at me and wonder if I am making up history but, trust me, I was around for a little while. If we recall those days, as you would recall, Mr. President, and perhaps...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please, I do not recall any such days.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, that worries me a bit because your memory seems to be...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not remember when you were little.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Well, you met me as an adult, Mr. President, but that is not quite true.

I will go back to the history of the Federal Maple and the Federal Palm. When we are talking about shipping, those two vessels were very much a part of the regional experience with the movement of students from Barbados to Mona in Jamaica and the movement of bananas and citrus and so on from Dominica, St. Lucia, et cetera.

Therefore, when we talk about Caribbean integration, I believe that we recognise that those vessels were very much a pivotal part of that integration movement, integration at the level of the movement of people, integration at the level of the movement of produce and other kinds of goods.

I believe, Mr. President, that when we look at these things, we need to think not only of providing incentives to existing entities, but to be creative in seeing how we can use this as a catalyst to making some opportunities available to indigenous entrepreneurs in solving a very critical problem that we have in the Region.

Senate A25 Sequence 16

12.40 p.m.

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SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: I believe that if we are able to solve our transportation issues, particularly our maritime transport, we would then be in a position to facilitate the development of a number of sectors in this country, for example, the agricultural sector, in the CARICOM Member States.

Mr. President, the Shipping Incentives (Amendment) Bill serves to widen the business opportunities available under that incentive regime. It also serves to open the door for us to look at solving some of our regional problems. It also creates, as a consequence, opportunities for employment in tourism, manufacturing, services and in small business support systems.

Sir, if we are talking about new activities, if we look at it from the perspective of tourism, if we talk about new kinds of visitors and activities, about game fishing, by extension we have to do all that is necessary to support those sectors.

Mr. President, I believe the time has come for us is Barbados to explore these opportunities. Certainly, the Government's strategy in terms of maritime activities, whether commercial or recreational, will be enhanced by the passage of the amendment to this legislation. As I said before, it opens the door for us as a people in Barbados, for us as a people of the Region, to explore the enormous potential of this kind of legislation, to facilitate those business developments I already mentioned.

Mr. President, I believe there is much to be gained from the amendment to this legislation and I look forward to the citizens of Barbados, the Region and others, looking and scrutinising this and taking advantage of the opportunities that it opens.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I would wish to support the Bill before this Honourable Chamber. It has taken two years but I can now say, after two years, that I have finally found an issue about which Senator McClean and I are absolutely ad idem.

Mr. President, the Honourable Senator spoke in terms which I would want to adopt, endorse and promote. The Honourable Senator said many of the things which I would have wanted to say and I would, therefore, just add to the thrust of her comments here today.

Mr. President, infrastructural development and logistical development are central both to national and international developments. The opening up of roads, transport sectors and other sectors, the facilitation of shipping lanes and lines are part of how we grow an economy. They are all parts of how we create investments and jobs and how it brings opportunities. This, therefore, is an important measure.

There were some measures under this Act, brought by the previous administration, to try to categorise activity in this direction before. I think that, at this time, we can say that the current Administration has moved at an early relative stage to give further impetus to those initiatives. There is a need to find an individual who has the vision to pipe into what the original legislation and now the amended legislation can do and drive the process and make it happen.

The act of an amendment by itself, or the amendment of legislation by its own, only provides the platform through which the investment can happen. What you actually need is somebody who understands the vision of the Government, who has a determination where the direction in which the initiative can allow us to go and somebody who is actively working at it. I think this is now needed if we are to give full effect to what the Government intent is with this legislation.

Mr. President, we in the Caribbean are missing an opportunity. Barbados is well-positioned to have a direct shipping route to Africa. We have not been using it. It can cause goods and/or access to services and/or access to tourists, if that direct shipping lane was encouraged and opened up. Equally, at a time when people are crying out about the high cost of living, where in Latin America one can access goods of comparable and better quality than coming out of the United States of America, at much lower cost.

In fact, there is a book named "Government Business and Society." Mr. President, I cannot remember its author, which is unfortunate, as I read it over and over, but I found it in the Cave Hill Bookshop. Sir, this book cites a very interesting example of infrastructural work that had to be done in the United States of America, where the company in the United States of America, that is responsible for the work - if I remember correctly was some kind of hard stand for building bridges - had outsourced it to Mexico, got that outsourced work done at a quarter of the cost. That company had shipped all of the requisite parts to the United States of America, fitted them there and was able to deliver the project on time, within budget, and at half the cost.

Mr. President, there is a market in Latin America for our goods and services. Latin America is a huge market relative to the Caribbean. There are goods and services being sold or available in Latin America that are of good quality, that are comparatively cheap by comparison with those out of the United States of America, that we are missing and not getting access to.

In fact, wholesale businesses who sell certain foods will tell you that they can get certain goods out of Belize, Brazil, Mexico and several Latin American countries and

ship them to Barbados at a cheaper cost than they are currently getting the same products from the United States of America, but the single significant obstacle is the absence or dearth of shipping capacity to bring the goods directly from Latin America here.

Mr. President, what happens now is that despite the route to Barbados or to the Caribbean might be direct, they have to go through the United States of America because that is where the standard shipping lanes are, without necessarily coming straight to Barbados.

Mr. President, I think there is an opportunity for investment, the movement of goods through the Caribbean itself. There are things we produce here that other Caribbean persons might want to buy. Equally, moving fruits, vegetables and other goods from the Caribbean has become increasingly difficult to do because of inadequate shipping capacity, inadequate cargo holds moving through the Region. There is business opportunity. There is a niche opportunity there and some of our well-heeled colleagues might want to create some of those opportunities, or might want to seek to make investment relative to those areas.

Mr. President, I believe this is a good initiative started by the Government in relation to building on other amendments to the Shipping legislation that was done previously, in the hope of spurring this kind of business activity.

I would wish to suggest that this kind of growth in our logistics, transportation and infrastructural developments, could create good value for the Caribbean, and could create very substantial value and benefit at the level of the society, at the level of the economy and for investors, in particular.

12.50 p.m.

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SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, in particular, now that there is, under the amended Treaty of Chaguaramas, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy platform that would allow more easily the movement of goods, labour and capital to facilitate investment and activity of this sort, we have a medium that is rich for giving some impetus to these activities.

Sir, I would wish on This Side to support the Administration in this initiative and to say that we look forward to the appointment of someone to drive the business because business does not happen automatically. You have to have somebody out there aggressively pursuing it and often we create good opportunity and good measures but you cannot expect a civil service that is bound in a bureaucratic culture to deliver on the aggressive investment that you want to create. It is, therefore, necessary sometimes to identify an individual who would give leadership to the new thrust and direction.

Mr. President, if we are to pursue shipping business, there is a niche out there that we can get into, and there is an opportunity for us, but it will need not only the legislation, which I commend, as I have indicated before, but it would need the individual to drive the business, to aggressively go after it, market it and make it apparent to the market what opportunities are available.

Equally, we should encourage those investors because there are persons in Barbados with capital and in this current market, there are persons looking to see what investment they can make that might not be the traditional type of investment, and may not give a yield immediately, but they are looking for new investment opportunities.

Sir, whenever there is a downturn, there are new millionaires made and there are people who move from being rich to super-rich simply because they have the capital to snap up bargains and when they see an opportunity to go after it.

Therefore, we have to encourage businessmen in Barbados and across the Region to recognise that this is a business opportunity that they could be pursuing, that important movement of goods, assisting in capital investment and helping to move people across the Region.

Mr. President, a lot of the investment and benefit in shipping have been made by businesses outside of the Caribbean who repatriate the benefits to their home countries. Sir, the whole cruise industry is based on that, on super-ships, megaships and cruise ships owned by lines that are not indigenous to the Caribbean bringing people here and, Sir, we benefit and there is no doubt about that. Sir, the mega-benefits are repatriated to their home country.Mr. President, there has to be a level of promotion of foreign direct investment in this but there also has to be a level of promotion of what I would like to call not “FDI” but IDI, “indigenous direct investment”.

Mr. President, I would hope to see, therefore, that the Government, in addition to this amendment, is going to aggressively then pursue that level of what I like to call IDI and they would have in that measure my support because if something is going to be done for the benefit of the country and the community then I am not going to be silent in my support of that measure.

Mr. President, that is why I am making it clear today that I am supportive of this and I would wish to see other measures like this brought before the Chamber, but with the corollary support of the correct individuals to drive the investment process.

Mr. President, I am much obliged to you.

SENATOR Dr. F.L. CHANDLER: Mr. President, I support any measure that would improve intra-regional transport. Sir, agriculture has suffered over the years because of a lack of this transport. There are very few boats. They do not have any particular schedule. You have produce sitting on a dock and then you get a call from the ship saying that it is not calling in on this trip. It is not a well-defined schedule and trade cannot take place in that way.

Mr. President, we have a farmer who has a farm in Dominica, as well as a farm in Barbados, and he has tried over the years to do trade in the two countries and has had difficulty in achieving this. He told me recently that there is one boat owned by a Venezuelan lady in Dominica and that it has started to come to Barbados every two weeks, but we will have to see if that continues to take place.

Mr. President, we have heard about ferry service after ferry service. I have actually written a paper on it tracing the history for decades of all these promises. The last promise was a few weeks ago which said it was imminent, that it was coming in a few days and then, all of a sudden, we saw in the newspaper that it was not coming in a few days and we do not know when it will come and, so that presents a problem.

Mr. President, on the other hand, there is a very proactive Barbadian farmer, actually he is not a Barbadian but he should be a Barbadian citizen by now but he is an Australian, who has a farm in St. Peter and has EUREPGAP certification. I think he is the only person in Barbados who has EUREPGAP certification and, therefore, can trade with Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Sir, he bought a boat, fitted it as a reefer boat and has had it now for maybe two years or three years, but had a number of problems to overcome because of the treatment of a small boat like that is the same as the treatment for any other boat. There are certain difficulties with overtime, payments, with scheduling a boat, when it can be loaded and that type of thing.

He did not seem to be making any progress for a long time but, recently, we had a meeting with the Minister and the staff at the Port. I would say that it was a favourable meeting and we seemed to have progressed where, I hope, early next year, we can overcome some of the constraints. Sir, we are to get back to them with a proposal.

Mr. President, I hope that these initiatives would bring some sort of flexibility in the handling of these CARICOM boats. One of our leading businessmen recently supported the idea of having a CARICOM Wharf. I think in some of the other countries there is a special wharf for CARICOM boats that you can have some flexibility in the handling of them.

Mr. President, what Senator Thompson talked about - I will not support bringing produce into Barbados, which we can produce ourselves, but there are a lot of exotic products being produced in Colombia and South America, which go to Miami and then we bring them here. We are trying to short-circuit that both by air and by ship. We do have some phyto-sanitary problems and regulations to overcome because apparently, in Barbados, we accept anything once it goes through the United States of America, but coming straight from Brazil or Colombia, you have to go through pest risk analysis and that type of thing.

I trust that procedures would be handled in an expeditious way and that the process would not be drawn out because we definitely can get better prices coming straight out of South America rather than going through Miami.

Mr. President, I support this measure and I hope it would bring more flexibility and understanding in this whole system and would bring about new job opportunities.

Mr. President, thank you very much.

S/A25/13:00 Sequence 18

Friday, December 22, 2009

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Walters, you have the Floor.

SENATOR the Hon. A.B. WALTERS: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill before the Chamber, the Shipping (Incentive) (Amendment) Bill, 2009. My contribution today will concentrate on the development of diversification of the Barbados hospitality industry, inclusive of tourism and maritime activities.

In September this year Barbados hosted the ILO Conference, the Atmospheric Conference in rapid and widespread rectification and effective implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention in 2006. This new Maritime Labour Convention is set out to review the standards that took five years to develop. The new standard takes into account the working and living conditions of seafarers, and a wide range of seafaring vessels, luxury vessels, tankers, mega cruise liners, mega container ships, fishing boats and trawlers, sporting vessels and tourist oriented vessels.

The Maritime environment has changed certainly since the 1950s, and has moved from the time when oil

tankers where about 12 to 13 tonnes to the new super tankers which about 20 000 tonnes. The work on the new cruise liners holds 17 000 persons along with crews about 3 000 persons each. This new cruise line phenomena certainly presents for us new job opportunities, if not in the traditional sea traits, in the hospitality aspects of the industry.

However, one of our problems appears to be, that it is not as attractive as one would like it to be to our young people. Though there are probably about 300 jobs available to Barbadians on these new mega cruisers, we are not accepting those opportunities as quickly, as was in my youth, as we should.

One other area I want to touch is the exempt items for approval for shipping companies engaged in commercial shipping, boating, and sports issues in the tourist industry which is under Schedule III of the Amendment. The item I would like to pay some attention to would include the light rafts, flares, fire extinguishers and life jackets which are the safety and health provisions provided for the employees and passengers alike.

The point I would wish to make on the provision of these items is, there needs to be a provision where the persons who are required to use these safety devices are trained in the use and care of these implements. Not only are they trained, but they are supervised properly in the use of the personal and special protective equipment that is available and an exemption on these vessels.

Sir, this is certainly an ideal opportunity to sensitise the maritime and shipping community, on the changes of employment and working conditions of seafarers, fisheries and port workers, since the Maritime Labour Convention contains double standards and guidelines.

My understanding of the guidelines, there are minimum training requirements for seamen, and other shipping employees to work on a ship. At the moment, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, is providing training in fire safety for those persons who would grab any of the opportunities on those ships.

It certainly talks about the enhanced conditions of employment and fairly improved accommodation, recreation facilities and food and catering, and enhanced health protection, medical care, welfare and social security provisions.These standards certainly would account for the environment of the ILO decent work agenda and the provision of decent working conditions for those persons who would want to take up opportunities in the maritime industry.

Sir, there is certainly a need to diversify the employment arena, in terms of the jobs available in this industry. Certainly, as a youngster, many of my counterparts would have gone to sea as early as the age of 14 and sometimes younger, and have made quite a good living out of the shipping industry. However, young Barbadians are not taking up those opportunities, certainly, in the hospitality trades in the mega floating hotels, which we now call cruise liners.

In my short intervention. I would certainly want to insist that the cruise industry provide some of those new employment opportunities in the short and medium-term, that they make them more attractive, enhanced in some way, and they provide them in some way within, what we call in labour, decent work agenda. Where they provide a decent working conditions.

The extension of the terms in the Amendment Bill of shipping activities and the extension of the concession period from 10 years to 15 years would certainly enhance our shipping and maritime industry in Barbados.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Gilkes.

SENATOR P.W.B. GILKES: Sir, I rise in support of the Bill before us today. Before I get going, I would like to compliment Minister Benn, for certainly listening to the appeals of people from the Sports Fishing Association, earlier this year, and taking quick action to bring it to the fore.

There are three interesting aspects of this Bill. The sports fishing sector has a tremendous part to play in the tourism offerings in Barbados. Earlier this year someone did some sports fishing and landed two marlins in the same day. That is an experience they will long remember as part of the Barbadian experience. It also helps the industry in terms of safety regulations. Senator Walters mentioned life rafts and so on.

SA25 13.10 p.m. Sequence 19

Wednesday, December 22, 2009

Senate A25, Sequence 20, 1.10 p.m.

Continuatin of SENATOR P.W.B. GILKES:

Sir, things such as GPSs, blippers and so on will go a long way towards making this industry much safer than it presently is and I hope to see the day when fishermen are not lost at sea, without this equipment. I would like to think that with the removal of the duty from these pieces of equipment such as life rafts, blippers, GPSs, et cetera, that every fishing vessel plying these waters is now equipped with such care to make it a safer place to be, Sir.

Mr. President, from the tourism aspect, there is a lot to be gained from the support that we are seeing from the mega yachts visiting Barbados. If you looked around Carlisle Bay last week or so, you would have seen a massive increase in the number of small ocean going transatlantic yachts. Through the Board of Tourism, there has been work quietly being done with a writer and he has contributed to articles in some of the international press, promoting Barbados as a place to make a stopover point on those transatlantic journeys. I think you are seeing the dividends of that work.

Sir, the mega yachts are much easier to make it to Barbados. They find it a lot easier than the 30 ft or 40 ft vessels, so we should really be encouraging them to come to Barbados. If you visit Port St. Charles, you will see every berth at Port St. Charles being occupied by a mega yacht and there are six more in the bay waiting to be serviced.

Yachts like this require services, provisioning, supplies, laundry and in some cases, and all sorts of maintenance and services that can be supplied by Barbadians. This in itself creates employment. You may well find that with the creation of a little bit more interest being placed on the yachting sector, you would probably be able to create a cadre of workers catering almost exclusively to the maintenance, provisioning and care of these vessels.

Once we make Barbados a more user-friendly yachting destination, the numbers will grow. As it is right now, it is not the easiest place to make as a port of call on a transatlantic voyage, so we have some things to do at this end, ourselves, but they will get done. I have every confidence that is the case.

Mr. President, again, in terms of the tourism aspect of this programme, we have embarked on a programme of selling Barbados with the Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA) as a sporting and sailing destination and, to this end, we have been very fortunate to be awarded the hosting of the 2010 Fireball Worlds, which will see approximately 100 boats participating in the sailing in Barbados for more than two weeks, which means that there will be people in Barbados for more than three weeks to set up and take down and such things. They will add significantly to the arrival figures during the quieter months of the year.

In terms of the arrival figures, Barbados presently is about 9 per cent behind last year's figures but that is not to be smiled about. What we really ought to be considering, is our status in relation to where the rest of the islands in the Caribbean are, in terms of short falls.

Sir, the minus shortfalls of last year's figures are Anguilla 22.6 per cent, BVI 17 per cent, Grenada just next door to us 14.4 per cent and the Bahamas 13.8 per cent. Sir, we are not doing badly in terms of the arrivals in Barbados and projects like this will help the whole tourism product to grow forward and be able to be sold further and further afield.

Mr. President, with those short comments, I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Benn.

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I enjoyed that evening sitting with the game fishing people and I am not a good swimmer but I enjoy eating fish. I want to say that this whole Shipping Incentives Bill goes further back to 2002 when it was proposed that the Shipping Act be amended to allow for a wider application of the incentives to all boats. Then it was addressed again in 2005 and then it was addressed again in 2006, so it has been under some very active consideration by both Administrations.

Then a consultation was held with the stakeholders representing this sector, namely, the Barbados Game Fishing Association and a submission was made to Cabinet, but in taking this action, it was realised that concessions for safety and navigational equipment had not been included in the Act when it was previously amended. Hence, concessions were proposed for all approved shipping companies and not just game fishing, the sport.

In this light, the Cabinet at its meeting in March last year, agreed that the Act be amended to allow for some additional things and that included expanding the definition of shipping activities, which included commercial shipping and boating in the tourist industry to specifically refer to game sport fishing and to extend duty-free concessions to fishing rods and reels imported by the game sport fishers.

It also allowed the extension of customs duty for the following safety equipment. Sir, that includes life rafts, flares and fire extinguishers, satellite tracking equipment for boats in distress, life jackets, et cetera, and of course, to extend the concession period in respect of the approved shipping company from 10 years to 15 years.

I want to congratulate those persons involved in the past administration and in this Administration for the attention paid to the game fishing people, those who contribute significantly because I was at the port side when a lot of those boats came in with the catches. It is true, Mr. President, that they do it for competition but at the end of the day, I saw those owners of the boats and Auntie Olga called in the Child Care Board and gave away all of the dolphin that they pulled in that day.

Sir, that touched my heart because I heard these guys are doing a lot of work out there and when they bring back their catches, they do not only bring it to feed themselves, but they look after the poor and the needy of this country.

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Mr. President, you will not be in the category of poor and needy but, perhaps, next season, I am going to suggest that the Honourable President of this Chamber be invited to witness the catches and can get a few of the dolphin roes that will put a little pep in his step and a little zip in his hip.

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Mr. President, I share a concern as expressed by Senator Francis Chandler.

Senate A25, Sequence 20, 13:20:06

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: We have been hearing quite a bit about shipping. A few years ago when I was at the Barbados Agricultural Society we had connections with a number of farmers' organisations in CARICOM and we could look forward to the exchange of produce. When Barbados' mango season was finished, we could expect an abundance of mangoes from Grenada and St. Vincent. I was involved much in the movement of tanias, bananas and plantains from Dominica, St. Vincent and St. Lucia.

Mr. President, before we actively got involved in our dry coconut area, we could look forward to hundreds of bags of dry coconuts coming from those neighbouring countries which provided revenue for those farmers in those countries and also provided us with produce to supplement what we were producing here in this country.

With the moving away of the Stella S and Stella II, we no longer have that movement of produce, but the farmers are still producing. I remember when we sent onions at some time to Trinidad and Tobago, and Antigua. I remember bringing melons from Trinidad and Tobago and pineapples out of St. Lucia and Dominica.

Mr. President, as we seek to develop our agricultural industries and as we talk and address matters of food security and food sovereignty, I believe that we need to look within CARICOM. Somebody mentioned bringing produce from the United States of America. As long as it comes through the United States of America it is okay.

Mr. President, we have an abundance of food in the Caribbean that can assist us in feeding our people. I think that the CARICOM Heads of Governments when they sit at their different summits and conferences need to address this matter. We at the Agricultural Heads have addressed the issue but it needs to be put on the agenda of the Heads of the various Governments when they meet because it very important that we be our brothers keepers in the Caribbean.

I look forward to moving again a number of various commodities throughout the Caribbean. I am also hoping that we can give some assistance to that Australian farmer that Senator Francis Chandler spoke about who is operating in St. Peter, not only because he is from St. Peter. He was operating out of St. Peter perhaps long before I had an interest in St. Peter, but I give full support to him because he is doing a lot of good stuff down there and is assisting the country in meeting its requirements. He employs people and provides a lot of the hotels, supermarkets and residences on the West Coast and throughout Barbados.

Mr. President, there is a gentleman that I know who has a very key role to play in this whole exercise of regulations and ensuring that everything goes well at the Port. He is the gentleman who sits at the head of the largest workers' union in this country who has, perhaps, even the key to the success of shipping arrangements in this dear country.

I am hoping that as he listens to the broadcast, wherever he may be at this time, I am sure that he is among us, that he would want to give a look at some of the activities that go on at that important place called the Port and see if, as we sit down and discuss the issues, he could use his leadership to bring a better system to bear so that we can free up some of the red tape and some of the overtime. I know that he looks after his people well but I would like to make sure that the leader of the largest union in Barbados could assist us in this respect.

Mr. President, I lend support to this Bill and trust that as we seek to feed ourselves that we would have better areas where we can move produce throughout the Region.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.30 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2.30 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

Senate A25 Sequence 21

1.30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

Senator Professor Newton.

SENATOR the Hon. Prof. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. President, I rise in support of the Shipping(Incentive) (Amendment) Bill, 2009. This Bill provides concessions for approved shipping companies that are engaged in the tourism industry. Sir, it is yet another measure of the Government to boost that industry.

Mr. President, while I support the measure as one likely to encourage shipping companies to engage in sports fishing in the tourism industry by being exempted from the payment of customs duty on the tools of trade, so to speak, meaning rods, reels, fishing tackle and water sports equipment, it provides me with an opportunity to draw attention to what I find to be an anomaly in another piece of legislation, the Barbados Port Authority Watersports Regulation, 1990, which I had critiqued a few years ago.

Mr. President, those Regulations provide for the registration of speed boats being used for watersports activities. It regulates their use in harbour. I have no problem with that provision, that is the registration of speed boats, many of which are owned by poor Barbadians - the poor, small man in Barbados, so to speak. These are the persons who make their living by taking tourists on rides close to shore.

2.40 p.m.

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

SENATOR the Hon. Prof. V.E. NEWTON: Mr. President, the same legislation excludes small craft, defined in the legislation as launches, barges, lighters, row boats and sailing boats from the registration process. Sir, these vessels, often owned by companies, and persons engaged at higher levels in the tourism industry are not required to be registered.

These crafts are also allowed to operate in harbours under the same conditions as speed boats which are owned by persons who could be considered almost at the lower levels of the tourist industry and, to my view, it smacks of discrimination to provide for speed boats to be registered and these larger vessels to be exempt, when they are often engaged in the same activities.

Mr. President, I would urge the Government to have a second look at the Barbados Port Authority Watersports Regulations of 1990 to make all vessels involved in watersports activities registerable and to give them incentives because they too contribute to sports tourism.

Mr. President, that is my contribution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Hunte, you have the Floor.

SENATOR R. A. HUNTE: Mr. President, I rise to support this Shipping Incentives (Amendment) Bill. Sir, I start off by saying that I noticed that the Bill was enacted in 1982 and that since it was enacted, Sir, there were no less than about five Amendments. I suspect all to good cause which lead up to our debate on the Bill today.

Sir, it goes to show that no Bill, or any Law is written in concrete except, of course, the Ten Commandments and those Commandments were broken on many occasions by mankind. Sir, the Ten Commandments say: Thou shall not steal; Thou shall not kill; Thou shall not commit adultery but, Sir, all those things were broken over the centuries.

Mr. President, I also want to add that when a lot of us beat our chest and say, I did this first and I did this second, it only goes to show that no living being can say he had the first idea on anything. Sir, somebody had to start it but nobody can tell who started it. They might have implemented it but it cannot begin with you.

Therefore, Government being a continuing process shows that, for example, the Deep Water Harbour was finished in 1962 but it calls for expansion over the years and the only country that had that vision, based on what I have read, is Singapore, which harbour is extremely old but built with a vision. We have read about how Singapore has developed over the years and I have not read about any new development to that Port because it was built with a vision.

Mr. President, this Bill is extremely comprehensive and touches on everything. It touches on labour; it touches on tourism; it touches on sports; it touches on trade and, of course, it touches on agriculture. I have heard all the comments about what we should do to bring trade closer in the Caribbean together so that we can exchange from Guyana in the south with their so-called food basket, as has been said over the years but, of course, a former Prime Minister had to say that Barbadians were never famous pioneers when they were asked to come to Guyana to develop Guyana.

Mr. President, I do recall that a former Democratic Labour Party Administration, led by the late, revered Errol

Walton Barrow, started that process when a ship was bought or secured because I understand at the time that very little was paid for it and because of a change of Administration in 1976 that ship was gotten rid of.

Sir, today, we are debating a Shipping Bill, but there is no ship or no replacement. Sir, even without looking at this legislation we can see clearly that shipping touches everything in our lives because of the importance of transportation.

Mr. President, you do not catch ships on land, you have to catch them on the sea. Sir, that was a developing industry in the late 1960s and the late 1970s but today, there is no ship industry. Sir, this all has to do with shipping so that when we talk about a vision, had those ideas or processes been gone through with, we never could have known what would have happened to Barbados today in terms of our trade.

Sir, we destroyed the shipping industry because of partisan politics and we got rid of the ship because of partisan politics but today where now all of these things are more costly, we are now looking to put incentives in place, which is not a bad thing, but we could have been probably riding on a different wave had those programmes been continued.

Mr. President, out of this comes tourism. I remember as a youngster working at the Sanitary Laundry because I was not privileged like others and I had to go to work early. I used to be responsible for the ship laundry from the "Federal Maple" and the "Federal Palm" because we used to refer to them as the "special" laundry. These clothes belonged to the captain and so on and you had to bring them out in the morning and carry them back in the evening.

Sir, today there is no "Federal Palm" or there is no "Federal Maple" or even the replacement of them. Senator Chandler referred today to the now and then, ready to go and ready to stop ferry, which has not yet gotten off the ground.

Mr. President, I say all that to say that partisan politics has set back the Caribbean tremendously. I say that on good grounds because I have been following political developments from the age of 17, even before I had a vote. Sir, probably from time to time I will say it to this Chamber to prove that I did and to prove what I remember because 1960 and now, you can mention to me any Bill, any Law or any development and I can tell you the year it occurred, and I only have to look for the black and white to prove the point. Sir, that is my interest in politics that I have followed and do not ask me how I did it, it just happened.

Mr. President, when I mentioned partisan politics, I say that on good ground and I have some very serious concerns about developments over the years in this country, in some cases, not to the benefit of our citizens and our people.

S/A25/14:50 Sequence 23

Friday, December 22, 2009

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: Mr. President, in this legislation that we are about to support, I think it is comprehensive in nature. It means well for the future, but I also wish to support what Senator Thompson has made reference to. Sir, it is all well to put legislation in place but if we do not put the kind of personnel, with all the bureaucracy in the Public Service - although nobody seems to be able to do anything about that, throughout the years - is that we would just have Laws on the Statute Book, but we certainly would not get anywhere with a lot of it.

Sir, with this legislation, I sincerely hope - Sir, it is very interesting. I noticed that the Minister in the Other Place said that there are about 10 000 jobs available in the shipping industry. I do not know. Barbados was a country, one time, where there had a lot of seamen, so to speak.

When the seamen were in, anybody ever heard about the Burton buckle head? When you see a fellow with a buckle head, that is a top boy in town. He used to block the whole of Broad Street. Seamen used to run this place in those days, because of the kind of wear they were able to bring back from overseas. Of course, when the Harrison Lines and so on closed down, all those guys had to look for holes.

Sir, these 10 000 jobs that are supposed to be available, I ask one thing, is this because of a new shipping development? Is it because people from other parts of the world are not going to see any more able-bodied seamen? I just thought I would ask about that.

Of course, maybe they are coming on tourist liners as well, I do not know, but I find it interesting that they have all of these jobs, 10 000 available, which I have no doubt that there are, but if you do not do the necessary things to get our young people into this working frame of mind, we will be putting legislation on the Book, we will be providing the opportunities, but nobody will take them up.

I have said this, and I remember saying this in the presence of a prominent Barbadian Queen's Counsel, who is also well- respected. When they were bringing the Public Service Act on stream, at that time I said, that you can put legislation on the Book, but you cannot change people's attitudes. That is a fact of life. You cannot legislate an

attitude, and he disagreed with me. Sir, I respect him for what his academic achievements were, but I respect also my realistic position as far as these things are concerned.

Mr. President, if we create these opportunities but we do not find some way of creating in the minds of our young people that, I cannot reprobate and approbate at the same time, if we do not create within them that once they go out and work hard, they will be able to achieve, we will be providing these jobs for somebody else.

I wish to say that reading through this Bill, I thought that it is extremely important. I think that it is a new stepping stone, because, let us face it, we are a small country. We need to find avenues for our people to display some energies that they have, rather than going in the direction which was debated in here, about drugs, tobacco and so on.

We need to harness these energies because it is important for this country. When it boils down it still is 166 square miles.

I am saying that while I cannot see any legislation that would change attitudes, it must be able to create into people that the only way they can be successful, especially our young people, because we are concerned about them. We are concerned about the direction in which our young people are going. If we can do that and do it successfully, not only to put the legislation on the books, but to do the necessary things that would create this new Barbados.

Barbados, as we know it, in our time and before our time does not belong to one person, because all those who had claimed that they owned Barbados are not with us anymore. Therefore, it shows a continuing process and that we are all in this together.

I am very impressed with what it can do - Senator Thompson and her group for enacting this legislation but, at the same time, it is a continuing process. As I said, since it was enacted, there have been five Amendments and there will be more at some time down the road.

Sir, with those few words, I hope they would do the necessary followup to what we are debating here today and about to implement.

Mr. President, with those few words I thank you very much.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Cave.

SENATOR R.G. CAVE: Mr. President, I just want to speak to a few small matters. I fully support this legislation, but this is for companies only, so there is no message in here for the individual. I believe the purpose of this Act is not only to support large companies, but also small sports fishermen. Therefore, a person would have to set up a company in order to go through this process.

I am fully supportive of the legislation but I say at the next amendment, maybe we could include individuals, for fishermen and small people who are in the sports fishing industry in tourism to benefit from the legislation.

Sir, Senator McClean mentioned in her opening address that the effort was to try to get the shipping lanes open in the Caribbean, and it is so important that we do that. I want to say that our company, along with others, a couple years ago, looked at the possibility of trying to bring one of these fast-moving ferries to work through the islands. This is a great opportunity for moving both visitors at a lesser cost through the Region.

Barbados can access St. Vincent in four hours by one of these fast ferries, which is used in Trinidad. Sir, the difficulty is, most of the money that covers the cost of these ferries would be in the movement of produce and motor vehicles. Where Trinidad and Tobago are in the same Customs Union, when we travel from Barbados to St. Vincent, or Barbados to St. Lucia, or Barbados to Grenada, there is a different Customs Union and Immigration, and the turnaround speed would be so slow that the result would not have made it a financial success. Sir, that was the real reason that a fast-moving ferry would not work in the islands.

Sir, I want to say that it is not too late for us to try because as we move forward, all the islands need the service as much as Barbados. If we could work with our counterparts in those islands to make it easy access, particularly for people who are driving motor cars, to drive into St. Lucia and get off in their motor car and drive around and come back, then the system will work.

Sir, that is the only point I will make.

Thank you very much.

SA25 15.00 p.m. Sequence 24

Wednesday, December 22, 2009

Senate A25, Sequence 25, 3.00 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I believe that during the pre lunch session and in the last two contributions, we would have heard endorsed the views of earlier speakers, of the value of this Amendment, specifically in relation to game fishing, et

cetera but, also, the possibility of supporting other shipping initiatives.

I would want in wrapping up just to comment briefly, of course, on the issue of the possibility of jobs being offered, that the issue of job opportunities on cruise ships and other vessels would have been raised by more than one Senator.

Mr. President, on a personal level, as you would discover, I used my experiences. I have memories of my oldest brother as a seaman, receiving letters, stamps - and, of course, as a stamp collector, I guess that is where it began - as well as remittances, as a teenager, and that was the experience for many Barbadians.

My first view and/or knowledge of the Sydney Opera House was a postcard sent to me by my oldest brother. I also have memories of my maternal uncle at 91 years recounting for me, his experiences as a seaman travelling to India, parts of Africa and also receiving from him, paintings that he would have purchased in Africa and those experiences.

Today, of course, we have the challenge of instilling in our young working population who may aspire to working on whether it is a cruise vessel, a merchant ship, or any other kind of sea transport, the importance of a good work ethic. Indeed, I believe that one of the initiatives that should be undertaken across Barbados when we recognise staff performance and so on is that perhaps, as one of the experiences, we can allow some of them to experience a cruise because, if you want to see quality service, that is one of the areas.

Overall, Mr. President, this piece of legislation, as I would have intimated in my opening comments, has the potential for transforming shipping, not only in Barbados and the Region, and as was pointed out by Senator Hunte - whom I must congratulate in terms of his initial deliveries in the Senate, clearly, it illustrates his long involvement with politics, and the monitoring and following of things political in Barbados - it is important that we look to take advantage of these opportunities. Shipping offers much for Barbados.

Mr. President, we all fully support the initiative and we believe that taking into consideration the suggestions made to enhance the legislation by Senator Newton and Senator Cave, Independent Senators and others on All Sides of the debate, we believe that we can go a long way towards expanding economic and business opportunities.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, the Senate resolved itself into Committee for further consideration of this Bill, Her Honour SENATOR Miss K. F. IFILL in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 9, inclusive, were called and passed.

The Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon, 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 motions of SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Shipping Incentives (Amendment) Act, 2009.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO RESCIND THE RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON JULY 14, 2009 AND THE SENATE ON JULY 29, 2009 APPROVING THE ARTS AND SPORTS PROMOTION FUND (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS. CORRECTING WHAT IS ON THE ORDER PAPER, IT SHOULD BE 2008.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, in a previous Sitting, the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund (Amendment) Regulations would have been debated. However, as this was introduced in 2008, there was an error or, perhaps, I can probably describe it as an oversight, where the Regulations were not Gazetted, and, therefore, there has to be some correction to this procedural error. In light of that procedural error, Mr. President, it is necessary that those Amendments be first rescinded and in the further light of the fact that we would have debated this and we are seeking to correct this procedure, I would simply state the reason for the amendment and ask that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Senate A25, Sequence 25, 15:09:27

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, before I move a Resolution to terminate the debate in the Senate, I believe that it is important as Honourable Leader of Government Business to extend to my colleague Senators best wishes for Christmas 2009. For me, this is not just a holiday, it is a holy day that we recall and, therefore, I wish you a blessed Christmas.

I also must take the opportunity, Mr. President, to congratulate colleague Senators on the quality of the debates so far. I look forward to a strengthening and an improvement or enhancement of that quality in 2010.

Mr. President, our deliberations in this Honourable Chamber would not be possible without the hard work of the staff of Parliament and so I want to extend to the Clerk of Parliament, the Deputy Clerks and all the administrative and other staff who ensure that every time the Senate meets we are able to do so in a manner that maximises our productivity and ultimately allows us to function and make decisions in the interest of the people of this country.

Again, Mr. President, let me extend to you and your family, to Barbadians who listen to us as our debates are broadcast at each Sitting, to those who may read the coverage in our newspapers and who follow our deliberations with interest and to all Barbadians a blessed and sober Christmas. That does not mean drink-free. Moderation and tolerable proportions are quite in order. I would wish the people all the best for the year 2010 as we move forward.

Even though economic times are hard I believe, based on some of the things we would have debated over the years and certainly today, that hard times often bring out the creativity, the ingenuity and the best in people. That, Mr. President, is my wish. I wish Barbadians a healthy, happy and productive 2010 and the years to come beyond that.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, in keeping with the traditions of this Chamber, I should like to extend to your Honour and your family, to all Senators and their families, to the officers of the Senate and all of those who serve this Chamber in every capacity, to the members of the media who carry the debate to a listening public and all of the people of Barbados a blessed Christmas. I wish them good health and God's blessings in 2010.

By all accounts it is going to be a difficult year. Barbadians as a God-fearing people are going to have to walk with God as we walk into the future.

It is also appropriate that I should thank Members on the Other Side, as indeed officers of the Senate for all courtesies extended to us on This Side during the course of the last year.

Mr. President, sometimes it is not good to single out anyone because it causes all kinds of comments so I will just say that we are extremely grateful for the support and the assistance of the staff, the Clerks at the Table and those whom we do not see but whose work makes it possible for us to receive our documents, to have our speeches printed and to have every aspect of our work reach the public whom we serve.

We continue, I believe, to look forward to serving in our various capacities during the course of the coming year.

Sir, I will just give a caution. Earlier, during my comments I was being teased by colleagues when I said that I am not one to take the Christmas spirit. I say that, Sir, not because I do not take the Christ of Christmas but because I see, even in times of hardship, an inclination towards extreme excess in some parts of our society.

I would wish to remind the public that Christmas ultimately is about service, about gifts of love and about our rising to be the finest that we could be and that perhaps some of the people who are going to go out and buy very expensive gifts this year and material things should give more of their time to friends, families and members of the community and reach out to persons in the community who may at this time be having difficulties.

Sir, at this Christmas I want to call the people back to service, service of country, service of community and service of each other and to ignore some of the excesses that this season can bring.

I join with Senator McClean in asking for sobriety of reflection. I use sobriety here in quite the same sense in which she used it that there should be a sober and reflective season where we focus on Christ and on service.

I am therefore much obliged to you, Sir, for the opportunity to speak on the Adjournment.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Cave.

SENATOR R. G. CAVE: Sir, it would be remiss of me to let the occasion pass without saying on behalf of the Independent Senators a special good Christmas wish to you, the Honourable Leader of Government Business and to all Honourable Senators. We hope that you would have a very joyous Christmas and that the new year would greet us with good health and also better conditions for Barbados.

I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All that is left for me now, therefore, to do is to extend to all Honourable Senators my and my family's best wishes for not only a spirit-filled Christmas, a spirit of God that is, but that you would have a bright and prosperous 2010.

I wish to record that this Senate has performed extremely well during the session that has gone before us. I wish to congratulate the new Senators who have acquitted themselves quite well and the Senators who have been here before, I wish to thank you.

Let me extend special wishes to the Leader of the Senate and to the Government. I hope that they continue in the spirit in which they have proceeded in these Chambers. May you have a successful 2010 and may all of the things go the way you wish them to go. I now give way to the Leader of the Senate.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, in the event that I erred just now, I just want to move that this Senate be adjourned sine die.

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

Senate A25 Sequence 26

3.20 p.m.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. *Dates in the text.* The source gives 'Wednesday, December 22, 2009' (22 December 2009 was a Tuesday). The weekday and date do not agree; printed as in the source.

Q3. *Announcements.* The President reports 'an indication for absence for Senator Marville and Senator Chandler', but Senator Dr. F. L. Chandler speaks on Order No. 1 and Order No. 4, and Senator Hunte refers to what 'Senator Chandler referred today'. Printed as in the source.

Q4. *Order No. 5.* The note 'The question was put to the Senate and agreed to' follows Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean's opening speech, before Senators Holder and Thompson speak, and is repeated after her closing words. Printed as in the source.

Q5. *Order No. 6, heading.* The Resolution title ends 'FOR RESIDENTIAL PRUPOSES'. Printed as in the source.

Q6. *Order No. 4, title of Bill.* The Bill is called the 'Shipping (Incentive) (Amendment) Bill' at first reading, 'THE SHIPPING INCENTIVE (AMENDMENT) BILL' in the Order heading and the 'Shipping Incentives (Amendment) Act, 2009' at its citation. Printed as in the source.

Q7. *Order No. 4, take-slip about 2.50 p.m.*. One take-slip is dated 'Friday, December 22, 2009'; the sitting was on Tuesday. Printed as in the source.

Q8. *Order No. 2, heading.* The heading of the Resolution includes the words 'CORRECTING WHAT IS ON THE ORDER PAPER, IT SHOULD BE 2008.', apparently a spoken correction carried into the title. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met on Tuesday, 22nd December, 2009 at 10.15 a.m., with Mr. President in the Chair; prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah. The President read Message No. 6/2009 from the Governor-General: on the advice of the Prime Minister, Mr. Reginald Aldine Hunte had been appointed a Senator with effect from 26th November, 2009. Senator R. A. Hunte took his seat and was welcomed by the President, the Leader of Government Business, Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean, Senator Miss H. E. Thompson and Senator Sir Roy Trotman. Senator McClean laid nine papers, among them the Land Development (Special Development Area) (Hastings to Rockley) Order, 2009, the Annual Report of the Securities Commission for the year ending 31st March, 2009 and the Value Added Tax (No. 4) Order, 2009. Standing Order 45(2) was suspended and two Bills were read a first time.

Order No. 1 was the Health Services (Amendment) Bill, 2009, to prevent the sale of tobacco to minors. Senator McClean said the incidence of smoking in Barbados was low but that people commonly began smoking in their teens, and described damage to peripheral arteries leading to amputation. Senator Thompson supported the Bill but turned to heavy drinking among young people and parents who smoke around children. Senator Sir Roy Trotman, Senator Dr. F. L. Chandler, Senator the Hon. H. LaV. Benn, Senator Mrs. V. I. Sandiford-Garner, Senator D. K. A. Griffith, Senator Miss P. I. Inniss, Senator A. E. Holder, Senator the Very Reverend H. E. Crichlow and Senator R. G. Cave also supported it, several stressing enforcement and the role of shopkeepers and communities; Senator Cave recalled that his father had died of emphysema. In reply Senator McClean spoke of marijuana smoking among the young, and the Bill passed all stages.

Under Order No. 5 the Senate approved, without further debate of substance, the Resolution to approve the Land Development Duty (Special Development Area) (Hastings to Rockley) Order, 2009; Senator Holder withdrew a concern about section 4 on learning that the Principal Act had been amended, and Senator Thompson said the Opposition had no objection. Under Order No. 6, the Resolution vesting a parcel of Crown land at Breedy's Land, Christ Church in the National Housing Corporation for residential purposes, Senator McClean explained that the lot had been offered around 2000 as a substitute to a tenant whose own lot was unsuitable for sale. Senator Hunte called for stronger planning control over land development, and after Senator Sir Roy Trotman asked about flooding the Resolution was agreed to.

Order No. 4 was the Shipping Incentives (Amendment) Bill, 2009, extending incentives within the maritime subsector. Senator Thompson declared herself 'ad idem' with Senator McClean for the first time in two years and spoke of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Senator Dr. Chandler described the lack of reliable intra-regional shipping for agricultural produce; Senator the Hon. A. B. Walters spoke of the Maritime Labour Convention; Senator P. W. B. Gilkes welcomed the benefit to sports fishing; and Senator Benn explained that the amendment, first proposed in 2002, added concessions for safety and navigational equipment after consultation with the Barbados Game Fishing Association. After the suspension, Senator the Hon. Prof. V. E. Newton noted the exclusion of small craft, Senator Hunte lamented the loss of regional ferry services, Senator Holder questioned a reported 10 000 jobs in shipping, and Senator Cave asked that individuals as well as companies benefit. The Bill passed all stages.

Under Order No. 2 the Senate agreed to a Resolution rescinding the earlier Resolutions approving the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund (Amendment) Regulations, which Senator McClean explained had not been Gazetted. On the adjournment Senator McClean, Senator Thompson, Senator Cave and the President exchanged Christmas greetings, and the Senate was adjourned sine die.