
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2008 – 2013

THE SENATE

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour SENATOR Dr. B. M. TAITT, M.A., M.B.A., B.A. (Hons.) (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.,(Hons), (Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade) (Leader of the Senate)

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN, G.C.M., J.P., E.M.B.A. (Marketing)(Minister of Agriculture)

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

(Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour, and Immigration)

SENATOR the Hon. D. W. BOYCE, M.B.A. (Fin.) B.Sc., (Econ.), CMA, F.C.A.,(Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Investment, Telecommunication and Energy)

SENATOR P.W.B. GILKES

SENATOR D.K.A. GRIFFITH

SENATOR Mrs. V.I. SANDIFORD-GARNER, M.B.A., CIM, Dip.Mng.,(Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office)

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

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON, M.B.A. (Distinction) LL.B., LEC.

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

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

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

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

SENATOR J. INCE, J.P.. M.B.A., B.B.A.,DIP. (Mgmt.)

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am in receipt of two Messages from His Excellency and I will read them accordingly.

Message No.3/2009 informing the Honourable Senate that:

a. In accordance with the advice of the

Leader of the Opposition, under Section 39(1)(f) of the Constitution, the seat in the Senate held by Kerry Drurard Symmonds has been declared vacant with effect from August 13, 2009; and

b. In accordance with the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Arthur Eugene Holder has been appointed under Section 36(3) of the Constitution as a Senator with effect from August 26, 2009.

Signed by His Excellency the Governor-General

Message No. 4/2009 informing the Honourable Senate that:

In accordance with Section 36(4) of the Constitution the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Senate that in accordance with Section 36.4 of the Constitution Mr. Ronald Geoffrey Cave, CBE, BCH, has been appointed to be a Member of the Senate with effect from October 12, 2009.

Both of these communications are signed by His Excellency Sir Clifford Straughn Husbands.

Accordingly, I shall now direct the Marshal to invite those Honourable gentlemen to take their places in this Honourable Senate.

(The Honourable Senators Holder and Cave took their seats.)

Mr. PRESIDENT: Honourable Senators, we have just been joined by two distinguished gentlemen and I welcome both of you to this Honourable Senate. I hope that your days in the Senate will be long and fruitful. I am sure that you will in due course be given the indicators of how Honourable Senators are expected to behave. In any event, you are going to be given a copy of the Standing Orders of this Honourable Senate. Those Standing Orders are the basis on which this institution functions.

I welcome both of you to this Honourable Senate. I have no doubt that you will make a substantial contribution to the affairs of our country through the deliberations of this Honourable Place.

I trust that you will find it at least as peaceful and comfortable, as other Honourable Senators over the years have found it. I wish you well as you take your place in this Honourable Senate.

Senator Cave.

SENATOR R.G.CAVE: Mr. President, first of all I would like to thank you for the very warm and generous welcome you have extended to us today. It is a distinct privilege and indeed a humbling experience to sit in this Honourable Chamber, which I know dates back over three centuries to the dawn of our parliamentary system.

I know that Honourable Members of this Chamber over the years have tried to shape and support legislation in order to make sure that the Barbadian people are satisfied and function.

Sir, I recognise that there is a complex network of Rules indicated in the Standing Orders, which I need to learn and to be accustomed to. I will try to do so, but I must say that it is a far cry from what I have been accustomed to in my regular working life.

I pledge to use my best efforts to contribute to the work of this Honourable Chamber and to do all I can to uphold its tradition.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Holder.

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: Mr. President, I accept your warm words of welcome with sincere gratitude. I am deeply humbled by this opportunity to serve in this capacity, and I assure this Honourable Chamber that I will make a meaningful contribution to debates in this Honourable Chamber with passion and fervour, cognizant of the rich tradition and Rules of this Honourable Chamber. I will do so with integrity and decorum.

I am obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I am taking the Floor at this time to welcome the new Senators which would include the one who came on the last occasion and sat before I came in. I do not believe that, on This Side, we did have an opportunity to welcome them because I was not in my chair when the Chamber started.

Sir, there have been several events in the last few weeks that brought two new colleagues in. We look forward to having them serve. Each of them comes with a history of service to the country. I have every confidence that Senator Cave, who sits close to me, and I am going to try to whisper into his ear from time to time, but I know that the whole Chamber will be giving support in terms of following the new Rules, and getting the new Senators accustomed to being in the Chamber.

11.30 a.m.

Sequence 2

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Senate A22, Sequence 03, 11.30 a.m.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I did have an opportunity to speak to Senator Cave briefly. The wealth of experience that he brings to the Chamber should serve to enrich the debate at this particular time, when the country is going through a period of straitened financial circumstances and in the context of the international environment. Therefore, we look forward to keen anticipation with the perspective which he will bring to issues.

The Rules, Sir, are very much like those of business. Sometimes, you try to knock down your opponent and keep yourself afloat but we do not have that, of course, because we are colleagues and not opponents within the Chamber.

I am really, Sir, very pleased to have with me, Senator Holder, who brings tremendous experience. He is trained in economics. He is trained and worked extensively as a social worker within marginalised communities. I

believe that he did a Masters Degree in Social Work and he practises, as well as an attorney, which is perhaps the area that he will be more publicly known for, because he has worked in the area of Criminal Law and Litigation.

Sir, litigation attorneys tend to get a lot of exposure, as opposed to those who tend to do more Chamber work, so he has a reputation nationally. He has tremendous experience and academic training and a breadth across economic, social work, law and now politics. I wish him every success in this Chamber, as we hear his contributions, which I expect to benefit from the breadth of his training and exposure. I look forward to being able to groom him.

I can say, Sir, that in this case, where the Independent Senators are perhaps less steeped in the political character of debate and comment sometimes, I am sure that Senator Holder is cognizant of the fact that he is the appointee of a particular political perspective. I have no doubt that I can rely on him to discuss and to debate within the colour of that particular persuasion.

Sir, to Senator Ince, I did not hear him speak on the last occasion. I believe that morning I was elsewhere and then when I came, he had already spoken but my understanding is that he did speak very well on that occasion. I know that he has had an emersion in business and finance and, therefore, that is the perspective from which he will speak primarily.

Sir, he too, has a particular political colour, which I expect to see from time to time but that is the nature of the Chamber and the nature of debate. I therefore, look forward to the contributions of all our new colleagues.

I have been away, Sir, for a month. I came into Barbados last night but I am told that there is yet another new Senator joining us. I do not know how accurate the information is, so we will have the opportunity yet again to welcome new colleagues. I have found, Sir, that this is a Chamber and a tradition to which the public of Barbados pays attention.

It is amazing the level of political awareness in the national population and the extent to which people follow debates and contributions and are able to comment on them and to listen and observe what is happening in the political arena in the country, so that I imagine that as we start this new session that the richness of the tradition of debate will continue. I look forward therefore to the extent to which the new Senators will add and contribute to that debate and discussion and in fact national issues by extension.

I am much obliged, Sir, for the opportunity that the Chair has afforded me to welcome colleagues. I look

forward to working with all of them, some more than others, in the course of the next few weeks.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Newton.

SENATOR the Hon. Prof. V.E. NEWTON: Mr. President, I rise on behalf of the Independent Senators to welcome our new Senators, Senator Holder, Senator Cave and Senator Ince. The speakers before me have stressed the importance of upholding the dignity and traditions of this Chamber and I would wish to add to that, on behalf of the Independent Senators. I hope that in the months to come they will make valuable contributions to the debates as they come before us and, speaking directly to the Independent Senator, that he will note he is just that.

With those few words, Mr. President, I welcome all new Senators.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Leader of the Senate has the Floor.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Thank you, Mr. President, I rise with pleasure to welcome two new Senators. The Opposition Senator, Senator Arthur Eugene Holder, who is someone I knew and I actually taught at the University of the West Indies, it is in part a distinct pleasure. I have had the opportunity to speak to him on several occasions in the classroom and out of the classroom.

I do not know if he recalls that, but noticing the greyness of his beard, he might have said that was a time when his beard was black, but it was a pleasure. I knew of his work as a social worker; his varied interests; I even spoke to him as a parent of twin daughters and his efforts to ensure that they understood the importance of developing a sound educational background and so on.

As a Senator from the Opposition, we almost sit diagonally across from each other and I look forward to vigorous debate and perhaps when we do that, I will take a little bit of a claim for having shaped him in my early years as a lecturer, so that shaping might not have been as great as it might have been in my latter years of a university lecturer. I really do want to welcome you, and I anticipate that you will continue in the fine tradition of this Honourable Chamber.

Again, Mr. President, as I welcome Independent Senator Ronald Geoffrey Cave, CBE, BCH, I am also happy to say that for approximately 14 years or so, we worked together. Mr. President, you wonder how many things I did and how old I am, perhaps, but I was also able to learn very much about business issues, as a fellow

Director of the Bridgetown Cruise Terminals with Senator Cave.

I found there that he was a person of few words, but I trust that as we sit in this Honourable Chamber, Senator Cave, you will be quite willing to expand those few words. Of course, every time you spoke you did say something of major significance, and I can say that in my interactions with you in that business arena, you were very fair, reasonable and certainly very honest in your contributions and in your approach to doing business. Therefore, I anticipate that this Chamber will be the better for your participation.

I want to wish both of you successful service as Senators. As servants of the people, we are in a position to make a significant contribution to the existence of Barbadians to the business of Government and governance.

Mr. President, with those few words, again, I welcome our new Senators and I am obliged to you.

Thank you, Sir.

Senate A22, Sequence 03, 11:40:15

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ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I want to draw to the attention of this Honourable Senate that apparently in the immediate past there has been a practice of Minutes being adjudged to be confirmed on the calligraphy of the President. Coming as I did from Another Place, I believe that Minutes can only be confirmed by the body the Minutes represents.

I therefore will be calling on the Senate to confirm Minutes in the future so that Minutes will not be confirmed on my signature unless they have been confirmed. I thought I should draw this to your attention so that there can be no doubt about it.

Unless I hear any objection to the contrary, I will deem the Minutes of the Meetings of July 29, 2009 and Wednesday, August 12, 2009 to have been confirmed. I hear no objection, so those Minutes are confirmed.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. Representation of the People's (Expenses) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009;

2. Statement and Instrument relating to the Maritime Labour Convention adopted by the International Labour Organisation at its 94th Session held in Geneva in February, 2006;
3. Annual Reports of the Labour Department for the years 2003 and 2004;
4. Green Paper entitled "Comprehensive Review of Immigration Policy and Proposals for Legislative Reform";
5. Financial Institutions (Royal Fidelity Merchant Bank & Trust (Barbados) Limited) (Transfer of Business and Vesting) Order, 2009;
6. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Limegrove Park Limited) Order, 2009;
7. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Sunto Limited) Order, 2009;
8. Duties, Taxes, and Other Payments (Exemption) (Sea Rock Development Limited) Order, 2009;
9. Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 2009
10. Value Added Tax (No. 3) Order, 2009;
11. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Barbados Association of Non-Governmental Organisations) Order, 2009;
12. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Whitepark Development Limited) Order, 2009;
13. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Jada Builders Inc.) Order, 2009;
14. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Simpson Motors Limited) Order, 2009;
15. Annual Reports and Financial Statements of Hotels and Resorts Limited for the years 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005;
16. Annual Reports of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited for the years 2006 and 2007;
17. Half-yearly Report on the Revenue Collection Departments under the Ministry of Finance for the period April 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008;
18. Reports on the Registration Department for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004;
19. Report on the Vital Statistics and Registrations of the Registration Department for the year 2005;
20. Annual Reports of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET Council) for the periods April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 and April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007; and

21. Annual Report of the Grantley Adams International Airport Inc. for the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: I beg to move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of this Sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of the Final Appropriation (2008-2009) Bill, 2009.

I further beg to move the First Reading of the following Bills:

1. The Land Development Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2009;
2. The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2009;
3. The Road Traffic (Validation) Bill, 2009;
4. Financial Institutions (Miscellaneous Provisions and Validation Bill, 2009;
5. International Financial Services (Validation) Bill, 2009; and
6. Final Appropriation (2008-2009) Bill, 2009.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to recognise the contribution of three distinguished Barbadians who coincidentally passed away in the month of August.

Mr. President, I will start with the former Senator Marjorie Blackman who served in the Senate from 1976 to 1981. Marjorie Inez Sinclair Blackman, GCM, entered into rest on August 7, 2009. She was an outstanding social worker who worked for many years in the Welfare Department, which coincidentally is the place of my first employment straight out of school, and therefore our periods of employment coincided very briefly.

As an outstanding social worker, she contributed significantly in her official employment as well as a

volunteer. She was a past President of the Young Womens' Christian Association, an institution which in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s would have made an invaluable contribution to the lives, the work and the skills of many Barbadians across this country.

Sir, I believe that she is well-known to most Barbadians of my generation and of generations after me, and therefore it is important that we register her significant contribution to Barbados.

Mr. President, also in August this year, we had the death of another outstanding Barbadian, an educator and former Senator Enid Lynch who served around the same time as Senator Blackman from 1976 to 1986. Her contribution as an educator of 42 years is well-known to Barbadian females who went to the Girls' Foundation School and perhaps even to the males who went to Boys' Foundation School as it was then.

Mrs. Lynch would have been very well-known as a disciplinarian. Of course, she made an indelible mark on education in Barbados and therefore by extension on many individual families, mothers and subsequently their children, when she instilled critical elements of formal and informal education. She is survived by her only daughter Jennifer and to her we offer condolences.

This Chamber was indeed taken by surprised by the passing of Sir John Stanley Goddard.

Senate A22 Sequence 4

11.50 a.m.

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SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, as I look to my left, I can visualise Senator Sir John sitting in this Honourable Chamber and making contributions, always speaking as an Independent Senator should be and always speaking from his heart.

Mr. President, as a younger lecturer at Cave Hill, I was invited by Senator Sir John to join the Board of Goddards Enterprises Limited as a Director, coincidentally succeeding my former Headmistress, Dame Elsie Payne.

I recall our discussions, because at the time I was invited to serve, Sir John knew I was serving as a Director of Bridgetown Cruise Terminals, of which Goddards Enterprises was a major shareholder. I said to him: "Sir John, I am honoured by your invitation but I want to signal, very clearly, that I cannot represent your group while I am a Director at the Bridgetown Cruise Terminals."

Mr. President, I believe his comments were clearly indicative of his approach to doing business. He said he fully understood and that he did not expect me to, but that I needed to recognise that in a small society like Barbados, notwithstanding the discussion of overlapping directorship, these things will happen but that it depends on the individual who sits in that position.

Sir, Senator Sir John understood my position and I understood clearly that he recognised that given the smallness of the society, that there may be overlapping directorships in this instance. He also demonstrated, as I sat with him for almost 13 years, that while he had been involved in several areas of business, he sought to bring fairness, honesty, balance and a high level of integrity to his business activities.

Mr. President, while he was known for his involvement in business, he was also a very devout Catholic, as many of us would have heard as he was eulogised at his funeral service. I believe that he quietly served this country in many capacities, giving of his time, his energy and resources. Indeed, for the short time that we have served together in this Honourable Chamber, it was clear that he felt, even after retirement, that he was quite willing to continue to contribute to the running of the affairs of this country in his position as an Honourable Senator. He served in this position until his death and did so in a very meaningful way.

Mr. President, I recall when we heard of his death, he would have been at one of our most recent Sitting and so there was no signal that he would not have been with us at our last Sitting. Mr. President, therefore, I want to register my personal sympathies and condolences to the respective relatives of the former Honourable Senators, Enid Lynch, Marjorie Blackman and Sir John Stanley Goddard.

Mr. President, with those few words, I would want to recognise their significant, though varied contributions to the development of this great nation.

Mr. President, I am obliged to you.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, in paying tribute to these three Honourable Senators today, I think it must be recognised that they are three particular individuals, not only who have served in this Honourable Senate but whose other works have left an indelible mark on the landscape of Barbados.

In the case of business, Senator Sir John was an unfailingly polite and courteous person. When you meet him, irrespective of whatever his personal view of you were, he was a gentleman in the very best definition of the word. He was a person who was unfailingly polite and

gracious in his manner, presentation and treatment of people.

Mr. President, outside of that, I remember very well the last occasion on which he spoke in this Honourable Chamber, which had to do with some of the increases in the last Budget. I remember his observations and concerns expressed at that time but his contribution to business life in Barbados has been significant.

I am told from people who knew him very well - I cannot say that I did - that certainly, very quietly, he had a way of intervening, assisting, giving direction and support and living out some of the finer principles of Christianity.

Mr. President, I extend my condolences to his wife and family. Sir, I would also wish to extend condolences on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party, not only to his family but to the family of the late Marjorie Blackman. Sir, for me, hers was a name I knew growing up. I was later to meet her in life but I knew her voice from radio. In the days when Rediffusion had a large audience, the PARADOS Programme was broadcast in the day and I think repeated in the evening. Marjorie Blackman used to read and give advice on parenting relative to child rearing and I would hear this voice and hear the advice being rendered. Of course, as a young person, I did not know her.

Sir, subsequently, I was to meet her. She was a very urbane, charming and affable woman whose, apart from her contributions to PARADOS, which is an institution she helped to shape and which remains behind to continue its contribution to national life, work at the Y.W.C.A. is well-known. In fact, I would have to say in that regard, I have benefitted partially from her work because I took classes at the Y.W.C.A. in sewing, while my mother did floral arrangement.

I wanted to learn how to make clothes, I saw the classes advertised, I went and registered and did the course. My mother did floral arrangement, which has brought tremendous joy to her life and to her family, because my mother is always doing floral arrangements and giving them to people as gifts.

Mr. President, I made that point, not just to talk about her but to make the point that you do not know how your work affects people. You do not know who benefits from it and how it then goes on to benefit subsequent generations, how it touches families and people's lives. Her work with the Y.W.C.A., and the work of the Y.W.C.A. across Barbados is well-known.

Mr. President, there are also the areas of training in which she engaged, about which were spoken at her eulogy. She ensured that women who did not have the benefit of a secondary education were given classes in

basketry, crochet, smocking and embroidery, and that a company exporting smocking and embroidery was set up, from which these women were then able to benefit and earn income.

That is a significant contribution. In fact, smocking and embroidery are again enjoying a resurgence in couture and clothing styles, so that perhaps we need again to be making a new thrust in this direction via the garment industry.

Mr. President, the Girl Guides was one of Marjorie Blackman's passions. That is another institution which benefitted from her wide interest and her skills. Of course, she was a civil servant working in the Post Office and Welfare Department.

Sir, here was a woman who had many interests, who was able to channel her energies, her creative abilities, her talents and her skills, into giving service at the level of the formal Civil Service and at the level of volunteerism within the context of the broader society.

S:No.A22 (5)12:00 noon.

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SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: We must recognise that a person like her would have given a lot of unpaid time, hours of her time without receiving any kind of remuneration for it, giving directions to organisations, to causes that benefitted Barbados. This is truly a person who has contributed and whose passing would be noted and felt, as indeed we note it today.

On behalf of the Barbados Labor Party I would wish to extend sympathy to the family of the late Marjorie Blackman.

Sir, Enid Lynch was an institution in relation to the Foundation School. In fact, it is impossible to say Foundation School without her name being mentioned. She was a tremendous disciplinarian. Foundation girls speak of her with a tremendous amount of affection and respect, not only because of the direction which she gave to the school, her administrative and management skills, but her intervention at the level of humane activity, at the level of recognizing the challenges that many girls were having and trying to intervene in a personal way to improve their quality of life to help them find solutions to life problems, to equip them with life skills that went beyond book learning; to ensure that she was educating and developing well-rounded young women, who could deal with the vagaries of life and who were equipped themselves to make a contribution to whatever business or social environment within which they found themselves.

I have spoken to her only on a few occasions, but I knew her work and I knew her through the many Foundation girls with whom I was associated, who spoke of her with great respect and who revered her. I think that we are witnessing today the passing of icon Barbadians. I do not think that I can put it any differently than that, who each made a tremendous contribution within this sphere of activity and endeavour.

These are persons for whom the fabric of wider Barbados has been enriched, and whose work we are grateful for, and whom their families will miss. We extend condolences to the families of the late Enid Lynch.

I am most obliged, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Madam Deputy President.

Her Honour SENATOR Miss K. F. IFILL: Mr. President, I too would like to make a brief contribution on the demise of these three Barbadians. I did not have the pleasure of knowing either Miss Lynch or Miss Blackman, but as a woman I am always pleased when I learn of the contributions of great women like them. I have worked with PAREDOS in the past, an experience which was wonderful for me and I do know that Miss Blackman's contribution in the arena was great. That institution will live on and that will remain a legacy to her good work.

I did have the privilege and pleasure of knowing Sir John. For the brief time that I served in this Chamber with him I will always remember him as being one of the most forthright well-thought out speakers. I enjoyed his contributions on every occasion. They always gave a comprehensive view of the topic under discussion. He always left you with something new to contemplate and think about.

I will greatly miss his contributions as I am sure will my fellow Senators. I am sure that wherever he is, he is also making his excellent contribution as he has done both in the Chamber and in Barbados.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Marville.

SENATOR R.O. MARVILLE: Mr. President, like the last Honourable speaker, I must confess not to have known either Senator Lynch or Senator Blackman, but, of course, like everybody else I knew of their great work. Therefore, it behoves me to wish their families sincere condolences and to register my belief that their contribution has made this country better.

Sir, with respect to Sir John, the story is somewhat different. He was one of the few people I recognised

immediately when I came to this Chamber because I had known him before. I miss him. He was a gracious gentle giant of a man who never spoke unless he really had something to say, and he said it well, slowly and coherently. He had a way of making everyone feel that whatever serious contribution they made was valid and valuable in itself.

That apart, I have known him before somewhat at distance because of his agent with whom I dealt. We had a specific problem of Caribbean rums, paying nearly \$1 more in tariff than the next highest taxed alcohol in the United States. It was decided that we should do something about it. This was in the era of the Reagan's attempt to put some monies into what was considered strategic countries in the Region of which we were not one. We therefore had to do some considerable lobbying, and Sir John was extremely helpful at all levels.

He made it possible when we got permission from the Government to bring a congressional delegation to Barbados, headed by Congressman Rolston Colsky, and Sir John graciously provided a boat that took them around. The result of this visit was astounding because when we talked later about their project for putting monies into the Region, they would say things like, "That was not our understanding when we had discussions in Barbados." Suddenly Barbados had become important in this context.

Sir John was very generous. He made sure that the oil that was necessary to grease the wheels and full quantities of rum were always available to the mission. Therefore, it was relatively easy to maintain access at all levels. It was possible occasionally to get into the Ways and Means Committee when the place was absolutely full. I had a seat in the Secretarial section, or something like that. We finally won the day. I think that was part of his legacy of being able to see what was important out there and follow it.

I congratulate his efforts on the success of the Goddards Enterprise in moving outside of the Region into the wider world in their Flight Kitchens, I refer specifically, which are important icons in the Southern Hemisphere of this continent. He was, in fact, someone whom we will all miss because his contributions were invariably sound and to the point.

I wish to repeat my condolences to his wife. He spoke glowingly of his grandchildren, especially one little one in Canada who always made it a point to tell him where he should put various types of garbage. He was a gentle man. We will miss him.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Cave.

SENATOR R.G.CAVE: Mr. President, Senator McClean has described me very well. I am a man of few words, but I would like to say a few words on the passing of the three Senators. I did not really know Enid Lynch well. I knew her and I also knew Marjorie Blackman. I can say that both had the highest respect of Barbadians.

12.10 p.m.

Sequence 6

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Senate A22, Sequence 07, 12.10 p.m.

SENATOR R.G. CAVE: My father before me knew Marjorie Blackman better than I. I know that she did a lot of work and good social work. Indeed, she did great things with the cottage industry of Barbados.

My real mention here is to talk about Sir John because when the Governor-General asked that I sit in the Senate, he told me that I needed to try and fill the shoes left by Sir John. I know those shoes are large but I would like to say a few words. Sir John was a very special man in my life.

I came to know him only in the early 1960s but he was a man whom I could follow all through my life and he was a person who gave me consultation. Although we were kind of competitors in the business world, never did we have difficult words. We always worked very well together. Sir John was a simple, religious, yet disciplined man. He had a great attitude to life. He was humourous at the right time. He completed a life having the full respect of Barbadians at all walks of life and indeed the people of the Caribbean and further afield.

John attended the Lodge School in the 1940s and there he learnt discipline, not only in the classroom but on the cricket field. He was one of the famous Goddards and he knew he had to play cricket and he did it well. He also did his education well. He went on to earn a degree in Canada and then moved on to PriceWaterHouse, where he got his further degree.

He took a bride in Canada in Cathleen in 1954 and from her had five lovely children, so that was one of his pillars of strength, his family. His second pillar of strength was his business. He joined Goddards in 1957 and sat on the right hand of Mr. Vic. He took over the General Manager's position in the 1960s and he became Chairman in 1976, moving on to 1997. He expanded Goddards Enterprises from a Barbadian company all the way through the Caribbean. Not only did he do that, but he worked in institutions around the Caribbean which made Barbados

proud, because he was the institutional man and he put a guideline for that.

Mr. President, Sir John suffered a stroke in 1987, and all the doctors expected that he would not recover but the metal of the man, he recovered. He was completely paralyzed on one side and yet he came back. However, his greatest contribution to Barbados in my opinion, was at the time when we had a crisis in the early 90s and he took over the lead of the private sector and, did he ever do that job very well indeed.

With it, he fashioned what we could say was the beginning of the social partnership, which is indeed an institution that we can be proud of in Barbados as a worldwide institution now. I think many countries are very jealous of us. Sir John could not have played a better role. He did that very well and he was respected right through.

I would have to say that I think he served very early in the Senate in the 1970s and then subsequently since 1999 and everyone here knows what contributions he made. Sir, as a businessman, I cannot think in my lifetime of anyone who has done as good a job in Barbados as Sir John has done, not necessarily in business only but what contribution he has made to the country.

I would like to record to his family those nice messages.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Walters.

SENATOR the Hon. A. B. WALTERS: I rise to make this contribution since if I do not, my family and my business colleagues I am sure would chastise me for not making a contribution to obituary messages on behalf of the three parties that we are eulogising this morning.

As a youngster at about either 10 or 11 years old, I would have met Senator Marjorie Blackman as a social worker. The Welfare Office was in fact, in the old Combermere School Building on Roebuck Street, where the Transport Board is now located. My father was a social worker alongside Marjorie Blackman and a number of others, including Sir Clyde, Miss Vaughan and others.

In my view she has made an outstanding contribution in relation to community development to the cottage industry, to the upliftment of females in this community and, I think, for that type of contribution, we owe her a debt.

With regard to Enid Lynch, who had been an educator for some 42 years, she was also a very special person in the Christ Church area, and outside of her contribution to education, she certainly would have made a contribution to the social life of the Christ Church area, around the Water Street, Gall Hill, Oistins areas. One thing that I should not forget, is that she would have assisted in the education of my two sisters, who were students of the Foundation School in their early lives.

As regards Sir John Stanley Goddard, I refer to him as the silent giant in the face of adversity. I met him probably before the 1990s but certainly he came very forcibly to my attention in the early 1990s, when he worked tirelessly on behalf of the private sector. I worked alongside him as a member and employer of the Employers Confederation of which Goddard Enterprises was one of the members. He worked as a representative of the private sector in building the social partnership.

Senator Cave did refer to this and I am sorry that Sir Roy is not here in his seat to make his contribution because there are a number of people in that period, who certainly would have made outstanding contributions in relation to the social partnerships.

In my view, therefore, he has made a solid and significant contribution to business and was one of the better conciliators and mediators that you may have found in the business world. At many meetings of the social partnership in the 1990s and early part of this century, on occasions there were only four or five of us who sat on the side of the business world, whereas the trade unions might have had 30 people sitting around the table and probably about 10 people from the Government, so that he had to carry a heavy load as the leader of the business community in making that social partnership work.

Mr. President, the social partnership is now seen as one of the models across the international labour scene. Sir, only as recently as two weeks ago, we made a substantial contribution in the Ministers of Labour Conference in Argentina on this Barbados' model of the Social Partnership and social dialogue and Sir John would have made a substantial contribution in that area.

Senate A22, Sequence 07, 12:20:14

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SENATOR the Hon. A. B. WALTERS: I therefore wish to extend to the families our sincerest condolences at the passing of these three persons who would have served in the Senate of Barbados over the last number of years.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR the Hon. Prof. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. President, I did not know personally or well the two ladies to whom we are paying tribute today, but like fellow Senators, I extend my condolences to their families.

Sir John Stanley Goddard was a person beside whom I sat in this Chamber for close to 10 years and for whom I had a very healthy respect for his erudite speeches which were always well prepared, informative and laced with commonsense. Sir John often spoke on economic matters but he was deeply concerned about the social fabric of this country and on some occasions he would also make speeches in that area as well.

I was out of the island when Sir John passed away and as soon as I came back and heard of his passing through Senator Chandler, I spoke to his wife and offered my condolences then. Sir John was a gentleman, a scholar, a philanthropist, a businessman, an accountant by profession, as we have heard, and a person who loved his country and family deeply, we also heard of that.

Mr. President, Sir John was also a great supporter of the University of the West Indies. He was intimately associated with the start up of the School of Business and through its many years of trials and tribulations as it sought to find its feet and establish a niche for itself, Sir John was there as a supporter.

Sir John was one of the kindest persons I know. He also had a dry sense of humour. We would sit here quietly sometimes listening to contributions and have our own private comments and so on. Sitting beside him in the Senate was a very enjoyable experience and words cannot say how much I shall miss him.

In addition, we shared a love of greenery and plants. He would often remind me that it was time to fertilise my plants, that I have to do it before the rainy season comes in and so on.

Altogether, I would say that his passing is a great loss to the Senate, to Barbados and to the University of the West Indies, but at the same time we have to be grateful for his life and the contribution he made.

Mr. President, I express my sympathy and condolences again to his family. I would wish that we who had the pleasure and honour to serve with Sir John would remember the traditions for which he stood in this Senate, many of which were mentioned earlier, and that we will continue in that vein.

Mr. President, I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Sandiford-Garner.

SENATOR Mrs. V. I. SANDIFORD-GARNER: Sir, like my colleagues, I would not have had an intimate knowledge or relationship with Senators Blackman and Lynch but as Senator Ifill would have said earlier I too am proud of those two outstanding Barbadian women. Like Senator Thompson, I would have been familiar with Senator Blackman only through the radio and her programmes through Rediffusion.

Going to school in the 1970s, you would always hear the Foundation students speak about Senator Lynch. She was a highly respected head teacher. There were some head teachers whose names you knew. You always heard about Miss Symmonds, Mrs. Lynch and Dame Elsie, and to those families I would wish to express my deepest condolences.

On the other hand, Sir John was a friend. This is the first time in this Chamber that I am taking the opportunity to speak of a Senator who has passed on to the great beyond, a Senator with whom I am familiar. Sir, I do hope that it is my last time during my tenure here, but none of us knows the creator's plan.

Sir, it is with profound sadness that I speak today. Sir John was a gentleman whom I met many years ago informally through a mutual friend. He was a gentleman for whom I developed a great respect and fondness. Senator Thompson described him as a gentleman and I would wish also to describe him as a gentleman because he was a gentle, kind man, a very respectful individual and he was also a true gentleman in the sense of the word gentleman.

During a previous phase of my life I was a journalist. In the latter part of that career I used to write a column every Friday for seven years. The column halted after I became a politician.

The first Friday that the column did not come out, I received a telephone call from a friend who wanted to know what had happened. I explained to her that the rules of the organisation dictated that I not continue. Sir, she said that we have a friend who is going to miss that column greatly and she thought that I needed to explain to him what happened. I asked her who was this friend and she said Sir John Stanley Goddard. I said, Sir John?

Sir, we are miles apart in terms of backgrounds and in terms of our generations and so on. I was shocked to hear that Sir John would have been one of those persons. Mr. President, she asked me to give him a call and I did and that is how my relationship with Sir John developed. I had never met him in person until one evening - as Senator Newton said he was involved with the School of Business - when I was at the School of Business. He came up there for a meeting while I was there and I got to meet him for the first time in person. The crowning of the relationship was

then my appointment to the Senate. Sir, we developed a rapport that continued until his last Sitting here.

Mr. President, we used to discuss all manner of things but there was one project that he was intensely passionate about, what they called at that time, the Male Achievers' Programme at the St. Cyprian's School. I had no connection with the school. My sons went to Wesley Hall. Our mutual friend was the head teacher at that school and she would have invited Sir John along with some other male stalwarts in society, Sir Conrad Hunte and McDonald Smith of Life of Barbados - I think I can call their names at this time - to have encounters with those young people every Monday morning at St. Cyprian's School.

Sir, the objective was to impart a recognition to those young men of the blessed and favoured status of being born a man. Sir John looked forward to those encounters. I see the Dean smiling. Yes, it is a blessed and favoured status to be born a man. Sir, I am confident enough as a woman to say that. He said that programme was one for the highlights of his life.

Sir, he also had a deep and abiding love of his country. His long service to this Chamber during the period of his life when most men of his age settled for the armchair and the newspaper is testimony to that.

Sir John thoroughly enjoyed the Senate especially when Senator Thompson, Senator Symmonds, Senator Inniss and former Senator Alleyne were in full flight. I would look across at Sir John and I would catch the mischievous glint. Sometimes the shoulders would shake because he would not want to laugh out loud but you could tell he was having an enjoyable time. I know that Senator Goddard enjoyed the sport in the Senate as well as the serious side of it.

Senate A22 Sequence 8

12.30 p.m.

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SENATOR Mrs. V.I. SANDIFORD-GARNER: Mr. President, he also pondered deeply on national issues. I say national issues because when it came to his contributions, he was a true independent thinker. He spoke it as he saw it, to both Administrations. He was very skilled in gently bringing people to a common understanding of some of the bitterly partisan issues that we sometimes discuss in here.

When he spoke, he never raised his voice but we all listened. In my last contribution on the Appropriation Bill, I remember quoting Senator Sir John, when he said: "As loyal sons and daughters all, we need to come together and

in effect put all other considerations aside as true Barbadians."

Mr. President, his view was that the efforts to find a solution to the economic situation in which we had found ourselves required a united approach. Sir John never missed a Senate Session, unless he was ill or overseas. He was committed and always punctual. Sir, when I did not see him that last time, I honestly thought he was overseas. I did not know he was ill, and by the next week he had passed away. Sir, according to his family, the crossing was very sudden and unexpected.

Mr. President, I will always have a regret that I did not have the opportunity to tell Senator Sir John goodbye. I am deeply saddened by his passing, as most of us are here today, and I shall surely miss him.

Mr. President, I am much obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce.

SENATOR the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Mr. President, let me associate myself with the comments made so far with the passing of these three good people. I did not personally know Senators Marjorie Blackman or Enid Lynch but people of my generation knew of them. Senator Blackman was always a giant of a lady because we all knew of her tremendous work done in the social field. To us, even those of us boys at Harrison's College, we all knew of the wonderful person Enid Lynch was at Foundation School. We did not know of her personally but we had heard about her from the students of Foundation Girls' School.

Mr. President, I wish to convey my condolences to the families of these two wonderful people on their passing and to acknowledge the tremendous contributions which they have made to this society we know as our home.

Mr. President, I knew Sir John very well. I began to work with him in 1985 as a consultant on a number of projects but perhaps we came closest during the period in the early 1990s, as we worked together on behalf of the private sector of Barbados, to help this country through its difficulties at that time.

I was approached by a mutual friend to assist Sir John in the work in the private sector, as he tried to fashion a way of escaping the difficulties of the 1990s with the unions and Governments. Sir John, throughout those very heated discussions, remained calm. The only other person I know in business who has ever remained as calm as Sir John, and I cannot say who that person is at this time.

Mr. President, Sir John had a very creative mind. He always searched for a solution to a problem. He would not

quit until he had found that solution. Like Senator Sandiford-Garner has said, he had a way of bringing people to a consensus. He was a tremendous asset to this country during that period of time and without him, I do not think we would have got as far as we have with the first Wages and Incomes Protocol. After he retired from business, we kept in touch and we would talk about the economy, about business, about who could help doing something for the country or for the business.

Mr. President, I want to express my condolences to his family and to salute the work he has done for businesses in Barbados, particularly for the Barbadian society. He was a giant of a man. May he rest in peace.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLLOW: Mr. President, I should like to join with other Honourable Senators who have spoken on the three distinguished persons who have been Members of this Honourable Senate, who have also contributed to the development of Barbados.

Mr. President, like all Honourable Senators, I too was shocked upon hearing of Sir John's death. I would like to endorse everything that was already said about him and to say that I still feel the sadness of his lost in this Honourable Chamber.

Sir, I want to say that as long as we meet in this Honourable Chamber, we will always remember him. In addition to all that was said, Sir John and I discussed deep theological issues and for a layman I thought he was very perceptive. Sir, we enjoyed those discussions. We discussed other things as well.

Mr. President, most Honourable Senators did not know intimately of Senator Marjorie Blackman, more of you knew about Senator Lynch. Senator Blackman was a very good friend of mine and I was sorry that I could not have gone to her funeral, as I had another funeral to attend. Senator Marjorie Blackman has done a lot of social work in this country and I am sure that she will be remembered for years to come.

Mr. President, some of us will know that her office was in the Cathedral House, at my invitation and without rent. There we had a chance to discuss a number of the deep social issues which people faced. I remember preaching a sermon about young girls who were forced out of their homes by their parents when they became pregnant and I thought that Barbados should have a hostel for those young ladies. I remember, after the Sermon, the then organist of the Cathedral, a very witty person, Gerald Hutson, met me on the stairs and said: "Dean, I see you intend to put a roof over Barbados."

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SENATOR the Very Reverend H.E. CRICHLLOW: I would like to say here that the only person who responded to the appeal for a hostel for young girls, pregnant girls, and so on, was...and I am saying this for the first time, Miss Marjorie Blackman. She felt so deeply about it. To be the only one who responded with a donation, I think is a tribute to her deep care that she felt for young persons.

Sir, Mrs. Enid Lynch did a lot of very good work at Foundation Girls'. As you know, she also did a lot of good work in the Church. When I was at Christ Church Parish Church, where I did my Curacy, I was also Headmaster of Christ Church High School. I worked with Enid Lynch, Headmistress of Foundation Girls' and Mr. Lee Skeete, Headmaster of Foundation Boys'. We had a very good relationship. It bore fruit in many of the pupils which we turned out. I also attended Mrs. Lynch and Sir John's funerals.

I think Barbados ought to know something about these great Barbadians. The young people, especially, ought to take note and see themselves as future developers of our lovely country.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Dr. Chandler.

SENATOR Dr. F.L. CHANDLER: Sir, I did not know former Senators Lynch and Blackman, although their names and very good work are quite familiar to me. I beg to express my sympathy to their families.

I have already expressed publicly my sorrow at the passing of Sir John Stanley Goddard, whom I have known since I was a child. Our families attended the same Church in St. Philip and then later in St. John. I certainly agreed with all that has been said about him. He was indeed a perfect gentleman.

I was even more shocked about his death because I had spoken to him on the Thursday night on the telephone, and I think that in the early hours of Saturday morning he died.

He always gave me wise counsel although I will have to say I did not always heed them. He used to tell me that you must always tell the truth but the truth must not always be told, obviously encouraging me to be diplomatic. I am afraid however that I will never be a diplomat.

Sir John and I discussed agriculture and many may not know that he, along with the late Gus Joseph, an

agriculturalist, were the pioneers of hydroponics in Barbados which we think is so new to Barbados, but many years ago he was a pioneer.

I would like to extend my sympathy to Lady Goddard and the whole family.

May Sir John rest in peace.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Benn.

SENATOR the Hon. H.LaV. BENN: Mr. President, I rise to add my tribute to those three persons who have passed. I knew Senator Blackman. As a young boy I used to hear a lot about her work with PAREDOS and as a member to the 4H Movement, in the 1970s and 1980s we had a lot of seminars and she used to be one of the resource persons who would assist the 4H Movement in talking to us about parenting. I am sure a lot of people in my age group have sat at her feet and benefitted tremendously. She talked to us about ways in which we can manage those people with whom we come into contact.

As a young 4H leader, oftentimes you had to be responsible for the young ones who were members of the Movement. I am sure that we have benefitted tremendously. It has served us in good stead. I want to say that I benefitted from her.

I am not very familiar with the late Senator Lynch, although I was of the view that she was the owner of Lynch's Secondary School. I always came along with that thinking. I know that school was a very disciplined school as well. I know now that she was not the owner of that school, but the fact that it carried her name was an indication of the manner in which she was seen.

Sir, I was very much acquainted with Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard. I had many discussions with him, even in the days when I was an employee of the Barbados Agricultural Society. Senator Chandler, I know he did a lot of work in the early days planting and the hydroponics that we are talking about these days. I really and truly am going to greatly miss the Senator.

Sir, he was always punctual when he came to the Senate. If you got here with him before the Senate started, he would give you a word of wisdom. His presence alone created an impression of strength in mind and strength in will to do the task ahead. He would always encourage you.

We are saddened at his passing and I trust that his passing will assist those of his family in lifting their heads up, recognising that he was one that carried the flame, torch and baton with the family name. We who sat with him and talked with him are proud of the contribution which he

made to this country and in the manner in which he presented himself.

Sir, I recognised that even at the Sittings, once he spoke, he spoke with a measure of intelligence. All media houses, print and electronic would carry his message to those who have not been privileged to hearing him live.

I want to emulate what he did here, not that I want the media to carry my message, but I would want to be able to present myself in the manner in which Sir John Stanley Goddard presented himself in the Senate.

May he rest in peace.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Ince.

SENATOR J. INCE: Mr. President, I rise to associate myself with fellow Senators in offering contributions to the three Senators, Senator Blackman, Senator Lynch and Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard.

12.50 p.m.

Sequence 10

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Senate A22, Sequence 11, 12.50 p.m.

SENATOR J. INCE: I never knew Senator Blackman or Senator Lynch but having read the contributions made to the social landscape of Barbados and Senator Lynch in her contribution to education, I can only conclude that both individuals were outstanding in developing and shaping many of the persons and young minds that we have in our education and social departments today in Barbados.

Sir John Stanley Goddard I can speak from a personal and professional basis, having lived a stone's throw away from his property and still live in that area. Sir John was a gentleman. He was very polite and I must say that as a young black man growing up in humble surroundings, I had the opportunity to walk on to Sir John's property many times. It is an excellent property, well landscaped and what I must say is when he drove in, you cannot forget P20.

Sir, if he drove on to his property and he saw you there viewing the beautiful landscape of the East Coast of Barbados, the West Coast of Barbados and areas of the South Coast from that property called, Hill View. He would never say to you: "What are you doing here?" Mr. President, Sir John would never ask you, what are you doing on his premises, whether he was at home or he was coming home. He would always tell you, "if you are going

to drink some of the coconuts, please carry the shells with you,” or “if you are going to pick the fruits, don’t destroy the trees.” Sir, that was the type of man Sir John Stanley was, and I am speaking from knowing him from that standpoint.

Mr. President, as far as I know, he never lived a lavished lifestyle. In fact, many of the young men in the area argued whether or not we would ever see Sir John Stanley Goddard drive a Mercedes Benz. Unfortunately, he passed away and we never got the opportunity to see him driving that Mercedes Benz. He drove a simple Nissan Sunny with no remote controls, when he was living in an era where you would use remote controls, but a simple vehicle.

Sir, you could go to his house whether it was a Saturday morning, or a Sunday morning, you never had to make an appointment. If you call him up, he would say to you: “Sir, give me a little chance. Sit in that verandah.” Then, he would walk out either with a nice glass of mauby or lemonade and give you his blessings, as far as a business is concerned, or as far as education is concerned.

There were many times when he used his car, which we termed, the Transport Board bus, because he is not going to leave home and pass persons by the bus stop and not give them a ride to the City. Whether it was raining, or whether it was sunny, he would take you to Bridgetown. When you sat in that car, surprisingly, he knew almost everyone in the neighbourhood. Sometimes we pondered whether or not he had a register about the persons that he knew around him, but he knew you.

He knew who went to the Community College, he knew who was going to the University of the West Indies, he knew the women in the neighbourhood who got married, who had children and sometimes, he would even send a gift for them, if they are getting married. Sir, he would lecture and he would say to you, “Have discipline.”

In 1996 when I returned to Barbados, I went to see him, and I spoke to him about the possibilities of getting into business, he said to me: “Jepter, one of the things that you must have, you must be highly disciplined in whatsoever you do. You must read and read well, respect persons and be honest to yourself.”

Mr. President, I offer my condolences to the families of Senator Blackman, Senator Lynch and Sir John Stanley Goddard, but I would surely miss Sir John Stanley on Sunday mornings going for his newspaper, and I would surely miss seeing P20 passing along in a simple and polite manner.

Mr. President, I thank you very much. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It would seem that all Honourable Senators, who intended to, have made their contributions and all that is left for the Chair to do is to associate with all the remarks that have been made so far. The basic reason for public service was exemplified by each of the former Senators whose service we hereby seek to honour.

Marjorie Blackman, I knew her personally because at the time when I was the Minister responsible for the Industrial Development Corporation, she was the person who systematically and I might add, single-handedly, created the Handicraft Department in the form it came to be known.

I was not as lucky to know Senator Enid Lynch personally, except on the occasions when she would, believe it or not, call to congratulate me for words that I had spoken, usually in contradistinction to what was her own view of the word, but she would always call to say to me, “You did a fine job.” I think I would miss that tremulous voice as it communicated to me that something I had done or said, mostly said, was acceptable to her.

In the case of Sir John Stanley Goddard, I have always been struck by the fact that this particular family had made such a tremendous contribution to the development of this country in so many different ways and so many different spheres. It is fascinating to think of Sir John who has been, what I chose to call, the leader of a group of young, bright entrepreneurs, who managed to carry a company from a family-owned small business into a Regionalised behemoth in the field of commerce.

Suffice it to say that those who replaced him have some very large shoes in which they must walk. I have no doubt that they will, and I look forward to the day, not when I will eulogise them as we have done today, but I will be able to say that they have followed successfully in the footsteps of that great giant of a man as has been described.

Colleagues, it is not often that we get a chance to eulogise former Senators and I hope that it will not be often that we are called upon to eulogise former Senators, but it is instructive that those Senators whom we speak of today, are Senators who have been appointed, not because of their political affiliation, but more because of their contribution to this system which we call the people and Government of Barbados.

We are among the most fortunate people the world has ever seen, to have been born here, to live here, to grow here and to observe the people who contribute here. In sharing with you my own deep feelings about those who have gone, I feel bound to express regret that I was not, for reasons which are not important, here in Barbados at the time to participate with the families in the goodbyes which they would have paid to their loved ones.

Senate A22, Sequence 13:00:14

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Mr. PRESIDENT: In the case of Sir John Stanley, I would have liked very much to offer personal condolences to his widow because I have found him to be so different from so many people I have met in my lifetime. He always had the benefit of his dear Lady next to him whenever he was embarking on some project or some excursion.

Suffice it to say that Sir John Stanley Goddard is representative of the three persons we are honouring by our condolences today. We are honouring them not only because they have been Senators and it is our duty to do so, we are honouring them because they have been good Barbadians in the truest sense of that word.

To indicate our feelings, I am going to ask this Senate to rise in your places and let us have a period of silence as we mark the passing of these great Barbadians.

One minute's silence was observed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: May they rest in peace.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.05 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2.05 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

Senate A22 Sequence 12

1.05 p.m.

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RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is now resumed.

Senator McClean.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to congratulate two Barbadians and to say that it would appear from all comments and words of condolence earlier this morning, that the month of August, 2009, was one that will be remembered by many Barbadians.

As we recognised the contributions of three late Honourable Senators, one who would have died on August 4, former Senator Blackman; on August 13, we would have lost Senator Lynch and on August 15, we would have lost Sir John. Sir, I am happy to say that amidst the pain and sorrow of death we also had much to celebrate.

Sir, I would want, at this time, to say a word of congratulations to our fellow Honourable Senator the Honourable, now Professor Velma Newton, one of our Independent Senators, who was recently promoted to the position of Professor at the University of the West Indies. Professor Newton would have also been, from August 1, appointed to the position of Dean, becoming the first female Dean at the Faculty of Law at Cave Hill. Therefore, I would want very much to offer her congratulations in that new position.

Mr. President, I can relate to being first in a number of areas. I believe that on her shoulders would rest a major responsibility to hold up the sides, so to speak, and to demonstrate, once again, that Barbadian women are capable of assuming office in whatever sphere and being able to reach the greatest heights. That is one of the beautiful things of this wonderful country.

Mr. President, as we saw the passing of some of our elders, so to speak, as we recognised the successes and achievements of Senator Professor Newton, also on August 20, we would have experienced a level of exhilaration as a people that will not be easily forgotten.

On August 20, 2009, the world changed for a young man, a Barbadian of humble origins from the beautiful rural parish of St. Andrew. Sir, I am speaking of Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite, who has become world renown now for having won the 110m. hurdles at the World Games. He is somebody on whom we have great hope and certainly somebody on whom we will not exert too much pressure.

Mr. President, I must say that in his success as a hurdler, for he had indeed overcome many hurdles, literally and figuratively, to have reached that position, he has also brought Barbados into the international spotlight once again and among many young people who are proving that excellence is indeed worth striving for. Therefore, the contributions of Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite must be recognised.

Mr. President, for some reason, this morning I was compelled to search for the meaning of his name. I have a notion that there is something significant about his name. As I said, I believe there is significance to one's name. In fact, people of my parents' generation often did not choose names because of their meaning, but coming from a family

of 11 siblings, one day I felt the need to research the meaning of the names.

Sir, it was very interesting to see what those names meant and the connection between the life, circumstances and characteristics of my brothers and sisters and their names.

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, my response to the question what is in a name is often very much. Sir, the boy's name Ryan, which is Gaelic in origin means "king". A second suggestion means "water". Of course, I believe we were treated to a king either flowing or floating over the hurdles, much like water possibly would.

I believe that in choosing his names, whether or not his parents recognised it, they were, in fact, choosing to call their child by a name that had meaning to which any young man should aspire, that is to be a king in his or her profession, to excel.

Mr. President, as I said, the 21-year-old hurdler won the world championship in the 110m. hurdles, finishing the race in a photo finish situation which left many of us holding our breaths. It certainly left him and his fellow competitors holding their breaths until the final adjudication took place, where we were able to hear that in 13.14 seconds, he was able to achieve that status of world champion.

Mr. President, prior to that, as most of us would be aware, he would have made it to the semi-finals in Beijing. This is no mean achievement. Sir, I would use his words to describe perhaps what many of us felt. He said: "I am very happy. My dream really has come true. Barbados is only a small country but I showed the world who I am." Mr. President, in showing the world who he was, Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite was also able to show the world what Barbados has been, what it is and what it can be.

Mr. President, I believe that, in recent times, we have had much to celebrate, as we have seen Barbados and Barbadians achieved in the area of science, in the receipt of world-recognised honours. We have seen our young people performed in the field of music. Sir, the question is, how do we as a small country, how do we as individual citizens achieve this level of success?

It has been through a commitment to hard work, to honest contributions in our respective spheres. It has been an appreciation that unless we work hard, that as a small people, in a small nation, in a big world, we would not be able to stand up and shine.

Mr. President, in the last, almost one year, that I have represented this country as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, I have continued to be struck by the compliments that our public officials, our Ministers of Government, other representatives of the business and non-profit sectors, the recognition and praise that have been heaped on them in those several spheres. Sir, Barbados to my mind continues to be seen in the world as a small country which has been able to do much with very little, except the main element of our success is our people.

Mr. President, only yesterday I was interviewed by two individuals from Forbes Magazine, who are proposing to do a feature on Barbados. Sir, one of the questions they posed was how do we account for the success of such a small country?. I believe that in trying to answer that question as honestly and as simply as I could, I said it is because we have invested in our people.

2.20 p.m.

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SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: We have invested in our people and it is that that makes a country as little in terms of mineral or physical resources, it is a belief that we should at all times work as hard as we can that has brought Barbados to this stage. I believe that will take us to the next stage.

Sir, when we look at the achievements of Ryan Brathwaite, a young man who I was very pleased to meet quite recently, when his success was recognised and a fitting tribute paid to him, I was able to look into the eyes of a young man who obviously was polite and who was very focussed.

I remember speaking to one of the female coaches who has been involved in athletics in Barbados for many years, in track and field. She said to me that part of Ryan's success is to do with his demeanour, his upbringing which has shaped that demeanour, his respectfulness as a young man, his willingness to listen to advice, et cetera. I believe that the foundation on which he was able to build his success to date has been very much part of what I just described.

Sir, the foundation of having loving parents, coming from a neighbourhood in which, as far as the residents of that neighbourhood were concerned, your child is my child and therefore I should pay some attention to him or her; the willingness of the coaches to identify potential and work with that.

In respect of that I would like to highlight and recognise the contribution of the National Athletic Coach at the time, Alwin Babb. As I said, when he saw young Ryan

as a boy he saw somebody seven years ago who had much to offer. Therefore, in the contribution of Head Coach Babb, who was able to, as part of the coaching team of Rising Stars, to nurture him in a way that he has also sought to with others. He is one of many such persons in Barbados, persons who believe that against all odds and with minimal resources we can work with young people who are committed.

In celebrating and acknowledging the contribution of Mr. Brathwaite, I believe that one of the things we want to say to the people of Barbados, that is our young people, and to our adults who can guide our young people, it takes often times just a few minutes of one's time to, first of all, just sit down and identify through talking and identifying a vision, sharing goals and helping young people to recognise that there is a benefit in being disciplined, in being committed and in being focussed.

I believe that as the young people who went to the Lester Vaughan School with Ryan Brathwaite look on and see success played over and over on the big, little or as the young people like to do, go on the Internet and check out his name you will see thousands of references.

It is possible for one individual, one young man of humble origin, or as I said before, it is possible for a young man or woman in a similar situation, or a young man or woman of affluent means, who perhaps he or she will not rest on their laurels of the parent or parents, but would seek to show that we can achieve excellence and we can maintain excellence.

Unfortunately, as we look around this country, too many of us are willing to settle for second best, to settle for almost nothing, and we often use many excuses. I believe that we have invested over the years, and my standing here is testimony to the fact that education can make a difference. As one of 11 children, if my parents had to pay to send us all to school, or if we decided that we did not want to put in all our individual efforts, I would not have achieved much of what I have achieved.

I believe that this country is blessed by a philosophical approach to how we run this country, which say, investment in our people is critical. We are recognising more and more, that investment has to span a range of areas of endeavour. It has to span a range of formal and informal education.

It is about perhaps pooling our resources that is at the level of Government, the private sector, the non-governmental organisations or civil society sector, to ensure that we focus on providing the support necessary to facilitate Barbadians in achieving the best in whatever endeavours they may undertake.

I believe that as we celebrate the achievements of young Ryan Brathwaite, and as I recognise the accomplishments of our fellow Senator Professor Velma Newton, these are examples in the same way that we recognise the contributions of those who went before. These are examples of what it means to work towards significant goals, to sacrifice in the short-term for the long-term.

At the end of the day by our hard work and by the very support of our parents, friends, neighbourhoods, those who have been paid to teach us, train us, develop us and work with us, and of course with the support of Government, this small country Barbados can continue to make a significant mark on the international landscape, and by doing so make a contribution to making the world a better place.

Mr. President, I am obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I would join Senator McClean in extending congratulations first to Senator Professor Newton, one of our colleagues, for her achievements and to assure her that she has the support of this Senate, as she really plays what would be an instrumental and developmental role in the shaping of the educational system, the faculty, and the young minds that will come through the faculty for service at the national level and across the Caribbean.

I particularly congratulate her as the first female Dean, and I say that as the first graduate of Cave Hill and the first female graduate of the Faculty of Law to be appointed to a Cabinet in Barbados.

I realised as I sat just now, congratulating her in both capacities, the University is going through, like many of the institutions across the Region a period of upheaval and redefinition, redefinition of its role, determining how it can remain relevant in a changing society and economy, when in fact education and universities are becoming major centres for revenue generation and for foreign exchange earning.

I was recently looking at some of the universities overseas, and very often these universities are now having a larger number of scholars who are attending the university by distance education and during distance learning programmes. In some countries and in some States in the United States, I believe counties would be the correct expression in the United Kingdom, the income of the university both through the number of students who are attracted to the physical campus, as well as those who are taught through the cyber-classroom, the virtual learning

environment, account for as much as 20 per cent of the economy and revenue of the State or County as it is.

14.30 p.m.

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Senate A22, Sequence 15, 2.30 p.m.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Therefore, for Cave Hill, as the University of the West Indies looks at how it functions, as it determines what programmes it now has to teach, given the changing world climate, for instance, I am concerned - and I had the opportunity to speak to Senator Newton - that we have had in the Caribbean, a history of oil and gas exploration and production in Trinidad for 101 years but Energy Law and policy is not taught at the Trinidad campus. It is not taught in any of the faculties and if you want to specialise in this area as I have done, Sir, you have to do the training outside of Barbados.

We in the Caribbean have to start now. I believe Barbados had a bid round in 2008. Jamaica has just advertised for its bid round. Trinidad had a bid round in either August or early September. The days are going so quickly, you cannot keep track of them but certainly within the last two months, Trinidad had a bid round launched in Trinidad, which they were then taking to Houston and to the United Kingdom. Grenada is doing its maritime boundary definitions now, in order to have a bid round. St. Lucia has had a seismic done, which looks highly prospective so that they can prepare for oil and gas, as well as St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Sir, there is going to be tremendous need for energy Lawyers and outside of Trinidad, I am the only Lawyer trained in energy at postgraduate level in the Caribbean. There has to be now some emerging discipline of energy Law and energy policy, especially given the volatility of energy in the international marketplace and the implications for national development and economies. When you take the relationship then with climate change, there are universities now doing specialties in climate change Law and climate change policy. What has come out of Kyoto, what is going to come out of Copenhagen in December of this year, what the implications will be for how we do business? There are a number of changes that have emerged in the international sector, as a result of the decisions made, consequent upon Kyoto as an international agreement, and will be as a further consequence of Copenhagen.

Sir, I do not want to get away from the faculty. The point I am making is that essentially we are living in a

highly dynamic period where in education, we have to move from the traditional disciplines into new areas of disciplines. There are new areas in Law. There is a new body of Law in relation to international trade, in relation to energy, and in relation to the environment, which are emerging and are changing rapidly.

Sir, by December, the international environmental regime and the impact on energy will change again, once the agreement at Copenhagen is reached or in whatever form the post Kyoto decisions emerge. Our faculties and our campuses have to change with the dynamics of the international marketplace.

The Faculty of Law has to become - and I am not suggesting that it is not at all now - even more proactive in pursuing a student base, with the university becoming a centre of excellence, for international students and for international studies.

Again, if you go to some States or Counties in the United States of America or the United Kingdom, the numbers of international students that you see are a significant proportion of the local population. In Scotland and places like Edinburgh and Aberdeen which have major faculties, one in every seven persons, is an international student.

This is a high percentage of the population and it can have significant implications not only for revenues directly to the campus, but for supermarket businesses, for rental incomes, property development and, therefore, the presence of international students on a campus, has significant implications of growth, development and revenue for the wider population.

Equally, the distance learning mechanism. I used to have the statistic. I did not know that we would have been doing these today. Sir, as I said, I came in only last night, but I had the statistics and I would have wanted at some point to share it - the number of people now learning by distance education.

In fact, it is one of the unintended consequences of Internet capability, because it was not envisaged that education would become the largest growth area, coming out of the Internet but, increasingly, that is clearly where the trend is and it does allow you not only to train, in situ, but in order to use the virtual environment to bring people in from all kinds of different time zones and countries.

Mr. President, I look forward to seeing what kinds of changes there will be at the Faculty of Law and the kinds of programmes that would be brought on stream. I know that the faculty has been bringing new programmes on stream and there have been a lot of new initiatives but we look

forward to the continued growth and development under the Administration of Professor Newton.

We wish her every success and God's blessings as she goes about what really is a very important task. I know that she has - and I think I can speak without reservation - the support of the entire Chamber, and all Senators, in relation to the task which lies ahead. I am sure that if in anyway that any of us can help to give support, there are people within here.

I know Senator McClean, who has had a long association with the university, would, in fact, be as helpful as at all possible. Mr. President, we congratulate Senator Professor Newton. We wish her well. We wish her God's blessings and strength and we wish her wisdom in the job and the journey ahead of her.

I turn, Mr. President, to Ryan Brathwaite, who brought great honour and pleasure to Barbadians. Those of us who listened to the race found ourselves transported with ecstasy, shouting and screaming in utter delight at his success, but this for him is part of a journey. He must see himself now as an athlete who has great potential and on whom great hopes are pinned, as he goes on then to greater successes and to new achievements at games in the future.

He is, as Senator McClean indicated, very much a product of a community and a traditional Barbadian upbringing, which has strengthened his own views and perception of life and his approach to his sport and his discipline. If he continues within the best of the best of the Barbadian tradition and values, I have every confidence that he will continue to do spectacularly well.

Those of us on This Side, Sir, would wish to congratulate him sincerely, to thank him for the recognition and honour which his achievements have brought to Barbados. As I indicated, I have been away and I must tell you that over the course of the last month, as I travelled, I was amazed at the number of people in Europe, who were mentioning his name to me, and could speak of the race and, of course, had seen that and along with him and Usain Bolt, were speaking to the Caribbean's performance at the World Games.

Mr. President, he has world recognition. We hope that he will continue to recognise that athletes need to continue training, if they are to stay at the top of their game - and I use game very loosely in this context - and hope very much that he will continue to do what is necessary to remain at the top, and to realise his full potential. He is still quite young and, as he grows in his discipline, as he is given further training, we know that he will achieve excellence at every level.

It is important to note too, I think, Sir, that there was a time when older people were the ones who went outside of Barbados and made their mark but, increasingly, we are seeing that young people like Rihanna Fenty and Ryan Brathwaite are causing positive international attention and recognition to be brought on the island.

Senate A22, Sequence 15, 14:40:14

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SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I would encourage young people to recognise that these are role models who are not constrained by space, by time or the physical size of Barbados but for whom, in a globalised environment, the opportunities are so much more than there would have been for a person 20, 40 or 50 years ago, and that they can achieve a level of honour and recognition for themselves, their family, their communities and the country, and that one would have to applaud and support them in their efforts.

I know that Ryan has the support of all Barbados and the prayers and best wishes of many, so we congratulate him formally today. Sir, I would also like to extend my congratulations to his support team. In his support team, I would include team members, his coach and so on and his family. I heard a teacher speaking on the radio at great length about the extent to which a group of prayer warriors from her Church were praying for him. Sir, we would want to say congratulations too to that wider support system.

Mr. President, often when individuals achieve success, we congratulate them without recognising that they are supported by a whole network of friends, relatives, team members and coaches who have each contributed in some way to that success. Mr. President, I would urge Ryan's team to stand firmly behind him and to encourage him to go to further strengths and to higher levels of achievements.

With those words, Sir, I conclude my congratulations to Senator Professor Newton and to His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite on their respective achievements and wish them both tremendous future success from myself, my colleague Senator Holder and the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Benn.

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes to add to the note of congratulations to Senator Velma Newton. I think we now have to try to address her very correctly. I do not know what her credentials would be. Is it Senator the Honourable Professor Velma E. Newton? Sir, I feel happy for her and I am confident that she will continue to add value to the

debates of this Honourable Chamber. Mr. President, it is said that she is the first female Dame of the Law Faculty of the University of the West Indies Cave Hill, which is a great achievement, thus leading the way for other women to follow.

Mr. President, I am not surprised at this because Velma Newton is a resident of St. Peter. She arrived from St. Peter. Sir, we know of going back to the days of the Bible how Peter was. However, Sir, I definitely want to congratulate her and continue to look forward to her level of debate in this Chamber.

Mr. President, I am equally happy by the achievement of young Ryan Brathwaite. I also want to be able to address him properly, so could I be guided here?

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite is a hurdler. Mr. President, in our own lives when we are faced with many a hurdle, we look at these as obstacles or tremendous challenges. Sir, it was very significant that the young athlete knocked down the very first hurdle and then regained his composure and was able to overcome the others on his way to victory.

Mr. President, that brought back to focus some of the things that we in life encounter, when we early in our lives could knock down the early hurdle and move forward. Mr. President, I am of the view that if His Excellency had cleared the early hurdle and had knocked down the second last or the last hurdle, he might have stumbled on his way to the tape.

Sir, this brings me back to that passage in the Bible that talks about remembering the creator in the days of your youth. Oftentimes in our young days, we do not acknowledge the creator and at the end of the lifeline, we expect the Dean or other persons to read us into heaven.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are not talking about Dean Velma?

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: No, I must make myself clear here. I am talking about Dean Crichlow.

Mr. President, it is very wonderful to know that His Excellency has done this at such an early age. He has brought a lot of pride to our country and I am hoping that all of the young persons who have recognised his achievement, who have been following the motorcades and who have been in his presence for all of the accolades that have been thrown at him and all the gifts and awards that have been given to him, would see it as an opportunity to

change their lives around and to aim and to focus because a lot of us are very concerned by the way in which many of our young people are heading.

Mr. President, we do have some wonderful and beautiful young people in the various churches and youth groups in the country, but this is an opportunity for young people to see a young man of 21 years old rise to a level in the world where persons have been able to acknowledge his achievement. Mr. President, I am calling on all young persons in Barbados to seek to emulate in their area of endeavour what young Ryan Brathwaite has achieved and to rise to the top and raise their own bar and pull their own socks up.

Mr. President, the next term is going to be the athletics term. This is the first term in the new school year and they are into aquatic sports. Next year January down to maybe March and April would be the athletics season. Sir, I am confident that a lot of the young athletes would want to aspire to greatness. I am therefore hoping and calling on the authorities to ensure that the facilities are good and in place.

Sir, as good as we might be or want to be, without good equipment and without good training and coaching, we might not get to the level that we want to get.

Mr. President, I want to congratulate His Excellency's coach, Mr Alwin Babb, who arrives from Six Mens in St. Peter and teaches at the Lester Vaughan School. Sir, even though he is there giving of his utmost to the school, I would like, because His Excellency is not the first champion athlete that he has coached, to see him given an opportunity to do it nationally. He has been the national coach in a number of areas for the CAC Games, CARIFTA, et cetera.

Sir, I would hope that the Minister of Sports would open up an opportunity for him to touch a wider cross section of our athletes, not only at the Lester Vaughan School, so I want to congratulate Mr. Alwin Babb as well. Senate A22 Sequence 16

2.50 p.m.

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SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Mr. President, I heard the Leader of Government Business mentioned his name and gave the meaning of his name, meaning that it means king. I am wondering if you could research the name Branford and see what is in that name. I know there are a lot of Taitts, there is dictate, hesitate, facilitate and worse of all, prostate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not like interrupting the Honourable Member but I would like the Honourable Member to stick to the point.

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Mr. President, I was trying to get the Honourable Senator to see if you were also a king.

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Mr. President, my message here this afternoon is for His Excellency Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite to keep his head up, to stay focussed, to carry the banner of this country with pride, and that wherever possible, he should seek to encourage persons to reach the heights that he has reached.

Mr. President, this very country is at a stage where we are now running hurdles. The economic pathway is not a 100 metre or 200 metre flat race, it is a hurdle. Mr. President, over the past few months, the world has faced three major crises, for which I believe the entire world was not prepared. There was the food crisis last year. There was then the oil crisis. It is now the economic crisis for which I do not think the world was prepared. Sir, Barbados, as a small open economy, is one of those countries that was not prepared for it. Sir, though we would have indicated in our journey where we are today, though we would have made a lot of hopes and promises, oftentimes when we did that, we were not aware of the hurdles that were before us.

Mr. President, I am, therefore, saying that I would wish, at this time, that we could call on all Barbadians to recognise where we are today. I have travelled and attended a number of conferences and as was mentioned, people are saying to us that despite what we are experiencing in the world today, Barbados seems to be holding its own. The race is not for the swift or the battle for the strong but for those who can endure to the end.

Sir, I am glad this morning to hear Senator Thompson speaking in such glowing terms of support and cooperation. I have seen her taking on the mantle of leadership because she has a junior Honourable Senator who has just joined this Honourable Chamber.

I look forward to working with the new Honourable Senators, Senator R. G. Cave and Senator E. Holder. Mr. President, the serious message here is that we need to put our hands to the plough. We need to put our shoulders together as we move towards the mark of the high calling.

Mr. President, in summary, let me congratulate the Honourable Senator Professor Velma Newton and to offer my congratulations also to His Excellency Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite, to his coach and to his entire family and to say to them, trust in the Lord with all your strength and

with all your hearts and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.

Mr. President, I am obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Inniss.

SENATOR Miss P.I. INNISS: Mr. President, I would like to offer my congratulations, at this time, to these two young people, the first being the Honourable Senator Professor Velma Newton on her receiving her Professor's role at the Faculty of Law at the University of the West Indies. I congratulate her most sincerely and elaborately.

Mr. President, let me give you a leeway to recognise her gender in what I think is important. I believe there may be a counter balance, even in this Honourable Chamber. Sir, I often listen to the way and the manner in which Honourable Senators and you, Sir, see things and deliberate upon things.

Sir, I do believe that females offer another approach, another side of the coin. Therefore, when I see an excellent professional woman taking over the leadership position, I believe that the world would be a better place, that Barbados would be a better place because it allows us also to have that special touch. Sir, this is not a gender issue but I am confident that Professor Newton will carry out her duties professionally and that she will always bring, to my mind, that special touch.

Mr. President, I too would want to support statements made by Honourable Senators, including Senator Thompson, who spoke of the mammoth task ahead. Indeed, we are in a changing society and for sure the University of the West Indies is not exempted from such.

Sir, we are, I believe, at a crossroad where the university has realised the changing and dynamic nature of times, as it relates to climate change and energy; as it relates to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 13th Meeting in December. Mr. President, this will bring so many changes and so we have to have a legal framework to deal with the onslaught of issues and the new realities that will soon be bombarding our societies.

Mr. President, presently at the University of the West Indies, there has been the understanding that no longer can you divide the professionals in whatever faculties or areas of disciplines. Sir, even Lawyers have to understand basic science backgrounds. We have H1N1, we have HIV/AIDS. We cannot have professionals in whatever discipline not appreciating the basic structures, not having a basic understanding of the scientific field.

Mr. President, I think we are reaching a stage where not only Lawyers per se must have more than a basic grasp of legal matters, maybe the University of the West Indies needs to look at introducing basic fundamental courses for all university graduates, so that they would be able to appreciate basic legal parameters which span every aspect of our lives. The common man, as well as lawyers, now know about conveyances, Letters of Administration and certain areas of Common Law. These areas are no longer isolated only to Lawyers.

Mr. President, I think the University of the West Indies needs to look at those realities in this new changing dynamics and I am quite confident that Senator Professor Newton is appreciative of these changing dynamics.

Sir, I am looking forward to what comes out of the Faculty of Law and to what comes out of the overall development of the University of the West Indies, with another professional competent female, but more important, a competent professional at the helm.

Mr. President, I congratulate her wholeheartedly for her accomplishments.

3.00 p.m.

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SENATOR Miss P.I. Inniss: I have been listening to the congratulations of a number of persons across Barbados as they relate to our Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite. I want to join for the first time in congratulating him for his achievement.

Sir, many persons have spoken of his success and what it means for Barbados and the Caribbean. While I agree with all that has been said, when I think of his successes and achievements I remember and think of the words he echoed on the radio, may be every five minutes, for a few weeks, when they asked him, as soon as he had finished the race, what were his thoughts.

While we have an entire society which is commending his success in the race, which I also agree with, to me he became a winner, to me he deserved the accolades at the point where he said, "I started the race and I said to myself: "Oh! God, I do not have this." This was immediately before or after the first hurdle.

To my mind he became a winner at the point where he said, "I pressed on and I pushed even harder and my determination showed me that I was the winner." I listened carefully to that because in his simple words it was more than say, Oh I succeeded. He kept the faith and despite the problems he pushed on. I would like to congratulate him

for those statements, and for the understanding of what it takes to be a winner.

Sir, I would like in the minute or two remaining to speak relating to that point and to the fact that many young people have no idea of what it takes to be a winner. I commend Ryan Brathwaite for such and I can only hope that our young people follow that concept. Sir, winning, being successful, to my mind, is an acquired taste.

It is something you learn. It does not come naturally. Many of the congratulatory messages have sought to encourage other young people to be like Ryan Brathwaite and to press on to the mark, to be committed, disciplined and to reach for the stars.

I would like to submit that unless a young person has the taste of winning in whatever sphere, it is hard for them to succeed. I believe that Ryan's parents and his coaches assisted him in reaching this point, assisted him in understanding what it is to be a winner, and how to become a winner. Sir, his parents, even from a very young age...It is not just a matter of winning a 110 metre hurdle, in whatever sphere encourage your children to win something.

Too many of our young people have not won at anything. They have not gone through the rigours of the trials, disappointment of pressing beyond it and becoming successful at the end. Therefore, they have nothing to guide them towards success in life.

I am convinced that this is what Ryan's parents taught him, this is what his coaches taught him and this is what they continue to teach him, win, develop the discipline for winning in whatever sphere. Even if you are playing basketball, football, croquet or typing, find the time to learn something, win at that and that gives you the parameters for success in other spheres. Too many of our young people do not have those experiences and they falter.

I believe this is what Ryan Brathwaite is teaching us. This is what Rihanna and many others have taught us. This is what our young people have to grab hold of. Parents have to allow their children the opportunity to be engaged in some activity, in something, and allow them to press towards the mark of winning.

I think that even with seemingly a simple approach as that, the issues of crime and violence and a number of the problems plaguing our society, we try to attack them from a holistic approach. There will be dealt with because when you teach children how to succeed, they develop discipline, commitment and focus, even if it is needlework, crochet or flower arranging, they all engage the same stages, the same steps. There are those steps and attitudes that at the point you falter over the first hurdle that teaches you how to press on and therefore you are able to succeed.

Sir, I go into the area every day and ask young people what they are doing, and they say that they are bored, or wasting some time here. When you ask some of our young people what they want to do in life, they say they do not know. When you ask what they are good at, they say they do not know. How then can we speak of such great accomplishment, and merely tell our children to press on to the mark?

We have not equipped them with the tools. They have to know what they are, what they are good at and to learn the concepts of success. To my mind, this is what Ryan Brathwaite has spoken of. This is what he has elaborated, the essence of success which is not only the gold medal, but after you stumbled at that first hurdle to say, "Oh my God, I do not feel I am going to win this race," but at that point, because of the disciplines you have acquired, because of the art of success that you have mastered at that point, calling on those to steer your course and allow you to press on, and that keeps you from a lot of the vagaries of a society, and that makes you a success.

I would like to commend him for his efforts. Irregardless of his future, he has already succeeded and has taught, I am hoping, more Barbadian young people to win at something, and to carry that on to make Barbados even more a beacon in the outside world, as it truly is, and to be able to have something to show at the end of your life that you have committed yourself to a task, you have succeeded and you have assisted your fellow man.

Sir, I think that is what he has done. I am commending both him and Professor Newton for their winning ways. I am sure that their future will only add more success.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Holder.

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: Sir, I rise to offer congratulatory remarks on behalf of two outstanding Barbadians, one in the area of academia and the other in the area of athletics. I first wish to speak in respect of the Honourable Professor Velma Newton.

Sir, I speak in respect of Professor Newton, being myself a product of the Faculty of Law. I am in a position to speak as it relates to what comes out of the Faculty of Law.

15.10 p.m.

Sequence 18

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Senate A22, Sequence 19, 3.10 p.m.

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: Indeed, history will show that Senator Newton is the first female Professor from that Faculty as it relates to being a Dean. I am also told that she is the first Dean in 39 years from that Faculty being a female so that speaks volumes as it relates to, not only being the first female Dean, but being a Barbadian.

Indeed, the Faculty of Law has so many challenges ahead of it, as it relates to diversifying of its portfolio. I am sure that given the wealth of knowledge and experience that Professor Newton has, she will only guide it administratively in the right way forward. It therefore gives me the greatest pleasure, being a product of that Faculty, to offer heartiest congratulations to Senator Velma Newton.

In respect of His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite, one should note that at 21 years old, he is but in the pristine of his youth. He has so much more to offer as a young person. What is however remarkable is that Ryan Brathwaite was not only raised by a mother and father, but as the sociologists speak to, he was raised by a community, part of an extended family system, which is somewhat absent in the traditional Barbadian setting as of now.

I think what is even more remarkable, Mr. President, is that he is a rustic young man, far away from suburban and urban society, raised with different traditions and different value systems which, to my mind, have inculcated a different belief system in the young man, so much so that at such a young tender age, he can succeed to such a great extent.

I was one of those persons who was also transfixed on August 20, 2009. At that point in time, I had taken my young daughter to the orthodontist, when to all and sundry, this race was being broadcast live on VOB and CBC, and even when the race was completed, persons were not aware of who was the victor. It took some time before the cameras could identify the eventual winner of the gold medal.

In that small room at the orthodontist, the whole entire place erupted in joy. This was but an example of the exuberance exhibited, in this small country of Barbados on that date. Not only that, the exuberance remained up to today, the present and it will remain forever etched in our minds.

I wish to exhort His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite that he is seen now as a motivator, so that he ought not to rest on his laurels but what has actually occurred, the success can redound to the benefit of our young people in this country. He must therefore not only remain focussed, but more determined than ever to continue the realm of success, which he has reached at such a young and tender

age. His victory, no doubt, will act as an impetus for more young persons in this country to excel at other things.

Mr. President, the victory of Ryan Brathwaite ought not to be examined and seen in isolation but must be viewed from a holistic perspective that tells our young people that if they express confidence, if they express determination, notwithstanding any stumbling blocks, they can succeed, if they truly want to succeed and if they work hard at it.

In closing, Mr. President, I want to extend personal congratulations to the aforementioned persons and also on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party.

I am obliged to you, Mr. President.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Chandler.

SENATOR Dr. F.L. CHANDLER: Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to congratulate first of all Senator Professor Velma Newton. I regret that I am not as eloquent a speaker as those who came before me but I certainly agree with all that they have said. Senator Professor Newton and I went to Queen's College together and I met her again when I entered this Honourable Chamber. I believe she was here a term before me.

I have observed the detail with which she prepares her speeches and I assume that she prepares her professional assignments in the same way, paying attention to detail and I am sure that has played a good part in her success. I do believe that as Senator Inniss said, attention to detail is a characteristic of women. I would like to say that she has done us, females in particular, proud and I would like to congratulate her again.

I would like to congratulate Ryan Brathwaite on his marvelous achievement. I must say that a chill went down my spine when he said, "I am proud of my achievement, but I am proud most of all to be a Barbadian." I urge Ryan to keep focussed and as Senator Benn has said, not to be distracted from his goals but to persist, as I believe Senator Inniss has said.

I believe that he will be a good example for all youngsters to emulate and I hope he keeps along this path of success. Congratulations again to His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Sandiford-Garner.

SENATOR Mrs. V.I. SANDIFORD-GARNER: Sir, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate two outstanding Barbadians. Unlike some of my colleagues, I would not have been enrolled in the Law Faculty at the University of the West Indies unfortunately or fortunately, to have known Senator Professor Newton in that capacity. I can lay claim though to the honour of being a student of Queen's College, so at least we have something in common here.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. V.I. SANDIFORD-GARNER: Sir, what I will say is that I am immensely proud to be in This Place at this time to be able to offer my sincerest congratulations to another outstanding Barbadian woman. I am always heartened when our women achieve great things and to be in the presence of one today, gives me great pleasure.

When I did congratulate her earlier, I had no idea that we would have been paying tribute later on so, I am still glad I did my congratulations before and, accept my sincerest congratulations through the President to you, Mam.

The other outstanding Barbadian, of course, is the St. Andrew born and raised His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite. Sir, at the time of the celebrations, I would have been the person acting in the capacity of the Minister to organise the celebrations to welcome him home.

Senate A22, Sequence 19, 15:20:14

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

SENATOR Mrs. V. I. SANDIFORD-GARNER: Sir, I had the distinct pleasure in meeting a young man who, as Senator Holder would have said earlier, was born and raised in rural Barbados but who epitomises, even in this 21st Century, all the values and customs that we as country people, as you would call us, were raised with. At 21, he is an inordinately humble individual.

Sir, despite the fact that he would have been awarded all of these gifts and given all of the accolades possible, the young man still had the presence of mind each time to say "thank you" and to say how grateful he was for what the Government had done for him and for the love that Barbadians have shown him. He was actually overwhelmed. Mr. President, I think that even though he knew that what he did was of world class standards, he was sincerely appreciative, it was not an act, of what Barbadians have done for him.

Mr. President, I would have said at another time in another place that the mileage which Ryan Brathwaite

would have garnered for Barbados on the international circuit is mileage that the Ministry of Tourism could never have paid for. What this young man has done for us in 13.14 seconds could never be paid for in 10 years, and I would wish Barbadians to recognise him and remember that.

Mr. President, I would wish to also congratulate his parents. Two Senators before me mentioned his parents, but I think it is important to understand that coming from the circumstances which His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite would have come from, it takes exceptional fortitude and grounding to raise a child at 21 years old who can epitomise all the qualities that I would have spoken about.

They are very simple people of very basic means but they have done an excellent job with that young man and they deserve our congratulations as well as the community which Senator Holder would have spoken of. Those people came out in their hundreds to welcome home one whom they saw as a son of the soil, a young man of the district. I would have said previously that it was like Christmas when you went into the district.

Mr. President, I read on the Internet the other day somebody saying that the preparations that I would have spoken of reminded them of when the Queen was coming to Barbados in colonial times when Barbadians would debush and paint up their residences and districts to welcome home the Queen. This time around it was the King of St. Andrew who was coming home.

Sir, those people went all out to make sure that he had a King's welcome, so therefore the name Ryan is definitely appropriate in this instance. I had no idea that Ryan meant King, but intuitively the people of St. Andrew seemed to have known that was who he was, the King.

The people of Barbados who came out in their thousands deserve to be congratulated as well because they always say that a King has no honour in his own country and things like that, but in this instance, people came off their jobs and we saw thousands of Barbadians jammed the streets and byways from Christ Church to Bridgetown to see Ryan Brathwaite pass and to recognise that we had a world champion in our midst. Sir, Barbados needs to be thanked for giving Ryan Brathwaite the welcome of a lifetime.

There are civil servants who also need to be congratulated because they had very little time to do all of the work that had to be done, and so I would like to take the opportunity here now to thank them, because we always give them lashes when they do not come up to mark. I think it is appropriate today to recognise the work of the civil servants who went about their duties expeditiously

and quite efficiently to ensure that those celebrations ran without a hitch.

We also give the media lashes in here as well. Sir, I would wish, with your permission, to especially recognise the Voice of Barbados which would have carried the promotions. From the day Ryan won that race up until the very day he came home, the Voice of Barbados carried promotions every single day ensuring that His Excellency was kept top in the minds of Barbadians so that by the time he reached these shores every single Barbadian was well aware of what he has done, who he was, who his teachers were and what we expected of them when he came here.

Mr. President, I think they deserve our congratulations for that effort which would have been an effort germinated in the minds of various people at the organisation. They all deserve our congratulations and our thanks and praise for what they did.

Mr. President, we would have said that His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite and Rihanna have done tremendous things for Barbados. Mr. President, I would wish to look at this in the context of them being very young people. I have had an opportunity in another place to say this but of course they did not carry everything I said.

Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to ask the same Barbadians who are very quick to praise you and to build you up but who are also very quick, as soon as you slip, to tear you down, to give the young people a chance.

Mr. President, I am sometimes amazed at some of the things I read and hear in our media about our own Rihanna. Mr. President, as much as we speak about athletes and other people who have done Barbados proud, I have been to Rome, London and France more than once, and I have not been able to ask in another language another person about any of those other persons, I would not call their names, but I have been to Rome, Barcelona and to Paris on holiday last year and everywhere I went I heard Rihanna's music.

Sir, at one point one immigration official would not let go of my passport because he was trying to find out where Barbados was. I went on to ask him in Spanish to please give me back my passport. Sir, he then apologised to me and said that he was only trying to find out where Barbados was.

Sir, I said to myself how do I describe this because I do not have a map, and I asked him, do you know Rihanna? Sir, his face lit up and he nodded passionately and said yes he knew Rihanna. Sir, he then asked me if I knew her and I felt vindicated because I have always said that musicians and sports people would go where no other person can go, they reach our hearts.

Mr. President, we have young people now whom we can nurture and encourage. I would wish that Barbadians, as the young people themselves would say, would give them a break, give them the latitude to achieve the great things which they can achieve. Sir, I really do think that Barbados is on the brink of seeing major breakthroughs and successes from our young sports people and entertainers.

Mr. President, just recently on a new station called Centric, I saw a young Barbadian entertainer called Hal Linton doing a promotion in the same time slot as persons like Wyclef Jean, Chrisette Michele and Jay-Z. Sir, you may not be familiar with those names but the young people whom I speak with...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member, but familiarity breeds contempt.

SENATOR Mrs. V. I. SANDIFORD-GARNER: Your point is well taken, Sir, but it would do you good to listen to some Wyclef Jean's music sometimes.

Mr. President, I am making the point to say that our young people are on the cusps of doing some great things and I would wish us as a nation to give them as much support and encouragement as they need to ensure that they achieve the heights and the potential of which they are capable.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Senate A22 Sequence 20

3.30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. PRESIDENT: If no other Honourable Member wishes to speak in this debate, I would just wish to put on the record my own appreciation, late though it may be, and without familiarity with all of the young people who have been mentioned, my appreciation and congratulations to the persons mentioned in the Tribute.

I think I can, with impunity, offer special congratulations to the new Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of the West Indies. There is no question, whatsoever, that she is, in her own way, a beacon who has, for many years, demonstrated to all persons who have graduated from the Law Faculty of the University of the West Indies, that she is not only competent but exquisitely so.

It might not be known to Honourable Senators that this is the most competent Law Librarian there has ever been in the Caribbean, and I thought myself that the

university had exceeded itself when it recognised and appointed her Dean of the Faculty of Law.

I am one of those persons who, for reasons best known to fate, falls under the ambit of her authority as Dean and I craved her indulgence, from time to time, to allow me some of the privilege which this Honourable Chamber takes for granted. I congratulate the Dean and wish her many years in her position as the leading academic in the Faculty of Law at the University of the West Indies.

SENATOR the Hon. Prof. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. President, before I respond to the many kind remarks and expressions of support made in relation to me, I would like to extend my congratulations to His Excellency Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite. His achievement is extremely important for the youth of this country, at a time when several of us have said that we are all too frequently willing to give up on them and think that they will come to nought.

Mr. President, there are many, many other Ryan Brathwaites out there, I am sure, who will succeed in other areas and I am hoping they would look at his achievements as something they could emulate. I extend my congratulations to His Excellency and to his family who nurtured him and who have made many sacrifices for him to get where he is today.

Mr. President, in relation to myself, I am humbled by the tributes paid to me today. They were not expected. Indeed, while I was still in the diningroom, I thought I heard my name and I had to hustle up, to make sure that I was here to hear what people had to say and to let them know that I appreciated it immensely.

Mr. President, the Faculty of Law, which I now have the honour to lead, is undergoing a period of tremendous stress and change. I say stress and change because the Faculty of Law is currently the last cross-campus faculty at the University of the West Indies. It used to be Law, Medicine and Engineering. Those faculties have all now been divided and they are represented on each campus. It looks as though the Law Faculty is going in the same direction.

Mr. President, it is not necessarily a bad thing because change has to come, and for many years there has been a demand for the expansion of legal education in the Region. It may well be said that the Faculty of Law could have responded earlier to the call for increasing the numbers being admitted, but the Faculty of Law was established by Treaty and the other partner to that Treaty is the Council of Legal Education, at which the professional part of legal training takes place. Therefore, the two would have to be working together.

Mr. President, it is up to us who are involved in the delivery of legal education, to make sure that any changes which are coming - and they have been agreed upon as both Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica will be offering the three years' Bachelor of Law (LLB.) at those campuses, so there will now be three campuses offering Bachelor of Law - that we can cater to the Caribbean persons who in the past few years have had to go to London University and other places to receive legal education.

Mr. President, I am hoping that we could structure things in such a way that we could deliver legal education to more persons and not necessarily at a more expensive rate than some of the other universities are doing. Sir, after all, we have to be competitive.

Mr. President, what it means is that the conservative elements among the legal profession - and I dare say there are some in my Faculty - that we will have to embrace new methods of teaching. We will have to embrace the online technology that is now being used by so many of our competitors. We could try to make sure that we are able to win back some of the market. Sir, because we did not move in a timely fashion, we lost some of that market.

Mr. President, I was very interested to hear what Senator Thompson had to say about her experiences in recent years, while pursuing her Masters in Energy Law and now her PhD. We definitely have to expand our higher degree programmes, not only to try to meet the demands for legal education in Barbados and the Region, but to ensure that we are able to offer programmes in new areas of the Law as they develop. It means that we can no longer sit back and wait for persons to request that we do things. We have to be looking to see what has to be done and move early to try to make our contribution.

Mr. President, the Office of Dean is an extremely challenging one. There are many long hours, lots of fractious and contentious people, but then that is life. Nobody said it was going to be easy and if you take on a job, you have to be willing to accept the challenges. Sir, I do believe that I have the discipline and capacity for hard work and the will to strive for excellence, to make the best I can of it. I will certainly give it my best shot and for all hearing me, I will continue to operate according to principles. To me, that is the better option than any of these jobs.

Mr. President, with those few words, I wish to thank you all for the kind words said about me. It is an extremely humbling moment and especially since it was unexpected. In fact, I have to tell you, when I was leaving my office today, I told my Secretary that I am going to go to a place where it is peaceful. It is not always peaceful but such are the challenges I have been facing in recent times that the

Honourable Senate now seems like a haven of beauty and peace.

Mr. President, I thank you.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – SECOND READING OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, Barbadians moving around the south coast have become familiar with what is now referred to as the boardwalk.

3.40 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: In the past two years, starting with a proposal from the Inter-American Development Bank, a project was conceptualised to bring new life to the beaches on the South Coast. If you picture the coastline of Barbados, we see beaches come and we see beaches go, sometimes there is almost no beach at all.

At the same time, along the South Coast, we have several hotel properties, and clearly to tourists and therefore for Barbadians, the sea and sun, of course, are important components of our tourism offerings. What we have seen as a result of public expenditure, to date, of approximately \$14 million is a situation in which we have enhanced in substantial measure the coastline of Barbados in that area where we have had works undertaken to install the boardwalk, and to do major work to the facilitation of the accretion of the beaches in the area. This has served to largely extend the beach area and, at the same time, a corollary benefit has been the enhancement of the several properties along the area. If we travel in the area, I think it is between the Hastings/Rockley area, night or day, mid afternoon, Sunday, Monday or any day of the week, we will see Barbadians and visitors alike traversing that boardwalk in an effort to remain fit, and in an effort to enjoy the beautiful ambience of the Barbadian coastline at sunrise or sunset to enjoy what has, in effect, created a new opportunity for relaxation and recreation.

Sir, what this has translated to however is, having invested significant sums, the properties, as I said, have realised a major increase in the value of those properties, and at the end of the day, we have the potential that persons who might not in any direct way...yes, we are taxpayers, but whom might not have, in any direct way, contributed to the increase in property values find the opportunity to realise significant gains. That in itself is not problematic.

However, we believe that the taxpayers of Barbados, because the Government in expending those sums to create the benefits I described previously, our Government in the name of taxpayers should, beyond investing and incurring costs, stand to realise any benefits that are possible. The question is, how do you realise benefits. Clearly, if there is an increase in property value, then there is perhaps some capital gains, I think that might be the proper accounting or financing terminology that we could apply; from those investments, should a property owner sell that land, of course, if the value is enhanced and they are able to realise enhanced business. If you are a hotel and you have seen significant beach accretion, then you are able to offer and market your property consistent with that enhancement. As I suggested, the property owners along that stretch of land stand to benefit significantly.

It is therefore proposed that there be a simple amendment to the Land Development Duty (Amendment) legislation. This is intended to make the development date a longer period. In other words, starting from what is considered a specified base date, the date at which, in the case of the South Coast boardwalk, I would choose to describe it in layperson terms, was completed for period of 15 years, in relation to the proposed amendment as opposed to 10 years.

We are saying that we are providing the additional period of five years to ensure that those benefits I just described will accrue, not only to land owners, but also in part, will be shared by the Crown, or by extension, shared by Barbadians. This benefit will come perhaps in the form of tax revenue should the lands or properties in that location be sold at what we would know or anticipate as an enhanced price.

Sir, this is important because, at the end of the day Barbados, as part of its on-going policy, has recognised the significant contribution of our beaches and our near shore, and so on, to the quality of life, not only to our visitors and the quality of the experience of Barbados as a tourist destination, but the quality of life of ordinary Barbadians. The ordinary Barbadians, in total numbers, who have contributed to our tax revenue spent on this kind of project should, in turn, see some particular benefits.

Sir, remembering that there has been some significant work on beach preservation, preserving the beach and enhancing the beach have contributed significantly to improvement in property values. It is recognised that the benefits of that through the public purse should be extended for a longer period.

Therefore, a simple amendment to the Bill would move the period from 10 years to 15 years. As I said, it has been done in recognition of the need to share not only the cost of enhancement, but all share the potential revenue

benefits that might accrue to those persons, who are fortunate to own property on that compound. Sir, that pretty much explains the Amendment.

I would also want to now contextualise the initiative which has given rise to this Amendment.

Sir, I remember quite recently speaking to one of my counterpart colleagues from a fellow Ministry, who on attending a meeting in Barbados was taken to lunch by my Ministry, and we sat at a restaurant on the South Coast. The brief conversation that we had was perhaps very instructive and there were a couple of things that my colleague said to me. He said, "You in Barbados are very blessed." He also asked me to pretty much confirm that we do not have private beaches.

There was one other thing he said to me. He said, "You know, I have been hoping that I could retire to a situation like this." Sir, coming from a country in which the level of crime has escalated over the last decade-and-a-half or so, it really struck me that as a country, we have to pay very special attention to maintaining the natural and physical resources of this country.

I believe that as we seek to capitalise on the physical environment of Barbados, whether as business owners within the tourism sector, or as members of the general population in any sector, I think that we need on a day-to-day basis to look around us and appreciate what we have been able to do, as I probably mentioned in an earlier contribution today, with the limited but spectacular resources that we have been given by our Maker.

As we talk about land development duty, I would hate to think that persons who are benefitting would see this as a means of penalising them, but rather see it as a mechanism to share in the investment. I like to use this word because when we expend money of this magnitude, I made reference to an expenditure of approximately BDS\$14 million.

15.50 p.m.

Sequence 22

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Senate A22, Sequence 23, 3.50 p.m.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: As of October 31, 2008, the expenditure on that project was BDS\$13.5 million and in a small society like this, that is no small investment. Therefore, we as a group of people in this country, citizens, consumer citizens, entrepreneurs, visitors, or persons seeking to invest in Barbados, who may be attracted to any of those properties, when they see the

enhanced beach facilities, et cetera, the beach physical space, it is important we recognise that we are in this game together.

We are very much a part of maintaining the beauty of Barbados, maintaining the things that have made Barbados attractive to visitors, persons who would like to live here, persons who do business here and, of course, make it a paradise for nationals like myself, who will go anywhere in the world but would say categorically that there is no other place I would like to live.

I believe, Mr. President, that in looking at this piece of legislative modification, it is one that is critical to ensuring that we share the benefits of investments, on behalf of the people of Barbados, investments in making Barbados as a destination better, an investment which recognises that environmental considerations, and environmental protection and enhancement are vital to our very existence.

With those few words, Mr. President, 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. I note the intention of the Government in respect of the legislation being proposed, the Land Development Duty, now before the Senate, and would wish to make some observations.

I would want to begin my comments at the point where Senator McClean ended and that is, a person of somewhere else in the Caribbean coming to Barbados and speaking on the quality of the facilities. There is a lot that we take for granted. A lot of work that has been done by successive Administrations, free access to beaches, it does not happen anywhere else in the Caribbean.

In fact, Sir, I am reminded now that I am on my feet that the very Rockley Beach, which Barbadians use every day and which is a major tourist attraction, came to be owned by the taxpayers because of an intervention by the then Sir Grantley Adams when a group of business people were buying that entire block of land back in the 1950s in order to develop for private purposes. I understand, Sir, that he rushed to Parliament with an acquisition or some piece of legislation in order to secure that property.

I do not want today to speak in a partisan way because there are a number of things that I want to speak to, which I think are important that successive Governments have managed to do fairly well but, ultimately, even though we disagree on a number of things that, in the end, the macro framework we have gotten right.

The longer I live, Sir, the more I travel in and out of the Caribbean, the more I recognise how fortunate we have been at the level of policy development, over successive Administrations. I am particularly proud to speak of this project because I was the Minister of Environment who was responsible for it, and though there were things in relation to the execution with which I do have some difficulty and about which we can discuss in vigorous debate, the reality is that when I got in Parliament, during an Estimates debate, and asked for the inclusion in the Budget of \$70 million - not a small sum - to do a coastal infrastructure project, people were asking what I was talking about.

Sir, today, people understand the physical translation of the work because they are walking on the boardwalk that is part of that \$70 million development. It is only one of the components. Sir, none of the other Caribbean countries has beach facilities. We complain about whether they are golden or platinum, what they cost and so on.

Nobody anywhere in the Caribbean, can go to beaches that are public beaches, and find changing facilities, bathroom facilities, facilities to wash yourself, and so on; it just does not exist. It has now become routine, along with lifeguard stations at beaches in Barbados.

Sir, when I was the Minister of the Environment, I made an effort for us to increase the lifeguards' facilities at beaches, and that has been done. I heard Senator McClean, I believe, in the last Session, speak again to even more lifeguard facilities that are about to be constructed. Sir, we are continuing that work of making the public safe and enhancing beach accesses and beach facilities for use by the public.

We therefore developed a number of parks and facilities and enhanced Bridgetown, in terms of improving the green spaces and spent a tremendous amount of money on the improvement, and upgrading of existing beach facilities and planned new ones, including the one at Bath, which I think has now started. I do not know at what stage the construction is at, but certainly, money was set aside for that project.

We did Brown's Beach which is one of the most popular ones used by nationals. We did Silver Sands. We did a number of them, Sir, but the boardwalk is part of a \$70 million expenditure, and I want to speak to some of the other facilities. Sir, I was making the point that we cannot go anywhere else in the Caribbean and have access to beach facilities. Mr. President, in Barbados there is a high level of vandalism at a lot of these public facilities, which is to be regretted.

Sir, I sent an e-mail to a friend while I was away and remarked that in many public buildings in the United

Kingdom such as train stations and many public facilities, where in Barbados we provide public bathrooms free of cost, one has to pay the equivalent of BDS\$1.05 or BDS\$0.75 just to use the bathroom.

Sir, even though there was talk about the cost of the facilities at Silver Sands, the ones at Browne's Beach are even more expensive and it does not happen by accident. Mr. President, you have to put in fire retardant tiles because it is not a private home. It is a public facility.

You have to use industrial standard toilet ware and sinks. All of which are far more expensive than would be the kind of ware that you would buy to put in your home. You may be able to buy a toilet tank and bowl for maybe \$150 to \$200 for residential domestic purposes but in the commercial setting, the fittings are far more expensive because you have to use industrial grade and they are high cost.

Mr. President, therefore, these facilities are put there for the use of the public at great cost to the taxpayers and then there are people who do not use them with care.

I want to urge Barbadians that we need to appreciate the extent to which taxpayers' money is spent to give all of us comfortable facilities that we can access at no cost for use, without paying user fees and that we need to treat them with some higher degree of appreciation and support.

Senate A22, Sequence 23, 16:00:14

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The coastal infrastructure project included not only the boardwalk at the South Coast. There was also, and I am sure you would recall, Sir, the redevelopment of the Welches beach which suffered tremendous hurricane damage, I am not sure which of the hurricanes it was that passed through, and where a lot of remedial work had to be done to groyne the area and build in support for the beach to allow for the accretion of sand.

Mr. President, if you walk up Welches now I think there is some degree of a boardwalk. Welches has a beautiful beach, all from expenditure as a result of those upgrading works as part of this project.

Equally, Rockley is to benefit or certainly was to benefit from expenditure under the Coastal Infrastructure Programme. Mr. President, the Coastal Infrastructure Programme also included redevelopment and support works for what people like to call the "Hole" or the "Lagoon" at Hometown. Mr. President, because of the tanning caused by the mangroves and some degree of pollution coming from uphill down into the watercourse

feeding into the Hometown basin, works had to be done to remedy that drainage area to ensure that there were no odour problems because there was a high degree of nesting of the cattle egrets in the trees at Hometown which was causing difficulties for surrounding hotels and restaurants.

Sir, there therefore had to have been discriminate culling of the trees to change the nesting habits and nesting sites and to prevent a lot of the acidic waste from the birds getting into the water and changing the composition of the watercourse and then killing off the fish life and affecting the properties and so on. Mr. President, a lot of money was being spent to improve the quality of life to give opportunities for business to create a better coastline for the country.

Mr. President, other remedial works were done at various other sites along the South Coast. Work was included for both St. Andrew and St. John and I think St. Lucy as well because the idea was that the mapping was to go along the South Coast and come up the East Coast of Barbados. There have been more extensive mapping done, I think, of the West Coast, but we were trying to do mapping of the coastlines on the South and East Coasts to understand the impact of the tidal movements on the coast lines, what were the cyclical changes, how the coast could better be protected and the type of groyning that needed to be done to give support to the beaches that were receding or accreting as the cycles change.

In fact, the analytical work had to indicate whether or not there should be intervention because sometimes we see the coastline changing and our immediate reaction is the beach is going we have to save it, but that may just be part of a natural movement and you should leave it to run its natural course.

Mr. President, all of that technical and analytical work was ongoing as part of the wider project, which included strong coastal preservation and protection coming out of the mapping of the coastlines and doing bathometric studies and so on relative to the wave action and the coast on the South and West Coasts in particular.

In addition, there was work being done with communities which live on the coast, especially those deriving their income from fishing since their relationship with the coast was not just visual, like some of us who would drive by in our cars or maybe walk on the beach from time to time, but immediate and direct since the coastline was moving from around their properties.

In addition to that, for those who derive their living from fishing and other related activity on the coast, there was also some training going on to ensure that the practices being used were of a sustainable nature and that people would not be engaging in practices which ultimately

exacerbated any difficulties which existed relative to these cyclical movements or damage to the coastlines and so on.

Mr. President, people see the result. People see how lovely the boardwalk is and they walk on it and they enjoy it. Mr. President, let me inform the Chamber that was not easy to do. I am not talking only from the perspective of the construction because whenever you are building in sand, clearly there are difficulties attendant with it.

Mr. President, sometimes when you see projects or the result of projects, nobody speaks to the challenges in implementation. Part of the extreme difficulty that we had that delayed the project for years was the whole issue of the fact that the boardwalk was to cross people's properties. Some of the people who are now having the benefit of increased traffic to their properties and having their properties exposed and beautified by the presence of the boardwalk gave us the greatest resistance to the construction and implementation of the boardwalk.

Mr. President, we negotiated with some of them for years. I had to personally go and entreat and plea with property owners not to stop the construction of the boardwalk anymore and to give it their support. Mr. President, people threatened to sue the Government and do all kinds of things to stop the project.

People have no idea what we went through to get that project to the stage where it is today that Barbadians could enjoy it. It took a tremendous amount of work. When the project is finished that entire coastline, particularly all around the Rockley area, will be significantly improved and beautified if the full amount of money is spent on the project.

Equally, Sir, as part of the project, there was provision for a West Coast boardwalk. We had greater difficulty with the negotiations of that than even with the South Coast boardwalk partly because the work on the West Coast, as was determined by the technical people, was best done during a particular period of time. Of course, all of the West Coast hotels and restaurants wanted no work at all to be done when guests were in the facility.

Mr. President, it is impossible to do construction work of that type with properties empty. There would have to have been some period during which properties would have been affected and there was therefore a question of if people would lose money and how much money they would lose.

Property owners said that with the walking of all kinds of people across the boardwalk that thieves would see and would want to come into their properties. You had no idea, Sir, the kinds of arguments that we had to overcome and the discussions.

Sir, there was a major negotiation relative to the West Coast. Again, I had to personally write and meet with property owners. We had meetings. The Coastal Zone Management Unit, whatever the challenges in relation to implementation, really has to be complimented for what is a visionary and excellent project.

Mr. President, aspects of the Coastal Infrastructure Programme came in entirely from them and some of it was policy direction. Some was technical and some was policy direction but they embraced it. In terms of executing what the physical components were, I think we have a product of which we can be proud.

Senate A22 Sequence 24

4.10 p.m.

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SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The reason the West Coast component of the boardwalk did not start simultaneously with the South Coast was that it was determined, after all the initial surveys were done, that part of one property, which had a lot of parking space, was to be used. Sir, I am not going to identify the property or the property owner, I am just going to say that in relation to that one property, we would have had to take in part of a car park to store equipment and so on.

We had given a commitment that we would have only been there for three months. Sir, remember that I said part of the car park and so the whole property was not going to be affected, just this part. Sir, the property owner objected, refused, stopped work from starting. A whole project for which we were getting part local funding and part financing from the Inter-American Bank was stopped.

Sir, as Honourable Members would know, when you have signed and committed on a project and you cannot draw down on it, you are paying commitment fees on what you are committed to borrowing all the time.

Mr. President, while we were engaging in new negotiations for over two years, it came to the point that a single property owner was blocking the construction of that project, to the extent that ultimately I said in the end we may have to compulsorily acquire the property, just to get the project done. Of course, when you are doing a compulsory acquisition, you could always abandon it at any time. Sir, when we see projects sometimes, we do not know what those who were involved in the centre and driving the process went through to get it.

Mr. President, this is a project about which I feel very strongly and passionately. It took so much time and effort. Sir, you see what something could become, you

have a vision and you are trying to share it with others, you are trying to get the local financing or international financing, then you are sharing it with those who will be principal beneficiaries of the property owners, whose properties are going to be enhanced and all you are getting is resistance.

I am not saying that all property owners resisted and I would wish to thank those who were, in fact, helpful and cooperative from the start. There were some who immediately saw the benefit. There were those who even though they did not necessarily want to have a boardwalk passed in front of or behind their properties, they certainly thought that it had good public value and were willing to support it.

Sir, it did not have the universal acclaim and support that it now has and as I said, many of those who are principal beneficiaries were the principal resisters. I believe that somewhere in my personal files I should find some copies of the very strong letters I was written by persons who were objecting to having the boardwalk passed anywhere near their properties.

Mr. President, I would wish to call on Government to continue with the project, and in particular with the West Coast boardwalk. I do not remember exactly where it was to run but I know it was to pass in the back of Kings Beach. Mr. President, I was making this point because some of the equipment had to be brought in by sea, it could not all be done over land. I know that they had to set up on properties down there, one property in particular but all of the elements of the planning for that component of the Coastal Infrastructural Programme were in place and completed. We did get the funding from the Inter-American Bank.

There was a local component and an international component with the Inter-American Bank and that money can still be used to do the West Coast boardwalk, which I believe will have the same kind of beneficial, ecological, environmental and recreational impact, which the South Coast boardwalk has done. It is one of the projects for which I can claim some responsibility and I must tell you that I feel a high level of satisfaction and pride, now that I see the results of the work that was done.

Mr. President, I think too that there is one final measure of this programme to which I would want to speak. I have not heard it spoken about in the last two years or so but there needs now to be an enhanced effort relative to turtle protection, especially in the context of having the boardwalk there, and I hope that the second one would be built.

Mr. President, a lot of the beaches running from the Hilton up to Rockley are nesting sites for some species of turtles. We had done an intensive programme with property

owners, trying to ensure that the correct type of lighting was used, so as not to deter nesting, so as not to attract the young turtles.

Sir, the unnatural light, if it is not positioned in a particular way, if it is not of a particular type, can impact on which path turtles take, whether they turn towards shore or whether they turn towards sea after hatching.

Sir, I have the pleasure of taking some of my godchildren out to see turtles nesting and I think they found it to be an amazing experience, but some of the lighting being used by the hotels were not appropriate and a lot of the turtles are coming into the hotels, being drowned in swimming pools, being run over in car parks and so on, because there is not an appropriate lighting framework.

Mr. President, I think the issue of turtle nesting has to be revisited in the context of the larger numbers that would be traversing the area over the boardwalk, and that a new programme for turtle preservation and protection is going to have to be considered.

Mr. President, I said that I took some of my godchildren but the truth is that, from time to time, I do take a number of groups to see it. Sir, for those who have not been to see it, or for those who have only heard, if you are not exposed to that aspect of our environment...

Sir, we talk about the environment but we do not get to live it. There are many experiences available in our natural environment that we do not get. Sir, that is one of such opportunities where I have had the opportunity to take several groups at various times.

Sir, from time to time, I will still go out to see these kinds of activities. I believe that though a lot of work is being done by the university, and there are groups who are committed to going out at nights and protecting nesting sites and ensuring that the turtles reach the waters safely, there needs to be some enhanced effort relative to that component of environmental protection, especially in the context of a wider programme.

Mr. President, I am not aware now of what is happening relative to the issue at Hometown but as the mangroves continue growing, the issue of the nesting of the cattle egret is one that would have to be continuously revisited and every effort made to address what is a continuing and can be an escalating problem, if not dealt with.

Mr. President, there is only one other area on the coast which has been an area of perpetual problems but I do not think I am going to speak to that today. I am sure there will be other things to come before Parliament which will give me an opportunity to speak to how I think it can

be addressed. Sir, this is a project that seeing it come to fruition gives me great satisfaction at the environment and professional levels as to the duties.

Sir, as to the tax component of it, if Government feels that this is yet another thing from which it should derive revenues, that is the Government's decision to make, but there is no doubt that the property values of those who own properties in the project area have been enhanced considerably by the presence of the boardwalk and the additional work that has been done.

Sir, it is not just the boardwalk but all of the groyning and coastal preservation works and the work on the beaches themselves. Mr. President, there were areas where beaches have been constructed but because of the measures put in place, a number of new beaches have been developed, sand was encouraged to accrete.

4.20 p.m.

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SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: I do not know if constructed is quite the accurate word to use, but because of the measures put in place, new beach areas developed, sand was encouraged to accrete. We also did importation of sand in some areas to create and enhance beach sites.

There is good work being done by the Coastal Zone Management Unit. This project was one of the examples, I think, of prudent expenditure and expenditure which has redounded to the benefit of Barbadians, not only the property owners, but Barbadians who can go there and enjoy the area.

As I indicated, I am actually delighted to be able to say that I was the Minister who started this project. The construction started under us. We sourced the funding and so on. I really tremendously hope that the completion of the project, which includes the rest of the work to be done at a number of coastal areas across the country, including the work to be done at Holetown, with the construction of a second boardwalk, that now should be done.

I am therefore much obliged and would support the measure before the Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Dr. F.L. Chandler.

SENATOR Dr. F.L. CHANDLER: Mr. President, the Bill before us to amend the Land Development Duty Act involves a simple change of 10 to 15 years of the period in which the Land Development Duty is to be applicable to property owners. This is in Special Development Areas, areas where the Government has undertaken considerable development. However, I have a

few comments on alternative views which some of the members of the public have.

I can understand the principle that if considerable sums of monies are spent by Government to develop an area, those in that area whose property values might be seen to be elevated because of this development, should contribute. However, I do not think that this benefit can be generalised.

For instance, when a highway is constructed, it might be beneficial to commercial entities in the area because of the improved access, but private properties might be adversely affected by highway development because of increased noise, increased speed of traffic, et cetera, which are annoying to residents and could bring down property values.

In the case of the boardwalk, which I think is a wonderful initiative and brings enormous enjoyment to many people who use it, from the point of impact of adjoining properties, not the commercial properties, the restaurants or hotels, it could have a negative rather than a positive impact in terms of security, reduced privacy and increased traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular. Of course, in the Act there is a chance to appeal, but we all know that appeals take a long process to go through.

In addition to the Land Development Duty tax I was wondering if these negatives are also considered when normal land tax valuation of these private properties are made, since the added development does not necessarily have a positive impact on private properties in the area, for the reasons that I mentioned.

Also, in the Act, I do not think there is any mention of the extent of the area which this Land Development Duty tax would take care of. I think that is an important point to consider.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Cave.

SENATOR R. G. CAVE: Mr. President, I have not really researched this particular matter in any detail. I do not know all about the Laws because I have not been served with a copy of the Laws as yet. However, I have been on the boardwalk both the one on the South Coast and the one on the West Coast and both of them are fantastic. So these are two great projects for Barbados.

The question I have though is, who is going to pay for this tax? Is it only the beach owner, or is it going to go backwards? For instance on the West Coast the people who are on the beach who might have a private property, probably are hurting because their privacy has been taken.

It is great for hotels but not great for private owners. While at the same time the people who are in, let us say the Sunset Crest area who are on the landside, it is a huge benefit to them, because before the sea coast the beach was lousy and the beaches are starting to come back. Judging by how the South Coast has turned out, the beaches will become great.

Sir, my question is, is this only to be on the few houses on the seafront properties, or this is going to go further afield, because the people in Sunset Crest, for instance, are going to be greater beneficiaries than the private homes right on the West Coast. On the South Coast, the same thing. The people who are nearby all go walking on that boardwalk. Every day they fully enjoy it. I participate myself, so I know. It really has been a tremendous project for Barbados.

The other question which I have is that the tax rate is 50 per cent, so these are high. To take a 50 per cent on the properties, I do not know to what extent of the properties on the South Coast. Is it only where the boardwalk is, or does this include Accra, or does it include further down? I do not know.

The 50 per cent is a high tax rate. I just say that maybe the Government can look at a range that may be lower. Sir, if you took the value of all of those properties and what would be enhanced, I think the \$14 million will come back rather quickly, at 50 per cent tax, I think. All of a sudden the tax rates would meet up the values very quickly.

Sir, I just say it may be an area where the tax rate may be lower and the scheme may be taxed on a wider basis, so it should not only be the beach owner but people closer.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce.

SENATOR the Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Sir, just to clarify on a few points. The Land Development Duty is payable only on the sale of the property within the 15-year period, in this case, and is payable only on the excess of the valuation at the time of sale, less the expense associated with fixing property and so on over and above the value of the property as of the date of the Order. The Order,

The Order, I believe, will specify the actual properties that abound the area. So a person who does not sell his or her property for the 15 years does not have to bother about the matter. If they sell before that time, they only pay essentially what is the differential over and above the value at the development date.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I perhaps will follow from the contribution of my Honourable colleague Senator Boyce, and just explain the area. First to just reiterate as Senator Boyce pointed out, it applies to a decision to sell a property within the 15-year time period, and the duty applies to the differential between the value at the time of the base period and the enhanced value.

16.30 p.m.

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Senate A22, Sequence 27, 4.30 p.m.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Sir, it speaks to a very specific area designated as a Special Development area, so it spells out the actual lands to which this is affected in a very specific area, from Hastings to Rockley. I believe, Mr. President, very briefly, the rationale for that was explained earlier in that we are talking about a significant enhancement in property value and we are simply saying that in that specific area, and this particular area of course, is beach property.

Previous reference was made, Mr. President, to the impact of highways and my lay person's understanding of the calculation of property values, typically takes into consideration the activities that go there. For instance, the house in which I was born on Black Rock Main Road, when my father grew up there as a boy, there was no Highway 1, and gradually, of course, they would have encroached on my grandfather's property, and later my father's property to build Highway 1. As that encroachment took place, I am sure the value of that property would have diminished as commercial activities came around and so on.

Sir, I believe that the factors identified by Senator Chandler would be taken into consideration as properties are valued. If somebody were given permission to set up a commercial enterprise, in a major residential area, that tends to have a negative impact in the same way that beach property is enhanced by an accretion of a beach. The introduction of a major highway and commercial activity will probably diminish the value of properties in another kind of situation. I also believe that the clarification provided by Senator Boyce would have probably explained some of the concerns raised.

Mr. President, I do not propose to engage in a long discussion, as a final statement. I believe the Honourable Senator on the side of the Opposition was very clear in explaining, given her former post, holding the position of the Minister of the Environment, and I guess in explaining, she also sought to address some concerns, which she felt would have been raised during her tenure and that is her right so to do.

Mr. President, at the end of the day, I believe that the critical issue here is the need, as I said before, for Barbadians, owners of property, users of adjoining facilities, which have been enhanced by Government to share in the benefits of that, whether there are material, physical or other psychological types of benefits.

With those words, Mr. President, I beg to move 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 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 and 2 were called and passed.

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 motion of SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Land Development Duty (Amendment) Act, 2009.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR the hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 4.50 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting be now suspended until 4.50 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

Senate A22, Sequence 27, 16:37:33

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RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 2 – ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: I would like to have Orders Nos. 2 and 3 debated together as they concern the same subject matter, that of road traffic legislation.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, in the last Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for 2008, the Honourable Minister of Finance proposed a number of increases in rates and fees, which of necessity would require amendment to the legislation.

In addition, Mr. President, on the presentation of those proposals, the administrative arrangement of putting those fees into effect usually takes place and it is sometimes the situation where the application or the collection of those fees precedes the legislative changes, a situation which by no means is acceptable. Sir, given the circumstances facing the relevant Government agency, we have had some challenges with outstanding legislation, a backlog et cetera. Mr. President, of course, that matter is being addressed by the Attorney-General.

Mr. President, I will speak more generally in terms of the issue of road traffic. Barbados, as a small densely populated country, has a heavy network of roads, a situation which is obviously beneficial to Barbados and to Barbadians, but also poses significant challenges to the public purse.

Mr. President, we are also classified by several multilateral agencies as a middle income developing country. A number of indicators, including road traffic, are used to so lassify us.

Mr. President, I believe that as we seek to ensure that there is proper management of our road network and of the traffic which utilises that network, we have of necessity to regulate that traffic through the use of a variety of licenses, which would attract fees which often do not necessarily cover the full administrative cost of all the work that is involved in the management of that traffic, et cetera.

Mr. President, what we have seen is the need to periodically review our licensing fees, our road taxes and so on. The proposals which would have been heavily debated and presented in the Other Place and matters which, of course, have attracted the attention of this Honourable Chamber speak to these areas.

Mr. President, I would very briefly mention the areas that are covered in the Amendment to facilitate the payment of these fees. We are talking about the issuance of roadworthiness certificates under special conditions by the Barbados Licensing Authority. The issue of roadworthiness is one that is critical if we are to maintain the integrity of our transport system, and if we are to ensure that private vehicle owners are putting on the roads vehicles which do not expose pedestrians and other vehicular traffic to unnecessary dangers.

The second provision speaks to the determination of the repayment of an unused road tax paid by the Ministry of Finance. I remember hearing significant debate on the taxes we pay. I believe, Mr. President, that when we look at what we pay in Barbados and what the tax dollar is supposed to cover in terms of road maintenance, we then would recognise, if we are to be honest with ourselves, that the taxes are not in any way burdensome. Mr. President, in essence, what we do have is a situation which would allow us to ensure that citizens who utilise the road not only pay taxes for the purpose of generating revenue but to allow us to maintain an orderly and accurate system of registration. In recent times, we have heard periodically coming to the ear of the public, complaints about vehicles that are not duly licenced and not properly insured. Mr. President, we can anticipate the dangers and difficulties that such a situation would pose.

Mr. President, in looking at these various licences and fees, it is necessary to recognise that Government has a responsibility to ensure that citizens behave in an orderly manner and, where necessary, be in a position to identify those citizens and their vehicles, whether private or commercial, and that when those vehicles are placed on the road that they are done in a manner that ensures proper identification and so on.

Senate A22 Sequence 28

5.10 p.m.

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SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, before I take my seat, as I indicated this matter of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill is one which is seeking to address the matters set out in the last Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals. Sir, in that Budget, I know there was reference to a bicycle fee and that many persons sought to ridicule that reference to that fee.

Mr. President, when I was a girl, bicycles used to be in greater numbers and their licences were also displayed very visibly and prominently. Sir, from a personal level, the fee is not simply to generate a few dollars in revenue but to ensure that persons who use bicycles on the road can be

identified by the numbers on their bicycles. Sir, that is all part of the traffic management process, it is all part of policing, that is important in a nation which prides itself on order and orderliness, on responsible behaviour of all citizens.

Sir, with those types of situations where people seek to operate without the necessary registration, insurance and road taxes, we cannot, as a society, make excuses simply on monetary grounds for these things. We need to be sure that people have the necessary permits, that they are able to address the issue of drivers' licences, which is critical to identification of persons, especially when there are issues of traffic accidents and other traffic violations.

We also have to ensure that people, who are going behind the wheels of a vehicle, are properly tested. Therefore, that also requires time and energy on the part of the agency and so there needs to be some provision of cost to be borne by persons seeking such service.

Mr. President, I believe these Amendments are in keeping with the requirement to periodically monitor, review and update fees and other charges. I believe this exercise is one to ensure that all the legal requirements are fully undertaken.

Mr. President, with those words, I am obliged to you.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, as I have been doing today, I am going to start at the point at which Senator McClean ended and that is with bicycles. Sir, let me say that we on This Side are not objecting to this. A Validation Bill is something that has to be brought, where there has been revenue collection, based perhaps on a budgetary statement but where there has not been commensurate Civil Service activity to align the collection with the Law. It happens, from time to time.

Sometimes it is picked up early, sometimes it is picked up late and I am sure there have been instances where it has never been picked up at all.

Sir, there is really nothing to object to in a Validation Bill and so we do not object. Therefore, bringing the validation is the appropriate thing to do. We are hearing there is also an amendment before this Honourable Chamber. There is really no issue of substance that one could attack.

Mr. President, I wish, however, to make a few observations. I am going to make them very briefly, cognisant that the hour is getting late and that there is no fight here. Sir, the first point, as I said, would be the point at which Senator McClean ended and that is bicycles. Sir, I am one of those persons who do not support the licencing

fee. I think there was a time when a bicycle was a major method of transportation for a large number of people who were unable to afford cars. During that time, licencing may have been, perhaps, a more strict requirement than today where, in fact, the bicycle is a mode of transportation, only for three groups, one group would be those people who represent the poorest of the poor.

I think that is because of the origin of the bicycle as a means of transportation for poor people that over the years the licencing fee had never been moved from \$3. The second group is those persons who are using bicycles for exercise. The third group would be those persons who use bicycles for recreation, whether they are doing racing or mountain hiking. Sir, respective Administrations had not sought to interfere with that fee.

Mr. President, I am speaking in a personal capacity. I was not here when this matter was discussed in the Lower House and I do not know what is the position of the official Opposition. Sir, I do not support the licencing of bicycles. I support a registration system for all vehicles which are going to be on the road but I do not support the payment of fees for persons who are riding bicycles, and for two reasons. Sir, either you are putting an additional expenditure on the poorest of the poor, or those people who are seeking to exercise and who should be allowed to exercise and be given some assistance, who are being made to pay a licence fee. I think there should be a system of registration for people who are going to have bicycles on the road, but I do not support a licensing system that requires the payment of fees.

Mr. President, in the second matter to which I am going to speak, I do not know what is the position of the Party and in that regard I would be articulating it. Sir, during the course of the 2008 Budget, when the fees for motor vehicles licensing for all motor vehicles were increased significantly, the Prime Minister, at the time, gave the rationale as payment for the development of the ABC Highway. Subsequently, the Government went to the marketplace and got a loan for \$165 million, also for the road, or so they told the public. My concern is, Sir...

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: On a point of order. Mr. President, the Honourable Senator said that Government went to the marketplace and borrowed \$165 million and I presume that refers to a recent situation to finalise a loan. Sir, I believe therefore the suggestion is that was new money. Sir, I would, therefore, ask that the Honourable Senator explains or clarifies what she is saying or, perhaps, to withdraw her comments, if the Honourable Senator is suggesting that was a new loan.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, the Government announced that it was borrowing money and that monies borrowed were going to be applied toward

works in relation to the development of the ABC Highway. I am simply saying that the Government has given two rationales for raising revenue and for the borrowing of money.

5.20 p.m.

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SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: The revenue, the increased licensing and taxes, which the public is being asked to bear, will raise \$44 million per annum and would indeed be adequate for paying for any road development which has been put by the Minister at \$138 million, for the completion of the highway. You pay for these projects over time. You do not pay for them in one go. Therefore, if in fact there is going to be a loan raised...

SENATOR J. INCE: On a point of order.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you have the Floor.

SENATOR J. INCE: Mr. President, I sat here and listened to Senator Thompson, but let me say that this debate is broadcast publicly and ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would like to know which point of order.

SENATOR J. INCE: The point of order is, Senator Thompson is misleading the Senate on the borrowing of the Government's \$165 million. That \$165 million was to restructure the debt incurred on the expansion of the ABC Highway and had nothing to do with revenue. Clearly, the monies borrowed exceeded at the time the projected construction cost. That must be made clear because this debate is publicly broadcast and it is listened to by the public of Barbados, and we cannot mislead this Upper Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Point made.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: I will like to thank Senator Ince for developing the argument for me. In fact he indicated, as I was indicating, that part of the \$165 million loan was for the development of the ABC Highway. I am also saying that in another debate that was broadcast, the Honourable Prime Minister in Another Place said in a Budget that they issued the new taxes and licensing fee to pay for the highway. Sir, I am trying to find the exact page.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Until you find the exact page, I do not wish to appear to be interfering with the debate. Please find the exact page so I could follow what it is the Honourable Senator is saying.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I will refer to Pages 102 and 103 of the Budgetary Proposals for 2008.

Sir, my argument is, there are two sources here to do the same thing. I am simply calling on the Government if, in fact, the increased taxation and revenue are not to support highway extension, then that money is being paid, I am told, by Senator Ince and others, from the loan. Then let the Government remove the taxes and fees that have been placed on people which we were told at the time were for the development and the expansion of the highway.

SENATOR J. INCE: Mr. President, Senator Thompson, in her first explanation, stated clearly that \$165 million was to generate revenue. I am saying that it was not to generate revenue. She came back a couple seconds later to state that the Prime Minister in his Budgetary Proposals spoke about generating revenue for the Highway, two totally different statements. The \$165 million, as stated earlier, had nothing to do with generating revenue for the Government of Barbados. It was a loan in connection with their financing the completion of the Highway.

Mr. PRESIDENT: May I, before we go any further, draw to the attention of this Honourable Senate that the Prime Minister does not and cannot raise revenue. The Prime Minister speaks in his capacity as Minister responsible for Finance.

Could Honourable Senators please desist from referring to the Prime Minister, when they are discussing issues of the raising of revenue or the Budget. He is Prime Minister but he is also Minister of Finance, and in his capacity as Minister of Finance that is when he is able to present a Budgetary Statement.

Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: If, in fact, I did not make myself clear, let me repeat myself and try to clarify.

In the Budget of 2008, speaking in his capacity as Minister of Finance, the Honourable Prime Minister said that there were certain expenses which would have to be faced by the Government relative to the work at the ABC Highway, and he was therefore proposing to increase the road taxes of vehicles and the use of the road, and so on, in order to pay for road works. Sir, I am saying now that we are validating that today, monies have been collected and we are today validating that.

Sir, outside of the monies that have been raised by this increase, the increase in taxation on driving tests, highway codes, learner permits, regulation tests, trailers, vehicles, international driving licences, trade plates and all

these different things, all the increased road taxes that were put, all are anticipated to generate \$44 million per year.

I am saying that you do not pay for highway expansion in a single fiscal year. It is paid for over time. Therefore, this revenue that we are today validating is enough to pay for the road works that were done or are proposed to be done in respect of the ABC Highway. Yet we are being told, and have been told today by Senator Ince and previously by this Administration that a loan of \$165 million was sought, part of which is also to be applied to the same highway.

I am merely making the point that on the statement made by the Government, they are raising two sources of money to do the same thing. Therefore, since the public is under extreme hardship at this time, I am calling for the reversal, the removal and elimination of all the increased duties and taxes which were placed on all motor vehicles, licence plates and road use in the last financial year, that we are here today validating.

If, in fact, the monies from this \$165 million loan, that the taxpayers will have to pay back, are applied for road works, then there is no need to come back and tax them again for using the road and raise an additional \$44 million a year to do the same thing that the loan is supposed to do.

Sir, essentially, the poor taxpayers in these harsh economic times are paying twice for the ABC Highway. They are paying for it with the increased taxes on licence fees, road taxes, vehicle taxes and fees, and they are paying for it by the repayment of \$165 million loan which the Government has sourced.

Sir, with that I conclude because I know the public is listening and they...

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: On a point of order. I believe it is necessary to indicate to this Honourable Chamber and to all those who listen, that should we allow the comments of the Honourable Senator on the Other Side to go uncorrected, they will go away with a notion.

17.30 p.m.

Sequence 30

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Senate A22, Sequence 31, 5.20 p.m.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: There has been a constant reference, Mr. President, to a loan and the Highway. I sought very early in my detection

of the error to correct it but it has persisted. The Honourable Senator has suggested that the Government has borrowed \$165 million. I presumed she was talking about a loan which would have been addressed in this financial year, the finalisation of a loan to finance the construction and expansion for the Highway. This is capital works that would have been started under the previous Administration. In fact, if we look at the original Estimates, or the final quoted price of the work done at the end of 2007, prior to the changing of the Administration, we would have seen some interesting situations there.

Sir, the key point which needs to be corrected is that when we are talking about capital works' cost, we have to distinguish them from operating costs. The Highway, as I said, was started under the previous Administration. The Highway had to be paid for, certain negotiations were entered into and completed, those had to be completed and when we talk about the maintenance in the future, that is where taxation, whether specifically from vehicles, or taxation coming out of the Consolidated Fund from other sources, would be used for the maintenance.

In the same way, if we construct an office complex for the Ministry of Housing, if we construct baths on the South Coast, those things have to be maintained, notwithstanding the exorbitant price that might have been incurred initially. The initial price was capital cost. Maintenance has to be paid for, so a highway built, does not remain in those conditions indefinitely.

They have to be maintained and, therefore, while I know that accounting is not the expertise or the profession of some of us in here, I think that the nature of it is such that it can be fairly straightforward and we should therefore not attempt to mislead ourselves or the public.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I know that accounting is not the profession of some of us, but I know that I also heard the Prime Minister say that he would have a balanced Budget with a small deficit. Clearly, accounting cannot be his background either, because that is nonsense. It appears in this Budget 2008 and it appears in the Throne Speech.

Sir, notwithstanding the point of order of the Honourable Senator McClean, I will make the point that when the taxpayers have to pull their pockets to pay, they do not distinguish between capital works or any of the other fancy distinctions, which she was attempting to make.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise on a point of order because, again, the Honourable Senator is misleading the Senate. Sir, unless we are clear about the distinction, Senators will go away with the notion that this Administration, and that the Minister is double charging for want of a better word,

charging the public twice. We have to draw a distinction and if people do not understand, it is our duty, as Senators as we debate here, to ensure maximum clarity. I will therefore like to ensure that the confusion that occurred from the misrepresentation, is that in looking at the construction of a highway, the capital costs are those costs incurred to construct it - to build it. Sir, having done that, there are costs incurred to maintain it but there is an effort to confuse the two and, I think, that is very unfortunate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Point taken.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, if there is an attempt to confuse, or lack of clarity, it certainly is not mine. I am absolutely clear on this matter. Today and previously, we heard that there was to be a loan of \$165 million which was to deal with the construction of the Highway and pay those costs. We did not hear anything about maintenance. I refer to the Budget Speech of 2008 of the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, which is a document of this House and I read from page 102:

"Highway Revenue

In addition to its scheduled road maintenance and improvement programme, the Government is now saddled with the costs of financing and servicing the obligations left to us by the former Administration in respect of the ABC Highway" - not repair or maintenance - "widening and the flyover project."

"I have already explained that this project proceeded on a rolling basis..."

"Government's expenditure in respect of Highway construction and maintenance will therefore substantially increase over the coming years." - construction and maintenance.

"In an effort to ensure that we meet previous commitments in respect of the ABC Highway project, I propose to increase the fees for the use of the highway with effect from August 1, 2008."

"The new fees will . . . yields an additional \$46 million in a full year."

Sir, I was wrong when I said \$44 million, it is even more. Then he said what all the new fees will be.

Mr. President, if there is a lack of clarity, the lack of clarity originates with the other Thompson, not with this one.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Point of order.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I repeat. I rise on a point of order. I am not sure you heard when I said it the first time because the convention was not observed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not sure that I understand what you mean by, "...the convention was not observed."

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, my understanding is that when a Senator rises on a point of order, the Senator on his or her feet would take his or her seat.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, that is not a convention. I am not sure what you mean. If you rise on a point of order, you have to state what is the point of order. When you do, the President or the Presiding Officer will recognise the point of order. I really do not understand what you mean.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, if I might explain, as I was rising on a point of order, my understanding is that as you speak there is silence and therefore you would be in a position, Mr. President, to hear my explanation, in respect of the point of order.

The point of order on which I rose then and I rise now, Mr. President, is to correct the statement of the Honourable Senator.

Mr. PRESIDENT: On a point of order, according to the Rules, you have to state on what point of order you have risen. In other words, you would state that the Honourable Member is on a point of order under section X, Y, Z or Q, is misleading the Senate, or some other thing, and at that point when you rise on a point of order, the Presiding Officer will rule whether or not the point of order is valid.

If you rise on a point of order, you have to state what is the point of order, if not, you are merely rising and that in itself is not sufficient. You have to state what is the point of order.

(Certain remarks made by the Honourable Senator McClean were ordered struck from the record by Mr. President).

Mr. PRESIDENT: You may proceed, Senator.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. President, I think my point is well made that the Honourable Senator has sought to correct the Prime Minister in drawing this distinction between revenue collection, revenue for repairs, revenue for maintenance and revenue for construction. Sir, I have not only referred

to the debate, I have actually read the words of the Prime Minister.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The point you are making is not a valid point. I did not understand the Honourable Senator to be correcting the Minister of Finance, when he made his statement. I did not so understand. I wish you would not attempt in your presentation to speak for the Chair.

Senate A22, Sequence 31, 17:40:19

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Chair understands very well what is proceeded.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I would not presume to speak for the Chair. I would not try. I would not do it. I would not be interested in doing it.

Let me just say that my interpretation is that the Senator is seeking to correct the Prime Minister but that is legitimate because it is in a Budget which he started by saying that he would have a balanced budget but run a small fiscal deficit which is financial, economic and accounting nonsense, so that correction was indeed required.

I am therefore saying that there were many nonsense provisions in the Budget, but then we got the Prime Minister in his capacity as Minister of Finance saying that he was going to raise an additional \$46 million a year to repair the roads, for road construction and for the ABC Highway project.

I am therefore saying that in a time in extreme hardship, give the taxpayers an ease. They are now paying twice for the same thing. They have to repay the \$165 million loan which we were told today by Senator Ince and others is for road construction. According to the Prime Minister's Budget, he is already raising \$46 million a year for the same construction.

SENATOR the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Mr. President, when you borrow money to build...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you on a point of order?

SENATOR the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Senate on this matter. When you borrow money to build an asset, Mr. President, you have to repay that loan. When you borrow \$165 million for the construction of roads, that is just loan funds. You have then to raise revenue to be able to repay that loan and the associated interest on it and to maintain the assets which you have created. Mr. President,

I would just like to clarify that and hope that there would not be any further confusion of the matter.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. President, Sir, I am sure that those who have to pay are not at all confused. They know with great clarity and certainty that the level of taxation is far too high, that it is too high in the context of the international situation and that they are double paying and triple paying for many things.

Mr. President, I am not going to detain the Senate. I do not wish to see them all jumping up on points of order, but if they wish, that would be all right. The reality however is that I am asking for the removal or the reduction of the very significant and substantial taxes which were placed on the public last year in the 2008 Budget, the one that was going to have a balanced budget but a small deficit, a total rubbish.

I know that relative to the running of the financial and economic affairs, we are seeing the lack of understanding of what to do as exemplified by a statement by a Prime Minister opening a financial statement that he would have a balanced budget with a small deficit. Mr. President, once you hear that, you know that the person delivering does not know what they are talking about. Sir, that is clear in the level of suffering that Barbadians are seeing and the high level of taxation on every single thing.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Ince.

SENATOR J. INCE: Mr. President, I had little or no intentions of contributing to this Validation Bill on the Road Traffic Act. Mr. President, this debate is broadcast publicly. On the other hand, when you are going to listen to what I term misleading statements that have no direction and that are baseless...

My advice to Senator Thompson is that if she is confused about the monies for the ABC Highway, then she should have read the Barbados Audit Office Report. The confusion was not created by this present Administration. They were the ones who hired 3S without any form of investigation as to who they were. When the project started, the project had a construction cost of US\$59 million, but midway in the project, the construction cost was exceeded, so if the Senator is confused... I was not part of that Administration.

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. Mr. President, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. It is to my knowledge that 3S was investigated and was reviewed. In addition to that the project cost escalated, as far as I am aware, because the project definition was changed along the way, but let Senator Ince continue.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That was no point of order.

SENATOR J. INCE: The highway started with a Memorandum of Understanding. The confusion based on that project cost of US\$59 million was to complete the highway along with what we would term the flyovers, yet we were confronted with a project where in Phase 1 of that project the US\$59 million was exhausted.

Sir, the drawings were also incomplete and we started construction of a highway with drawings that were not approved. Sir, you have contractors doing what they like, when they like, where they like and bulldozing who they like. A statement was made on the Other Side by the former...

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. The Honourable Senator is misleading the Senate. Mr. President, there really is such vagueness with contractors doing what they like, when they like and bulldozing who they like, that it really does not speak to any specifics. There were project engineers from the Ministry of Transport and Works who were overseeing the project and giving direction relative to the project.

SENATOR J. INCE: Mr. President, the former Minister on the Other Side in the Other Place stated categorically that he knew nothing about the contractors, that they were introduced to him by staff. Mr. President, the Honourable Senator needs clarity, so let us give her some clarity.

Senate A22 Sequence 32

5.50 p.m.

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SENATOR J. INCE: Mr. President, with the project started on Phase 1, the drawings were not completed nor approved by the agency responsible for approving those drawings. The cost was indicated that in order to complete the drawings, Government would have to pay an additional \$9 million. Sir, it was not Senator Ince. It was not Senator McClean. It was not Senator Boyce who said that.

Mr. President, this present Administration found a mess. Sir, what I found appalling and what I smiled at is this analogy: Mr. President, Senator Ince drives home to his house one afternoon. He saw an intruder. He apprehended that intruder and called the police and now my neighbours are saying that I have done the wrong thing.

Mr. President, this Government entered office and as a result of the mass confusion we saw, we decided that we were going to correct the financial infelicities of this project. Sir, one of those financial infelicities was the main

fact that the monies had been exhausted, when those monies were supposed to complete the project, including all aspects of that particular project.

Mr. President, the present Government decided that we were going to cancel or stop the flyovers, that the appropriate thing was to look at the debt and at how best the Administration was going to deal with that debt to complete the highway, to the satisfaction of Barbadians. Barbadians were concerned that the project was going in the wrong direction. There were no management processes in place. There was no sense of direction for that project. Mr. President, what the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance did was he said that we were going to raise revenue because the highway has to be maintained, as well as the commitment to the project.

What I am saying is that if Senator Thompson needed clarity, the Honourable Senator should have read the Auditor General's Reports, where every effort was made to discredit this Report. Senator Ince did not write this Report about the project, so let us be clear that the monies raised, that \$46 million, has nothing...

Asides.

SENATOR J. INCE: You need not worry about the per annum, that I have already explained.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Ince, pay no attention to asides. Please get on with your contribution.

SENATOR J. INCE: Mr. President, the whole idea is that the right decision was made. Barbadians are satisfied that the project is now going in the right direction. There is no mass confusion, like many of the other projects.

Therefore, if the Honourable Senator is confused, the Honourable Senator must also be confused about the building at Newton. The Honourable Senator must also be confused about what happened to Greenland. The Honourable Senator must also be confused about what happened to the bath at Silver Sands. There is no reason to be confused.

Asides.

SENATOR J. INCE: Mr. President, this Administration is conducting the business of the people of Barbados. We came to office with the objective of doing the people's business with clarity, transparency and accountability. Mr. President, I am obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Chandler.

SENATOR Dr. F. L. CHANDLER: Mr. President, I would like to make a few, hopefully non-confrontational,

comments on the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill. With regard to the licence fees for bicycles, this is yet another case for validating a fee which has been in place for some considerable time. I have to ask again why is this allowed to continue? I have been given some explanations but I certainly do not accept them. Sir, I think this situation must improve.

Mr. President, I agree with the fee for bicycles. From my observation of the number of cycle races we have on our roads every weekend, the cyclist should be making a contribution, however small. I understand there is a one-off fee of \$25 but I do not agree with the one-off fee, I think it should be an annual fee.

Mr. President, I am always amazed at the police's ability to deploy such large numbers of officers at such events, when it is claimed that the Force is understaffed and the response to burglary and other reports are often tardy.

On a related issue, I think that an effort should be made to encourage the use of bicycles as a mode of transportation, including removing the duty, bearing in mind the advantages of exercise, conservation of fuel and also conservation of the environment. In places like Holland, bicycles are commonplace and I think that we really should be using that mode of transportation more.

Mr. President, I wonder why the Amendment did not go further to encompass other things such as the issue of drunken driving. The relevant organisations have been lobbying for the introduction of breathalyzer testing for many years. I certainly support their view and was hoping that this might have been included in this Amendment.

Mr. President, I am also seeing an increasing trend of motorcycle stunt-riding on the highways, riding on one wheel and whizzing past you. They often startle you. It is very dangerous and I think that stiff fines should be included in the Road Traffic Act to deal with this problem.

This also goes for racing on the highways, which I understand is a well-established event with very high stakes. I heard a police officer saying that the cars disappear when the police arrive but I really cannot imagine cars disappearing when the police arrives. I am sure that the Police Force can put in place some sort of strategy to be able to bring this event to a close.

Mr. President, I have difficulty distinguishing between the responsibilities of the Police Force and those of the Ministry of Transport, as it relates to traffic. As far as I know, the police did not agree with the jambusting regulation which was put in place by the Ministry of Transport. I have always wondered what would be the outcome if there were an accident when that jambusting

was taking place. I have always wondered who would be right and who would be wrong, who would the police support.

Mr. President, with regard to the use of ATV vehicles on the highways, I am told that, when cornering, there are even more dangerous than motorbikes and that drivers do not even have to wear helmets nor seatbelts, where in a conventional vehicle with much more protection you have to wear a seatbelt. Mr. President, I thought this Act would have been more all-encompassing and would have addressed such issues.

Mr. President, in section 4, which refers to section 15 of the Principal Act, which deals with the issue of vehicles that have been off the road for a period of time, subsections (1) (2) and (3) deal with the payment of a fee for the condition of a vehicle to be investigated by an Inspector from the Licensing Authority.

Sir, Section 15(b) of the Principal Act which dealt with what would happen as a result of this investigation, that is the refund of the fees paid, has been repealed. Sir, one is left to wonder what happens after the investigation. There has been a fee put there for the investigation of the condition of the vehicle but then nothing to say what happens at the outcome after the outcome of this investigation.

6.00 p.m.

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SENATOR Dr. F.L. CHANDLER: I think this needs to be clarified, may be part of that Act should not have been repealed. Maybe it was to be left in.

Sir, another, to me, fairly serious error in the Bill, and I am also fairly tired of seeing errors in Bills that come to this Chamber. It refers to Section 28 of the Principal Act where tonnes are mentioned. It must be substituted by kilogrammes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I do not wish to interrupt you, but I wish to draw to your attention in the Second Reading of the debate the details which you are referring to will be dealt with in Committee.

SENATOR Dr. F.L. CHANDLER: Actually, I was going to deal with it in more detail there. I will now say that there is a fairly serious error in that Section which needs to be corrected.

With regard to Section 7 of this Bill, which refers to the replacement of Section 51.B of the original Act, and speaks to the issue of vehicles which have been accepted as total losses by insurers, and the need for a certificate of

roadworthiness to be issued before they are licensed. There are two main reasons for writing off a car or deeming it a total loss. The cost of repairs is considered too high to make it worthwhile. The other is, when the damage is so severe that the vehicle is considered unsafe. I would urge the Licensing Authority to pay particular attention to their inspections in this last category.

I have observed vehicles being rejected by the Licensing Authority for tears in their upholstery, while I see vehicles on the road which have obvious mechanical and safety problems, and they are still on the road.

Sir, I support the Bill in principle, taking into account the correction of errors which I will draw to your attention in Committee.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Cave you have the Floor.

SENATOR R.G. CAVE: Mr. President, I have only a couple of comments to make, only to say that I support the Bill, but I note that apparently under the Provision of Taxes Act, which dictates legislation for any revenue raising measures must be brought with four months of the proposal being announced. I am just reminding the parties who bring the legislation that we should be following that programme.

I do not have any objections to the Bill but I am just reminding the parties who bring the legislation that they should be following the Rules.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Holder.

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: Mr. President, I will be most brief in this regard.

If my memory serves me correctly, the Honourable Senator McClean is seeking the Amendment to validate the collection of monies ascribed in the 2008 Financial and Budgetary Proposals, which, based on the document which is already a document of this House, amounts to the tune of \$46 million per annum. If this document is correct, taxpayers were burdened to the tune of \$46 million a year in additional taxation. Albeit in an effort to meet previous commitments in relation to the ABC Highway, that is the pretext under which the taxes were sought. It is clearly inscribed in the document which is a document of the House.

I am also hearing that an additional \$165 million is being sought in addition to the sums collected. Sir, am I hearing that a loan of \$165 million is being sought in relation to commitments to the ABC Highway? The taxpayers then will therefore have to meet in addition to

this \$46 million per year, interest, et cetera, as a result of the Budget, the new loan recently sought for the same exact purpose for which these taxes were imposed on the poor people of this country. That is all I am seeking clarification on, whether ...

SENATOR J. INCE: On a point of order. Senator Holder is misleading this Upper Chamber. Sir, the \$46 million, Page 103 of the Budgetary Proposals 2008:

“In an effort to ensure that we meet previous commitments in respect of the ABC Highway Project, I propose to increase the fees for the use of the highway with effect from August 1, 2008. The new fees will be as follows”:

Sir, there is nothing in here that says the new loan. Senator Holder mentioned about loan and interest, \$46 million per annum. He talked about interest, loan and raising. It says here that the new fees will be as follows. I am of the opinion that Senator Ince can read and can interpret Her Majesty's English - are expected to yield an additional \$46 million in a full year. Page 103 gives you a schedule of the current fees and the proposed new fees.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Point made.

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: Mr. President, I thank Senator Ince for the interpretation. I said nothing in relation to the \$165 million as per this statement. I was seeking clarification. The Honourable Senator McClean spoke of a loan of \$165 million in relation to the highway. It has nothing to do with \$46 million. All I am...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have to confess that the Chair is confused. It seems to me that, not necessarily you Senator Holder - I am beginning to be confused and I do not get confused easily. I cannot understand what is happening now because we are talking and uttering words relating to the Bill before us, and we are also making reference to the Budgetary Statement which was made in 2008. I think that we have to concentrate on the debate which is to amend the Road Traffic Act, Cap 295. I am not an unintelligent person but I have difficulty understanding what is going on.

Senator Holder, you have the Floor.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just one moment. It is being explained.

18.10 p.m.

Sequence 34

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Senate A22, Sequence 35, 6.10 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: At the risk of being pedantic, let me point out that when two Bills are joined together, it is the substance of the Bills which constitute the discussion that would follow, when the Bills are joined together.

When we go into discussing the details of the Bills, those details ought to be discussed in Committee, where the Bills themselves, as they relate to the Amendments that are being made are discussed in Committee.

What has been happening, I think, but I am subject to correction by the Senate, is that the consolidation of the two Bills has led to a confusion between the Bills themselves and the Budgetary Statement. It may very well be that only the Chair is confused, and it is likely in all the circumstances that the Chair would be confused. I am just asking for clarification so we could proceed in a manner that would allow the Chair to follow what is going on.

Senator Holder you have the Floor.

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: Mr. President, Orders No. 2 and 3 are inextricably linked because Bill 3 seeks to validate what has occurred as it relates to Bill 2, so they are joined together. They cannot be deemed separate and distinct, so that the validation relates to the collection of the taxes in relation to Order 2.

This is why I was seeking clarity on the fact that \$46 million was collected, which is now being sought to validate that collection, so we are saying that was a burden on the poor people of this country to collect all sorts of taxes. Then, we are hearing enunciated by the Honourable Senator McClean in relation to a loan of \$165 million, relative again to the said aforementioned ABC Highway.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is where the confusion has arisen. I think that Senator McClean is going to explain what she thought she had said in relation to what the Senator understands.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise on a point of clarification. I was going to rise on a point of order. The confusion certainly, Mr. President, started with a contribution from the Honourable Senator.

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the confusion exists not in my mind. I think that Senator Holder explained the relationship with the two matters. The difficulty came when the Honourable Senator Thompson spoke about a loan of \$165 million. I made it very clear that the loan was a process which had started

under the previous Administration when they sought to undertake the Highway Project and therefore in talking about the fees, there was an attempt to suggest that this was a new loan. There is no confusion in my mind.

In my wrap up, Mr. President, in the interest of time, I will go over the point. I think the confusion came when Senator Thompson spoke about this loan. Sir, that was introduced by the Other Side and explanations were given which were misleading. I sought to clarify those. On the last occasion when I rose, there was some technical advice given to me and I decided I would wait until my wrap up to ensure 100 per cent clarity.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you for your point.

Senator Holder, you have the Floor.

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: I am grateful, Mr. President.

Sir, if I am hearing correctly that the sum of \$165 million was negotiated under a prior Administration, if that was so, if it was deemed sufficient, therefore it would mean that there was no need to burden the poor people of this country with these new taxes. Sir, that is what I am saying. There was no need for any increase of fees and taxation on the poor people of this country to raise additional revenue. To date, it means that approximately \$69 million would have been collected.

SENATOR the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Senator continues to mislead the Senate on what is basically a very simple accounting or an everyday matter. When you build a house, you borrow to build the house, that is not your own money, that is a loan. Then, you have to find a salary or income of your own in order to pay back the loan.

The \$165 million is a loan. It is not revenue. It is categorised as financing. It finances a deficit and then you raise revenue in order to pay back the loan. It is as simple as that.

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Mr. President, every Barbadian knows that, who has borrowed money to buy a car or buy a house or any other thing, and therefore, it is not right for Senators who ought to know better, to mislead the Senate in this way.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Holder.

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: Mr. President, while I understand the Bill, we oppose the taxes that were placed on the poor people.

I am obliged to you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I find myself in a very peculiar position, where I am explaining matters which do not need explanation. When the Government imposes taxes, the Government does not impose taxes on only one segment of the community. The taxes are imposed on the entire community. Hence, for you to be constantly discussing the imposition of taxes on the poor people, it gives the impression to those who do not know that the taxes were imposed on one segment of the community.

I am just drawing this to your attention for clarification and to help in the movement of the debate forward. It is not a matter of great import but it is necessary.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I beg your pardon, Senator?

I thought Senator Thompson was speaking. I was not sure. I just want to be certain.

Those remarks were intended primarily for Senator Holder.

SENATOR A.E. HOLDER: Thank you, Mr. President,

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are very welcome.

Senator McClean.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I stand to wrap up this debate and I believe that it is perhaps.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I hate to interrupt you, but you cannot wrap up the debate unless I check to see if anybody else wishes to speak.

Is there any other Senator who wishes to contribute to the debate?

In the circumstances, Senator McClean, you have the Floor.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I had looked around the room and there was no indication, as I usually do and therefore I rose.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If you wish to have a debate with me, I do not have a problem with that, but it is not in keeping with the Leader of the Senate to check to see who wishes to speak. That role has been - I think, I may be wrong - reserved for the Presiding Officer and the Presiding Officer did not perceive that everybody had necessarily spoken.

Senate A22, Sequence 35, 18:20:19

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. PRESIDENT: Under the circumstances, I wish you would not cause me to have to rule unnecessarily.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to wind up this debate. It is perhaps reminiscent of the 1980s when the Honourable Senator Holder sat in the Faculty of Social Sciences in one of my classes, so I may have to put on my explanation hat and explain.

Mr. President, I will start where the Honourable Senator ended when he spoke about not imposing a burden on taxpayers. I also want to reiterate the clarification provided by my honourable colleague, Senator Boyce, when he explained in very basic words, I would substitute the words "road network" instead of a "house", that when you build a road network and you borrow money, in this instance \$165 million, you have to raise money to repay the loan. I also want, Mr. President, for the record to speak to page 102 of the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals 2008 presented by the Honourable David Thompson, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance on Monday, July 7, 2008 to help with the clarification. Under Highway Revenue, it says, I will read the full four paragraphs:

"In addition to its scheduled road maintenance and road improvement programme, the Government is now saddled with the cost of financing and servicing the obligations left to us by the former Administration in respect of the ABC Highway widening and flyover project.

I have already explained that this project proceeded on a rolling basis without any limits. It is now twice what its original "guesstimate" was. Unfortunately, while this is an example of mal-Administration and profligate expenditure by the previous Government, the taxpayers of Barbados ultimately have to pay.

Government's expenditure in respect of Highway Construction and Maintenance will therefore increase substantially over the coming years.

In an effort to ensure that we meet previous commitments in respect of the ABC Highway project, I

propose to increase the fees for the use of the highway with effect from August 1, 2008."

If I may interpret that, Mr. President, what it says is that the users of the highway typically will pay. Secondly, they would be asked to pay in respect of the cost of the highway, and if the cost of the highway double, then the poor people that Senator Thompson and Senator Holder pleaded for would have been saddled with doubled the price.

Therefore, Mr. President, if we are to talk about the poor people, it is important to go to the Report of the Special Audit of the Barbados Road Network Infrastructure Improvement Project. I thought we had a simple discussion on our hands, but I believe that it is important that we look at some of these things.

Mr. President, page 4 paragraph 14 of the Special Audit Report reads as follows:

"The agreed method of executing the Project resulted in the work proceeding and then for cost to be agreed upon later."

That is \$165 million.

"This placed the Ministry at a disadvantage of having to negotiate with the contractor for work already completed."

That was not the making of this Minister of Finance, the Ministry of Housing and Lands or any part of this Administration.

It goes on, Mr. President, to suggest on page 9, paragraph 1.12 that:

"On 2nd December 2004, the Cabinet of Barbados approved in principle the project now known as the Barbados Road Network Infrastructure Improvement Project (BRNIP). The Government among other matters:

Approved, in principle, the proposal to install overpass bridges at selected sites (to be determined) along the ABC Highway and to widen the Highway from two lanes to four, between the Everton Weekes (Jackson) and Norman Niles (Haggatt Hall) Roundabouts;

Approved, in principle, the introduction of a computerized central control traffic signal system;

Noted that from available information the works could be completed by December 2006 in time for the influx of vehicular traffic anticipated for the Cricket World Cup 2007, once agreement was reached by December 31, 2004.

Paragraph 1.3 goes on to say that:

“The Cabinet also agreed that the method of financing should be through a Build, Operate, Lease and Transfer (BOLT) arrangement, and that permission should be sought under Rule 137A of the Financial Rules, thereby negating the need to go to the public tender.”

It goes on to say that:

“Invitation letters were sent in December 2004 to the seven firms which had submitted proposals in 2002 for the design and supervision of a project to widen a section of the Highway. Only one firm submitted a proposal. In addition, 3S had previously submitted a proposal.”

This was also considered.

Paragraph 1.14 states that:

“An Evaluation Committee was set up by the Ministry to assess the proposals submitted by the two firms. The Committee comprised representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Town and Country Planning Department and the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment.”

Paragraph 1.15 states that:

“The Committee considered the proposals using criteria developed by the Ministry and recommended, that negotiations be entered into with the first ranked firm, 3S (Barbados) Limited Structural Steel Solutions leading to a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to allow for a contract to be entered into for the execution of the Project.”

Paragraph 1.16 states that:

“A Negotiation Committee comprising representatives from the Ministry and other Ministries of Government was set up to enter into negotiations with the selected firm. These negotiations resulted in the development of an MOU,...and signed on behalf of the Government and the contractor on September 5, 2005.”

It goes on, Mr. President, at paragraph 1.17 to speak of the details of the designs stage. Paragraph 1.18, having talked about the details of the designs, construction of the flyovers no roundabout no right turns at the Belle, et cetera.

Paragraph 1.19 states that:

“In July 2006 a Supplemental MOU was signed to allow for the construction phase of the Project to

commence. Construction commenced on the Project on July 24, 2006.”

Mr. President, in spite of the decision to use Rule 1.37 of the Financial Rules to expedite the project, construction only started five months before the proposed completion date at the time the project was approved.

Mr. President, lest we forget, we had pleas to remove these fees because we care about poor people.

Mr. President, at paragraph 1.21 under Project Costs, it states that:

“In November 2007 the parties discussed the contract cost for the Project with the Sub-Committee of Cabinet.”

Mr. President, remember this project was supposed to have been finished by the end of 2006, and we are discussing contract cost in November 2007.

“A contract sum of BDS\$117 million was agreed for Section 1 - of the project - but subsequently there was a dispute as to what this represented, whether full cost for Section 1 inclusive of cost for road widening, design fees and payment for the traffic synchronisation, or only the road widening.”

Senate A22 Sequence 36

6.30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: This is not a bag of bread, a pack of biscuits or a tin of milk that we are looking to buy for a household, this is a road, which is using taxpayers' money to the tune of several million of dollars. The contractor claimed that approximately BDS\$9 million was for design stage cost and other costs that were not included in the BDS\$117 million.

Mr. President, I could go on and on. The point is that if we go through this Audit Report, there is reference to fairness of tender process, relationship between the parties in the projects, the non-conforming bids and all of these things.

Sir, for a former Member of Cabinet, who would have sat and presided over this matter, to come before this Honourable Chamber and plea concerns about fees, where we are asking an increase in fees for bicyclists - not the poorest of the poor but persons who would put a bicycle on the road - Sir, if we cannot identify these persons, if they were to cause an accident, we would not be able to seek

redress or things of that nature, but we are going to talk about it. We are talking about a road which would cost maybe at most BDS\$80 million.

Mr. President, I want to use the term Barbados dollars because I recall in Another Place and at another time people asking the question. Sir, I certainly asked the question, are we talking Barbados dollars or are we talking USA dollars?

Sir, we are talking Barbados dollars, so to tell me, Mr. President, we are going to shout and scream that we are putting a burden on taxpayers but that we would have sat back and participated in a process where, approximately one year after the initial completion date had been identified, we had not even settled on a price, yet we are going to be talking about what has to be done to raise funds to cover these costs.

Sir, we have to collect revenues. we have to generate earnings. we have to generate foreign exchange because the contract for this road, even though the subcontractors were local, the original contractor was foreign.

Mr. President, I remember very clearly. It maybe peripheral to this but it probably added to the cost and therefore it will add to the cost of the fees that we are talking about. Sir, we had somebody who designed this road, who had never, at the point of designing the road, visited this country, and we are saying that the Other Side is going to quarrel and grandstand on the issues about these things.

Mr. President, I believe that I have demonstrated to you that an issue before us, which really had its genesis in decisions taken, not by this Administration but by a previous Administration... Sir, road improvement is important but, like everything else that we have to do, we have to pay attention to how we use public funds. Perhaps \$750 million in cost overruns in the life of a previous Administration, if it were down to the standard amount of overruns, would probably be about \$70 million. We would have had almost \$700 million to say to Barbadians, no you do not necessarily have to pay fees, we want you to license.

Mr. President, let us be real, let us understand that when we come to this Honourable Chamber, we have to come here recognising that as we debate, that we talk about what we want to do in a manner that is honest and that we speak to the facts. Mr. President, what I presented is a situation where we are seeking to put those things in place.

Sir, I do not want to suggest that we would not normally charge fees. User fees are part of life. We pay taxes to finance our social sectors. We pay road taxes directly for the right to ride a bicycle on the road or the

right to drive on the road. Sir, there is absolutely nothing wrong with that.

Mr. President, what is wrong, however, is a situation where you have parties to a previous decision, where the evidence as is captured in a document called the Special Audit of the Barbados Road Network Infrastructure Improvement Project, a document of some 42 pages, spells out clearly that if things were done the proper way, the repair of the highway, the widening and expansion of the road network could have been done in a timely manner and within cost.

Sir, I do not believe that anybody in this Honourable Chamber, on the Other Side, has the moral authority to speak to the removal of fees in the way that they have done knowing, in fact, that this Report speaks specifically to the kinds of poor decisions and to the terrible consequences for this country that we are now witnessing.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. Miss 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 - 5, inclusive, were called and passed.

6.40 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Asides.

SENATOR Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Madam Deputy President, as you know all day we have had comments on my accounting and my maths, but I agree with Senator Chandler that there needs to be an amendment. I am suggesting that we should not change it but send it back to be looked at again, because Section 28. 1(a) of the Act which the amendment before us purports to alter speaks to a very specific sum, 7 tonnes. When you change to kilograms, if you are to be specific, you would have to give the equivalent weight. I do not know if that is really 1 000 tonnes.

Sir, not only in relation to changing that, but subsequent to this Act being introduced, the vehicles, because you would have noticed that there would have

been bigger heavier and longer trucks on the road. In fact, you may have to revisit the size, altogether, because I do not really know if to change from 7 tonnes to the kilogramme equivalent would really capture the current vehicle size.

I am just suggesting that for comprehensiveness, we should send it back and just ensure that the thing is captured correctly and in its entirety.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Madam Deputy President, the schedule of fees actually spoke about thousands of kilogrammes. For example, if you had commercial vehicles, two axils not exceeding 3 600 kilogrammes, 5 000 kilogrammes, 12 000 kilogrammes, 20 000 kilogrammes, 24 000 kilogrammes. As was pointed out by Senator Chandler, a tonne is 1 000 kilogrammes. With the corrections to 1 000 kilogrammes, it would be consistent with the schedule of fees, and it would, in fact, replace the tonne. I think that correction should be accurate in terms of reflecting the move to the metric system.

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Madam Deputy President, I propose that we leave the provision as it is and request the Clerk to refer this for legal advice, CPC. The information shared by Senator Chandler is in fact correct, but we would refer it back to CPC.

Thank you.

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Clause 7 was called.

SENATOR Dr. F.L. CHANDLER: It might be a minor thing, but I think our Laws should be correct English. It was correct in the original Act but now it is incorrect in Section 2 of 51B, which is part of No. 7. Sir, "license" is a verb and it should be "licensed" and not "licenced".

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: For clarification, let us proceed with the Clauses in order.

Clause 6 was called and passed.

Clause 7 was called.

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Chandler:

SENATOR Dr. F.L. CHANDLER: Clause 7 Section, section 2, where it says licenced. It should be "licensed" and not "licenced". As I said, it was correct in the original Act.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that Clause 7 as amended where "licence" is the verb and spelt with an "s" instead of a "c".

Madam Deputy President, in light of the correction in spelling identified by Senator Chandler, I wish to indicate that this is the type of error that can be corrected by Law Revision. An amendment would require sending it back to the Lower House. Therefore, I recommend that it stand part and that the error be noted for Law Revision.

Clause 7 was amended and passed.

Clauses 8 was called.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Madam Deputy President, I regret that I have to rise again after having had a section called, but I want to draw to the Chair's attention that the Clerk had failed to send us correspondence to indicate that in Clause 8, 62A Item B, it should in fact read:

"The Road Traffic Regulations "1984" instead of "1981".

This was in fact amended in the Honourable House and that information, unfortunately, did not reach us, but it has been an amendment. So it should in fact be what we are approving in Clause 8 stated at Section 82A (b) The Road Traffic Regulations 1984.

S22

Sequence 38

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Senate A22, Sequence 39, 6.50 p.m.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Where that occurs later in the legislation, it should read:

"The Road Traffic Regulations, 1984."

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: For accuracy, the clause was not amended here; it was amended elsewhere, so we are not amending; so I will now put the question again.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Clause 9 was called.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN:
Madam Deputy President, as I indicated, Clause 9 reads:

“The Road Traffic Regulations, 1894”.

I beg to move that Clause 9 stand part.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

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 Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2009.

ORDER NO. 3 – THE ROAD TRAFFIC (VALIDATION)
BILL, 2009

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. Miss 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 and 2 were called and passed.

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 Road Traffic (Validation) Act, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 11.00 a.m.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 11.00 a.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.

Senate A22, Sequence 39, 18:59:29

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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. Obituary Speeches and Congratulatory Speeches. Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean says former Senator Marjorie Blackman ‘entered into rest on August 7, 2009’, but in the afternoon says Senator Blackman died ‘on August 4’. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Obituary Speeches, Deputy President. The Deputy President’s speech heading reads ‘SENATOR Miss K. F. Ifill’. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Orders Nos. 2 and 3, revenue figures. Senator Miss H. E. Thompson puts the yield of the 2008 increases in licences and taxes at ‘\$44 million per annum’; Senator A. E. Holder, citing the same Budgetary Proposals, gives ‘\$46 million per annum’. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Committee, Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, Clause 7. Senator McClean, addressing ‘Madam President’, recommends that Clause 7 stand part and that the spelling error be noted for Law Revision, since an amendment would require sending the Bill back to the Lower House; the note that follows reads ‘Clause 7 was amended and passed.’ Printed as in the source.

Q6. Committee, Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, Clause 9. Clause 9 is read as ‘The Road Traffic Regulations, 1894’, where the preceding correction to Clause 8 refers to the Regulations of 1984. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met on Wednesday, 21st October, 2009 at 11.15 a.m., with Mr. President in the Chair; prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah. The President read two Messages from the Governor-General, Sir Clifford Straughn Husbands: the seat held by Kerry Drurard Symmonds had been declared vacant from 13th August, 2009 and Mr. Arthur Eugene Holder appointed on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Ronald Geoffrey Cave had been appointed from 12th October, 2009. Senators Cave and Holder took their seats and were welcomed by the President, Senator Miss H. E. Thompson,

Senator the Hon. Prof. V. E. Newton and the Leader of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean. The President announced that Minutes would in future be confirmed by the Senate rather than on his signature, and the Minutes of 29th July and 12th August, 2009 were confirmed.

Senator McClean laid twenty-one papers, among them the Representation of the People (Expenses) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009, the Green Paper ‘Comprehensive Review of Immigration Policy and Proposals for Legislative Reform’ and the Annual Reports of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited for 2006 and 2007. Standing Order 45(2) was suspended, notice was given of the Final Appropriation (2008-2009) Bill, 2009, and six Bills were read a first time.

The Senate paid tribute to three former Senators who had died in August 2009: Marjorie Blackman, who served from 1976 to 1981 and was a social worker and past President of the YWCA; Miss Enid Lynch, former Headmistress of Foundation Girls’ School; and Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard. Senator McClean led the tributes, followed by Senators Thompson, Miss K. F. Ifill, R. O. Marville, Cave, the Hon. A. B. Walters, Prof. Newton, Mrs. V. I. Sandiford-Garner, the Hon. D. W. Boyce, the Very Reverend H. E. Crichlow, Dr. F. L. Chandler, the Hon. H. LaV. Benn and J. Ince, and the President.

After the luncheon suspension Senator McClean moved congratulations to Senator Prof. Newton on her promotion to Professor and appointment from 1st August as the first female Dean of the Faculty of Law at Cave Hill, and to Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite on winning the 110 metres hurdles at the World Games. Senators Thompson, Benn, Miss P. I. Inniss, Holder, Dr. Chandler and Mrs. Sandiford-Garner joined in, and Senator Prof. Newton replied.

Order No. 1 was the second reading of the Land Development Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2009, which extended from 10 to 15 years the period during which the duty applies in a Special Development Area. Senator McClean said about \$14 million of public money had been spent on the South Coast boardwalk and beach enhancement, raising property values from Hastings to Rockley. Senator Thompson described the wider coastal infrastructure project, Senator Dr. Chandler argued that public works could also lower property values, and Senator Cave asked who would pay and whether the 50 per cent rate was too high. Senator Boyce explained that the duty was payable only on a sale within the period, on the increase in value. The Bill passed all stages.

Orders Nos. 2 and 3, the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2009 and the Road Traffic (Validation) Bill, 2009, were debated together. Senator McClean explained that fees from the 2008 Budgetary Proposals, including a bicycle licence fee, had been collected before the law was changed. Senator Thompson did not oppose validation, but her linking of the new revenue to a \$165 million loan for the ABC Highway drew repeated points of order from Senators McClean, Ince and Boyce, the last explaining that money borrowed for an asset must be repaid over time.

Senator Ince spoke on the highway's costs, Senator Dr. Chandler argued for an annual rather than one-off \$25 bicycle fee, Senator Cave noted that revenue measures were to be legislated within four months of being announced, and Senator Holder opposed the taxes on the poor. In Committee, errors over tonnes and kilogrammes and the spelling of 'licensed' were referred for legal advice and Law Revision. Both Bills passed, and the Senate adjourned until Wednesday, 28th October, 2009 at 11.00 a.m.