
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2008 – 2013

THE SENATE

Friday, April 23, 2010

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Friday April 23, 2010, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

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

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

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN, EMBA., J.P., (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)

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

SENATOR P. W. B GILKES

SENATOR Mrs. V. I. SANDIFORD-GARNER, M.B.A, Dip Mang., CIM, (Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health)

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

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

SENATOR J. INCE, J.P., M.B.A., BB.A., Dip (Mgmt), (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office)

SENATOR H. A. HUSBANDS, M.L.I.R., B.Sc (Public Administration).

(Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office)

SENATOR Rev. Dr. D. L. DURANT, D.D. (Hon.)

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received an apology for the absence of Senator Worrell and Senator H. Elizabeth Thompson, who I believe is on official business.

PAPERS

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

1. Annual Report of Barbados Business Promotion Corporation (Invest Barbados) for the year ended March 31, 2009;
2. Annual Report and Financial Statement of Hotels and Resorts Limited (HRL), for the years ended December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2007;
3. Duties, Taxes and Other Payment (Exemption) (Mayfield Cardiology Inc.) Order, 2010;
4. Land Development Duties (Special Development Area) (Hastings to Rockley Area) Order, 2010.

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 move that the following Bills be read a first time:

1. Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council Bill, 2010;
2. District Auctioneers (Validation) Bill, 2010.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER No.1

RESOLUTION TO RESCIND A RESOLUTION PASSED
IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON 15TH
DECEMBER, 2009, AND IN THE
HONOURABLE THE SENATE ON 22ND
DECEMBER, 2009.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the Resolution passed in the Honourable House of Assembly on December 15th 2009, and in the Honourable Senator on 22nd December, 2009, was in respect of the Land Development Duties (Special Development Area) (Hastings to Rockley Area) Order. At the time of the discussion we would have engaged in a full debate on this matter. However, this rescinding of this Resolution has become necessary, given the Amendment of the description of the land.

It does not alter the actual physical land space, however, the Chief Surveyor, having reviewed the description of the land to which the Resolution refers, has determined that a more appropriate description ought to have been given and has thus been given a new description.

Sir, in order to facilitate the process, in effect, we need to rescind this Resolution and based on that very simple statement, given our full debate on this issue in December 2009, I now beg to move that this Resolution do pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

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ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LAND
DEVELOPMENT DUTY SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT AREA
HASTINGS TO ROCKLEY AREA (ORDER) 2010.

SENATOR the HON. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Land Development Duties (Special Development) (Area Hastings to Rockley) Order, 2010. This, as I indicated is in respect of Order No. 1 which was a Resolution of 2009 and simply seeks to reflect the Amendment to the description of the same area, that special development area between Hastings to Rockley.

Mr. President, you would recall in our debate of December that we spoke to the issue of the construction of a boardwalk stretching along the area from Hastings to Rockley and we would have spoken of the benefits that are being realised from that. Sir, as I said in my opening remarks, this is a simple Resolution to properly reflect the description of the lands to which this Resolution refers and, therefore, is the second step in properly and legally making that amendment. Therefore, Sir, again with the capturing of that description to properly reflect the area of this special development, I now beg that the Resolution do pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION AND TRAINING COUNCIL BILL,
2010

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the Technical and Vocational Educational and Training Council Bill speaks to the legislative framework within which technical and vocational education is administered and delivered in Barbados. If I could speak first to the specifics of the Bill, it seeks to ensure that the Minister responsible for technical and vocational education in the case of the current arrangement, the Minister of Labour, will have the power to make two independent appointments in the position of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of what we refer to commonly in Barbados as the TVET Council. Sir, that of course is important because, as we seek to engage in the work of the Council, it is important that there be a high level of efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr. President, Sir, as it stands, the legislation does not allow the Minister responsible to do that because of how the selection of board members and eventually the two top positions are determined. They are determined after the several agencies which are represented on the Council, after they name their appointments and, at that point in

time, depending on how soon or how tardy they are in doing that, the Minister is then only able to make the appointment.

Mr. President, having said that, I think I would speak to the importance of technical and vocational education. Sir, Barbados, as a small developing island State, depends very heavily on our human resource capability and capacity.

Sir, I would also go on to further elaborate on the characteristics of Barbados and to say that Barbados is a country with limited natural resources and is a country without significant deposits of minerals and other resources. Sir, we do have some oil but it is a limited amount and, at the end of the day, as a country with limited resources, we depend very heavily on our human resource capability and capacity. Therefore, it is important that we have a population and, indeed, a workforce that is highly skilled and qualified.

Mr. President, we, in Barbados, over several decades, have been able to build on our solid investment in what I would call traditional education and in doing so, we have succeeded in building a society in which we have established a reputation for a well-educated population.

Sir, in more recent years, as part of a strategy of building on that foundation, and as part of a strategy of creating a resource pool that is not only qualified, experienced and trained in the classical areas of education and the traditional areas of education, Governments, and certainly this Administration in previous times have seen it fit to engage in ensuring that those members of the population who so desire, are able to access technical and vocational education.

Mr. President, technical and vocational education, therefore, has been recognised here, as in other places, as a crucial input into the socio-economic development of our country and, therefore, the importance of that has not been underplayed.

Mr. President, I know that a number of persons often see the options available in TECHVOC, if I may use that abbreviation, traditionally, has seen it as something that is limited for some individuals in the population. However, as our educational system has borne out, a number of persons have seen opportunities expand in the area of technical and vocational education.

It is one area, Mr. President, in which the capacity of the country to produce entrepreneurs and innovators, this is one area in which that capacity can be facilitated and nurtured. Sir, it is critical that at all times the structures that are necessary to engender adequate investment and policy-making in respect of technical and vocational education is

important. Mr. President, this first amendment to allow the relevant Minister to make those independent appointments to the Board, is one that is seen to be crucial.

Mr. President, in addition to that, the area of technical and vocational education is one in which perhaps the certification of individuals who have benefitted from such education has perhaps lagged behind other areas of certification. We all grew up talking about GCE, "O" Levels, "A" Levels and LCC, for those persons who may be a little older. They probably have them, but I do not hear much of those things nowadays, at least not in Barbados.

We now talk of CXC, the Caribbean Examination Council and so what we have seen traditionally has been a certification structure which is clearly known and understood, not only locally and regionally but internationally. Sir, a critical requirement in the area of technical and vocational education is also the certification and the identification of standards of achievement and thus, the process by which we are able to accredit persons and recognise accreditation, et cetera, is important. This has led to the necessity for a second amendment to this piece of legislation. Therefore, the second amendment should allow the TVET Council to award National Vocational Qualifications, which are commonly referred to in everyday language as NVQs education and the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications or CVQs. These are important at the national and the regional level in the first and second instances.

In Barbados, as I said, an employer or a consumer who wants to perhaps access the services of a plumber or a hairstylist, painter, carpenter, a computer technician, et cetera, we would want to know whether a prospective employer or person or persons whose services of such an individual would want to have some sense of his or her capacity to function. One indicator, and I stress one indicator of the capacity to function, of course, would be the certification of certain skills. It allows individuals who would have participated in training to be adequately certified and to be certified, of course, inferred or implied something else if we could move from the certification backwards to the process of training.

Sir, in order to certify, you have to have some core standards. For example, in terms of curriculum. You would need to devise a set of curricula, which speaks to some minimum of standard or coverage of the issues, subject matter, the skills, techniques, et cetera, that are required to say that John Brown or Mary Smith, would have gone through a process of training, and would have acquired those necessary skills to be considered to have reached a standard of proficiency, capacity and capability, et cetera.

Sir, as we talk about awarding of those certifications, it allows persons in the sector, the various stakeholders, as I

said before, whether we are referring to persons who are seeking to participate in a training programme, a person who is seeking to have his or her skills recognised and deemed to be of an adequate or appropriate level, persons who are seeking to take advantage of those in the form of employment, or accessing the services of the service provider in this case, would be able to have some sensible or be in a position to make some sensible or informed judgments as to capability. Sir, that speaks to the value and purpose of certification at the national level.

If I can move beyond that talk about the regional and international levels, we are now in what is described as a globalised and certainly more closer to home, Barbados is part of the Caribbean Single Market and eventually the Single Market and Economy. Sir, what that implies is the anticipated movement of persons across the region.

As we move around the region and people seek to be employed in what is eventually to become a single space, we need to be able to recognise the existence of certain common standards. One way of trying to devise or develop and describe those standards would be the use of a certification, thus the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications.

In recent times there has been a lot of discussion in relation to the free movement of people. The notion of qualification will extend across the range of professional and other business activities. I believe that as we seek to establish standards and qualifications for technical, vocational and training, and as we speak to coordinate the establishment of this, the whole process of certification is vital.

All together I believe that as we talk about the National Vocational Qualifications, et cetera, there are some very concrete benefits which a system such as this should provide, not only at the level of the individual and at the level of organisations, but certainly should provide benefits across the whole range of our society in terms of our work relations.

Sir, among other things, it is said that it should allow for an enhancement of the status of technical and vocational training. I generally prefer not to speak in the negative. Therefore, I have clearly sought not to speak about, this is not only what obtained, or this is what people felt should be, and people who were not qualified to do something else. I believe we have reached the stage where we can talk about creating a wider range of options for our students, whether they are our children in our primary going into our secondary and tertiary education, that we are able to create a wider range of options, even at tertiary level, so, in certifying and standard setting that flows from the efforts to certify, we are in a position to improve the status of technical and vocational training.

Sir, by the process of certification which, as I said before, comes at the end of the development of training and development in the area of study, we are in a position as societies, as a region at the macro level, and certainly at the macro level of the individual, to better recognise the skills and knowledge of students. I believe that as we go through this process where there is standardisation, hopefully, a very important consequence of the whole process will be higher labour productivity.

I believe that if we invest in training, which reflects the standards that we seek to have developed among trainees and persons who applied for that training, if we are able to do that consistently, if we are able to develop standards that are applicable, not only in one institution or in one country but across the region, and we are able to have proper recognition, persons are going to develop a better sense of self and purpose based on the proper recognition of the efforts. We are able then at the end of the day to create a cadre of trained persons in various areas, technical fields and vocational areas who have benefitted from solid training based on the development of a solid curriculum. They are better able to take that and be recognised for it and to be paid for it. I think that is important. Increased productivity, hopefully, will result in improved performance. Therefore, it should lead to better compensation. If you are working for yourself, greater profitability.

At the end of the day we are also striving for, and if you remember, Mr. President, I talked not only about our regional relationships but also the fact that we are in a globalised world, we are also talking about competitiveness internationally. The application of those technical skills, that a lot of our young people will find new work opportunities and we will see perhaps the resuscitation of some very critical industries and areas of endeavour.

Mr. President, overall, I believe that the two Amendments that I spoke of, the ability to expedite the process of appointments to the Heads of Boards, that is in the two positions, Chair and Deputy Chair, the Council would be in a better position to swiftly address the many important issues that it faces.

I would also say that in having the ability to appoint, it allows the Minister to clearly identify individuals who have the necessary skills, interest and capability to lead a Council that has in turn a very important role to play ensuring that technical and vocational education and training find their rightful place in our educational system.

Secondly, Sir, it allows that Council, in terms of the second Amendment, in terms of the need to ensure that we are able to certify or award the National Vocational Qualification and the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (NVQ/CVQ).

We will also be playing our part in facilitating the movement of persons around the region, who are recognised in the organisations of the several member countries of CARICOM, the ability to function and there is a common standard by which persons will be judged.

I recall, Sir, speaking in the not-too-distant past, to somebody who works in the Diplomatic circles of Barbados, who would have been returning to home-base so to speak, and was very hopeful about taking with the family, their domestic help - that is the best way I could describe it without being too specific. Sir, there was one major problem or one minor problem depending on how you saw it. That was the necessity to be qualified and certified in the country to which that individual was returning.

I was able to point out that at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP) there were programmes that, based on my research would have very much allowed that person to qualify. There are programmes in the care of the elderly and in child care and when we looked at the content of the curriculum of those programmes, we recognised that the certification would have more than adequately qualified that person and would have allowed for recognition of that particular person, who would have built up a very longstanding relationship with the family and, basically, would have enjoyed perhaps that continuity of relationship as an employer of that family.

Overall, Mr. President, I believe that these Amendments are timely and absolutely necessary in order to facilitate the work of the TVET Council.

Mr. President, with those few words, I beg to move the Technical Vocational Education and Training Council Bill be read a second time.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Trotman.

SENATOR Sir Roy TROTMAN: Mr. President, I rise to give my support to the item before the Honourable Senate and I would wish in giving that support to make one or two observations which I believe might be useful, if for no other reason than it might help to bring back our memories or in another manner to be a little more nostalgic for those of us who have been exploring this matter of education, who may not have been in what was called before, the academic stream.

It is always useful and it is always pleasurable to be able to look at issues which serve to provide greater opportunities for that body of persons who, in times past, may have been considered to be losing it, simply because they were not schooled in the classics. It is against that background that I would wish to make those observations, but before I dwell on those, I would wish to look to two

key issues which the Leader of the Senate spoke to, as items or concerns which would lead her to ask that this Honourable Chamber would support the item before us.

The first of them has to do with the institution that would allow for swifter making of decisions for a manner through which swifter action could be taken in affecting decisions, by allowing for certain restructuring in the institution. The other one speaks to management control and to management efficiency.

While I would say that I think those are good motives, I wish to suggest, Mr. President, that if we are going in that direction, we have to be very conscious of the fact that very often suggestions like those, or propositions like those could become empty letters where sufficient action is not taken by the governing body. That is to say, by the management of the institution, in this case, the Government, to ensure that management control is, in fact, exercised and that persons will not be allowed to consider themselves to be larger than the cause that is being pursued.

One hears far too often of stories where persons, whether it is in the private sector or in the public sector, who begin to think that as title holders they become owners. I know that I hear this particularly in regard to schools. I have not served notice so I will not speak to it, Sir, but I believe that we have to be very careful to have it understood that the management is the management and no man or woman because he or she is given a responsibility to manage in the name of the people of Barbados under the administration of a current Government, may be allowed or ought to be allowed to present himself or herself as larger than the cause that he or she is helping to work in effecting. I think it is very important we understand that and that the Government, as the final watch person for the country has to be ready to play its meaningful role in these issues. I say no more, Sir, because I have not served you notice.

Regarding TVET itself, I think to go back to what I started with, that it is important for us to recall what we have been endeavouring to do - I mean the various Governments of this country over time - in removing stigmas in Barbados. I am pleased to say that in my experience, it is not something which we alone are being engaged in doing but that it has national and regional impact for all of us. It is very useful therefore to see how there is no longer an insistence that you have to be schooled in the classics to be able to provide for yourself or for your family, or for you to be given respect as a useful contributing member of the community.

I am not suggesting for a minute, Mr. President, that the classics do not have a role to play. I would not like to have us start to believe that we should now start having a form of education where people cannot even put words

together and where they do not learn from other cultures how we must be able to create for improved families and to create for greater social and economic development, but that we must also seek to bring this in line and in touch with cultural and spiritual development as well. I think it is important.

I think it is a splendid thing as well that the Caribbean has been able to benefit from the work of TVET generally. I think I would wish to go a little beyond that to say that I would and I am sure the Government of Barbados would wish as well to thank Governments like the Governments of Brazil and of Columbia for the tremendous work that they have been able to do over the years, in showing the world how we can benefit from having those kinds of approaches to learning and in education and in preparation for the world of work.

We have to look no further than Brazil itself, to remember to recognise and to take comfort from the fact that the twice over President of Brazil, His Excellency Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva has in fact been a graduate of the TVET Programme in Brazil, not called by the name TVET, naturally but it was a TVET Programme.

He was an apprentice mechanic to their TVET system and he rose beyond that to be a well-spoken of political leader. He was very articulate and was very well able to control his thoughts and ideas.

The point I am making, Sir, is that because we have moved to an apprenticeship programme ought not to be any reason why we must believe that we can only speak to bits of machinery or to cups and plates if the apprenticeship is in tourism. We must also have an understanding within the system that education has to be total education of the entire being, of the entire person, and that we must be able to aim to be as articulate as President DaSilva has proven to be.

A number of people may not have heard him or if they did they may have heard him only speaking Portuguese, although he speaks English very well, so we would have to go and use names that are familiar to us, names like the past President of Guyana, Forbes Burnham, or the past Prime Minister of Jamaica, Michael Manley. I do not wish to go here in Barbados, Mr. President, because you may not be pleased with me if I do not call your own name and I do not wish to go down into that kind of discussion.

I have used names that persons are familiar with to help people understand that in the case of Brazil a person who becomes very skilled with his hands can still aim if he or she so desires, to become articulate and skilled in whatever other endeavour he or she chooses to pursue and become a national leader no less so than those either in Barbados or otherwise who have been schooled in Oxford

or Cambridge and who are students of the classics and who are able through that to show that they can develop.

I speak therefore to a position where we need to understand that we have to recognise these tracks as two parallel tracks to further development and not a first track and a second track where the academic one needs necessarily be the most senior one and the technical one being a secondary one.

I am hopeful that the very excellent programme which we have here in Barbados, which was able to compare itself favourably earlier this year in January when we looked and compared it with what is happening in Brazil and in Columbia. I hope that we are able to build on the good work we have with the beautiful association we have with the Jamaica programme, with the Trinidad programme and indeed with the Belize programme. That out of this we might be able to see TVET grow from strength to strength.

In all of this I think that the workers and the administrators in these schemes should be able to recognise the significant role that the International Labour Organisation and particularly the Inter-American Research and Documentation Centre on Vocation Training (CINTERFOR) for this region, the role that is played by this organisation, the ILO and by the Turin Centre of the ILO in this development programme.

Sometimes we begin to feel that because the ILO does not censure or does not have to do with trade like the World Trade Organisation, or with borrowing money and setting down arrangements for seeking to control banks, which are not easily controllable, that the ILO does not have a significant role to play. Mr. President, I would wish to remind persons that it is, in fact, treated, and very properly so, as one of the most senior of the ILO institutions that we have. I do not wish to say more than that because you may say that I am speaking because of having personal reasons.

I need next, Mr. President, to speak about the matter of the recognition, which I believe there either is or should be for the work that has been done over time. Mr. President, I take some little pride in being able to say that my own organisation, the Barbados Workers' Union, was among the first, if not the very first, seeking to have certification for skills. Way back then we were trying to have dock workers acquire those skills and then we have been concerned, beyond having dock workers, with having the hotel industry, the construction industry and the care giving, I do not know if I should call it enterprise or industry.

Out of all of this because we are able very clearly to see that part of the role we have to play as institutions

having an interest is the role of anticipating the human resource needs of our Caribbean people, in our case, our Barbados workers but because, as the Leader of the Senate has said, we are looking beyond Barbados to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, we have to be in a position to see, to recognise and to prepare for the human resource needs of our people.

We have been very strongly of the view that we should endeavour where we can, and where we cannot now do so, we should endeavour to arrange so that we would be able to be in a position to bring those individuals in those kinds of fields into a relationship with their work. Into the reward structure for that work, and the public recognition for that work so that they ought not to continue feeling that because they use their hands as their means of gaining employment and getting sustenance for their families that that does not reduce their status as citizens.

We ought to be able with time to reach a position where those persons who help us in our communities by removing our refuse, our garbage, whatever you wish to call it, are able, by the respect they see in us, to recognise that there is value in the work they do. We have to learn to treat all work as being decent work which people do because of their special circumstances. That work does not need to be work only associated with the three Ds. That is, work as you know sometimes is indecent, with the 'D' not coming at the end, dishonourable and dangerous.

We have to be sure to recognise that work which people do may be work which they are able to find at a given point in time. We should not measure them because society has dealt different cards to different people and continues to deal different cards to different people at different times.

Mr. President, I wish to emphasise the value that goes with having this training that we have spoken about and this arrangement which would allow national qualification programmes to be put in place. Indeed beyond that, to have Caribbean qualification programmes put in place. I refer now to what Senator McClean spoke of as National Vocational Qualifications or Caribbean Vocational Qualifications for the regional level.

I am particularly concerned that we give our strongest support to ensuring that not only the national programmes are put in place but the regional programmes are equally well put in place.

We have, wherever we could do so, to be able to take note of the fact that programmes for education of the academic sort have brought us to a level where we are able to leave our shores in Barbados, or our people are able to leave the wider shores of the Caribbean and go overseas to what people used to call the outside world, and they are

able to use those qualifications knowing full well that they would be accepted by all and sundry.

We have to be able in our vocational qualifications to ensure that the standard are so acceptable that people will be able to travel far afield. That they would be able to benefit from that possibility for Barbados' development through our possibility of exporting labour. Sir, that being so, we have to understand that the converse has equally to be true. If we are exporters, we must also be importers and that there will be, therefore, a special need for us to be able to have those skills so acceptable within the region, that persons bringing similar skills will have those skills that are acceptable for us in our own domestic circumstances.

Mr. President, this is a point that has to be recognised, particularly since by now we must be realising that in certain parts of the industrialised world, there are going to be examinations for skills. Great Britain has served notice, depending on which of the parties becomes the ruling party, and they will have different various approaches to accepting persons from the Third World as being citizens.

Sir, one of those approaches relates to having skills, depending on whether there is a balanced Parliament, as they choose to call a hung Parliament now. Mr. President, whether it is that way or otherwise, the real problem for us is that the skills we have are going to become increasingly important to our progress for our children, our relatives and for our country. Therefore, it is important that we are able to have a form of qualification which people feel comfortable with entering into and which is common across our Caribbean boundaries.

Mr. President, in that regard, it seems to me to be very important that the manner of certification is something we should take note of and which we should be willing to address and support. In academia, sometimes our entire life's worth, going to school from age 11 and at age 16 we are writing our examinations. In a room with your God and the examination paper you can find yourself having peculiar problems. Sir, I recall having such a day where, as I sat down to confront the paper, a blaring jukebox in a neighbouring shop started the song which really was my death knoll: "You wasting your time." The examiner thought so too.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There was a song at the time to which you ought to have paid attention.

SENATOR Sir Roy TROTMAN: What was that song, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: "Don't worry yuh head over me."

SENATOR Sir Roy TROTMAN: Well, you see, Sir, in those days, I would not know too much about those kinds of songs and I had heard the one “You wasting yuh time” and immediately realised it was for me. That subject, therefore, did not make it in my list.

Mr. President, you go to school, you spend five or six years and then on the toss of what you put down in 1½ half or in two hours, your entire future is buoyed up or destroyed. That is how it went in the area of academia and that is how many of us are where we are or have not gotten where we wanted to go. In most of our cases, it may very well have been why we did not get where we wanted to go, because one and-a-half hours under pressure is not an easy thing for young persons ages 15 or 16 years old.

Mr. President, the beauty in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council system is that it does not seek to spin everything on that toss of a coin. The concentration is on demonstrated ability to perform. I think that not enough people are recognising the value of the certification programme and therefore, not enough people are making the effort to become involved. Sir, occasions like these should be taken for us to get that message across, that yes, you were not a good speaker when you were at school but you can learn how to speak. There are very many Toastmasters clubs around.

There are many groups coming back together to teach people to get those skills which they did not manage to get at school at first. We can encourage people to go join those groups to improve themselves but the examination itself is something that we should hold onto because we have the possibility of being able to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps, as it were. We have the possibility of making ourselves the very best we can be in the area that has been chosen for us, in some instances, or that we have chosen for ourselves in other instances, as skilled persons being able to improve and enhance their performances.

I would think that we are in a better position than several other people who go and take that examination once and we do not have, like Dwayne Smith, to have our future fall, or be totally destroyed on the basis of the performance of one match. We are in a much better position because we are showing demonstrated commitment and ability over time, to be able to win the approval and the support of those of our peers and those who might be in a position to supervise and to judge.

Mr. President, against this background I am very pleased to be able to add a voice to that of the Honourable Leader of Government Business in asking for the support of the item before this Honourable House.

Mr. President, I am obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Crichlow.

SENATOR the Very Reverend H.E. CRICHLLOW: Mr. President, I rise to support the amendment to the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council Bill, 2010, and in doing so I would like to support both the Honourable Leader of Government Business and Sir Roy.

Mr. President, it could be said that we should not have to commend this kind of Bill to many of our people at this stage but I think that although we have a lot of technology in Barbados we are still an agricultural nation and we are living in a technological age. It is important that we stress to our young people the importance of being qualified in whatever they do and for them to know that the distinction between manual work and mental work has fallen.

We are not talking about life 60 or 70 years ago when I was a boy. There were not the opportunities then as they are now, the occupations were so limited. We went either to elementary or primary school in those days, while some of us went to secondary school, which was as far as most of us could have gone.

Sir, at the secondary school stage we were trained maybe to be Civil Servants, teachers or nurses and if we did not have the aptitude for abstract thinking, we were given a trade.

Mr. President, I must say that Barbados has produced very many fine craftsmen and before the results of the Industrial Revolution in the bigger countries reached us, we had brilliant tailors. After the Industrial Revolution they were problems because the factories were turning out more articles that could be sold in those places. They were exported to us and, in that, we lost a lot of our high craftsmen because people could buy clothes at much cheaper prices. Sir, parents then used to see to it that every child had a trade.

Mr. President, you could become a very good tailor, plumber, carpenter, cabinet maker, joiner, shoemaker or motor mechanic. You had dressmaking and what we now call home economics which was only for girls then, but now it is for both boys and girls. We had painters, gardeners, drivers, conductors, inspectors and fisherfolk. Sir, you name it and we had those people.

Sir, now we can study these occupations and gain qualifications for such study and, in the context of the Caribbean, this has come a long way in providing certificates for tradesmen and those who may not be intellectually bent could use their experience in their particular field to be qualified.

Mr. President, I think that some people have misunderstood the position of Barbados on the question of freedom of movement. Sir, freedom of movement was the article that really brought the first Federation to an end. Sir, people ought to understand that freedom of movement is one of the goals of the CSME but it is not true that at this stage, we have freedom of movement. We have freedom of movement among certain groups of people - people with professional and technical skills - and we look forward to the time when we will all be able to move to any part of the Caribbean and also to the time when all the islands and the territories in the Caribbean would be able to provide employment for their people.

Sir, Barbados is a small island with one of the densest populations in the world, with 1 600 or more people per square mile. It would be impossible for Barbados to provide work, for most of the Caribbean. I am not saying that they would want to come, but I think that people misunderstood our immigration policy.

Mr. President, also, this has given rise to the feeling that nothing is being done about the Caribbean Community. I do not think we have to panic over this matter. There are treaties which have been signed and we have to keep on working patiently, because things do not move very quickly in the Caribbean.

Sir, leaders will meet and discuss very good ideas and so on but after they leave the meeting and come back home there are so many things that they find waiting to be done, they forget all about what they agreed to do at meetings of Heads of Government and so on.

Mr. President, the Caricom Secretariat should continue to work as best they can because they rely on the leaders to give them the inspiration to work. I think we ought to realise that we have a Caribbean Community in the making, that there is so much we have in common that we must not allow these delays to make us lose our interest in the wider Caribbean.

Mr. President, I said we are living in a technological age and, therefore, every family ought to be interested in seeing that the children of that family know something about technology.

Sir, about 30 years ago, all the secondary schools were equipped with a technical wing. This was in an effort to break down the barrier between work and manual work. We were beginning to change our educational philosophy.

Sir, Barbados copied England in thinking that only a few people were able to develop certain kinds of education and so on. We have moved away from the English model somewhat to the American model, which is that everybody

is educable, not only a few people, the elite, so to speak, but everybody.

Mr. President, I am not convinced that we fully understand what this means about everybody being capable of receiving education. We have not followed that in the way we arrange our education because, at age 11, we are still separating those who have the ability to do abstract thinking and so on. We are putting them together and we are keeping those who do not have that kind of ability apart. Now, I feel that is wrong, Sir. I feel that we have reached a stage where the 11-plus examination should be abolished.

I really feel so.

Sir, it is perpetuating that whole idea that only a few people are capable of developing their mental skills, and those who do not have intellectual skills and so on should work with their hands. In everything we need to use both mind and hand. We must not think of people who are technical as just using their hands. They have to use their minds. If we could get it into our people from the very start that they could choose any particular form of work when they leave school, then we have to start by exposing them to all kinds.

I know that this is a very sensitive area of our way of life in Barbados I am encroaching on, but I think it is important. Too many of our children are rejected from very early. This is what Sir Roy is saying as well. Some of them are rejected from the time they were infants. They were rejected by one parent, usually the male, and some were rejected by their mothers as well. I am sure that many of you, if not all, have heard mothers saying, and you can see why they say this, because they have been left to bring up children with no financial help at all by their fathers. Some of them hate those children. I have heard it. I heard a mother telling a child, "I have hated the day I ever did born you."

Asides.

SENATOR the Very Rev. H.E. CRICHLLOW: I have heard it and I am sure many of you have heard it, I have that I did ever did born you.

Sir, a lot of mothers are talking to their children like this. They hate the fathers but they are taking it out on the children. When they are two or three years old, those children are taking in these words. A lot of parents do not understand this. I suppose that most parents are children now, children are having children. So many of our youngsters have been rejected from almost birth.

I am glad that we have a number of nursery schools, now, because at the ages of two and five many of our

children never had any kind of intellectual stimulus. So when they reached the elementary school they were backward and they were not chosen by the Heads of the primary schools. Obviously they could not have been chosen among that group that had to work for the next five or six years to pass the Common Entrance Examination, because the schools were judged on the number of children that passed from that school to the secondary. Then there was another division, where they were judged on the number of children that received places at certain schools and not at others. All of this is common knowledge. Sometimes we do not like to hear it.

I believe this is what I have seen. The child is rejected from birth, then it goes to primary and it is rejected again. Most of the children are rejected and at the end of the secondary school stage there is a kind of rejection because we do not spend as much time on those who really need remedial care. A lot of our children need to have remedial teachers to help counteract much of the rejection they have suffered. We do not have that, so they go through the secondary school stage and some at the end of it are not even able to write a simple sentence.

Sir, we see the kind of damage that the Common Entrance Examination is doing to our children.

If we could have a system where children go from primary to secondary school without this rejection, then I think we will have a better society. Children also carry with them hatred not only for their fathers and mothers, but they hate society as well. Society has not done anything for them. Society has rejected them and we wonder why it is that there are so many antisocial people in Barbados.

If you reject people from the very start, and you reject them because they do not have their parents, they do not have the capacity to express themselves and so on and they are not given many books to read at home. In some homes there are hardly any books. That child is expected to compete with a child in whose home there are a lot of books and so on, and whose parents speak to the children. Sir, you will get a group of people who hate the society in which they live. You can see this just by reading the daily press that this is so.

Sir, this business of people on the "block" and so on, we cannot encourage that because what we are doing is building a society where people will want to destroy that society, because they perceive the society has not done anything for them.

We are living in an age when you can make more money in a job like plumbing, carpentry and so on, than you can in teaching at any level. I remember when I went to Jamaica, some years ago, a man came to the house and told us that people were going to come into the house to

kill us and we must kill them first. He gave us this warning. Then he asked if we wanted to hire him as a gardener and continue with the job.

Sir, before that, he showed me how he, the gardener, could make more money than a professor in a university. I gave him the job and it was 10 pounds, \$48 then. I had worked for \$48 a month in the Civil Service here, that was in 1954 with "A" Level Certificates. In teaching, the Government schools paid \$90 a month. Sir, he showed me how he could work for more than a professor in a university.

I gave him the job anyhow. He told me \$48 and I thought this was about three or four days work. At the end of an hour or so, he came back and said he had finished. He had the machette, glistening. He was a very stocky and strong man, with blood shot eyes and he made the point that the job was for 10 pounds and no less. As he had given me the hint about killing people before they kill me, I could just see my head rolling if I had said anything, so I paid him the 10 pounds, \$48 I later bought a lawnmower and did it myself.

I hired a plumber when I came back here. He had gone to the Polytechnic then, and he came and looked at the job and said he would do the job for me but I would have to get somebody to dig a hole and he would come back tomorrow. I said, "no", stay, I will dig the hole. I dug the hole and he was able to complete the job. Sir, you see, a plumber cannot dig a hole, that is for somebody else.

I say all this to encourage all of our people to find something to do and learn how to do it well. If you can develop that kind of attitude to any type of work, and through you, Mr. President, Sir Roy made this very clear in his speech that there is dignity in all forms of work. If we do not want to produce a society that will destroy itself, we must pay attention to these things. I hope that more and more, people will find that the Common Entrance Examination is doing a lot of damage in our society and will agitate for it to be removed.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Asides.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put to the Sitting and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Senate accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed, Senator Durant.

SENATOR Rev. D. L. DURANT: Mr. President, I rise to give support to the Amendment to amend the Technical Vocational Education and Training Council Bill to allow the TVET Council to award further National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQs) to those persons who so qualify.

Mr. President, I am sure that you have seen the joy, excitement and sense of fulfilment and achievement on the face of some persons who would have received some sort of certification in an area of trade or skill in a vocational training programme especially if they have not attended a university. I know that this goes a far way in increasing productivity in the working environment and yielding a much higher labour output. This initiative should put an end to the myth that unless you went to Cave Hill, Mona or St. Augustine or maybe some other regional or extra-regional university, you are not truly qualified for the job market.

Mr. President, there are many fellow Barbadians out there who have not been able to attend a university due to a myriad of challenges but yet are brilliant, skilful and very talented and they need to be given the opportunity to put their skills, talent and brilliant minds to work so that they can feel good about themselves and defeat that stigma of low self-esteem and be able to truly confess the words "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Since the TVET Council's main objective is to develop a competent workforce which possesses the requisite skills, knowledge and understanding that enables effective performance of work roles, there could not be a better place to start. We, who are parents and responsible adults in the community need to encourage our youth who may have dropped out of school or finished secondary school or even those who are working, to enroll in the vocational education training programmes to further develop their innate skills and career prospects, bearing in mind that the NVQs and the CVQs provide a competence-based occupational standard of a person's ability to do a particular type of work that they may be skilful in doing with their hands.

There are many out there who we say are "on the blocks" but when you stop to just have a chat with them you realise that they are brilliant guys who are very skilful. If we can just help to channel some of them in the right direction rather than keep putting them down, I think some may really aspire to a better productive lifestyle.

Mr. President, there is no doubt that education in any form will increase productivity, promote progress and result in greater prosperity at a national level and at the same time strengthen and enrich our labour force. This must therefore be encouraged.

Empowering our young people and equipping our citizens is so high on this Government's agenda, that 20 per cent of the national budget goes toward education. Sadly I must confess the returns are far from satisfactory. Too many of our children are leaving schools lacking the basic skills necessary to make them employable, so having these technical vocational educational programmes is critical to help recover and develop some of the untapped potential, the skills and the talents in the lives of some of our youths.

Many of them may have fallen out of school prematurely due to pressure but now may have matured, some time has passed and they were able to reflect and now they are able to make a more mature decision and are willing to grasp hold of a second chance to develop themselves.

Mr. President, I believe that our youth needs to be given another chance. Many of them are full of potential and good ideas, they only need our encouragement, our mentoring and our wisdom in helping to guide them. We are a Barbados that must by all means find ways to develop a new culture of self-reliance, creativity and innovation, which would make way for that spirit of entrepreneurship to emerge thus constructing new realities and creating sustainable alternatives to change society for the better.

In the long run, we want to see a better Barbados and we want to see that level of continual education, development and competence embraced by our citizens. Empowering our populace through education will definitely help in this regard. We must embrace every effort, therefore, to make education more relevant to the island's developmental needs since 20 per cent of our national budget goes towards education.

The TVET Council plays a vital role in the economic development of our island. Part of its mandate is to plan, coordinate and establish standards and qualifications for technical and vocational education and training, which is a very positive thing in a Small Island Developing State such as Barbados.

Mr. President, to this end, I give my full support to the draft Bill to amend the TVET Council Act, Cap. 43. My prayers are with our youth and the many skilful people out there who did not have an opportunity. I trust they would be encouraged to enroll in a training programme because there is still hope and with that hope there is much that they can achieve in their lives and help to better their future.

Mr. President, with that, my full support is behind this Bill. I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Marville.

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE: Mr. President, in view of my very profound interest in education, I think it would be remiss of me not to say a word or two on the subject. Sir, first let me say I am in total agreement with what is being proposed here and that I think that the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council should have even greater support in the general system of education that it has at the moment.

Mr. President, I have heard the Honourable Senator Crichlow talking about the 11-plus and I would like to make a point on education that I had made before, that is, it costs a lot more to keep a disaffected person at Dodds, than it does to educate him. Additionally, when you keep him there and he comes out, his only outlet is a return.

Sir, when I say educated, I do not mean educated in the traditional sense of the word. I mean in the French sense of the word where you talk about education in all aspects. In fact, when I hear people talk about academic achievement, I am a little bit amused largely because we have over-rated certain academic areas and not given prominence to areas that are much more beneficial to us. I have always heard people saying that their son is a doctor or lawyer but they do not boast if that son is an engineer. Sir, I do not know how many lawyers are employed but I do know that engineers almost invariably employ a whole lot more people.

The point I am making is that if we had in our school system a lot more provision for entrepreneurship and for skills that require other than the usual academic abilities, it would be very interesting because we would tend to be producing people who also create jobs and therefore we would have less people on the "blocks". We would also have less of likelihood of people being so disaffected that they turn against a society.

Asides.

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE: That is possible, Sir, but since I am not a politician and you were, I think you would deal with that aspect of it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE: Sir, I was addressing you. Mr. President, I was addressing you directly. Sir, be all that as it may, the point I am making is that the qualifications provided by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council provide a beginning. We have, as a society, to start thinking differently. I have a son

who is a teacher of mathematics. I would have been much happier if I had a son who was a great plumber because I know that he would have been employing people and that he would have been doing a very valuable service as well.

Asides.

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE: Mr. President, of course, I do not disown my son.

Asides.

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE: Mr. President, I get interruptions not only from you but from the person next to me.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I beg your pardon. I draw your attention to the Rules, they do not allow for frivolity.

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE: But, Sir, that is what I have to endure all the time. I have to endure frivolity from All Sides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I apologise for any frivolity which is thrust upon you by virtue of this Chair.

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE: I accept the apology, Sir, and may I continue?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have to consider it.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You may continue.

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE: I thought we had an end to this frivolity. Mr. President, while I do accept the importance of certain academic skills, I am still appalled by the fact that we do not re-look the education system in its most important fundamentals. I cannot accept that we do not place more emphasis on child rearing and on pre-primary education. I think this is where you determine almost precisely what is going to happen. Sir, Senator Crichlow was talking about children whose mothers do not like them or whose fathers ignore them.

Mr. President, I think we are in a situation where we can praise little efforts that go in the right direction but I think we have to look very seriously at societal attitudes to these things. We really have to do that, first of all, by looking at the bases of our thinking. If you continue with an education system where there is something euphemistically called the common entrance examination, which separates 30 per cent of the population of the schools as being eligible for better things and 70 per cent as not quite up to standards, we are going to have this problem ad infinitum.

I think we need to re-look that system. Pay a lot more attention to early education. Make sure that we are at least teaching skills like entrepreneurship, like innovation, which will make it possible for people, who do not have any interest one way or other, in things academic, to find areas such as music, sports, business, with which they can deal. Sir, I must assure you, these people employ many more people than academics and they add considerably to the national economy. I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Hunte.

SENATOR R. A. HUNTE: Mr. President, my contribution is going to be rather short but I would just wish to say that this is a very dynamic world in which we are living. From time to time, there is going to be an upgrade in training and in every capacity, whether the traditional skills that we would speak about the people who are good with using their hands, but whatever you do, you have to use both hands, head and eyes in any event because it is the hand/eye coordination and the brain function that is attributed to education at all aspects.

Mr. President, I support this. Sir, the whole makeup of Barbados has been about hands. It is also about heads because those who would have worked on plantations still had to use their heads, even when they were planning the rebellion on some of the plantations, as far as the slaves are concerned.

Sir, I do not think I have ever heard or read anywhere where the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic was ever empty. In fact, I think there was a challenge for people to get places. The question is, what happens after all of these skills have been acquired? We do not only have challenges in education academically but we also have a challenge with morality. Sir, I would think that we have an opportunity for the few minutes I am going to speak to say that we have a big challenge in the society with morality and that we cannot, for one moment, ignore what is happening in our institutions among our students. You are a student regardless of whether you are 20 or 100 because once you are in a place of learning, you are a student.

Therefore, we have a much larger problem on our hands. The problem is what is happening to our young people in the school system academically and in the training system academically, and what happens after that. I know that some of us would like to ignore these things but we really cannot. As a citizen, as an adult, and as a parent, we cannot ignore these things and therefore we are deeply concerned in that regard.

Mr. President, I know that whenever we reach a crisis level in society - and I always like to refer to a former Honourable Member of this Honourable Chamber, now

deceased, Sir Frank Walcott, that is a crisis society. Sir, I have live long enough to prove that is true.

I must say to Senator Trotman, who has succeeded Sir Frank he was not a mentor of mine, but I have always admired his public speeches. Mr. President, I thought you wanted to get my attention. Do you?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You need to get mine. I do not need to get yours.

SENATOR R.A. HUNTE: Mr. President, I have always admired those persons who have made their mark in society, persons like Sir Frank and we know of his background. We do not have to be afraid of these things. We know of his background academically. He is not one of those persons who would have graced the halls of a University, but he reached great heights in this country. Sir, it is persons like that the average Barbadians should use as an example.

Mr. President, unfortunately, we have all the necessary institutions that we have built up over the years and for some reason we seem to have come to a collision course in terms of deploying and imparting where those skills are concerned in the society. I know there are a lot of things we do not wish to speak about but, Sir, we have to speak about them.

Mr. President, I am happy to see that a number of things have been taking place in the society in a lot of institutions and so on, that a lot of attention was not paid to. Sir, for example, in this same Bill. You are amending it because you are giving the Minister an opportunity to be able to appoint two persons to the Council, that being a Chairman and a Deputy. Sir, how could you run a Government institution for all this length of time, that obviously you have to subsidise and shore-up, have to wait until other people make recommendations to serve on the board before you can appoint a Chairman and a Deputy.

Mr. President, I think if there is one person who knows the policies and programmes of this Administration, it is me and, certainly, I am glad to see this. Mr. President, there are other Amendments that I see coming but, of course, I cannot speak about them in this Bill. They will probably come up in the next one to be dealt with here. Sir, even the former General Secretary, the late Sir Frank Walcott, who is one of our National Heroes, said that you have to put these things in place.

Mr. President, one of the things that anybody can credit this Administration for, based on its policy and so on, is always paying great attention to education at every level. Sir, I support what this Bill seeks to do because the TVET Council, in itself, is an institution where we have to, from time to time, pay attention.

Mr. President, I know there is always a lot of talk about when we get to these stages and we have problems that we should export our services. I think that exporting our services is something that Barbadians have been doing for years whether voluntarily or otherwise. Sir, Barbadians have taught in almost every Caribbean island. When Barbadians migrated to a lot of the Caribbean islands, it was either as teachers or policemen. Sir, one of my uncles was a policeman but, of course, he did not come back alive. Sir, he went there and he passed away because people are always jealous of Barbadians but people do not like to hear these things.

Mr. President, of course, we boast in this country of a Parliament in 1639 and, Sir, it is interesting how a lot of persons from different ethnic backgrounds came to this country. Sir, the Spanish came here and for some reason they were not attracted to the island and they just left. Sir, at one stage, Barbados was uninhabited until the British came and arrived in St. James. Sir, we were uninhabited at one stage and even the Caribs ran and went to St. Vincent and there are still a few of them there.

Mr. President, there is something unique about us in Barbados that even in the days of slavery, we had educational institutions. Sir, our slaves were attracted by the implementation of an educational programme. I think there is something unique about Barbados and we should feel proud about it. We should feel proud about it to the extent we should do everything in this country to protect our country. How this country is said to have come about, there is no other in the world that came about that way. We do not know if we will go the same way we came but even our appearance on the face of the earth has been very unique.

Mr. President, education has been the cornerstone of this country from the time of our existence. Sir, I would say, with those few words, that education never comes to an end, it is always ongoing and I am glad to see that attention is being paid, in this regard, to the TVET Council.

Mr. President, with those few words, I support the Bill.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Ince.

SENATOR J. INCE: Mr. President, I rise to support this item that is before this Honourable Chamber, the Technical Vocational Education and Training Council. Sir, it is important that, as a country, if we are going to think short-term, medium-term and long-term that we create a balance between those persons who are academically inclined and who have the reservoir of talent to gain a degree at university. We must also create an environment for those persons who have the necessary skills and the technical know-how to receive some method of

certification if they are to progress in whatsoever field of endeavour.

Mr. President, what this Bill seeks to do is to minimise the social dislocation of persons, who for one reason or other, sometimes feel threatened because of who they are, where they went to school and the level of academic ability. Sir, this is an important measure. It is very important to persons who see themselves as going somewhere but have obstacles or challenges.

Mr. President, all of us cannot be academic. They are some of us who have the ability to be an academic as well as to be a skilled person. I have friends who tell me that they attended university but that at some time they would like to have a skill, something they can fall back on because at the university they do not teach us how to do plumbing or tiling and I would like to know how to do it.

I think this is timely in the sense that when we look at what is happening globally that Barbados is now in a global market and we are no longer the little island somewhere in the Caribbean. Sir, this has the ability, where our people, once accredited, can move to places worldwide and I am seeing this as a long-term measure, not as a short-term measure, where persons in Barbados can work regionally as well as internationally once those desired skills are requested. Sir, from an economic standpoint, we are looking not only at Barbados but we are looking at movement within the CSME, the movement of skills within the CSME.

Mr. President, what is also important is that this Bill also reflects the intention of Government, when we look at the short-term development plan of Barbados 2010 and 2014. Sir, that short-term development plan speaks of empowering people, of empowering our society, of developing families and developing individuals and, Sir, that is what this Bill is proposing to do.

Barbados like many other countries, has a wide variety of persons from different denominations, from different countries, living in Barbados and you must enhance and strengthen the social fabric of any country. You can have all of the academics but when you look around us and you see the social infrastructure, it tells us that a combination of technical skills as well as academic skills, have created this lovely Barbados that we know today.

Sir, in the construction of a building you need the architects, engineers and the quantity surveyors. With all of that ability and those academics, then you need the mason, carpenter, electrician and the plumber in order for that building to become a reality. Once you have now harnessed all of these skills, you have a structure.

I think this Bill is seeking to harness all the skills we have in this country called Barbados, to say to every individual that you are not left out. No matter what challenges you have in life you are not left behind. You are going to be part of this environment, part of this educational system to make Barbados a better place.

What about resources? Sometimes we make amendments to Bills with good intentions. There are times when we develop avenues for persons to be trained and for persons to enhance their well-being, but at the same time what about the resources or systems in place. With this Bill we must also examine, and I am confident that persons knowing of this opportunity are going to want to be enhanced or to be accredited, seeing they have a piece of paper which they can show to a potential employer that they have the requisite skills to command that vacancy or that job within a specific area.

Although most of the training is going to be done most likely in the work places, it is important that we identify resources or places where, in case there is a demand, persons can go and be trained.

For example, St. Philip is developing and developing rapidly as far as housing and industry are concerned. In our presence, Senator Sir Roy who oversees the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU), that institution can be looked at. Within the North of Barbados you harness those skills that are in St. Philip, St. John, St. George, on the borders of Christ Church, instead of travelling to Bridgetown or a place further away, they can easily travel to that institution and have training done on a technical level, once the resources are there. We must look at all of the resources that are available to us, because sometimes with these plans, we tend to re-invent the wheel and it can be costly, although we have the existing resources right there.

Sir, basically, this Bill is intended to create an environment for Barbadians who are not only leaving schools but persons who are in the workplace, because there is a demand for better skills, a demand for training and we do not want one person or individual to be left behind.

Finally, I want to thank persons in the public sector, persons in the private sector, ministries and individuals who have helped the TVET Council to reach this far. I am aware of the challenges that they would have encountered, and I want to lend my support to this Bill and to ensure that we meet our objectives as outlined in the Bill.

I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Husbands.

SENATOR H.A. HUSBANDS: Mr. President, I rise to give support to the matter before this Honourable Chamber. I want to make a few points. There are not contentious. The major issues I think have been covered ably by other Senators who spoke on the matter. I want to make a few points.

The first one is, I think we should, based on my own experience in a former life, I worked very closely with the staff at the TVET Council. I want to place on record my appreciation for the hard work that the staff at the TVET Council has done over the years in preparation for bringing a matter like this to us.

I know they have worked in a time when they had a lot of convincing to do, when people in the society were not initially convinced that these young, well-qualified, well-trained Barbadians. It is often said that we criticise the Public Service for sloppy work or for poor standards. I think, based on my own experience, that the staff at the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council (TVET), have done well over the years and they ought to receive our finest expression of appreciation.

This matter before us today, I think represents a major development in the training and education system and the training and education of people in Barbados. I would not want us to over emphasise the extent to which this Bill is applicable because when we think of technical and vocational education, immediately we think of carpenters and masons, but this matter before us and the significance of technical and vocational education, more importantly the qualifications that are to be awarded by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council as a result of our actions here today apply to a wide range of skills in this country.

For example, I can see that the technical and vocational qualification, NVQs and CVQs will apply to customer service. Elsewhere we have developed fine standards and fine qualifications in customer service. For a country like Barbados, boat building is an area that is ripe for training and certification at the level of NVQ or CVQ. Room service in our hotels, I know that these are all aspects of NVQs and CVQs qualifications that fall under the scope of the Council and are being considered.

I will also think that the day is near when our sports coaches in football and cricket, can also receive national vocational and CVQs in their particular area of expertise. It brings together, I think, a wide range of skills, a wide range of interests that goes beyond the traditional.

The fundamental issue I think about these qualifications is, they certify people for work done. Having served a period of time on the Board of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, I know that one of the

challenges we face is, sometimes we attempt to train many of our young people in many of the skills needed by industry, and before that training is complete these young craft people are attracted by the workforce.

They need to seek employment and many of them leave that institution, although they have the ability to be fully qualified, many of them are attracted by employment, especially in the days when the construction sector was going at full steam. Many of them left the institution without achieving full qualification. These qualifications that we are discussing today, allow that person, that skilled craftsman, who may have exited one of our institutions without being fully qualified, to continue his work or her work and at the same time, be certified.

Sir, Honourable Senators have spoken about the significance of this training in the context of the CSME, in the context of globalisation and the need for our people to find work overseas. Sir, I think this all enhances the ability of our skilled crafts people, and I am using crafts people in its broadest sense as I have said earlier, to find employment, not only in this economy but also in other economies in the region or elsewhere.

I think there is one other element that ought to be discussed in relation to this piece of legislation. It is widely known that the TVET Council is constituted on a fully tripartite basis and there are representatives of employers who serve on the Council. They who work with the staff at the Council, in the development, because before the standards can be published, there is a tremendous amount of work that has to be done, some say, over years, in order to make these standards applicable, in order to make them relevant.

I know there are many members of the employers' community who work with members of the staff of the Council, in order to do this. I also know that some employers have not been taking full advantage of the expertise, knowledge and all the other things available at the Council, even the finance that the Council provides for training activities.

Mr. President, I have worked very hard in this area to encourage employers and coax employers into taking full advantage because, as I said, there are several other aspects to the work of the TVET Council. The area of providing funding, or part funding for training is one which the employers' community has not taken full advantage.

Sir, it goes wider than that. Many employers, while not taking full advantage of the opportunities, only recognise the significance of the work being done by the TVET and similar bodies in Barbados at the moment that they are interviewing somebody for a job. Then they go helter-skelter and say, "I have a person here interviewing

and they have a qualification. They are from Jamaica. They have this and what is this qualification worth? What can this person do in terms of what we know in Barbados?" Then, it is usually too late to take advantage.

I want to encourage all those employers out there that this Bill, while on the surface being a measure to enhance skills of crafts persons, is also aimed at employers, is also aimed at businessmen. It allows them to raise the standard of services that they can offer to clients. If you are in the building trade, if you are into the construction industry, you can say to people when you make bids for contracts, one of the advantages of this Bill is to say that my staff are fully competent, well trained with either the NVQ or the CVQ in plumbing or whatever area of construction and that very concept I think goes in all areas of business.

Asides.

SENATOR H.A. HUSBANDS: I have had the example, Mr. President, of some workers who were encouraged by their employers to get a qualification, not members of the Barbados Workers' Union, of course.

Asides.

SENATOR H.A. HUSBANDS: There are no nationals of the Dominican Republic who are members of the Barbados Workers Union.

In all seriousness, Mr. President, I have known of instances where an employer said to his employees, I want you to get certified. If you are certified, when I bid for a contract I can say to the people, my staff is certified in whatever area it is. The area is not relevant. I can say this and we can charge more money on the basis of your certification and you can earn a better wage. Sir, many of the workers were not open to this idea. If they were members of the Barbados Workers' Union, I know that the General Secretary would have encouraged them to take up that after and be fully qualified.

Mr. President, the thrust of my argument though is to say to the business community that this is not simply an act for workers, or improving skills or getting people in a position where they can get jobs overseas. This is also an act to support business.

Asides.

SENATOR H.A. HUSBANDS: The members of the business community ought to take advantage and full advantage. I almost said take advantage of the advantages but having spent most of my working life as a simple primary school teacher, Mr. President, I could not do that but at the same time, I am honoured having served most of

my life not in education but I want to say, proudly as a primary school teacher. I am privileged to support this legislation.

I think it brings full manifestation to some of the work that I might have done quite unknowingly years ago in my early career, not as an educator because some people like to hide behind the term, educator. I am and I will always be a primary school teacher and as a primary school teacher, I think that our action today, advances education and training in this country to a significant level and it has my unqualified support.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to wrap up the debate to the Technical Vocational Education Training Council Bill. Sir, if I were to begin where the Honourable Senator Husbands concluded, and he stressed the importance of his role as a primary school teacher, I certainly believe that as we look at post secondary education, the quality of the students who come to that stage and who are the beneficiaries of technical and vocational education that the quality of their primary teaching is critical to their ability to succeed.

I also, Sir, want to endorse much of what has been said before as to the importance of this, not only from the perspective of the beneficiary, that is, the student of technical or vocational education but its role in the standardization of the educational initiatives, the contribution to the competitiveness of any individual firm or entity to an entrepreneur, who is seeking to establish his or her business.

Sir, I want to flag one thing which I believe we have often emphasised perhaps to the disadvantage of persons who utilise the opportunities in technical and vocational education. Sir, I want to implore Barbadians to desist from committing what I call the sin of perpetuating the long-standing perception of the superiority of academic education. We often say that we should not, but by emphasising it, we do.

As we expand the educational and training opportunities and as we build and strengthen technical and vocational education, what we have is a situation where we are offering more to our population and are enhancing and diversifying what is available. I believe that as an economy and a society such as Barbados grows and becomes more diverse, that it is critical that we are able to draw from a cross section of training and knowledge bases, and

therefore the importance of technical and vocational education.

We are operating, as I said in my opening comments, in a world in which we are seeking to compete not only internally or even regionally but internationally. As part of that ability to compete, the ability to standardize or be part of standard system of assessing skills and qualifications become ever more important.

All said, Mr. President, this piece of legislation is necessary to build our resources pool. More importantly, as Senator Husbands pointed out, from the perspective of the employers and from the perspective of persons offering products or services to Barbados and by extension to the world, it is important that they are well-trained. This is a mechanism or an avenue by which competitive comparisons can be made and it creates a significant level of value-added.

Over all then, Mr. President, I do not in any way hesitate in supporting this piece of legislation and beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

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

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 6, inclusive were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council Act, 2010.

ORDER No. 5

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE
WITH
SECTION 5 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT,
CAP. 228 THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY
THE CROWN OF THE PARCELS OF LAND
SITUATE AT BUSHY PARK IN THE PARISH
OF ST. PHILIP IN THIS ISLAND FOR
THE PUBLIC PURPOSES OF HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATIONAL
FACILITIES

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to speak on this Resolution to approve, in accordance with Section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of parcels of land at Bushy Park, St. Philip, for the purposes of housing development and recreational facilities.

Mr. President, as we would have debated over the several Sittings of this Honourable Chamber, we would have dealt with a number of transactions in relation to land. In this case, we are talking about the compulsory acquisition of land. Sir, as we are very well aware by now, this is all part and parcel of the broad plan of housing Barbadians and doing so in a manner which ensures that we are able to foster the building of communities and the maintenance of community spirit.

Mr. President, it is proposed that there be a master plan for the development of this Bushy Park area. It is also anticipated that plan would include the construction of low and middle income housing. The plan is for the projection of a combination of the two categories of housing, low and middle income, and we would end up with about 2 500 houses in this development. Sir, as you can imagine, any development of that size, in the context of a small island like Barbados, suggests that there be built into that plan a range of infrastructural components. As I said, it is important that as this Administration pursues our housing initiatives, that we do so in a manner which accommodates the broad needs of individuals, the broad needs of families, of households and of communities, which is very critical.

Therefore, it is anticipated that included in this would be daycare facilities, a community centre and provisions for a church. There must, of course, be open spaces for the citizens, particularly our children in those households, for recreational purposes.

Sir, given the rapid expansion of the housing stock in St. Philip, consideration would also have to be given to nursery and perhaps primary education. Sir, with a population of houses in this particular developments, along with those in neighbouring developments, there needs also to be provisions for corporate or commercial activities and the provision of other support services, for example, medical. Therefore, we can actually see the creation of a town centre in this area, which would service not only the

immediate needs of these 2 500 households but would also serve the needs of those in neighbouring areas.

Mr. President, what we see with the rolling out of this plan for the Bushy Park area is the building of a small town, the shifting, perhaps, of the population to the east or southeast of Barbados. Sir, clearly implied in all of this would be the necessity to ensure that all the other necessary infrastructure is there.

One area that has been contemplated in the provision of this new accommodation would be the need to provide water services which are very critical. Sir, in previous debates we would have heard the plans for ensuring that there is a proper supply of water, the plan of the Barbados Water Authority and all that is necessary.

Mr. President, I also believe that as we look to the rolling out of this master plan, that we would also have to recommend to citizens of the area that they pay some special attention not only, for example, to the conservation of water, but to the harvesting of water. I believe that as we move to provide housing solutions, that those persons who would acquire these homes, would use this as an opportunity to engage in energy conservation, in the protection of our environmental circumstances. Therefore, as a country and as persons who become involved in housing designs, we should all bear this in mind.

I think it is important that we as a small society demonstrate to the world that we are not only conscious of the need to conserve in all aspects, whether it is energy, water, preserving the very air that we breathe, that we do so at all levels. Sir, I anticipate that as people are contracted to design homes, as we contract persons to provide other kinds of facilities in these new housing developments, that attention would be paid to these kinds of details.

Mr. President, I am talking about a community spirit and the return to the whole notion of that fellowship which incidentally is very much associated with the parish of St. Philip. If you talk to a Barbadian and ask that Barbadian to identify an area in Barbados which, perhaps, best demonstrates a sense of community spirit, the first place they would tell you is the parish of St. Philip. Then they may specify areas of St. Philip. I would not attempt to do that but I would say, as a good Black Rock girl, when we look around, we can actually see what community spirit is like when we talk to persons from that parish.

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, to reiterate, I was talking about the importance of building communities and I anticipate that as we create these new communities, we would see the flourishing of a

concept and a model that has been articulated and is currently being implemented by this Administration.

We have heard much about Constituency Councils and we are beginning to see those Councils having an impact on the communities in which they are set up. It is an opportunity for communities to work together, to build and maintain good relationships. It is an opportunity for them to collectively solve parochial or community issues that face them. It is an opportunity for them to engage in initiatives which would bring benefit, whether it is simple things like exercising together, beautifying the neighbourhoods and exploring activities. Sir, there are several ways in which this can happen.

Mr. President, overall, I believe that as we look at this compulsory acquisition, we are talking about significant parcels of land which, in essence, provide scope for rolling out the kind of neighbourhood arrangements, the kind of traditional approach to what constituted neighbourhoods in Barbados. One in which people are able to play together, people are able to create work spaces, they are able to worship together and generally to engage in activities that are wholesome and profitable. Therefore, I look forward to the completion of the project which starts with this compulsory acquisition of land.

Mr. President, with those words, I support the passing of this Resolution for the compulsory acquisition of this land at Bushy Park.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Sir Roy TROTMAN:

SENATOR Sir Roy TROTMAN: Mr. President, I thank you and I wish to thank the Leader of Government Business very much. I wish to support the matter before the Honourable Senate at this time but I do at the same time wish to raise some issues relating to the principles in Government's action either in acquiring or, indeed, as happened sometimes, by vesting.

Sir, before I come to this subject which I shall deal with only with your kind permission. I do wish to compliment the Leader of Government Business in the Senate for placing this subject within a particular framework for national development, within a particular framework for building community spirit and I think, that at all levels, we should be able to support any particular plan that tries to deal with national development where that national development attempts to have the greater good of a population or a set of people. The greater good for the greater number rather than for seeing a particular area which is only treated to develop, conserve and kept apart for a privileged few.

Sir, over several years we have been hearing about this particular area of Barbados and if nobody else I have

been among those who felt that it would only have been good and proper for a very privileged few to be able to benefit from the attributes which Barbados has to offer.

Mr. President, I am particularly pleased to see at this time that the intention here is to build a community and not merely a recreational park. Sir, that particular change in approach is one that I think Barbados has more and more to move towards. Mr. President, I am finding that in far too many communities the concerns have to be with where there can be enjoyment only by the privileged few, where that enjoyment serves to alienate and to disaffect far too many. I hope that we in this country realise that Barbados, like many other parts of the world, is no longer divided in terms of the capacity of people to see what is happening in the rest of the world, to watch the big and the bold and the beautiful and, perhaps, the ugly too, and also to get their own personal aspiration from watching those things.

If people are able to have their appetites whetted by what they are able to see but then are not able to satisfy those appetites because far too much privileges have removed far too much of the resources and the wealth of the community, then that is going to lead increasingly to problems for all of us.

Mr. President, I recall having my grandparents tell me, for example, of what it was like along part of the coastline of our country where, for example, at Bathesba they were able to live along the train line, which was next to the sea. When the train lines were there nobody wanted to enjoy that. The moment the train stopped around 1944 or 1945 period, then they were moved from the land because others more privileged were able to live better enjoying the land next to the sea. Sir, that may be all right then because that was our grandparents but our grand children will not accept what our grandparents took for granted and they will take a different approach to that kind of alienation.

Mr. President, Sir, the sooner we learn this lesson and the sooner we learn to apply that lesson to the scarce resources, especially the scarce land resources that we have, the better there is going to be for all of us to be able to build that community-mindedness that the Honourable Senator spoke to and, Sir, we cannot wait for later to do it. We have to do it sooner rather than later.

Mr. President, that is the point at which I wish to introduce some questions that bother me considerably by Government's acquisition, apportionment and sometimes divestment of land. Sir, this has to do with the principle of the matter. If I were to use, as an example, the same train line I spoke about at the East Coast.

When one looks at that kind of land, one looks at the Bushy Park area land and one considers that the Government has to move towards acquisition. Is it not

correct for me to say, Mr. President, that there has to be a certain act by Parliament that permits Government to acquire land which might otherwise have been the land of the private sector?

Sir, I believe that is a question which you would tell me that I should not trouble myself to ask you because I should know the answer. That the answer should be "yes". That persons surrender their lands in response to the Government request through Parliament to give that land up for the greater good of the public. Sir, that is the way I would have expected it to be and so, along the train line, around the 1920s or whenever it was that the train started, I would think that private persons would have surrendered that land to the Government.

I would think that the entire area where the trains ran all along from Belleplaine, where you have some roots, right through to Joe's River, the Cattlewash area, along the Bathsheba area into St. Martin, through to St. Philip and then straight back to Bridgetown, I believe that land became Government property by acquisition or whatever other form that Government did if it did not do it directly by the current ways through Parliament.

If anyone along that area decides thereafter that they would wish to use that land, would it not be reasonable for us all to expect that those parties, now private citizens would have to require of the same Government, a Government decision that would then have to come to this Parliament for the Parliament to divest that land, thus making it private land again.

Mr. President, could we, therefore, have Grand View as a hotel or right where my grandfather was, in that same Grand View area taking that land for himself when it belongs to the people and deciding that those poor people, who for years went to church along that train line, or went up the bay to get their fish to their market, can those people be denied access simply because one person, through greed, or for whatever other reason decides that it is now their private property when we can find no area where the Laws of Barbados were changed to divest that land and make it private property all over again?

Why would there be that kind of problem?

Mr. President, you may remember that just about three years ago at the High Rock area, it used to be the best area in Barbados for bathing one time but now the Soup Bowl has taken over. Sir, I am talking about the land, landward side of the Soup Bowl. We had to have some correction done because one man had, I believe drunkardly, decided that he would plant sticks to prevent people from having access to that popular beach land. The cameras were taken there and we were able to show, with some support, by this speaker, to the public of Barbados, what a brazen

thing that was in taking that Government land and endeavouring to believe that because, normally the land goes down to the high watermark

it can go over Government land, and resume its ownership to the previous owners simply because Government land is anybody's land. I have never learnt that Government land belongs to anybody.

I know sometimes you might plant some pea trees until the Government wants it back, or you may play cricket on it. Sometimes people do not just plant pea trees, they might plant cement, but that is if they get away with it. The principle still has to be that we as Barbadians must make everybody understand that we cannot take ownership of people's property, and treat that property as though it were our own.

Sir, added to that, a former Prime Minister of Barbados, The Right Excellent Errol Barrow made this part of the country the people's heritage and wanted to preserve it for the people. Then a former Prime Minister of Barbados, first removed, the Right Honourable Owen S. Arthur, publicly declared that entire corridor was the people's property. Even more recently, our current Prime Minister the Honourable David Thompson, has indicated that he intends to protect this part of the land of Barbados, protecting our window to the sea in a way that he did not think other parts were protected. That is what everybody understands.

If that is so, and against the thrice repeated commitment to protect that area, what is likely to happen if somebody comes along and decides that down in the Cattlewash part of the Joe's River Bridge, by the Edge Water Hotel, that the Edge Water property goes down to the high water mark and therefore you may not walk along that land. You have to go down into "Musik", which is a beach down there where young people were afraid to walk by themselves, because it is said that the pirates got their ship overturned and there is gold down there in "Musik". The villagers used to have that roaring all the time and young people like me were always afraid to travel down there.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir Roy TROTMAN: Sir, young people as I am are still afraid to travel down there.

Sir, we would have to go down there to get across that area. Anybody who knows the region, or by the Powell Spring Hotel would know that the only way you can traverse that area by foot or by car is to go along what was the train line.

Sir, suppose the owners decided that is theirs. You cannot pass any longer. Or suppose right through up to St. Philip we get the same kind of madness, as there was one St. Philip person who tried to prevent the villagers from going down to the beach. Are we supposed to see that replicated all over Barbados again? Are we supposed to get this because the goodwill of Barbadians is misunderstood and people feel that because we smile a lot and we do not express our anger in the kind of violence that other communities do, we will continue accepting the insults and the savagery of people, who choose to go anywhere they like and treat the public's property as though it is their own.

Mr. President, I would think that this matter is a matter where a word to the wise should be sufficient. In the same way that the interests at Culpepper were able to see the light and change their position. I would hope that the area down by where my dear grandfather lived, which is public property along the train line, would remain the public's property so people can continue to conduct their business, go to the bay, go to church and to be able to have Barbados remain a country that believes in the greatest good for the greatest number.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Hunte.

SENATOR R.A. HUNTE: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution before the Senate in acquiring two parcels of land at Bushy Park. Of course, I know a lot of people are not metric-minded when they hear of hectares and that sort of thing. I worked out these two parcels of land to be over 308 acres of land for those persons on the outside who may not be familiar with hectares. It is a lot of land.

Sir, the background to all of this sometimes bothers us. The more you see what is happening before you, the more comes to mind the history and the background of this country, and what has happened before and what is happening now.

Sir, the 2 000 housing solutions that acquiring this land will provide is a continuation of the programme which was instituted as far back as the 1960s by the Democratic Labour Party. I cannot say this current Administration because it was a different Administration then. A long time ago, long before the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, which, said in part then, "the improvement of the quality of life of human beings, is the first and foremost important objective of every human settlement policy". Of course, that was part of the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlement in 1976.

Long before that declaration was the initiative by the Democratic Labour Party Administration, from the time it

took office in 1961, to provide housing solutions for the people of Barbados and that has continued for a long time. Sir, I am going to tell you something. It is not my duty to say to this Parliament on any matter that probably will reach this Parliament, but I suppose when it does come to this Parliament as an item, many persons in Barbados - I was surprised up to about two months ago, to have found out that a particular property is Crown land. It is going to surprise a lot of people. Sir, all my life as a boy, I thought it was private land, but that will come as an item to this Parliament and that is going to surprise a lot of people. I heard the Minister make just a vague reference to it in the Lower House on Tuesday.

Sir, the record of the Democratic Labour Party in terms of finding solutions and developing communities for persons in Barbados, I would say started very late in their first term. There were still things to be done at that time, trying to find out what property Government owned and, of course, those are things which had to be sorted out before their programme got going. It probably started about 1963 or 1964.

Sir, the intention was not only to hold up people into paying house rents, but for them to own their own houses, Sir, Parkinson Field and St. Barnabas were areas of single unit homes.

I say single units because we are getting accustomed to the condominium styles when we talk about places like Deacons Farm, Fernihert and so on, but those are single units. As far back as 1964/1965, it was the intention.

In fact, it was written in the Manifesto of 1961 that it was the intention for persons to own those units in Parkinson Field and St. Barnabas that I mentioned, after the floods in 1949. Sir, what had taken place there, persons were moved out long after 1949. Where the hospital pasture is now, there were a number of small houses, a residential district, and those persons were moved up to St. Barnabas and so on to get out of that flood area because it was an area that always flooded. Sir, it is only after the hurricane in 1955 that the housing area was created and we called it then and it still is, the Pine.

Sir, why I would always talk about the policies and programmes of the Democratic Labour Party and the modernisation of which the Administration thinks, is because when those homes were built in the Pine, those homes were built without doors to bedrooms. Sir, no bedroom doors were on those units that were built in the Pine. I used to listen and I heard former Members and earlier Ministers referring to how the little boys and little girls could go and hold back the bag or the blind and peep at mummy and daddy and that sort of thing.

The point is that even in a modern day - because 1956 was a modern day when those units were built in the Pine because of Hurricane Janet on the September 22, 1955 - when you contrast those units with the units that were built by the conservative Government in the Farm area, they had on doors. It shows, Sir, the backward thinking of the Barbados Labour Party.

Asides.

SENATOR R.A. HUNTE: Mr. President, I feel very passionate about these things. They do not like to hear history because history does not favour the Barbados Labour Party. This is why they always tell you to talk and move on, as though the world started this morning. Sir, it did not start this morning. It started long ago and they were part of it. Their policies and programmes were always inept and backward-thinking, rather than forward-thinking.

I must tell you, Sir, that it was the Democratic Labour Party in the middle of the 1960s that had the Urban Development Corporation established, where all of those units in Husbands and the Cave Hill areas were developed. This was a project of the Democratic Labour Party in the early 1960s. I remember a house up there was for \$25 000 for teachers because my aunt was about to buy one but she did not bother. She always said she did not have any children but she was working in the Government. She was a teacher when she retired after she worked for more than 50 years in Government because she ended up as a School Attendance Officer. Sir, those units were \$25 000 per unit where they were able to extend upon in the Husbands area.

The Democratic Labour Party did not now start and I feel very passionate about this because this Democratic Labour Party was always forward thinking, when it comes to housing for the people of this country.

Asides.

SENATOR R.A. HUNTE: Sir, coming on to the latter part of their term in office, is when they set up the Jackson Inquiry into housing and different conditions in the country. Sir, out of the Jackson Inquiry came that the housing facilities and the bathroom facilities were so bad in the City areas and certain areas. This was when they decided - they meaning the Democratic Labour Party under the late Rt. Excellent. Errol W. Barrow - to remove all of those welfare agencies and so on, which became the National Assistance Board and the Welfare Department, because it was then referred to as Public Assistance under the local Government, because we were going nowhere fast.

Sir, those who want to become a leader of this country now and say that they have a lineage, the background of their lineage is not really in keeping with the

progress of this country. They have nothing to fight on and that will be dealt with when the time comes. Sir, you cannot get into this Parliament and brag about your lineage. Your lineage does not permit you to do anything and the record speaks for itself.

Sir, the record of the Democratic Labour Party shows that between 1961 and 1976, 3 550 units were built. More than 5 000 people had been granted loans, totalling more than \$8 million at the time to buy and repair their own homes. More than 700 houses of old age pensioners were repaired, replaced, et cetera, by the time the Democratic Labour Party left Government in 1976.

Sir, the Minister of Housing on Tuesday spoke in the Other Place...

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. Senator, you must pay attention to the rules. You cannot make reference to the debate in the Other Place. I think you know that, Senator.

SENATOR R.A. HUNTE: Thank you, Sir. I will not reflect on your ruling.

If I may continue, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senator may continue.

SENATOR R.A. HUNTE: Thank you, Sir.

Sir, there are intentions to fast track a programme that persons can become eligible to own the properties that they are in, because the necessary Legislation was not there, and the fact that people were making down payments without those properties in which they reside, vested in the National Housing Corporation.

Sir, we have seen in the short space of two and one-half years, where this country was just going along, rules not in place, legislation not in place, a number of things not in place. I think that when we talk about infrastructure, this is exactly where any caring Administration would have put all those things in place.

Sir Roy made reference earlier to the kind of docile way our Barbadian people are but I am not sure that is going to continue. I said in this Parliament already that this is not going to continue forever more. One day, people will wake up because you cannot educate them, you cannot give them all of this knowledge, you cannot ask them to do all this research and go into history and be satisfied with the status quo. This is what all of our modern day politicians who are fighting to become controllers of this country must understand.

Anybody could challenge anything anywhere now, not because you say that you are a representative of the legal fraternity that you are so blessed with all the knowledge in the world. It is true the Law is the Law but it also refers to what the Law is, and can become. I am saying, Sir, that the record of the Democratic Labour Party in terms of finding housing solutions for the people of Barbados is impeccable.

Asides.

SENATOR R.A. HUNTE: I have just read the records, Sir, and I would not make any reference to what this administration has done so far in terms of the housing solutions they promised. No. The term has not come to an end yet so I am not dealing with it now. I cannot deal with it now. Some of the projects are not yet completed. The people are not yet in their homes but I want to deal with the record.

Mr. President, I want to deal with the record because wherever there is a programme, good or bad, there is always a pattern. The pattern of the Democratic Labour Party is one of solidity as far as providing for the people of this country.

Sir, I feel very emotional and passionate about it because I have lived through it. It attracted my attention from 1958 when the Democratic Labour Party held a meeting on Empire Pasture. At that meeting was a man called John Carter, later Sir John Carter. I met the man. He was introduced to me a few years later by our late revered leader. He asked me if I could remember him and I said from the time I was an eight-year-old boy, I met you on the Empire Pasture.

Sir, what I must say about Guyana is that it has always provided some very eloquent speakers. You probably met Sir John Carter yourself, Sir. Sir, I do not like to emphasise this but your knowledge in something from the time you were just creeping is what lies within you. I cannot forget it. I cannot forget what the Democratic Labour Party as an institution has done for this country since it became a Government in 1961, it has been great. I have said many times in this Chamber and elsewhere, if I cannot say it in here I will write it elsewhere, that the Democratic Labour Party's record cannot be questioned and it must not be forgotten because it is what they did for this country.

Sir, sometimes I wonder what really happened in the last 14 years in this country. All we have done is to produce large buildings that have now become an albatross around our necks. What were we doing and where were we going in the last 14 years in this country? In two and a half years people are walking about masquerading as though they have all the knowledge when in truth and in fact.

Opposition politics is rather easy because you could get up every morning and say something different. We will not allow anybody in this country to get away from it. We are not going to uphold people who break the rules or things of that nature. We will defend the record of the Democratic Labour Party. The record of the Democratic Labour Party is so entrenched, it cannot change even if Senator McClean becomes the leader tomorrow.

The Democratic Labour Party will celebrate its birthday on the 27th of this month. I will celebrate mine on the 29th. Two institutions will be celebrating in the month of April, the Democratic Labour Party and Senator Hunte. Sir, it is not by accident that both institutions were born in the same month, that is by God's design. The point is that when you look at the record.

Senator Trotman spoke earlier about Government acquiring land. I was not quite clear about the question, it was a little vague to me. I am sorry that he is not in his seat. I did not understand what he was saying about Government and private, I am not clear on that. Mr. President, the point is that Government is for the people and of the people.

If Government does not acquire land for the people, who else will? It is a lot of land that the National Housing Corporation has been able to recognise that belong to Government, it is Crown land. I say it is one piece which Honourable Senators who have the opportunity to sit down at the same table will learn. I am very surprised because all of my life I thought that was private land, now we are hearing that it is Government land, and that it will be another area for housing solutions as well.

The history of this country is so deep that I wonder sometimes why the majority of our people should be scrambling in this country. At one stage when persons started to emigrate from this country, all that was left was the majority population but over the years the majority population has had to scramble even for a house spot. Sir, that is not a very interesting history. Sometimes you have to move forward and that is why I said in here that I am glad that the private sector is gradually opening up its bosom and embracing the milk of human kindness in cooperating with a Government they once despised.

The Democratic Labour Party was not easy. Any party that has to change for the masses are always met with hostility. I am glad, Sir, you could convey my feelings. I have had a change about them in recent times. I am seeing a change. What has created that change in my view is because people who are citizens and residents of this country are becoming uncomfortable about the invasion. The face of Barbados is beginning to change. It is all we have and we make no apologies. I certainly do not, of trying to preserve this country and to preserve our lands,

we have to. It is what we should have owned a long time ago. If Government's do not do for the people who else will.

I think that God moves in a mysterious way and that mysterious way, if we could call it that, was for the Democratic Labour Party, I make no apologies for it, to be returned to Government in 2008. This Democratic Labour Party Government will continue to be in Government for a long time. As long as they remain true to the people and have an open Government, I do not think anything can stop them. That is not something I say very easily in public but I can say it because I can feel it.

I sit next to my colleagues and I can feel the honesty and the sincerity among them. I have not detected in any one of them any dishonest feeling or any insincerity. I feel happy to be in this group of persons because the Democratic Labour Party record is impeccable, untouchable and true because of what they have done for the 25 and half years of being an Administration in this country to uplift the masses of this country.

I must say and say quite frankly that with those few words I wish to lend my support to this Bill. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Benn.

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution before this Senate which seeks permission to acquire two parcels of land at Bushy Park in the parish of St. Philip.

Mr. President, I am very pleased that the National Housing Corporation will be looking at developing the area into the construction of low income and middle income houses to help to enhance our Manifesto promises of 2008 of a day care centre, a play area, a community centre, a church, some open spaces, a town square, a post office, a primary school, offices, commercial and medical facilities.

Sir, this will complete what I am sure would be a dream for the National Housing Corporation and to ensure, as the Leader of Government Business in the Senate indicated, a community-type setting.

Mr. President, whenever there is an opportunity for this Honourable Senate to deliberate on matters pertaining to housing and housing development, it gives me joy and pride to make a contribution to the debate. This is because this Government has been able to identify with the needs of the citizens of this country, and housing has been recognised as one of our priority areas.

Mr. President, Barbadians take pride in whatever they do, some of us eat well, some of us like to dress well.

Those of us who work, we do a bit of saving. We educate our children and ourselves. We like to know that when we go to sleep at nights that we are safe and secure. That is why we take pride in having a competent law enforcement department, whether it is the Royal Barbados Police Force or Barbados Defence Force.

Sir, most of all, every citizen wants to have access to decent and comfortable housing. You are aware of the concerns that have been expressed by a number of persons over the years where it is reported that more than 25 000 persons have been on the National Housing Corporation's waiting list to get somewhere they could call their very own.

Mr. President, we placed in our Manifesto, promises that all people will be looked after and that their housing needs would be met. Sir, though some people may want to give the impression that some of our promises were a bit ambitious, there is nothing wrong in being ambitious. It is always good to aim for the sky, even if you fall back a bit and fall into the clouds. It is good to aim. Therefore, we have no regrets in indicating that we want to build this amount of houses per year, that is why this Bushy Park acquisition and the programmes that we put in place will give us the opportunity to provide housing and also provide land at affordable prices for those who would want to do their own design and construction.

Mr. President, I have no doubt that the hardworking Minister of Housing and Lands of this Democratic Labour Party Government will continue to work closely together with the Minister of Agriculture, as we identify those lands that we consider to be marginal, so that we would not have the problem of seeking to satisfy those persons who would want to criticise the giving up of agricultural land for housing.

Sir, we all know that if we are to do an adequate job with the housing programme, that there are going to be some complications, for example, for golf courses. Sir, we know that under the last Administration a lot of land was taken up for golf courses and that there was not the hue and cry by the general public. Sir, I know that once we are focusing on providing housing for our Barbadian citizens, I am sure that we will have the support of all.

Mr. President, only a few Fridays ago, the Minister of Housing and Lands and I took a drive around the countryside of Barbados looking at those areas. We went into the outskirts of St. Peter, St. Lucy and St. Andrew. We then ended up into Christ Church, looking at those lands that we consider to be marginal lands.

Sir, it is my conviction that Barbados has enough marginal land, what we call "grass piece" and "gully hill", that we do not have to touch one piece or arable

agricultural land to have a change of use to put that land into housing. We have enough land.

Sir, we are going to create the kind of linkages with the Ministry of Housing and Lands, as that Ministry creates the linkages with the Ministry of Health, the Episcopal Churches, the Ministry of Community Development and Culture, the Attorney-General's Office, as they seek to create opportunities for daycare centres, play areas, community centres, post offices, schools and medical facilities. We are going to work hand-in-hand like a good Government.

Sir, I say to the Minister of Housing and Lands to keep pressing on and that once the Honourable Member has identified those areas, if the Honourable Member has any doubts about whether the land is fertile or marginal, all the Honourable Member has to do is to let us reason together. As the Good Book says: "Come let us reason together, saith the Lord."

Mr. President, while I am congratulating the Minister of Housing and Lands and while I am giving my support to this Resolution, I am asking because I suspect that the Minister of Housing and Lands might very well be listening to this debate on radio. Sir, only yesterday afternoon, while we were driving from the Cabinet meeting. Sir, from the time the Cabinet meeting was finished yesterday afternoon, three Ministers got into one vehicle and journeyed to another area for a visit to an area of land. A vast expanse of land in an area called Graeme Hall, where we are looking to have that land developed for the young people who want to become involved in agriculture.

Sir, our work was not ended after the Cabinet meeting. Mr. President, while on that tour, I received a text message that there was a house fire in St. Peter, therefore, Mr. President, I wish to apologise for not attending the lecture last night, the lecture that you were so gracious in co-sponsoring, in association with the Speaker of this Honourable House because I was in St. Peter, seeking to look after the needs of those persons who had lost their homes.

Sir, at that time, I was able to communicate with Minister of Housing and Lands and the Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment, Urban and Rural Development, the Honourable Christopher Sinckler. Sir, while there, I began to worry a bit, and I promised that this afternoon, while on my feet, I would make a call that while the Minister of Housing and Lands is looking to develop this housing programme, that the Honourable Member would spare a thought for the acquisition of land in every constituency of Barbados, with the view of building either duplexes or building two to four units in every constituency that would allow for persons whose houses are burned or

for whatever reasons those persons become disadvantaged, so that they could move into these Government-owned units on a temporary basis, until they are properly rehabilitated.

Mr. President, it was heart-wrenching last night to see two 70-year-old-plus people who have been living on that compound for the majority of their lives, had to sit by in tears and see their home going up in smoke. Sir, today I suspect that they are at the home of relatives. When they recognised that the opportunity for rebuilding is not there, because they do not have as long to live are both in their 70s, and though I hope that they would both get to that 100 mark, I would wish that the Ministry of Housing and Lands, in association with the Urban and Rural Development Commissions, would look for opportunities for acquiring lands, whether privately-owned or where the Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation or any other Government agency owns land throughout this country, we should seek to build some units. Sir, sometimes we find people may be in problems for whatever reason, for example, they may get notices of eviction. Sir, such people should be able, under this Government, to find comfort in a home owned by this Government.

Mr. President, I know that presently in St. Peter, in the Mount Brevitor area, a private landowner and developer is about close to completing 200 houses in that area. Sir, I wish that Government could purchase one or two of those houses and have them there already furnished.

Sir, I believe that Government could put aside \$1 million and invest that money in its people. Sir, oftentimes, when a house gets burned, practically everything is lost, and so by having those houses, people would be able to move in for a short term, until those people are properly rehabilitated.

Mr. President, I am urging the Minister of Housing and Lands to let us continue to work. I know that the team of the Democratic Labour Party made up of its Cabinet members, its Back Benchers and its Senators, those with responsibilities for certain ministerial areas would want to work closely together as a real team because there is no one-upmanship. We are not selfish people and that is why this programme at Bushy Park embraces a number of Ministries. Therefore, I am telling the public of Barbados that we will continue to work as a team as we seek to satisfy the needs of our citizens.

Mr. President, with those few remarks, I wish to give my fullest support to the Resolution before the Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I believe that the closing words of the Honourable Senator Benn constitute a good way in which I can also conclude this debate. Sir, in looking at the Resolution to compulsorily acquire the land at Bushy Park, and more importantly having articulated the plan for that substantial portion of land, it is clear that it is part of the broad strategy of this Democratic Labour Party Administration in relation to its housing programme but, more important, it is one component of the Government's efforts to rebuild a strong sense of community and strong communities in Barbados. Sir, in order to do so, it required a multi-functional, multi-ministerial approach. Sir, I did spell out the elements which would go towards achieving that and, therefore, I believe that in looking at that and, certainly, in following the very important tracing of the tradition and philosophy, which informed that tradition of successive Democratic Labour Party Administration, it is clear that this political party that is now forming the Government and certainly this Administration has correctly recognised that pivotal to a good quality of life is accommodation and housing.

Sir, housing does not stand alone, housing is at the centre of a good family life and a good community and ultimately is a critical cornerstone in the building of a strong society, something which we have been doing and which it is the intention of this Administration to get us back to.

Mr. President, I believe that in respect of a previous contribution, the notion of acquisition, there is, perhaps an important point that was alluded to by the Honourable Senator Trotman, that is, that where Governments, at some point in time, might have acquired property and that property has not been utilised, there should be a process of formally having that revert to private use in a way that protects the public.

I believe the point he was making is that where there is a compulsory acquisition by Government there is a very clear understanding what was the purpose of that acquisition and what were the plans. Sir, while those plans might not have been realised, there should also be a very definitive and properly understood policy of having that revert to private use, thus ensuring that the interest of the public is protected.

Overall, Mr. President, as I indicated in my opening comments, housing is important and, from time to time, we will engage in all types of aspects of debate in relation to issues relating to housing. However, as we debate those issues, one observation would probably be made by those who listen and that is, as we unfold these programmes and these strategies, we are doing so in a manner which is holistic and which would draw on the various functions in the various Ministries. We are doing it in a way that looks

at making sure that we cater to the total needs of Barbadians as citizens and as members of the community.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 4 – DISTRICTS, AUCTIONEERS, VALIDATION BILL, 2010

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the proposed validation exercise is one which seeks to validate the actions of District Auctioneers from the period June 8, 1992. The original District Auctioneers Act, Cap. 114, would have been passed in 1904 and speaks to the selling of goods and chattels distrained on effects levied on by police or parish constables. Mr. President, those words would have come from that old piece of legislation and perhaps is not a term that is heard in everyday discussion in Barbados.

Mr. President, I should just briefly say something about what I am talking about for those persons who take time to follow the debates in this Honourable Chamber. Sir, District Auctioneers are required under statute to provide service to all Ministries and Government departments who want to dispose of any items by public auction. These auctioneers enter into a bond to the Crown in the form of a sum of money and sureties to be approved by Ministers.

Sir, among other things the auctioneer is required to keep receipts and account books in a manner which conforms with the Financial Administration and Audit Act and, in this process, it is expected that the auctioneer carries out his business or her business on behalf of the Crown in a manner that is fully transparent and of a high level of integrity.

Mr. President, the initial Act might have been passed in 1904. There was an amendment to the legislation in 1992 and that Amendment in 1992 was intended to change the authority to appoint these auctioneers from the Governor-General to the Attorney-General.

The legislation also changed the mode of appointment from a letter of appointment to an instrument written and signed by the Minister and duly gazetted, et cetera. Sir, it was, however, discovered that the procedure has never been complied with and, therefore, having discovered that situation, it was the urgent need to address this anomaly.

Mr. President, the difficulty is that in the absence of a validation the action over that significant long period of

time, 1992 to 2002, almost 18 years, would have been deemed to be invalid and, therefore, we need to go through this exercise.

Sir, essentially, it is an effort to correct that oversight. It is intended, as I said, to validate the acts done and decisions by District Auctioneers from June 8, 1992, to the commencement of this Act when it is enacted. Therefore, I believe it is absolutely necessary that we do this as expeditiously as possible, to ensure that the District Auctioneers as they continue to function will do so in full view, at least certainly, within the four walls of the Law.

Sir, with those few comments explaining first of all who are the District Auctioneers, what they do and their role in facilitating the Crown realising the monetary value of properties, items that must be auctioned. Secondly, explaining the rationale for the validation.

Sir, 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 the Bill, Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. Miss. M.P.O. McCLEAN, Madam CHAIRMAN reported to 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, passed and cited as the District Auctioneers (Validation) Bill, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR the Hon. Miss. M.P.O. MCCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn sine die.

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

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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. Order No. 2, title of Order. The Order is titled ‘LAND DEVELOPMENT DUTY SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT AREA HASTINGS TO ROCKLEY AREA (ORDER) 2010’ in the heading, ‘Land Development Duties (Special Development Area) (Hastings to Rockley Area) Order, 2010’ among the Papers and ‘Land Development Duties (Special Development) (Area Hastings to Rockley) Order, 2010’ in Senator McClean’s speech. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Order No. 4, Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean. The Leader speaks of ‘that significant long period of time, 1992 to 2002, almost 18 years’; elsewhere the validation runs from 8th June, 1992 to the commencement of the Act. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Order No. 4, heading and citation. The Bill is headed ‘DISTRICTS, AUCTIONEERS, VALIDATION BILL, 2010’ and is read a first time as the ‘District Auctioneers (Validation) Bill, 2010’; the closing note says it was ‘cited as the District Auctioneers (Validation) Bill, 2010’ rather than as an Act, and the Committee note reads ‘Madam CHAIRMAN reported to the passing of one Bill’. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met on Friday, 23rd April, 2010 at 11.15 a.m., with Mr. President in the Chair; prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah. The President received apologies for the absence of Senator Worrell and Senator H. Elizabeth Thompson. The Leader of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean, laid four papers: the Annual Report of the Barbados Business Promotion Corporation (Invest Barbados) for the year ended 31st March, 2009, the Annual Report and Financial Statement of Hotels and Resorts Limited for 2006 and 2007, the Duties, Taxes and Other Payment (Exemption) (Mayfield Cardiology Inc.) Order, 2010 and the Land Development Duties (Special Development Area) (Hastings to Rockley Area) Order, 2010. Standing Order 45(2) was suspended and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Council Bill, 2010 and the District Auctioneers (Validation) Bill, 2010 were read a first time.

Under Orders Nos. 1 and 2, Senator McClean moved, without debate, a Resolution rescinding the Resolutions of 15th and 22nd December, 2009 on the Hastings to Rockley Special Development Area, and a Resolution approving the replacement Order of 2010. She explained that the Chief Surveyor had determined that the land needed a more appropriate description, though the area itself was unchanged. Both were agreed to.

Order No. 3 was the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council Bill, 2010. Senator McClean explained that it would allow the Minister to make appointments to the Council, including its two top positions, without waiting on the nominating agencies, and stressed Barbados’ dependence on its human resources. Senator Sir Roy Trotman supported the Bill and reflected on the history of technical education. Senator the Very Reverend H. E. Crichlow spoke of the distinction between manual and mental work; Senator Rev. D. L. Durant welcomed the award of National and Caribbean Vocational Qualifications; Senator R. O. Marville argued that it cost more to keep a disaffected person at Dodds than to educate him and criticised the common entrance examination; Senator R. A. Hunte, Senator J. Ince and Senator H. A. Husbands also supported it, Senator Husbands paying tribute to the staff of the TVET Council. After Senator McClean replied, the Bill passed all stages, with Senator Miss K. F. Ifill in the Chair in Committee.

Order No. 5 was the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of parcels of land at Bushy Park, St. Philip for housing development and recreational facilities. Senator McClean said a master plan was proposed for about 2 500 low and middle income houses, with daycare, a community centre and a church, and linked it to the Constituency Councils. Senator Sir Roy Trotman supported it while raising principles of acquisition and vesting. Senator Hunte calculated the two parcels at over 308 acres and cited the Democratic Labour Party’s record of 3 550 housing units built between 1961 and 1976; the President ruled that he could not refer to the debate in the Other Place. Senator the Hon. H. LaV. Benn listed the community facilities planned, and the Resolution was agreed to after Senator McClean’s reply.

Under Order No. 4, Senator McClean explained that a 1992 amendment to the District Auctioneers Act of 1904 had transferred the power to appoint District Auctioneers from the Governor-General to the Attorney-General and required gazetted instruments of appointment, a procedure never complied with; the Bill validated their acts from 8th

June, 1992. It passed all stages without debate, and the | Senate was adjourned sine die.

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