THE

SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2008 – 2013

THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, November 10, 2010, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir BRANFORD M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.) M.A., M.B.A. (President)

Her Honour Senator Miss KERRYANN F. IFILL (Deputy President)

Senator the Hon. Miss MAXINE O. P. McCLEAN, B.Sc. Hons, M.A., M.B.A.
(Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator the Hon. HAYNESLEY LaV. BENN, E.M.B.A. (Marketing), J.P.,
(Minister of Commerce and Trade)

Senator the Hon. DARCY W. BOYCE, B.Sc. (Econ.), M.B.A. (Fin.), CMA, F.C.A.
(Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister, with responsibility for Energy, Immigration, Telecommunications and Invest Barbados)

Senator Mrs. V. IRENE SANDIFORD-GARDNER, CIM, Dip. Mng., M.B.A.
(Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health)

Senator J. INCE, J.P., BB.A., M.B.A., DIP (Mgmt.) (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Senator H. A. HUSBANDS, M.L.I.R., B.Sc. (Public Administration)(Hons.), Ed. Cert. (U.W.I.) (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office)

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

Senator the Hon. Prof. V.E. NEWTON, s.c.m., b.a. (Spec. Hons.), M.A., LL.M. (Hons.)(U.W.I.), F.L.A. (Gt. Brit.), L.E.C.

Senator P. W. B. GILKES

Senator R. A. HUNTE, J.P.

Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. DURANT, D.D. (Hons.)

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, B.A. (Hons.), M.A. African Studies, M.B.A.

Senator A. R. WORRELL, B.A. (Hons.)

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

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

Senator S.J.O. BRADSHAW, LL.B. (Hons.)

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

ABSENT: Senator J.A.C. Hutson, B.C.J., M.R.A.C.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in Session.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

MR. PRESIDENT: I am in receipt of Message No. 4 of 2010 from His Excellency, the Governor-General to the Honourable the Senate as follows:

"MESSAGE NO. 4/2010

His Excellency, the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable the Senate that:

a. In accordance with the advice of the Leader of the Opposition under Section 39(1)(f) of the Constitution, the seats in the Senate held by Mr. Arthur Eugene Holder and Ms. Henrietta Elizabeth Thompson were declared vacant with effect from 9th November, 2010.

b. In accordance with the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Kerrie Drurard Symmonds and Ms. Santia Josette Omara Bradshaw have been appointed under Section 36(3) of the Constitution as Senators with effect from 9th November, 2010.

C. STRAUGHN HUSBANDS

GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Government House

BARBADOS

9th November, 2010."

Mr. President invited the new senators to take their seats in the Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Symmonds and Senator Bradshaw, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this Honourable Chamber, to invite you to participate with us as we attempt to do the work which we are required to do. I do not have a lot of admonition for you except that I should like you, as early as possible to become familiar with the Rules of Order in this Honourable Senate. I, particularly, wish you to pay attention to Rule 31, and in that regard Rule 31(6), which deals with the question of reading speeches in the Senate. I know that I do not have to admonish you in this regard but I think that I want to make reference to it because, based on my past experience, there have been times when Senators have not fully understood the Rule about reading their speeches in the Senate.

I wish you well, I have no doubt whatsoever that you will both equip yourself with the aplomb which I have come to expect from Senators in this Honourable Chamber. At least one of you has had the experience of being here before and I have no question or quarrel with his performance in the past. In the case of the other of you, Senator Bradshaw, you have had the good fortune to be the daughter of a person who has served with distinction in the Parliament of Barbados. I know of what I speak and can therefore say it without fear of contradiction. I have no doubt that you have been properly schooled and that you will ecquit yourself in the manner to which your father has become accustomed.I welcome you specially, in those circumstances.

Your colleague, Senator Symmonds, does not need any introduction to these proceedings from what I have observed and I welcome him nonetheless, and with all the fervour at my command. I wish you both very well and I hope that you will enjoy being here in this August assembly, at least, as well as I do or I used to.

I welcome you.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I rise to first of all thank you for your very warm words of welcome and admonition and to give you the assurance and the undertaking that I have internalised the admonition and will do my very best not to depart from the strictures thereof.

Mr. President, I would also wish to say that I note with some concern that you appeared in the latter part of your oratory to indicate a diminishing sense of pleasure. I have only ever known, Mr. President, you to enjoy to the maximum possible extent, the presence here in this Chamber, and I suspect the Other Place when you were there as well, so I will do everything in my power to make sure that the proceedings are not only intellectually stimulating but debate is lively so as to ensure that your sense of pleasure does not wane as the day proceeds.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bradshaw.

SENATOR S.J.O. BRADSHAW: Mr. President, a pleasant good morning to all of the other Honourable Senators of this House. It is, indeed, a pleasure to be here this morning. I am certainly humbled by the opportunity being given to me to serve in this House, by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. I have, over the years, Mr. President, listened attentively to your speeches as well in the Lower House and with keen interest over the years, and I welcome this opportunity to sit in this Chamber with you to make contributions on behalf of the people of Barbados, not only to learn from many of you but also, I hope to teach in some cases as well. It is certainly very welcoming to be here this morning.

I intend to work with all of my colleagues. I am not going to be partisan for the sake of being partisan but I intend to make my contributions, as I have been brought up in the political household that I have been raised in, to ensure that I put forward the things that I believe are necessary for the further advancement of our country and the people of the constituency that I will, no doubt, be in the future be representing.

I thank you for your kind words and I will certainly make my best efforts not to disappoint you.

S/A63/11:53

Sequence 2

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR Hon. Miss M.P.O. McClean: Mr. President, as Leader of Government Business of the Senate I want to offer my congratulations and words of welcome to Senator Kerry Symmonds and Senator Santia Brandshaw, and perhaps based on the work that is debated in this Honourable Chamber, I anticipate that in the fine tradition of the Senate, they would both address the matters

before us in a way that recognises that seriousness of purpose. I anticipate that we will have serious debates, constructive, intended to contribute to sound decision-making and to the betterment of this society. Therefore, I welcome you both warmly and look forward to your contribution as Members of the Opposition.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Marville.

SENATOR R.O. MARVILLE: Mr. President, on behalf of the Independent Members of this distinguish body, I would like to welcome the two new Senators, one not so new. I would like to welcome again the Honourable Senator Kerry Symmonds and Senator Bradshaw for the first time.

I think we have had the experience of a very sound and sometimes humourous Senator Symmonds. We welcome that because that is often a very important input into serious discussion. It keeps it at a level not too serious to lose its purpose. Miss Bradshaw, coming from the family of a distinguished politician in this country, will also be familiar with work that we do here. I think it is important. I think that the decorum of this body is to be commended and I am sure that the two new Senators will contribute to that.

On behalf of the three of us here I would like to offer my welcome to them.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am in receipt of a letter from Senator Sir Roy Trotman, in which he writes seeking to be excused from any duties of the Senate including Sittings of the Chamber for the period 5th to 20th November, 2010.

"This request is occasioned by my having to travel to perform duties in my capacity as an Officer of the International Labour Organisation.

Many thanks for your gracious entertainment of my request."

I presumed there is no objection to accepting the request in the manner in which it has been offered, and accordingly Senator Trotman will not be with us from 5th until November 20th.

I am also to announce an excuse which has been offered on behalf of Senator Geoffrey Cave who is away on official business. In that respect I have no further announcements to make.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. Non-Consolidated Financial Statement of Caribbean International Airways Limited for the year ended March 31, 2007.
2. Consolidated Financial Statements of Caribbean Airways Ltd, for the year ended March 31, 2007.
3. Financial Statement of Club Caribbean Lounge for the year ended March 31, 2007.
4. Financial Statement of Caribbean Aircraft Handling Company Limited for the year ended March 31, 2007.
5. Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Sanitation Service Authority for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2007.
6. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Coronation International Golf Limited) Order, 2010.
7. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (University of the West Indies) (Africa World Documentary Film Festival) Order, 2010.
8. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (The Barbados Veterinary Association Inc.) Order, 2010.
9. Duties, Taxes, and Other Payments (Exemption) (Barbados Automobile Association Inc.) Order 2010.
10. Income Tax (Amendment) Regulations, 2010.
11. Customs (List of Prohibited and Restricted Imports and Exports) (Amendment) Order, 2010.
12. Annual Report of the Catastrophe Fund for the year 2008.
13. Annual Report of the Unemployment Fund for the year 2008.
14. Annual Report of the National Insurance Board for the years 2007 and 2008.
15. Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for the year ended March 31, 2009.
16. Annual Report and Accounts of the Barbados Agricultural Management Co. Ltd. for the year ended 30th June, 2009.

17. Annual Report and Accounts for the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust Ltd. for the year ended 30th June 2009.

18. Consolidated Financial Statement of Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust Ltd. for the year ended 30th June, 2009.

19. Value Added Tax (N0.2) Order, 2010.

20. Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No.2) Order, 2010.

21. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Delegation of the European Union to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean) Order, 2010.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR Hon. Miss M.P.O. McClean: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Orders 45(2) and 22 (1) be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR Hon. Miss M.P.O. McClean: Mr. President, I beg to move the first reading of the following:

1. Financial Administration (Public Enterprise Fund (Repeal) Bill 2010.

2.The Local Loans (Amendment) Bill, 2010.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR Hon. Miss M.P.O. McClean: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of the following: Resolution to approve in accordance with Section 2(1) of the Treasury Bills and Tax Certificates Act, Chapter 106, the amount of $1.2 billion as the amount to be raised by the ISSUE OF Treasury Bills Tax Reserve Certificates and Tax Refund Certificates.

Sir, I want to indicate the intention to debate this Resolution, given the urgency of this and other matters. I must indicate that no prior notice could have been given, as this particular Resolution would have been completed in the House of Assembly last night.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

11.51 a.m.

Sequence 2

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

SENATE A36, sequence 03, 11.51 a.m.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Senator Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Honourable David John Howard Thompson, the 6th Prime Minister of Barbados. I have known of the late Prime Minister from his boyhood days, as a young person growing up in Black Rock as a school girl and later as an employee in my first job at the Welfare Department. On many occasions David Thompson and I travelled on the same bus, whether it was the school bus or a regular bus from the St. James area to Bridgetown.

I watched him grow up and as I reflect on his life I truly believe that certain things are in divine order.

Since 2008, when David John Howard Thompson became Prime Minister on the morning 16th January, 2008, I began sharing with him something which I found to be of importance to me when I was a student in Louisiana, going through some challenges living in a place that I did not particularly like at that point in time, and which would have been shared with me by a very close American friend and that was readings of the Daily Word.

I began sharing them with increasing frequency because often and in many situations, the reading of that particular day spoke volumes to issues that we were facing as a country, issues we were facing as a Cabinet, as a Government, as a people and even individually. This I continued to do a few weeks before his death, when I thought that he perhaps needed to be free of the many e-mails that I knew he would have been receiving, we would have had on his legendary capacity to process information and to respond quickly.

I therefore, Sir, will read a short passage from the Book of Wisdom:

"For they see the death of the wise man and they do not understand what the Lord intended for him."

Wisdom, chapter 4, verse 17.

Many have questioned the fairness or otherwise of our Prime Minister's passing. Why was he taken from us so soon, was a question on the lips of many Barbadians. Over time, Sir, I have come to accept, rather than question God's decisions and I truly believe that this was one of God's decisions.

Let me hasten to say, Sir, that this does not make it any easier for me. I feel the pain. There has been a hollowness in the pit of my stomach since receiving a call from our now Prime Minister about 20 minutes to three on the day of his passing.

I know what it is like to lose two brothers directly to cancer. In both instances, Sir, there was a mere six to eight months between the initial diagnosis and their subsequent deaths. I also discovered after the funeral of my brother Wendell that another brother, who incidentally was named David hid the fact that several years ago, prior to my brother's passing, that he himself was diagnosed and treated for cancer while living abroad in England. He too, passed away, not directly from cancer several years later but for us, suddenly.

I recall my father crying at the funeral of one of my brothers and saying to my uncle that he, my uncle, would not understand what it is to bury a child. My heart therefore goes out to Margaret Knight, the mother of our late Prime Minister and his father because, as we believe, a parent or parents are not supposed to bury their children. Let me say, quickly, Mr. President, that those experiences that I had personally forced me, over a period of six to ten years to examine the significance of what I would previously have termed the untimely death of love ones.

As I learnt of the late Prime Minister's diagnosis, I quickly drew some conclusions, while always hoping for a miracle. Today, Mr. President, I look back on a life well-lived, on the contribution of a man well-loved by his parents, his beautiful wife Mara, his daughters, the Combermere family, the constituents of St. John, the people of Barbados. Mr. President, as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade who travelled frequently with the late Prime Minister, with the people of the Caribbean and indeed, the world, the people with whom he came into contact, Sir, I am amazed and truly touched by the genuine outpouring of affection from all quarters. This though, Sir, is no surprise.

Mr. President, David John Howard Thompson was destined for greatness. There is a certain ring to his name and for those who know me, I am always curious as to the meanings of things. I felt compelled last night as I sat in my office contemplating what I wanted to say, to research the meanings of his names. David, a Hebrew word meaning beloved or friend. John, another Hebrew word meaning God's grace. Howard, an old English word meaning noble watchman.

What is in a name? Parents do not necessarily always choose names for their meanings but perhaps, by some divine intervention, they are given a set of names or people become the names that they are given. Whatever is the situation, I believe that those three words, David John, Howard spelt out something about who that child was to become. I am not only sure, Sir, that he knew the meanings of his names. As I said, he did however manifest characteristics reflective of their meanings.

Over the period between his passing and being taken to his final resting place several persons, known to me and unknown to me called me, text me, et cetera. I recalled one conversation with a former school master and I will take the liberty to call his name, Mr. John Blackman, a former teacher at Combermere School and as we know, a former Principal of another school. I recall him mentioning, either in the newspaper or on the media, that he remembered a teacher at Combermere saying to a young David, you will become Prime Minister one day. What he did not say in the public media, he used that he himself, John Blackman, was that teacher. He saw in David Thompson characteristics that truly signalled that this was not an ordinary boy.

Mr. President, I do not think that those kinds of observations were things that people would generate in their imaginations. These were visible signs of whom this young man was to become. As I said, he accurately predicted that he would indeed make a significant contribution, that he would become Prime Minister and he did become Prime Minister. I am happy that Mr. Blackman got to see him, as he said in his own words, sitting in his office as Prime Minister.

This position of Prime Minister, Sir, came after much preparation and indeed significant contribution in several spheres, as a boy, as a teenager, as a young adult and later, as a full adult when he took on the mantle of leadership of this country. His contribution, Sir, was rich and consistent.

As a young Member of Parliament, he spoke of many of the issues on which he focussed when he went to the electorate in 2008. Listening to interviews carried in the media, speeches of his, you will see a common set of themes running through those. I want to say there were not mere themes. They were not themes for the election campaign, they were elements of an abiding philosophy, a philosophy of what he thought should happen and how we should live as a people.

SENATE A 36, sequence 03, 12.01 p.m.

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Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: I believe, if I could refer to statements and a theme which resonated in his last Estimates debate, that Barbados is not only an economy, it is a society. Sir, all of the ramifications that flow from that, we understood then and we understand now and we are committed to demonstrating and achieving for the people of this country.

Sir, I want to share something of my personal interaction with Mr. David Thompson, the late Prime Minister. As I said, I had the fortune of seeing him grow up. After watching him blossomed as a young debater, beginning in 1982, I saw him, heard of him and from him, not only as a student but as a student activist participating in the life and the politics of Cave Hill Campus. Sir, 1982 is an important year for me because on January 15, 1982, I began my teaching career as a Lecturer at Cave Hill, when I started teaching in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

I was invited by a young Minister of Community Development and Culture, to serve as Chair of the Advisory Committee of a new project, the Youth in Business Programme. Many people do not know about this programme. It was the forerunner of the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme. Sir, for those who know me, I am a keeper of important documents. I told myself I should find something and I found it. I have a somewhat aged, yellow document in my hands which says: "Ministry of Community Development and Culture in cooperation with the Organisation of American States, Official Launching Project of Youth in Business Project, at Barbados Hilton, Monday 23rd, March 1982, 8.00 p.m." Mr. President, it went through a number of things but what I want to highlight is Item 6, which is: "Feature Address and Launching of the Youth in Business Project, Honourable David Thompson, Minister of Community Development and Culture" and Item 7, "Presentation of Certificate, Mrs. Marie-Josephine Thompson."

Mr. President, that was for me, as a person who in the late 80s and early 90s was part of a movement to push what we called the economic enfranchisement of ordinary Barbadians, a very important invitation to sit on that Youth in Business Advisory Committee.

Sir, for the record - because in talking to many people, people do not know about this - I would just want to signal that in the correspondence issuing that invitation, it signalled that the other members of the committee were: Mr. Sam Greene, National Development Foundation; Mr. James Husbands, Businessman, Solar Dynamics; Miss Atherine Reece, self-employed, Tour Operator; Mr. Dale Callender, BIMAP; Mrs. Patricia Simpson, Junior Achievers; Mr. Peter Earle, Earle and Earle Associates; Mr. George Pilgrim; a young self-employed businessman, Impact Productions; Mr. Errol Niles, Attorney-at-law; Mr. Derrick Alleyne, Barbados Youth Service; Mr. Deryck Murray, Pinelands Creative Workshop; and Mr. Tennyson Beckles, then Chairman of the Barbados Development Bank.

Sir, I took time to read that because as we pay tribute to our fallen brother a lot of people need to appreciate that he was no fly-by-night politician and he was no politician focusing on patting himself on the back or pounding his chest but he was one who was willing to commit all of his energies to achieving much for the people of this country and that he stood for in the early 90s and that he continued to stand for.

As I said, the Youth in Business Programme was the forerunner to the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme. This was indeed an honour, as I said, to assist him in his efforts to help create a class of indigenous entrepreneurs. In fact, that helped to fuel my personal commitment to see this dream realised and my abiding support of persons and continued voluntary assistance to young entrepreneurs, et cetera.

Mr. President, I will spend some time talking about this because there are things that we need to understand, as I said. Mr. President, in 2006, I had cause to visit the late Prime Minister at his law office to discuss a matter for a business partner of mine who lives in St. Lucia. In setting up that appointment, David Thompson signalled to me that he wanted to speak to me on another matter. We discussed the original business and along the way I discovered that my business partner was in fact related to his wife and this led to some other discussions.

Of course, we would have heard many times of his legendary memory, his wider circle of friends, the people he knew, his interest in people's welfare and therefore his ability to recall details. As I said, we have heard of his phenomenal memory and that is something that we saw to the end.

Mr. President, he then got down to the matter he wanted to raise and I recall the wry smile that we know would descend on his face, a kind of what I call a half smile, which signalled that he was going to tell you a joke or he was about to, if he were in the House of Assembly, as you would say, clip the wings of an opponent and so on.

Mr. President, he began to raise the matter of my contesting a seat in what would have been the upcoming elections. Before I could let him finish the statement, I uttered a resounding no and his only comment was but you did not even let me finish. I did however at that time pledged to assist him in any way that I could and signalled that my training in management might be of value. I agreed to assist him in the background and I recall participating in discussions of important issues to be addressed and working on matters to be captured in what later would form part of a manifesto. At that time, having committed myself to help, I quit something I was doing for more than a decade, the "Call-in Programme" because I felt that as I committed myself to work with that honourable gentleman, I could not do what I was doing then.

Sir, when the election was won, I recall telling a friend who offered to go to Party Headquarters that night

that I would just slip into the background and assist when called upon to do so, however, Prime Minister David Thompson had other ideas and I was invited to join the Cabinet as a member in the Prime Minister's Office.

Sir, working with the late Prime Minister was indeed for me a distinct honour and privilege. He was clear in his instructions to us as Ministers. He gave us a lot of support. He did not meddle but he was there always for guidance and counselling. Very simply, he reminded us as Ministers, as Members of Cabinet, et cetera that we were the servants and we are the servants of the people. In his words, for example, he stressed that we should not disrespect the people of Barbados by keeping them waiting.

Mr. President, in another dispensation, I remember being on a Board and having to wait 45 minutes upwards sometimes to an hour on Ministers to attend functions, et cetera and that was something that we could not even contemplate. He insisted that we were to reply promptly to correspondence.

Mr. President, his style of leadership was collaborative, not dictatorial. He worked hard and he expected us to work hard. He made commitments to the people of Barbados and demanded that we honour those commitments. Mr. President, I have taken time to recount several aspects of my interaction with the Honourable David John Howard Thompson because I believe that there are many lessons that we must learn from this experience. I had time to reflect on many of these as I sought to carry out what was one of the more difficult tasks that I have been asked to perform, while at the same time taking on what was, because of the person for whom that task was being fulfilled, an easy task.

As I said before, Mr. President, on the morning of October 23, I received a call from the then acting Prime Minister Freundel Stuart informing me of the passing of our leader and requesting that I assume responsibility for the coordination of his state funeral. At that time, it dawned on me that the organisation of six family member funerals between 1997 and 2007, including my parents, three brothers and an uncle, prepared me only a little, if I should put it positively, for the monumental task. It was a task that I took with a level of seriousness.

Senate A36 Sequence 4

12.12 p.m.

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Senator the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I would, very quickly, want to acknowledge the contributions of all those individuals and entities who worked very hard, pulling their emotions into the background. Sir, for many persons, I can tell you it was extremely difficult because of the person of whom the late Honourable Prime Minister was. Many of them could tell you personal stories of his individual interactions with them. He was somebody who was very understanding and committed and for me it was difficult. It was difficult but that ten-day period of mourning allowed me to reflect on this mystery we call life. As I said, maybe because of my personal experiences, I have had to confront sudden loss. I have had to support sisters-in-law through difficult times, I have had to support my father and my several siblings at each of those losses, and I think that helped me to manage my own personal grief.

Mr. President, it also allowed me to think beyond my immediate emotions of distress and sadness and to reflect on what we are told, what we often hear, that it is God's decision, not ours. We do not know the time, we do not know the hour, but what I do know is that at 48 years old, David John Howard Thompson... Sir, I like to call his full name because those words have sound meaning to them and perhaps remind us of the greatness of the individual. Sir, that greatness, of course, would have also been captured in his humility.

Sir, it reminded me that the measure of a man's life is perhaps not in the years but in the contribution, and for a young man who at l4 years old was said to be "running" Combermere School, being involved in Cadets and not being a cadet... Many of you do not know that he was a playwright and that he produced plays at Combermere. If you talk to people in his age group, they will tell you of plays that he produced. He would have regaled us over the lunch table or at the end of Cabinet about some of these things. I said to him one day that maybe he should produce one of those plays and I hope that somewhere in his study, his family could find one of those plays or that Combermere may have the script somewhere.

Mr. President, I saw in this young man a playwright who took an empty book or a set of pages and filled those pages, not with nonsense, not with personal writings of self but of a vision, of a mission and of specific activities that we should undertake or which he did undertake. When he was finished with that book, he closed it. Sir, he has left us that play to produce, and produce we will.

Mr. President, as I said, I have not sought to question the loss of our Leader. I do not claim to understand the full mystery of this thing we call life and indeed death. I do believe, though, that there is much to this life on earth, as was proven by our late Prime Minister's contributions of more than 36 years, if we begin with his days at Combermere. His public political life spanned at least 25 years and that is indeed no short period. Sir, I believe that period of time allowed him to impact on several people in very significant ways.

Mr. President, I had the opportunity two days after the State funeral to go to the supermarket to which I normally go. While I was there, one of the staff members, a young lady, came to me and said a couple of things, of course, thanking us but more important to say to me: "Miss McClean, I really wish that I had met David Thompson." I said to her that it is interesting because he used to live around the corner from where we are, he lived pretty close to the supermarket. She said that she has started to collect everything about him because there is so much that she did not know about him, that she wants her children to know. I said to her that is the right way. Sir, there is so much that he has done, there is so much that he wanted to do.

Mr. President, I do not believe that in any given decade or in any given century that we can find many people of the ilk of the late Prime Minister. Sir, I am very serious about what I am saying, I will not stand here to speak empty words. I was influenced by him, in terms of my commitment to contribute in several ways. I believe he has influenced many of us. I had some very interesting experiences, one of which I will share. Sir, he was not above criticism, the example I will share with you is one that not only illustrates or demonstrates his willingness to accept criticism but his memory. Mr. President, many of us recall the great "Mirror Image" speech, as we call it, by the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow and if my memory is correct, prior to that speech, a very young David Thompson spoke. He did an excellent presentation but then he went down the road of attacking a particular female politician. The attack was not a problem because I think she deserved to have been but it was some of what he said. This was in the l080s. When he came down from the platform, I said to him: "Young man, I admire you, you are brilliant and therefore you do not need to go where you went, and for two reasons: (1) that lady is old enough to be your mother and (2), you do not have to go where others go because they go there, you must set your own standards.

Mr. President, I remember sitting in Cabinet Office and an issue came up. He looked at me and with that smile said: "Maxine don't like you to attack women, you know." Sir, he recounted that experience. Sir, I was taken aback that he even remembered the incident. He said: "I took your advice." Sir, as we all know, he had the ability to "clip a few wings". He could have decapitated you if he wanted to but not in a manner that spoke to personalised insults, abuse or invectives.

I believe that like the young lady who spoke to me in the supermarket, many people are discovering the true measure of the man David Thompson, many have discovered and will continue to discover the contributions he has made to this beautiful country and to the region. I saw him as he began his journey as Prime Minister and as he interfaced with his colleagues from CARICOM. I recall our first visit to the Bahamas, when he had to defend the Barbados' position very vigorously. Sir, the only indication that he was very committed to the position and that he had intended to stand his ground was that he blushed, because of his light complexion, and rubbed his hands over his head several times. One of his colleague leaders came over to him and said: "David, that is not the kind of thing to which we are accustomed, we are accustomed to more robust language than that." Sir, his colleague was obviously inferring some specifics about what probably previously transpired. His simple response, and in a very quiet tone was: "You would never hear that from me." Mr. President, I saw him representing this country very vigorously and always with respect to his colleagues. I saw the respect that they developed for him very quickly.

12.20 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

(Edited One time)

Senator the HON. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Sir, people often listened to hear what was his position, and he did it in a manner that was not condescending that did not suggest he was in a hurry or whatever the case may be.

I believe, Sir, that when we look at this I hope that generations of Barbadians, our children, would get a chance to reflect on what it means to be a citizen of a country, what it means from a very early age to play your part, to assume responsibility in your little way or, as you become older, in a big way to contributing to making a difference. Sir, too often our children have become caught up in the trappings of prosperity and all that flows from that and because they have done this, Sir, they have forgotten that we all must make a contribution to keeping this country beautiful.

David Thompson, I would say, literally gave his life for this country because he started very young. We can see very graphically, as he matured, photographs of him as a young 'strickling' walking up the steps of Parliament and the poignant picture of him descending the steps of Parliament on what was to become his last visit to the House of Assembly, when he was obviously signalling goodbye to somebody behind him and, in fact, it did become goodbye to the House of Assembly.

He has impressed upon a lot of us the importance of community, and I am sure my colleagues will speak to the many initiatives that he would have identified, put in place and, therefore, I will leave those details to my colleagues. Sir, I believe that as we look on, we recognise that in his words, we are more than an economy, we are a society, that if we focus on the economy, we lose sight of what it means to be our brother's keeper, we get caught up in the material, in the rat race of trying to get rich at any means and at any

cost and trample on our people. We forget that as we seek to increase our GDP, and all those terms that economist like to spout - and I know them - we forget that it has to be done against the background of a society in which all citizens feel that they have a fair chance, a chance to be part and parcel of the very foundation of our society, to be able to compete fairly for space, physical and otherwise. Therefore, I believe that when we analyse all that we have said and done and all that he sought to do, we would find in David John Howard Thompson a man who had a message for Barbadians in all walks of life. Sir, Barbadians of past generations would have benefitted from his vision and Barbadians of this generation and Barbadians of future will benefit from his vision.

Sir, I believe that what I have sought to do may not be truly befitting of our dear and late Prime Minister, to pay tribute to the memory of somebody who did not talk because he wanted to get seats in Parliament but who sought to get a seat in Parliament to effect change in a way that would be maximally beneficial to Barbadians, to set the stage during his lifetime for a society which was caring, which was first and foremost about the people of that society and then about everybody else but in doing that and focusing on the people of the society, we then would have something to offer the world.

Mr. President, David Thompson was understated in his whole demeanour but as we are forced to reflect on his passing and his contribution, because he left us before we wanted him to leave us, but I would not say, "gone too soon," that is not for me to determine but before we wanted him to leave us... He has made a contribution and I trust, Sir, that all Barbadians would have a chance to fully address their minds to what he did for us and what he wanted to do. Sir, I want, as the bell chimes behind me to offer to his widow, Mara, his daughters, Misha, Oya, Osa-Marie, his parents, his siblings, to my colleagues, whom I saw deeply grieved because they knew the man and what he wanted for this country, I want to offer all of you my deepest sympathy.

I want, for the record, to extend my deepest and sincere thanks to all those who contributed to creating what was promised to his dear widow would be a fitting tribute. Those tributes have not ended because many Barbadians called, night and day, offering to do something not because they wanted to be on show but because David Thompson touched them in a very deep and real way. Therefore, as I come to the end of my tribute, I pray that he may continue to rest and rise in glory on that great day.

I do not shout about my faith in God, he did not shout about his but based on my interactions I can tell you that, certainly, he did have faith in God. I believe that as he journeyed through his period of illness, he became ever closer to God. The description of his final moments would not suggest a man in torment or a man with regrets but a man who had made peace with his maker and,Sir, I say, "may his body rest in peace". Amen.

Mr. President, I will now read the following Resolution.

WHEREAS DAVID JOHN HOWARD THOMPSON, formerly Barbados Exhibitioner of Combermere, University of the West Indies, Hugh Wooding Law School, one of Her Majesty's Counsel, Member of the Honourable the House of Assembly for the Constituency of Saint John since 1987 and Prime Minister of Barbados from 2008 to 2010, passed this life on the 23rd day of October, 2010;

AND WHEREAS this Honourable gentleman entrusted to and apprenticed under National Hero the Late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, rendered unselfish and inestimable service to this Nation and its people;

AND WHEREAS he at age twenty-five in the springtime of his life entered the Honourable House of Assembly, a source of inspiration to the young people of this country with whom he had a natural affinity and who were at the centre of the policies he pursued;

AN WHEREAS because of his deep love for family and society he adopted the concept of families as the bedrock of any developing Nation leading to the establishment of the Families First Foundation;

AND WHEREAS as he had a deep and abiding love for the poor and disadvantaged, which was reflected in the policies he pursued and implemented for their well-being, recognising Barbados to be more than an economy but a society;

AND WHEREAS he had an enduring commitment to the development of a successful Caribbean Civilisation, and to Caribbean integration and Caribbean Unity;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Honourable House pay the accolade of our highest tribute to the late Honourable DAVID JOHN HOWARD THOMPSON, as an exemplar of dignity, courage, compassion and humanity and leader by example, and lament the deep tragedy of his loss even as, in himself and as Head of our Government, he pursued unswervingly the causes that guided his life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS Honourable House express our thanks for his life and convey to his widow, Mrs. Mara Thompson, to their children Misha, Oya, Osa-Marie and Dario, to his mother Margaret Knight, father Charles Thompson, and to his other relatives and friends our feelings of profound grief,

regret and our deepest condolences on behalf of our Nation and of ourselves at his passing.

Dated this 10th day of November, 2010.

A36/12:31:50

Sequence 7/6

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

SENATOR Hon. Miss M.P.O. McClean: . . .

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Symmonds.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I rise to associate myself with the Resolution before the Chamber and on a personal note to lend my own sympathy to the wife, children, family and the wider family of the Democratic Labour Party, on the passing of their former leader and our former Prime Minister. On a note, of personal condolence, I would start by saying that I see this as a triple tragedy. Sir, in many ways it is a triple tragedy because of the fact that David was very young and still very full of unrecognised potential, to be cut off at that early stage in the full bloom and flower of life is in itself a tragic thing. The second part of the tragedy is that he was taken from young children. He had not had chance to see his daughters reach the end of their development and in one case emerge from childhood, formative stages of life. Sir, in a real sense, as I am sure yourself would have contemplated in your own development, and I can speak of myself as a father of a son, who is the sunlight in my life, to be cut off or to even contemplate being taken away from your child before you are in a position to say the job is complete, the parenting process is over, or as over as parenting can ever be, because it continues I suppose indefinitely. Sir, it is a tragic and sad thing even to contemplate. Sir, the third aspect of it which, I think clearly has moved this nation, and I hope will serve as a talking point for Barbados in times to come, are the circumstances of his death.

Sir, all too often, I heard my distinguished colleague on the other side refer to her own familial experience, that invidious disease called cancer creeps up on people and they stand before you today and literally in a few days' time they are gone. We all need, I think, to spend a little bit of time not only here but across this region reflecting on some of the aspect of lifestyle and so on, which can directly or indirectly lead to those unfortunate circumstances.

Mr. President, as I said, I see it as a triple tragedy and this is a time of tribute, Shakespeare said that the evil that men do lives after them and the good is oft interred with their bones. I think that in tributes of this nature we have to make sure that it is the good that lives after, and that good is not interred with the bones.

Sir, I would like to associate, therefore, with all of the genuine tributes that have been heard across the length and breadth of Barbados by many sectors of this society, and indeed, yesterday, on both sides of the House in the Other Place. I think they all reflected a deep sense of national grief and pain, as I said, when a fellow citizen but more important in this case, the leader of the land is cut off in full bloom and flower of his potential...

Sir, I think that they also reflect that way we were in treating to David Thompson, not treating to or dealing with an ordinary man. In the context of politics he was no ordinary politician. There are some aspects of David's politics and political career which can only be described as stellar. He gave of himself and of his life a level of commitment, dedication, drive and determination to a political career that I do not know is easily paralleled in modern history.

Sir, I am very familiar with a number of politicians across this region but I can think of none who have set themselves so steadfastly to the task of either parliamentary representation or ultimately the highest rung, as it is called, in the ladder, in leadership of the land across this region. Sir, in that regard I think that he is perhaps unparalleled.Sir, for my own part I knew him as a young politician. I think I am the only one who is able in this Chamber to say I confronted him as a first-time Member of Parliament.

Sir, I need not tell you that as you enter the Other Place for the first time, the natural tendency, I suspect, on most initiate entrance to the Chamber is to try to make ones mark and to carve out a niche of some ability for oneself. In doing so, there is I suspect, a tendency to focus on those who hold high positions on the other side because it is only through the process of the adversarial interaction, the give and take, what the Honourable Prime Minister referred to yesterday as the cut and thrust of politics, it is only through that teething process that you are put through the fire, that hopefully would transform you into the best possible mettel that you can be.

Sir, I well recall a number of interactions across the aisle in the Other Place as a first-time MP and David on the other side. Sir, I would say that there was a lot that you could learn from him as a young entrant into the Chamber. I think the very first one that comes to mind was echoed by you today in your injunction to us that you have to be familiar with the rules. The rules of the Chamber are the tools of trade of the practitioner in the Chamber. David Thompson had a command of the rules of Parliament. He was able to steerdown, challenge and confront many a Speaker of the House and hold his ground. Sir, even as the

Speaker had the Rule book in his lap, David was able to take on the interpretation of the rule because he was sure on his feet and understood the tools of the trade.

Sir, I think that as a young MP that was one of the first things that jumped out at me, and I suspect that for any of us who are either involved in or contemplating a career in politics, that is one of the strengths that cannot be overlooked.

12.31 p.m.

Sequence 7

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

SENATE A36, sequence 08, 12.41 p.m.

Senator K. SYMMONDS: I also feel, Sir, that he brought a very great attention to detail but there were many times when I have witnessed him in retreat on a particular issue and then the person who would have been prosecuting the particular cause may make the slightest error, the smallest lack of attention to detail and very often, Sir, he would pick up his pen and lean forward and make a note and sit back in calm with his hands folded and smile.

Sir, you often wondered what was there to smile about. The lashes were hot in the Chamber but then when his opportunity to respond arose, he demonstrated, Sir, a command of detail and was able to shift that which was a tide raging against him, to a tide on which he could swim very comfortably because he was focussing specifically on that failing on the part of his opponent.

The other thing, Sir, which I think stood out about him, is that there was an intention and almost a readiness to move on. You got passed the angst and possible irritation and sometimes even anger arising out of the confrontation of debate. Sir, there was always a ready smile at the end of it all, a trip down the steps, a smile when you meet at the lunch table and it was as though all was history and forgotten.

I do not know, Sir, and I must say I cannot attest personally to whether or not he may have held malice in his mind or heart, but I do know that there was always a physical appearance that those things are over, that happened a little while ago, a few minutes ago, an hour ago, whatever, let us move on.

I think, Sir, the other issue that really, if I am to speak to him in the context of a colleague who had to face him on the other side, was that David Thompson possessed a command of the English language that was phenomenal and not only was he a gifted rapporteur and a skilled debater but he used the language in a way that can move from fascinating levels of rhetoric to a deadly level of repartee. In that regard, he was exceptionally sharp-tongued and could silence an opponent at a moment's notice.

It is perhaps, Mr. President, at times like this when we have to do a little reflecting. I feel compelled to reflect on the fact that it is often lost on persons who observe the interface between politicians on two sides of a political divide on a daily, weekly, monthly, annual basis, people often lose sight of the fact, Sir, that what is adversarial in nature is not necessarily enmity. It is possible to coexist, and to coexist with respect mutually between the sides, on the basis of what you perceive to be your opponents', gifts, strengths and talents.

I suspect, Sir, that very often that fact is lost on many people, and those sharp differences that divide us sometimes become the burden of that which people focus upon. It would be insincere of me to say that I did not very often have difficulties with David on a policy level but now is not the time for that, Sir.

I think that when we reflect on the late Winston Churchill, he did say that on the occasion, Sir, of the reshaping of the British Parliament, the Commons had to be reshaped, I think after a bombing had taken place in the war. So that it is the job of politicians to reshape their dwellings, thereafter, they move into the dwelling, and the dwelling tends to reshape the politician. He made the point that on that occasion, those dwellings were being reshaped because of the fact that they had been adversity, conflict and strife. He indicated he fully expected that within a short time of moving into the reshaped dwelling that the Members of Parliament would take on the shape of adversaries and have an interaction that reflected conflict.

The conflict, Sir, and the adversarial nature of the contest between political parties is inevitable. It is the essence of the multi-party democratic system that we practise. In that regard, it is the quintessence of our democracy. It would be mealy-mouthed to pretend that it does not exist. It would be equally mealy-mouthed than unfortunate to expect that adversaries, who had defined their life's existence on two sides of the political fence could, on the falling of one of the two of them, overnight be transformed into the most gushing orators and spout the praises and values of the previous opponent. Those things are unrealistic and I do not think, Sir, that we should encourage them in Barbados, nor do I think, Mr. President, to be very frank with you that David Thompson would want that from the Barbados Labour Party or its members.

I think David understood that there was a respect for him, I think he knew that there was a respect for him, I think he knew his strengths and he had tremendous political strengths and gifts but I also think, Sir, that he

enjoyed the atmosphere of a contest. He never shirked from it. He was a master at it and I would be the last and perhaps the most reluctant to seek to - for want of a better way of putting it - canonise or beatify the individual whom I knew to be a gladiator and who loved the contest.

I have to say, Sir, that on a professional level, I knew him as well. I enjoyed the opportunity to work as a law student with a number of persons who ultimately became Queens Counsels and who were already Queens Counsel, the Cheltenham brothers, Joseph Archibald in Road Town, Tortola, Freundel Stuart, the current Prime Minister of the land and David Thompson.

In all the cases but one, there was a tendency to relate to a young law student, in the context of the exoterics of jurisprudence of the profession. What was the rationalisation of the judges in this case, the evolution of the law of evidence, the science and craft of the law. Those things, Sir, have their place and have great value but in David Thompson's case, David saw the profession as a very practical means to a very practical end.

SENATE A36, sequence 08, 12.51 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: He was a very practical person. He never wanted to get bogged down in all of those esoterics, which quite often can humbug clients as well, because while we pitch heavy battles with each others as counsels, I saw it in him professionally and quite frankly I saw it in him politically as well... In that regard, there is some lesson to be learnt from him there as well because practicality in public affairs is a very important thing.

I feel, Mr. President, that Barbados has obviously lost an excellent son of the soil. I truly feel, Mr. President, that we would do well to remember him, and I say this in all honesty, in the context of not only his strengths but also the weaknesses that he had. Like all of us, he was a human being with strengths and weaknesses. We have, Mr. President, I think, to try to learn from the lessons of his life.

Mr. President, I would wish once again to underscore my own sense of sympathy to his family, to his extended family and to the Democratic Labour Party family. I would wish, Mr. President, to join in the sentiments expressed by the distinguished Honourable Leader of Government Business on the other side that he rest in peace.

I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator R. O. MARVILLE.

Senator R. O. MARVILLE: Mr. President, I would like to repeat my condolences to the late Prime Minister's wife Mara, his children Misha, Oya and Osa-Marie, his mother, a fellow writer, Margaret Knight and his father Charles Thompson, as well as to the citizens in general, not only the Democratic Labour Party family, of this small but great country.

We have lost a giant who was also just an ordinary man. The outpouring of grief and tributes paid to the late David John Howard Thompson was perhaps only matched by the similar outpouring of grief and tributes at the death of the father of this nation, the late Right Excellency Errol Walton Barrow, who happened to have been a hero of the late Prime Minister. He had the same phenomenal memory and he made it a point to learn and be able to pick out of his head the names of any person at all.

I think, Sir, that we should look at him perhaps in three different ways; as a statesman, as a strategist and as an ordinary man. He showed qualities that to my mind had become lacking in our political conduct. On his assumption of office at his first CARICOM meeting, much to the surprise of his colleagues, he praised in no limited terms the work of his predecessor. Everyone was surprised that there could be that continuity without any rancour. In some ways that represented the way he always was as a statement.

As a strategist, he was superb. Three years ago all the pundits said, no leadership qualities. His Opposition said he would never be Prime Minister. He mounted a political campaign which ran for quite a long time but never without intensity. In fact, when the election was sprung suddenly, it was thought it might have him wrong-footed but in fact it wrong-footed his opposition because he was able over Christmastime when nobody wanted to electioneer, to present the crowd with a celebration with some of his own future ministers forming a band and singing to the entertainment of the crowd.

His understanding of the timeliness of things was phenomenal. In all of his actions, he always seemed to be out there first having thought about it. He thought a long time ago of the process of Families First, for instance but he did not stop there. This, of course, as an ordinary man, he practised most distinctly with his own family. Whenever he had a chance, you found him with his smallest daughter who obviously adored him. I can understand in some ways the pain that must have left.

Mr. President, I think perhaps we ought to look at how he thought of people and how people reacted to him. To the ordinary man, he was David another ordinary man. I can relate a few things, one of which is; a man turned up at his place and said - I will be casting my own way because I do not know the actual words - "Sir, I want work." He said,

"what can you do?" He said: "Anything, Sir." So he said: "Well, look, the garden out there needs some trimming and stuff like this." The man said: "Thank you, Sir, and he said, but Sir I do not like to deceive anybody, I just come out of jail and it was for armed robbery." The late Prime Minister said: "Do not panic, you served your time, you understand what you did, let's see how good a gardener you are." Sir, he remained his gardener.

Mr. President, that was an act of faith in ordinary people that is seldom seen in our society. If somebody has been to jail, he is a jailbird, he is a terrible person, he cannot be trusted but David John Howard Thompson knew better. In fact, to me, one of the very interesting things was the way he reacted to ordinary people. To the ordinary man he was the mirror image of what the ordinary man wanted. In other words, he was the ordinary man's ordinary man. You spoke to him and you never got the impression that he was talking down to you either as a superior being or a father or somebody with political power. He communicated in a way that did not demean. He made you feel as if he was one with you.

Mr. President, it was not therefore surprising that when he was in office in economic times which were and which still are quite troubling, his first thought was how do we help those who need the most help. He came up with an idea, that when you think about the arithmetic of it, it was fantastic. He offered free rides for children going to school and coming from school. The effect of this, if you look at the moneys involved, was really quite incredible. If you are a poor family with $200 a week and you had three children who have to go to school, you happened to live in Christ Church and they are going to Alexandra School, you are in the situation of having to pay for each child $60 a week, that means that you cannot afford to send them all to school and eat. It was this sort of understanding of the ordinary man that made him this important.

He was always able to look at a situation and come up with what was not only an objective view of it but a helpful one.

Senate A36 Sequence 9

1.02 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Senator R. O. MARVILLE: We look back on his life and we say that he died early but in fact, he spent almost 30 years of his life in active politics and certainly 23 years in representative politics, which is more than most people who have been in politics have done. Mr. President, we should not look at his passing as a serious tragedy but as something which says to us, we can do quite a lot at a young age and those of you who are older should look at the example and see what you could learn from it.

Mr. President, I would like to propose that we think of some sort of suitable memorial, either a building, a library or a room where his speeches, papers, books and perhaps his plethora of e-mails in response to the various things that people have sent him. These things should be kept. I think we need to be able to remember him but also to have those who come after us to remember him.

Mr. President, if you pardon my oxymoronic contradiction, I would like to say that David John Howard Thompson was an extraordinary ordinary man. Mr. President, I thank you.

Senator Mrs. IRENE SANDIFORD-GARDNER: Mr. President, as I rise to support this Resolution, never in my wildest dreams would I have thought that I would be standing here in the year 2010, to pay tribute to David John Howard Thompson, an individual who is responsible for charting my political career, the individual who was born in the same year I was born, in the same place I was born, the United Kingdom. Sir, we both are born of Barbadian parents who had travelled to England seeking a better life. Both of us grew up in what is called the Mother Country, in a very racially-charged environment in the l960s, where children of colour were exposed to all types of behaviour and practices, which could easily have made us very bitter individual, very maladjusted human beings, cynical and resentful, thinking that the world owed us something but grounded and principled West Indian upbringing saw us growing up with a strong sense of social justice and a humanitarian outlook which propelled us, decades later, to meet on common political ground in the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. President, I knew David Thompson through my younger sister, who was also a Combermerian. She was a close friend of David, they were both in the dramatic society at Combermere School. Sir, you about growing up and hearing younger children in the house calling the names of their school friends, I heard the name David Thompson in our house in the late 1970s very often, along with other names, other Combermerians, some of whom she was in Cadets with. She reached the highest rank in Cadets but she also had an artistic side. Mr. President, I knew my sister's friends before I met them and when they finished school, I would have seen David Thompson often on television through the "Understanding" programme.

I would say here today that my family was one of the few families that circumvented his knack for knowing everybody's genealogy. David Thompson knew my sister and me for decades, as individuals. He only knew we were sisters on the night of my 40th birthday party. My sister had come from England to attend my party. When she

came out of the bedroom and I said to him: "This is my sister," he was speechless. That was one of the few times that he was ever speechless. He looked at her, then at me and drawled: "What? You and Verona are sisters and you never told me?" I said, "Well, you did not ask." Mr. President, both my sister and I cackled in unison and David said: "I should have known." Mr. President, as was said before, David Thompson genuinely knew everything about everybody's family, he knew my husband, he knew my cousins, he knew my uncles but he never knew that one of his closest friends was my sister.

Mr. President, my political relationship with our late Leader was following the 1999 General Election. We were demoralised as a party and rather than sitting back and merely giving an X when necessary, my husband and I decided that we would call and let David know that we were going to be putting our talents and energies behind the Democratic Labour Party in a more tangible way. Many of you would have heard about his interest in the arts, and he would have know my husband because David was a member of the Rontana Dance Movement. Beverley Griffith, who taught me at school, was the leader of Rontana and David fancied himself a dancer. I never knew how he got to that place in his mind but he was a well-rounded individual. He fancied himself as a dancer but later told me that he quickly learnt his limitation and he became Treasurer of Rontana. He later learnt to beat drum with Rontana.

I remember his daughter Oya saying in her tribute that one night he tried to do a ballet move in the kitchen and knocked the salad bowl out of Mara's hand. Sir, I could visualise David Thompson doing that because he had that joie de vivre. I feel that perhaps he had probably attended a show that evening and came home feeling that he could do something in the kitchen.

Mr. President, the decision to come on board in l999 led me to witness probably one of the most tumultuous periods in Barbadian political history. I could say, without any embarrassment, that many days and nights I cried for David Thompson. Sir, Barbados knows what he went through - the desertions, the betrayals, the public vilification, the vilification in George Street. I cringed at the effect that the attacks would have had on Mara and the girls, yet he bored all with a stoicism that I wish I will some day learn in politics.

Mr. President, David understood politics and he understood politicians. He would rather calm you than be calmed. I remember him always saying: "Stay focused, stay focused," yet I will always wonder how much of what David Thompson went through was internalised because he was a human being. I would never know because he never said.

Mr. President, during that period I was assigned the task of editing some of his speeches. I was a columnist

part-time and he always said he understood and admired my skills with the pen. He also admired my fearlessness with that pen and the way I used words. I also extended my involvement to engaging with relations between the party and the media and because I felt that David was unfairly treated, I became fiercely protective of him, something that would cost me many times, and I will give an example of an incident that still stands out in my mind.

Sir, he had been admitted to Bay View Hospital, after breaking his ankle during St. Philip Carnival. One evening, on arrival for my normal visit, I saw a battery of media personnel in the car park at Bay View and my heart started to race. When I got out of my vehicle, I asked why were they here and they said to me that one of our erstwhile political colleagues was visiting him and he had let them know, and that the reporters were there to cover that visit.

10.10 a.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Edited Once

SENATOR Mrs. V. I. SANDIFORD-GARNER: I could not comprehend that level of thinking but I did not say anything. I went into the room, had a discussion with David and his wife Mara and he turned to her, after I had said what I said, and Mara said, "I completely agree with Irene," and the decision was made. I came out and I told them that they could not take any pictures in that hospital room. He was in a bed, he was not shaved, he looked vulnerable, he was incapacitated and even then I saw him as the future Prime Minister of Barbados and I was not prepared to allow any media house in Barbados to have pictures of him in that state in their library. Of course, I suffered the consequences of that decision and my former colleagues lambasted me, and I heard all about it. I received a phone call when I got home too from one of my former editors questioning the decision but, to this day, I do not regret taking that decision and I would say he respected the decision that we had taken because I would tell you, the human being that our former leader was, he would have let them take the picture without expecting that it could go any further.

Mr. President, I would tell you I was also at Executive Council the night he resigned following the St. Thomas By-election, and I can still hear the wails of the women who were at George Street, the night he handed in that letter. Why I recount this is because I would wish to add that David Thompson was loved by the members of the Democratic Labour Party, and specifically, the women of

the Democratic Labour Party, not only the young women but the older women, the real Dems. . Sir, I would seek your permission to call names like Undene Whittaker, Norma, Patsy, Pearlene, Elaine, Sandra, Kathy, Julie, women who buoyed him at his lowest moments and yes, Sir, the men played their part too but those strong women of the Democratic Labour Party kept David Thompson relevant.

I retreated with him in 2006, and Sister McClean here would attest to that, when we went into the mountains of Dominica to a monastery, no radio, no phone, nothing, just bare bed and cover. We went in with a number of other trusted allies and we engaged in frank and open discussion in our efforts to chart a strategy to regain the governance of a country that we felt need the intervention of God and purposeful leadership. Sir, at that time, I had no idea that David Thompson would have asked me to be a candidate but it was during that retreat that we saw the true nature of the man. Mr. President, I remember hearing, reading or seeing a title, "The Humbliest VIP". Sir, at that time he was not the Prime Minister but we saw him as the Prime Minister and, Sir, he was the humbliest VIP in that trip into Dominica.

Mr. President, my initial refusal to step into politics is well-documented and I make bold to remind you that you played a part as well. I eventually joined the team not because of any preconceived notions of increased social mobility after all my political fortunes at the time were tenuous at best and I was leading a relatively comfortable life. I have always said that I do not wish to be rich, I just wish to be comfortable, and I considered myself, at that time, near 50 and comfortable but, Sir, I sensed in David Thompson a commitment to social justice, sincerity and a real desire to serve, and a leader that I could trust to keep his word and, Sir, that was important to me. I had reached the point of self-actualisation in my life and if, indeed, I had to take the political step to give back to Barbados, I could have chosen no better person than David Thompson to hold my hand.

Sir, after the 2008 General Election, he called me and we discussed options and I chose mine. Sir. I have never discussed this publicly but I will say that I chose mine and I told the late David Thompson, "I want to win a seat, that is my priority, and anything that you would wish to facilitate me with, in winning that seat I would be grateful but remember, that is my priority, and I want nothing to miligate against that." He said, "Irene, I understand."

Sir, I saw David Thompson as a leader with compassion. Sir, someone once said that the difference between compassion and sympathy is that the one who sympathises sees and does nothing. The person who has compassion sees, feels and then does something about the need.

It is interesting to note that I recently participated in an international conference where the importance of gender balance was highlighted. I actually went to the conference the morning after our late Prime Minister was buried and the presenter, the noted gender specialist, Dr. Rosina Wiltshire, shared that male leaders who show gender balance and compassion in their governance place their countries at a distinct advantage. She said that these types of leaders show a propensity to allocate more of their resources to social programmes which enhance the well-being of women and children, the disabled, in effect, the more vulnerable in society. The compassionate leader is now being seen as the ideal 21st Century leader. Our late Prime Minister was ahead of his time and he came to helm when Barbados needed a compassionate leader.

The late David Thompson ensured that the reversed tax credit was increased. Sir, the majority of recipients of this initiative are women. He asked that child care facilities be established on the Harbour Road, an area where the majority of employees are women. He increased subventions to the disabled and he increased pensions. He ensured that families had fewer economic reasons not to send their children to school. He made sure that children travelled on the bus free of cost and he repeated the mantra every day, "families first", because families came first for our late Prime Minister and that is because he saw Barbados not as an economy as we have been saying all day and for the past week but as a society, and the society was built on the family and, Sir, he led by example.

Sir, during the 35th Assembly of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organisation of American States his contribution was recognised in a note of condolence, which I will make a document of this Chamber and I ask your permission, Sir, to read:

"The 35th Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women deeply saddened by the recent passing on the 23rd of October, 2010, of the Honourable David John Howard Thompson, Q.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Barbados from January of 2008 to October 2010 and recognising the fundamental rolethat the Prime Minister played as a leader and a statesman as well as his tireless commitment to development, human rights and democracy in Barbados and the wider Caribbean, recognising also the late Prime Minister's active commitment to the protection of women's rights and well-being and the promotion of their full participation in political process, conveys its condolences to the family and friends of Prime Minister Thompson and to the Government and people of Barbados and to the Caribbean Community and expresses its deep sorrow at the passing of

Prime Minister Thompson, which represents a great loss to his country, to the wider Caribbean and the hemisphere."

S/A36/1:21/26

Sequence 12/11

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SENATOR MRS. V.I. SANDIFORD-GARNER: .to the wider Caribbean and the hemisphere.

Sir, they also observed a minute's silence with respect to our Prime Minister.

Sir, when the World Bank intimated that we would have to re-evaluate our social programmes, I was there, along with Senator McClean, in Dominica, this year when the steelly resolve of our self-possessed confident Caribbean leader came to the fore and he sat with those World Bank officials, who would have attended the CARICOM Meeting, in the presence of the Barbados delegation and firmly told them that compromising the social programmes of Barbados was not an option; quiet, firm, confident. That story never reached the headlines of any newspaper, but I witnessed our leader standing firm in keeping Barbados out of the economic harms way.

Sir, he firmly believed that sound and prudent management of the resources which we possess would carry us through this recession. Sir, the recent ratings of Barbados proved that David Thompson's economic policies were on track. I spoke earlier of his compassion and his thoughtfulness, and I would wish to give another example. Sir, last year my sister had to undergo some extensive surgery. She was to have the operation during a stop-over I was making en route to Tanzania. I was passing through London. I texted the late Prime Minister and told him that I was thankful that he gave me the opportunity to make the trip, and I also told him that his good friend was having surgery and asked him to pray for her and think of her. On my way back to Barbados from Tanzania I visited my sister for a day. I was with her to wheel her through, and I felt grateful for that. On my way back I obviously would have stayed with her for that particular day, and she came out beaming, flashing a card, and showing me some half- withered flowers that she kept just to pose off on me with. She said, "These are from David Thompson, read this," and she gave me the note. I took the note and I slipped it in my bag. I was going to copy it. Before I left the hospital she said,

" Irene, I need back my card." Sir, the story here is, here was a man handling the affairs of State, a really busy man, a man who had a lot more important things to do, yet he took the time, not only to send her a note but to send her flowers and to let her know that he was thinking about her, that he felt that she was special.

Sir, I also remember him attending my children's constituency party year before and playing musical chairs with children, a sixteenth of his age, running around the pasture and actually taking up the chair that he was sitting with and running with it. Sir, I saw my Leader come down to that level because he enjoyed the presence of people and children especially - and I regret that I did not take a picture of that, then on leaving, taking time, amidst of the confusion and noise to thank one of the many friends and helpers there by saying to her, "You did not give me any of the hot dogs but I thank you for helping Irene." He was a Leader with a heart.

Sir, his compassionate governance guided him when he decided that no staff member of Illaro Court would be moved when he assumed the office, despite vigorous encouragement from some people, from all and sundry. Sir, I witnessed that staff cried long tears after the burial of David Thompson and we had retreated to Illaro Court. That compassion and respect was extended to every civil servant.

Sir, I remember the first Estimates that we had, when we won the Government, going up to Bay Street and seeing a friend of mine who would have taught me at University of the West Indies saying to me, "Girl, I just came out of Estimates and I feel good." He said to me that it was the first Estimates that he had attended in years where he did not have panic attacks, where he did not feel apprehensive.

Sir, David Thompson brought a kinder and gentler spirit to Bay Street. I worked with him for a year and I witnessed it. Sir, he accepted everybody at face value. He gave each person a chance until they proved his judgement wrong. I heard Oya speak of his instructions to her to do good to those that would seek to harm. I heard Hamilton Lashley recount how David Thompson never asked him why he left the Party, but welcomed him back. Sir, we heard about the gardener who revealed that he was an ex-convict and David Thompson gave him work when nobody else would.

Sir, never for one minute believed that the late Prime Minister was a walk-over. The late Prime Minister was not a walk-over.Sir, many learned to their detriment, and my colleagues could attest to that, that it was unwise to test his patience. That gentle easy-going manner cloaked a steely will-power and a sharp tongue, when necessary, he used it to bring persons in line. You did not test the late David Thompson. Sir, that same willpower and determination kept him relevant, dominant and irreplaceable on the Barbados political landscape. That willowier and determination also helped him to fight cancer. He kept fighting while Barbados prayed for a miracle.

Sir, I would message him but refused to discuss his illness. All I would say in reference to his sickness is, be well, at the end of every message. He would say he was keeping the faith. He was standing on God's promises. I was not in denial but I just felt that like Job, David was being tested yet again. After all, he had been tried and tested too often for and too long. Sir, none of us could conceive a fate being so cruel. As far as we were concerned the journey had just started for him. It had just started for us.

Sir, he was forty-eight-years-old, a Christian man, with a beautiful wife, children, parents, who were still alive, he had a vision for a nation, and the ending that loomed so ominously, seemed unkind and unfair, and I have asked God's forgiveness for questioning him.

Sir, I would now ask Barbados not to forget Mara and the other members of his family. They have a long journey ahead. They are currently being bouyed up by the national and regional outpouring of expressions of sympathy and solace, and they are focused on the final farewells, which would include tributes like these, but in the coming times they will begin the hard adjustment in private. They need to know that they will have a support team around them. They gave David to us and we need to give something back to them. I have already given the family my commitment because you would have met them through David, but I have learnt to like each and every one of them in their own right. Sir, they are beautiful people.

On behalf of my family, who loved David Thompson dearly, on behalf of the people of the constituency of St. Andrew, who would not have had an opportunity to express their sympathy publicly, I would wish to extend condolences.

Sir, I recently read a passage in the Book of James which gave me some strength. James 5 verse 11:

"We count those blessed who have endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful."

Sir, I prayer God will be merciful to my late colleague and my political mentor. Rest in peace my unselfish friend, and may you rise in perpetual glory.

I thank you.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR Hon. Miss M.P.O. McClean: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Sitting be now suspended for one hour, to be resumed at 2.30 p.m.

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

1.34 p.m.

Sequence 12

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

SENATE A36, sequence 13, 2.53 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Chandler.

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

Mr. President, I am truly saddened by the loss of our late Prime Minister, the Honourable David Thompson, especially at such an early age and with such young children and also at the pinnacle of his career.

I can certainly relate to the tremendous loss that his family feels, since I too lost my father who was actually a Combermerian as well, at a similar age. While my father died suddenly, the Thompson family had to face many months of anguish and agony with his illness, leading up to his death. I really admire their courage and I trust that the country will stand by them and continue to give them all the support they need.

Like many others, my first recollection of Mr. Thompson was as a school boy when he appeared on televised debates. I know that his outstanding ability was recognised at that time and it was really a hot topic. He was discussed a lot at that time. Therefore, it was really no surprise when he entered the political arena, again at a very early age. The high esteem in which the Honourable David Thompson was held was certainly obvious from the numbers of tributes which have poured in from all parts of the world. It was really amazing.

My fondest memories of Mr. Thompson were his really unswerving support for family life and I remember and admire one of his speeches at a "Families First" ceremony. He was so open and so genuine in all that he said. I also admired his ability to remain calm when he put across his points and his approachable and amiable manner. He appeared to be sincere in all that he said and even if you did not agree with everything that he did, you certainly felt he was doing what he genuinely thought best for the country. He did not appear to be in anyway devious, I thought.

Many people when they reach high positions tend to lose the human touch but Mr. Thompson seemed truly a man of the people, concerned with everybody's well-being

and he was comfortable with people of all walks of life. Although I have been greeted by Mr. Thompson on several occasions at official functions, I had only one real one-on-one very short conversation with Mr. Thompson, while at a National Consultation during a coffee break. Our conversation at that time really centered around arthritis and the possible benefits of goats' milk to control this disease. Again, this was an example of his down-to-earth type of personality.

It is unfortunate that having realised his life's dream that he was not given the time to put into practice his plans for the country, as a leader of Barbados but as our present Prime Minister noted at the remembrance service held for him in St. John that in the prose of life, we are not in charge of the punctuation and when a full stop is inserted, we cannot change it even to a question mark, so while we cannot help but ask why, we have to rely on the fact that the Almighty knows best and it is up to all those who are left now to take on the responsibility to uphold his legacies and do their part in taking Barbados forward.

I would like to express my sincere sympathy to Mrs. Thompson, the children and all the extended family. May he rest in peace.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Benn.

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

I rise to give support to this Resolution to pay tribute to the late leader of this great Government and Party and I want to just say a few words about David Thompson, the man. We have heard thousands of persons speak, and one of the great thing about it is that no two tributes have been the same.

Everyone has spoken glowingly of his service to the country and its citizens. I have heard and read of his leadership. The thousands of people who spoke and written may have used similar words but in varying context and the tributes have been glowing. They have spoken about his devotion to family. I want to remind persons that he established the Families First Programme. He had a deep interest in the youth of this country. He was committed to developing the nation's youth. He established the Barbados Youth Service and the Barbados Youth in Business Programme. He also initiated the restructuring of the National Youth Orchestra. David did it as a real man in the face of much criticism.

I remember when he first came spoke the Families First Programme, there was much criticism and ridicule but I had the satisfaction of checking to see those who were ridiculing him and criticising him to recognise that a high percentage of them had no children so they would not have known how it would be to talk about family first. He was a man that knew what it was to put family in place.

I remember this year in June when I sought permission to go to England to my son's graduation, he was on leave and I text him and said that I was going to my son's graduation. He sent me a long message indicating to me how wonderful it is that somebody can go and be with their family because I had indicated to him that myself, my wife, my first son and his wife, and my grandson, were all going to visit my second son, and to go to his graduation in England. He felt wonderfully happy about that and he spoke with me in a text message about the beauties and values of keeping families together. I thank him for that, Sir.

Mr. David Thompson was heavily involved in a number of cultural and sporting organisations. I know that he was a lover of football and cricket in particular and I used to wonder how he would find the time, after a long Cabinet meeting or a long day in the office and as you pass by a football field, and he is there on the field and enjoying the game just as much as those who had nothing to do during the day. He was an avid reader and had a love for literature on politics and international affairs.

David may not have been a deeply religious person to some persons, but many times I talked with him and he would tell me about his early upbringing in the Holetown Methodist Church and his love for hymns and singing. If you had an opportunity to be at a funeral or a church service with him, you would recognise that he could stand up and sing Hymns without even looking in the hymn book.

SENATE A36, sequence 13, 3.02 p.m.

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Senator the Hon. H. LaV. BENN: He seemed to have had a fantastic memory, maybe from childhood days because in our days as boys and girls, not you young ones now, but people in my age group would remember that at primary school you had to write out the hymns and you had to learn them, so I suspect that even though I am about 13 years older than he was at his death he had some of those days.

Mr. President, I remember that when he was ill, and he did take his illness like a man, I would text him once or twice a week and he would text me back within minutes of receiving my text message and I would share with him a number of bible verses and I said to him, I want you to read Psalms 46, God is my refuse and strength, Psalms 103 and Psalms 34 and he would indicate to me that his mantra is

Psalms 40. I remember that distinctly. I even remember one day joking with him when we were discussing some of the things that people would have done for and to us and I said to him you may one day read Psalms 37 verses 1 and 2 as well, fret not thyself because of evil doers but I was quick to point out to him the same Psalms 37 verse 23 said that the steps of a righteous man are ordered by the Almighty.

Mr. President, one day he wrote me back and said to me that he... Sometimes he described his church experience like going to a movie theatre where people acted mini parts. He said he enjoyed those days of going to church and seeing people doing the various things.

In all of this, Mr. President, Families First, sports, whatever, David was very much misunderstood. When you sit back and read or experience what others said about him from the days of his early youth before he was a teenager where he showed that leadership ability, a chosen one emerging and always showing that ability to lead, no wonder persons who perhaps were older than him or who had been in an organisation longer than him and seeing him developed there by God's will rather than become envious emulators of him became secret and villainous contrivers, figuring that he is trying to move perhaps much too quickly.

When he spoke about the things he wanted to do, he was very much misunderstood, accused of being power hungry. As I said, his Families First Programme is heavily criticised but he firmly believed in giving people around him opportunities they deserve to prove themselves.

Mr. President, I want to thank him for an opportunity that he provided for me because I was apparently the heir apparent for the seat in St. Peter since 1986. Everybody expected Haynesley Benn to be a candidate since 1986. I remember speaking to him after the 2003 election and giving him the reason why I did not contest or perhaps could not contest. He would say to me, Haynesley, all good things come to those who wait, do not let anybody push you into anything that you do not want to get into as yet, then in 2007 leading up to 2008 when we spoke, he gave me much encouragement because I said to him I am ready and he said, do not convince me Haynesley that you are ready, I know you are, there are other people that you would need to convince because the feeling was that I am timid to face the tape. Mr. President, I am telling you that he gave me tremendous encouragement and I want to thank him for that.

Mr. President, he was very forgiving. I remember discussing with him one day some of my life experiences because occasionally I would call him and ask him, do you have five minutes and sometimes after a Cabinet meeting, I would say Prime Minister you can spare me ten minutes and he would say come, and I will sit down just for that ten minutes. I remember one morning I called him and asked to see him and he said come to Illaro Court at a quarter past nine Haynesley, 15 minutes only, you know you like to talk, he said. I said PM, the only way that I like to talk is if you listen and if you did not like to listen to me, I would not talk so much. He said come in 15 minutes. That 15 minutes, quarter past nine appointment, ended at 10 o'clock, not on my talking but on his listening. He was a good listener, Mr. President. Mr. President, he gave me some tremendous advice. One day he touched me by saying to me Haynesley, do not worry about those people who would have despitefully used you, I want you to embrace them, I want you to learn to forgive. Mr. President, I could safely say without a shadow of a doubt that even though there were one or two people who might have sought to despitefully used you, and you might have in your feeling forgiven them but not forgotten them, he said to me shake off those shackles. Mr. President, I therefore want to say to those persons that when his corpse disappeared from the face of the earth last Wednesday just prior to this same time here, I did not feel heavy at all, I felt that those things he had taught me about forgiveness that I had brought closure to those things. If there was anybody I felt that had done me wrong, I love them and I feel now that I could embrace them.

Sir, by the time that body disappeared what he had told me came home to me forcefully and that is one of the things that he has left with me. I want to be able to say to people that I love them, I mean with a different kind of love. I love Senator Sandiford and I love Senator Maxine but with a different kind of love, I am not saying that they have done me wrong, I am talking about a different kind of love. The Reverend would talk about agape love.

What I want to say today, Mr. President, is that David the man thought me about forgiving people and I told myself that I intend to grasp that and run with it. I do not think that anybody from hereon in could do me anything bad enough that I cannot forgive them. That is one of the things that he has left with me.

Mr. President, his biological years far outweighed his chronological age. You would hear a man at 48 talking and he had the experience of a 75 years old or 80 years old ... I used to know him as a boy in the Young Democrats, you would hear a young 20, 22, 23 year young man relating experiences and talking to you as though he had the experience of a 50-year old person. The man was that grounded. That was David the man. A man that you could sit down at his feet as those persons in the older days sat at the feet of Gamaliel and learn.

He was young but yet experienced. He made himself readily available to all. He knew everybody and he knew a lot of things about everybody, good things I must say. If you go and you talk to him about somebody he would say,

Oh, you mean Sunita, Oh yes, I know her father and he would tell you some things. I did not know that he knew her but he knew things.

His constant advice was, never start something which you cannot finish Benn, he would always tell me that, and whatever you get into, see it through to the end.

Senate A36 Sequence 13

3.14 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Senator the Hon. HAYNESLEY LaV. BENN: . . .

Mr. President, he said: "Haynesley, I know what it is to receive a few knocks, a few hard punches along the way. I know what it is to feel like it is all over. I know the agony of defeat." He was also able to say: "But I have also enjoyed the thrill of victory." He said to me: "Haynesley, when you succeed in your chosen field, give something back to those around you." Mr. President, oftentimes he would ask me how much time do I spend in St. Peter because he knew that he spends a lot of time in St. John, and he wanted for all of us who have sought the support of those constituencies that we chose to represent or are representing, that we give not only time but that we give something back to those communities. These are things he has left with us.

Mr. President, as a matter of fact, the morning I received the message of his passing, I did not feel too terrible about because I did not believe it. When my son called me about 3.30 a.m. to tell me that the Honourable Prime Minister had passed away, I said: "Oh, that is not true, people have said that four times already." I told my son that this was the fourth or fifth message for the month that David Thompson had passed away so I did not believe this one, as I did not believe the others. I then called one or two of my colleagues who confirmed it to me.

Mr. President, I say to all around here, let us take his passing, let us find what we could out of his passing to carry on, to live. What can we take from his passing? What aspect of his living can we adopt? Sir, one of the beautiful things when I read my Bible that morning, I read about the tears of the sower and the joy of the reaper shall mingle together. I told myself that while the voices of the sower and the joy of the weeper, that at the end of the day, I want to find out which voice comes to the fore. Sir, it was no mistake when I read from my "Daily Word" at Ezra Chapter 3, verse 13. It said to me:

"The people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of their weeping..."

Mr. President, it is said that grieving is like that, for while there is sadness in looking back, it also includes an abundance of joy in trusting God for the future.

Sir, when I was given the assurance by Reverend Senator David Durant that during the time of his illness, David Thompson had given his life entirely over to God, I felt a great joy. I am therefore saying to all of us, while we grieve, and we hear the voices of the grieving, I also listen to the voices of joy and the joy in my heart outweighs the grieving that is there.

Mr. President,

"When we sorrow as no others do;

Whose hope fade like the flower;

There is a hope that's born of God;

And such a hope is ours."

Mr. President, I spoke to his children at the reception we had at Illaro Court in the evening and I said to them that while they cry, and you must cry because tears are a language that God understands, God picks the most beautiful flowers for his bouquet. God has gathered him as a flower for his bouquet. Let us be faithful till life's work is done.

Mr. President, from my "Daily Word" once again:

"Blooming with love;

Until the reaper shall come for us;

Then we will be gathered together, forever;

Transplanted to bloom, [as David is in the Master's bouquet]."

Mr. President, I am saying, let us therefore take something out of the life that he lived. What then are you going to take out of that life? I have already told you that I will embrace that aspect of forgiveness, those things that he stood for that would have brought joy to the hearts of people around him. Therefore, as I close, my call to my colleagues is that while we grieve, let us, at the end of the day, see where we can reach and let us take the baton that he has handed to us to make this country Barbados a better place because he had in his heart that he wanted to see a Barbados where the young, middle-aged and old can mingle together in joy in the by and by.

Mr. President, I want to say to his grieving family, take heart, let God's goodness and mercy follow you all the days of our lives, whatever we have left. Let us as a people

in this Honourable Senate and in the Other Place, as a people in the entire Democratic Labour Party family, indeed, the entire Barbados, let us wish that all of us could join hand and take this wonderful country forward. Mr. President, may his soul rest in peace.

Senator The Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLOW: Mr. President and Honourable Senators, it is with a tremendous sense of personal loss that I rise to extend sincerest condolences on behalf of my family to the widow, children, parents and other relatives of my friend, the late Honourable David Thompson, Prime Minister of Barbados.

Mr. President, the manner in which Mrs. Thompson and her family were brought into the full glare of the many thousands who gathered to pay their final respect and offer sympathies was exemplary. This kind of demeanour is usually associated with royalty who are trained from childhood to stand on ceremony. This is how your beloved husband and father would have wanted you to conduct yourselves. This linked you with the battle he was waging for his life. There is much you have to thank God for in his life and work, to have to share your husband and daddy with so many other families is not easy, and most men who devote themselves to looking after the welfare of society are not successful in keeping their own families intact. You are also blessed in having a few months to prepare yourselves for the worst, should it have come. There is nothing more disastrous to a person involved in his or her close relatives than sudden death. Only those who have experienced this actually know about it. As I came in, I heard Senator Francis Chandler speaking about her father who died suddenly, and he was young too.

Mr. President, the petition in our Litany:

"From battle, murder and sudden death;

Good Lord deliver us,"

has a lot of meaning, for it helps us to prepare ourselves spiritually and for our loved ones to avoid the terrible shock to the system, which takes years to get over.

3.23 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Edited Once

Senator the Very Reverend H.E. CRICHLOW: ... Mr. President, I am sure he would have spoken of his great level of respect for the Honourable David Thompson. His first encounter with him was in the early 1990s when he was in the Minister of Finance and grappling with an economic crisis. He was 30 years of age then but one could already tell from his calm approach and deep understanding of the issues at hand that he was going to be a future leader of Barbados.

Mr. President, one of his successes, amongst other things, was the creation of the financial incentives to get the Royal Westmoreland Project started. This project was the beacon of recovery of tourism in Barbados in the 1990s. As far as business is concerned, he made himself available to both small businesses and corporations. His dry wit made him that more personable and, as Senator Cave could say, whenever he was in his company, he made him feel very welcome and he had a tremendous ability to listen and pay attention to what was being said. He knew what the priorities for Barbados' future were, and was assiduously to lead the country in that direction.

Over the last couple of years, we have witnessed the ability of the late Prime Minister, and with his tremendous skills to connect to the people of Barbados, he endeared himself to a huge cross section of our nation. He knew that St. John was his stronghold and this was evident by the last election results. The late Prime Minister left very fine examples for future leaders of our country to follow and it is very much regretted that he was unable to fully carry out his vision for Barbados and the Caribbean.

Mr. President, we thank Mrs. Thompson and the children and the family for all the sacrifices that they have made so that Barbados and the Caribbean could benefit from the extensive contribution which he made to their development, and we continue to pray that God will grant you courage and strength to survive this ordeal.

Mr. President, I first met David Thompson when I was invited by the then principal of Combermere to give a talk to the sixth form in the 70s. I was struck by his very critical attitude to receive opinions, his acute analysis of issues and his mature views among other qualities. Sir, I do not know of the origin of the expression sometimes used for Combermere, that is, the University of Waterford, but this approach that David showed me to knowledge is that of a university. Sir, the sixth form experience of Barbadians, is almost equivalent, if not equivalent, to the first year experience at a university, and I hope that wouldcontinue to be so.

I am not going to deal with big question of the spirit of Combermere because it will take me hours to do that and people will have to write books on it but recently, and I found it only last night as I was looking at preparing, a letter from a friend of mine, John Wickham, whom all of you know, and in the postscript, this is what he said: "What is there about Combermere that makes it so special in the lives and memories of so many of its products?" My own grandson is at school there and is already a victim of its particular virus, everything in his life seems to hang on the school, from hockey, cadets, to day camps, to his

schoolmates. He is much the same as our son, Bruce, who now lives in Canada but for whom Combermere and his old friends, and his days there are indestructible memories.

Sir, people are always asking me, "why are Combermerians like that". I humbly accept the tributes that are paid to our old school, Mr. President, and I hope some time that somebody will write a book entitled "The Spirit of Combermere".Sir, I do know that our Motto has in it "Religione" which means through religion, "Humanitate" through the humanitarian area and outlook and "Industria" industry and hard work.

Mr. President, I was most impressed by David's mature approach and his responsible attitude to public affairs and I have admired him every since. I somehow gained the impression over the years that he aspired to be a great Prime Minister, and a greater Prime Minister than Tom Adams. I do not know where I got that from but I just remember he had some of the antics of Tom Adams, but I think he was always competing with his memory and he wanted to be a better Prime Minister than he was.Sir, the outpourings of love, respect and sympathy over the last few months have shown this to be true.

Sir, we met at Combermere Old Scholars' functions and at public events. I remember reminding him when he was in Opposition of two lines from our schools song:

"Foes in plenty we shall meet,

Hearts courageous scorn defeat."

Asides.

Senator the Very Reverend H.E. CRICHLOW: We are all Combermarians in here?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

Senator the Very Reverend H.E. CRICHLOW: Thank you. From your applause, I see that the majority of you are from Combermere. Sir, in the run-up to the last elections David told me that his time had finally come, that is, he knew that he would win the elections. The Mascoll fiasco was part of his strategy of his final victory and should not be held against the late Prime Minister.

S/A36/3:23:56

Sequence 16

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Senator the Very Rev. H.E. CRICHLOW: Mr. Mascoll has benefitted tremendously from this sacrifice, and we call in Chess and he will always be remembered along with David Thompson. Sir, just think of what Barbados, the Caribbean and the world community would have missed, had he not been sacrificed.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Could we have some order, please?

Senator the Very Rev. H.E. CRICHLOW: I see that chess players are few in this Honourable Senate. On the last occasion we spoke, his stand on immigration was being criticised because of a misunderstanding of the CARICOM rules, despite his pointing out that the complete rules is one of the goals of Caribbean integration had not yet been realised. Of course, we have come a long way in realising some of that and certain people in certain categories to move freely. Sir, he was one of the main causes of the collapse of the first Federation of the West Indies, as you know, and Prime Minister Thompson did not want that to happen again. We should learn from our mistakes, he would have said.

Prime Minister Thompson's life has much to teach us, especially our young people. I heard it on the radio, just now, in Senator's Benn's tribute, and many others have said that. Today's youth are living in very challenging times and they need all the help they can get. The rate of change has never been as fast as in preceding centuries and it will become more so as technology continues to advance and communications keep pace with it. The foundations are again being shaken and to the useless question why, the answer is we have always done it like that, or because I say so, will not do, the youth must be shown the reasons for the actions they are called upon to make. That is the first thing I noticed about the young sixth former, David, his inquiring mind and his fearlessness, his boldness and his questioning conventional wisdom.

Sir, tributes speak of his passionate dedication to whatever kind of work he was doing. This is the best way of ensuring success or all endeavours. Preparation is hard work and most especially for those who want to lead. David's motto seemed to be prepared, prepare, prepare. Too many people are satisfied with mediocrity. We need to be proficient in whatever our work is and this leads to excellence.

Sir, our survival in Barbados depends on our people's readiness to work and to work within will. We do not have the material resources to provide a comfortable living for all our citizens, but we are trying hard to do so. Most of our money is spent on helping all our citizens to develop themselves. Mr. President, the late Prime Minister has set a good example of this, and let this inspire us to work harder for our country and our families.

Sir, service before self is another of the late Prime Minister Thompson's distinguishing characteristics. Also, of some concern is self and its promotion. No society can prosper in its individual looking after themselves only. We need to be conscious of others and of their total welfare. The institution of Government is designed to foster harmony and balance in our human relationships. It is to prevent the strong form taking advantage of the weak, the rich of the poor, the healthy of the sick, the mentally and physically endowed of the mentally and physically challenged, the highly educated of the poorly educated, the culturally enriched of the culturally impoverished. This is done mostly by enacting laws, hence the root of laws by which we live and wish needs to be accepted, respected and adhered to by all citizens.

Sir, we are at the stage where we see all of this in terms of human rights instead of human wrongs. The limit of what rights extends to the limits of other people's rights, this is what by living is meant by living in organised society as opposed to anarchy. Since we are now living in a global village, we need to have organised societies in every part of the planet. The late Prime Minister serves this empathy well to the point of sacrificing his own health, or rather his own life, over a long period of time, because of the illness that led to his death, has we have learnt from medical science. Sir, pancreatic cancer is not contracted overnight. It is usually discovered after many years of being in our bodies, some people say twenty years or more.

Sir, our late Prime Minister yearned for the unity of Caribbean people. The vast majority of us although organised or otherwise influenced by many of the industrial and developed countries are now free to be our ourselves and to recognise the many attributes we have in common. This recognition is leading to the development of a Caribbean identity and on a larger scale a Caribbean civilisation.

Sir, we may speak many different languages but that adds to our uniqueness as a people. Our unity has been forged out of wholesale suffering and degradation. In every case it has been shown that the enslaved have conquered them over masters, being slavers.

Sir, Haiti, of course, is a clear example of this. A bunch of slaves making the best army in Europe. Those with a philosophical dent will recognise this is the master slave directed, which goes back to the Plato and Aristotle period of pre -philosophy.

One of my former Principals at Codrington College, an Englishman, once told me that we West Indians are very clever because we beat them at their own game all the time, that is true. We in the Caribbean are able to recognise human beings and we see human beings as one human race. There is nothing debatable about that. This cannot be said of people in certain countries. We in the Caribbean need each other. We are only truly at home when we are in the Caribbean where we do not have to explain to others that we are human beings.

Mr. President, Barbados has always been in the forefront of matters Caribbean. We created university education, the administration of justice, at the highest level. The late Prime Minister gave inspiring leadership in all these activities and hoped for a successful outcome. It was very comforting to hear from the Prime Minister Thompson's personal physician say, that throughout his illness he was on top of it, and he prayed that God's will be done. That is the essence of pray which the majority of us do not understand and so do not experience the saving power of Christ.

Sir, many of us think that when you pray you expect God to change his will. That is not prayer but wishful thinking. Even though we put Dear God in front as our Jesus Christ, Our Lord at the end, when we pray we bring our weak and sinful wills, or we seek to do so, into line with God's will for us. We say every day the Lords Pray but we never believe it nor understand it, for we then proceed to speak, think and do what we always wanted.

So what sense it is in praying, Our Father who art in heaven, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, and then expecting our will to be done.

Sir, the late Prime Minister Thompson abandoned himself to God's care and keeping, to God's .....

3.43 p.m.

Sequence 17

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

SENATE A36, sequence 18, 3.43 p.m.

Senator the Very Rev. H.E. CRICHLOW: When Jesus was in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane he prayed that is it is possible unto thee, take this cup of suffering from me, if not my will but thy will be done. The following day, he suffered the crucifixion.

As human being we only know a little part of a person's life and motives. God knows us entirely and he knows what is best for us. When we surrender ourselves to God's holy and loving will we will have no regrets whatever. Physical death is not the end of all our human striving. Christians believe in life after death, life of a different kind all together but we do not have to wait until we die to experience this kind of life that is not bounded by space and time, as this human life is. We begin to experience it here and now in a partial way, when we love

God with all our being and we love others in the way that Christ loved us, that is by sacrificing ourselves for others and I think that is what the late Prime Minister David did, Sir.

We experience a higher kind of living which frees us from being dominated by our simple passions and from the fear of physical death. Our sights are set not on death but on the continuation of that spiritual life, which was begun here. This does not mean that we lose our appetite for this earthly life but that we have found a life that is not bounded by space and time, as this life is. It is a life of relationships really.

Jesus said that I have come that you might have life and you might have it more abundantly. Again, this is eternal life that they may know thee, the one true God and him whom thou has sent, even Jesus Christ. When the Priest forgives the sins of Penitence, every time the Eucharist is celebrated, he prays that God will keep them in eternal life.

Mr. President, so much had been said about our late Prime Minister's love of family and love of country that I need not repeat it. I have given numerous talks on these two topics, which many people have suggested that I should publish. I have been much inspired by David's work in these fields and will consider publishing them. I know it is slow to publish as I am to write.

Before I close, Mr. President, I must comment on one disturbing feature I was aware of in recent weeks. I am aware of the sensitivity of this matter but for the national good, I feel I must say it. All of us, without exception would have liked Prime Minister David to have recovered from his illness and wished it for him, for his family and for the nation. Medical reports stated how very, very ill he was and tried to warn us against expecting too much. Instead of preparing ourselves as David himself was doing, most of us expected a miracle.

Sir, a few people expecting a miracle is not a problem but when vast numbers do, we have to be extremely cautious. We are all deeply emotional beings, and religious emotions that are not properly handled can be very dangerous. Despite such emotions most people tend to live on their surface emotions, that is, their sensations that are so variable.

Jesus had to face this problem in his wilderness temptations, when he was thinking of how he should establish the Kingdom of God, what kind of Messiah he would be, that is. The temptation to be a miracle working Messiah came to him. The tempter reasoned like this:

If you go up on the Temple Tower, when thousands of people are gathering for worship and jump down and land safely, for the scripture says that God will give his angels charge over you to protect you that you hurt not your foot against the stone, people will follow you wherever you go.

Mr. President, people like the sensational. They like to see miracles, extraordinary things. It has been a severe temptation for people in every age and country but Jesus rejected it and said that thou shall not tempt the Lord Thy God. God must not be put to the test. Jesus preferred death on the cross to that way of bringing people to God. He will not encourage people to live on this cheap sensational level and God is not found in this way either.

We are all beings who think and feel and will, that is, make choices. It does not take too much to stir up people's sensations. Nowadays, high-powered advertising can draw a crowd easily. Many of our young people ruin their beautiful and healthy lives by wanting to experience cheap sensations.

Mr. President, another mistake many people make is to confuse those of us, who are mere instruments, agents or channels through which God's healing power flows, with God who heals. This is not new. In Acts Chapter 3, Peter had to warn people about this. The incident was the healing of the crippled beggar at the beautiful gate of the Temple. Peter said:

"Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have, I give thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

The crowds rushed to the porch in amazement to see Peter and John who had performed the miracle. Peter's response to this situation was:

"Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? Or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness, we had made this man to walk?"

"The God of Abraham, and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers has glorified his Son Jesus; whom he delivered up and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he would determined to let go."

"But ye denied the Holy One and Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you."

"And killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses."

"And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."

Mr. President, I have never been able to understand how we in this region seem untouched by the dreadful massacre that occurred, which took place a few short years ago in the interior of Guyana, when the so-called religious leader murdered almost 1 000 people from the USA, who wanted to live a perfect life by making them drink poison. I supposed it is because the religion does not go very deep in most of us in the region. We have the form of religion but not the substance. This is called religiosity, the mere show of religion.

It was certainly refreshing, Mr. President, to hear that our late Prime Minister had the right idea of what the Christian religion was all about. I hope that more of us will be inspired by his example to treat our religion more seriously.

I believe in spiritual healing, Mr. President, but I have resisted in my own ministry of 50 years, the urge to develop this aspect of it because of the many dangers involved.

Mr. President, Members of the Senate, I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bradshaw.

Senator S.J.O. BRADSHAW: Mr. President, I rise on this occasion to pay tribute to the late Prime Minister David Thompson. I must admit I had always thought that on entering public life and walking up the steps of Parliament, I would have been turning left instead of right and in the Chambers I would have found none other than the late Prime Minister, sitting in Parliament representing the constituency of St. John.

Unfortunately, today being the first day that I address these Chambers, the late David Thompson is no longer with us and I must say that I am particularly saddened by this loss. As someone who has over the years, followed his career, politics and law, and I have certainly admired the contribution that he has made to the development of Barbados.

SENATE A36, sequence 18, 3.53 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Senator S. J. O. BRADSHAW: I am therefore deeply saddened and I express condolences to his family, to his wife Mara, who was a Physical Education Teacher to me when I was at Christ Church Foundation School and also to his beautiful daughters, whom I am sure will sadly miss the late Prime Minister. Being a child of a politician I must say that his loss certainly hit me very hard because I cannot help but think how I would feel if I also lost my father. My heart goes out to his three young daughters and his wife in particular and also to his mother because I know that the contribution a parent sometimes makes in public life, especially a distinguished gentleman such as the late Prime Minister, is sometimes a contribution that the family at times often makes a sacrifice for because they realise that it is for the betterment of the country of Barbados.

Mr. President, I say this because I have first-hand knowledge of this. I know that the late Prime Minister would have contributed significantly to the parish of St. John, a parish that many of my relatives are also from. I believe that most of my grandparents were brought up in Venture and Edgecliff in St. John, so the history between my family and St. John is certainly very dear. I know that he represented the constituency of St. John for the greater part of his life and he did so valiantly.

I would say that his loss is a loss to the young people of Barbados. I believe that Mr. Thompson, on all the occasions that I have met him, believed in young people and in giving young people an opportunity to serve. I can say this as well because I had the opportunity to speak with him on several occasions, particularly at various cultural events in my capacity as the Manager of Pyramid Entertainment.

Mr. President, I will say that on all occasions Mr. Thompson, regardless of the different sides that we stood on, and he certainly knew the side that I stood on at the time, nonetheless always ask for my parents, he always try to find out what it was that I was doing at the time and try to find out and engage me in conversations about my future career in politics. He was also well-aware that I had ambitions to enter politics later in life.

There were times during the period where my father would have served with the Democratic Labour Party as well, when Mr. Thompson would often call our home and on each occasion he would also ask me various questions about what was happening and just engage short conversations about political life. I have seen this gentleman on television, I have listened to him on the radio, I have seen him walk amongst several leaders and amongst the common man and at all times the one thing that always stood out was that he certainly had the common touch, he knew how to connect with people.

I also enjoyed him in the capacity backstage at several events. Many of you would have seen him at several events over the course of the past few years, particularly as we got closer to the last election. I often remark to my father that David Thompson knew what he was doing as it related to the cultural entrepreneurs in Barbados. At the time he spent a lot of energy devoted to working with a number of the entrepreneurs, meeting with them and discussing initiatives that would no doubt benefit and redound to the benefit of a number of the entrepreneurs in the industry.

In some ways, he may not have had the opportunity once he entered the political arena and became Prime Minister to fulfill a number of the things that he might have been able to do. I know that I speak with a certain certainty that I believe Mr. Thompson certainly had the best interest of the cultural industries at heart. He and I often share the stage at events with the well-known personality "Lil Rick". He would be on one side of the stage and I would be on the other but he would always be present to ensure that the events ran well and that he was there with his other colleagues to enjoy the events of the evening.

His loss is certainly one that the cultural entrepreneurs, I am sure, are also feeling because although to many he was a politician, he was also a personal friend. I am sure I can say on behalf of those persons in the music industry that we are also saddened by his loss and I can convey at this point the sincere condolences on behalf of persons whom I have worked with in the music industry who may not have the opportunity in a forum such as this to give praises to the late David Thompson.

I will also say that he was a role model for several youth. Indeed, the qualities that he possessed, certainly a lot of young people should look up to. I believe that he certainly showed us that if you set about to do something, you do it to the best of your ability and you stop at nothing else until you are able to achieve that. I believe that it is unfortunate that he never had the opportunity to fulfill a number of things that he had set about to do but only God knows why he was taken from us at this point in time.

Mr. President, I hope that the members of the Democratic Labour Party would not allow his legacy to die, that his legacy would live on. As we should do with all former leaders and persons who have contributed distinguished service to the development of Barbados, we must remember him and we must remember that contribution that he has made and never allow political differences at times to get in the way of what it is that we know deep down in our hearts we must do to reward persons who have contributed to the development of the society. I say to all of you that his memory will live on. I believe he has touched the lives of several persons. He has enriched the lives of several individuals. He certainly has been someone that I have looked up to, although, as I said, we were on different sides.

The last occasion I spoke to him was at "Reggae on the Hill" earlier last year. He had invited me into his VIP backstage area to greet with him and to meet some of the other artistes as well. This was shortly after my candidacy had been announced and Mr. Lashley in the Honourable House had been nominated as the candidate for the Democratic Labour Party. I remember Mr. Thompson saying to me I hope that you are ready for what lies ahead. I turned to him and said and I hope that you are ready as well for what lies ahead.

At that time I did not know the fate that would meet him and I am sure that he too would have perhaps wanted to see me also become a member of the Parliament of Barbados. I am sure that he would have continued in his own way to encourage and to enjoy the cordial relationships that he had with me over the years.

Mr. President, I say to this Honourable Senate that it is with a great sense of loss that I feel for the family of the late Prime Minister. To his daughters again I say take from all that you have heard about your father and carry that with you through your life. Believe me that as I enter political life and I hear about the service that my own father has also given to Barbados, it makes me proud. It is one thing that I believe that when all is said and done that these young ladies will, I am sure, have the qualities that David Thompson brought to the fore and to the people of Barbados. That is one thing that can never be taken away from you.

I know, Mr. President, that you also have children who are in the legal arena and you have also given distinguished service to this country as well. I just say to all of you that the people of Barbados, regardless of which side of the political landscape that you are on, that I think it is certainly a great challenge for us to enter political life, to balance our careers as well with the challenges of the whole life as well but once we rise to the occasion I think that we are able to do so in a way that redounds to the benefit of all Barbadians.

Again, I give my sincere condolences to the family and to the family of the Democratic Labour Party as well. I say once again that he has left this earth but his memory will continue to live on in the minds of all Barbadians.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Durant.

Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. DURANT: Mr. President, I too stand to support this Resolution and to pay tribute to our late Prime Minister, David John Howard Thompson. I want to just give a quote by W. E. Channing who said:

"Life is a fragment, a moment between two eternities, influenced by all that has preceded and to influence all that follows."

Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. DURANT: Mr. President, Barbados has indeed lost one of its most brilliant political minds in our late Prime Minister. Sir, apart from being a shrewd politician and a feared opponent, the late Honourable David John Howard Thompson was a compassionate man, he was very considerate and very caring. In other words, he was a caring human being. He was a man for all people, regardless of colour or race; regardless of whether you are rich or poor; whether you are living in the Heights and Terraces or in the alleys or villages. Mr. President, he was a man for all people, children gravitated to him.

Sir, last week as he laid in State in the St. John's Parish Church, I was taken aback at the many children who were crying. I told myself how much he has affected even these little children, they so dearly loved him that their parents had to be consoling them. Children, teenagers, young adults, senior citizens, I saw them all weeping at different times and on different occasions. The fellows 'liming' by the shops and those on the 'blocks' all had the same sentiments, he was a man whom they respected, a man whom they felt warm in his presence, a man who treated them like a human being.

Mr. President, the story has already been told of the gardener. Sir, who would have taken someone incarcerated for 16 years and leave him with his three girls and his wife and go off to work? It means that David had to be confident about himself and that his family had that confidence in his decisions. He was willing to give a man another chance on life. Of course, that gentleman took that chance and is still employed there.

Mr. President, our late Prime Minister was selfless and very sacrificial. Sir, a life of commitment, sincerity, integrity and sacrifice will always produce the deepest impression. Sir, may I remind us that lighthouses do not blow horns, they only shine. Sir, here was a man who was shining, he was not blowing his own trumpet, he was doing what he was called to do, serving faithfully.

Mr. President, I am very touched by his passing, being very close to him in those final months, especially being there at his bedside at that final moment. I am convinced we had a colossal lighthouse among us, shining brightly on the minds and hearts of our populace, not only here in Barbados but both in and outside of this region, from the many tributes and condolences for his last 48 years.

Mr. President, maybe there are many of us who did not treat him the way that he should have been treated. He was a visionary of outstanding ability, he was capable of receiving and communicating with tremendous insight, wrapped in clarity. He fought for social justice, fairness and equality for all. In an island where many men have little or no regard for family life and its importance to the social stability of our society, our late Prime Minister set a very good example for us to follow, even in the establishment of the Families First Foundation, a foundation that his family intends, I am sure, to carry on in his honour. It is hoped that the many young men, who wish to honour him, would emulate the kind of example he set as a family man in this island. Mr. President, this will do well in developing strong communities because strong families produce strong communities and strong communities will ultimately result in building a very strong nation.

Mr. President, part of his last words during the last several months were to love, to unite, to build and to heal. Sir, he had the nation in mind. Sir, even though he knew, he was hoping for his healing and for a miracle. He felt he was on his way out, yet he was sending those messages across to us.

Mr. President, his dream was to become a Prime Minister one day and this was achieved in January 2008. It is not how many years you live but how much you put into those years that really counts. At 48 years he was a young man and though he was young in age, he was old politically, starting from a very young age, from all the testimonies we have heard. Mr. President, throughout all the difficult challenges he faced as a politician, he still managed to make it to the top and became a Prime Minister. Sir, someone said, and I quote:

"The secret of success is like a duck;

Smooth and unruffled on top;

But paddling furiously."

Mr. President, this is the picture of the late Honourable David Thompson, many times he seemed unruffled, many times he retained his wonderful composure yet he was still focused and going towards his goal. Sir, he was able to achieve that goal as Prime Minister, though not able to keep it for a very long time. Sir, God in his sovereignty has the last say and we do not fly in the face of God. Sir, we can say that he was not like some people who climbed the ladder of success, only to find it leaning on the wrong wall. His was leaning on the wall of integrity, honesty, transparency, commitment and sacrifice. Sir, these are all virtues that we should continue to uphold.

David Thompson was very strong on the family unit, as was said today, many times you would see him out with his youngest daughter, maybe because he recognised that he did not have as much time with her as he did with the other two. As he got very busy during his last years, he tried to do his best to be with her. These are values that we should all emulate and follow, if we are going to lift the honour of this man in this nation. Sir, no wonder Dr. Ira

Jacobson, the Chief Gastro-enterologist of the New York Presbyterian Hospital said, and I quote:

"We need more leaders like him on the international stage and his tragic passing is a loss to the world."

Mr. President, please note that she said to the world and not just to Barbados, he had a tremendous influence, not only to this dear island but we are comforted by the many tributes that came from all over the world. His legacy is there for all to see and some were mentioned already. He made sure he wanted to get the children in a comfortable environment, away from the culture of the music and the rough and ruggedness of the minibuses and he gave them free bus rides. He established Constituency Councils. He had quarterly briefing with the media and Press on his stewardship of the nation and of the economy. He established free summer camps for our school children, instead of those children having to endure those long summers at home and falling into mischief.

4.15 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Sequence 21 (Left)

Senator Rev. Dr. D.L. DURANT: free summer camps for our school children instead of enduring those long summers at home and falling into mischief. Sir, Mrs. Thompson throughout his illness showed an incredible commitment, she is a remarkable lady. Sir, in Bajan parlance we would say she was by his side 24/7. Whenever I visited, she is always there, I call and she is always there.

Sir, I journeyed to New York to the Presbyterian Hospital to be there to share some scriptures with him, to pray with him, to encourage him and to let him know that he was not alone in this, that we were there with him. I sat down in the hospital, his wife was there and himself, and it was such a good time of sharing and praying and encouraging him. Of course, at that time, he just had the strength of character to say that he was still going to make it. He said: "I am still holding on, I am going to make it."

Sir, I had the blessed privilege of leading him to the Lord in that relationship, not only in knowledge but an intimate personal relationship. No wonder his letters to us could have been in strong with biblical principles and also scriptures, as well as the note he sent to his constituency in St. John. I remember him saying in that letter, and I quote:

"Know for sure, that this experience has brought me closer to God whose compassionate love and grace I commend to you based on my personal experience these past six months".

He came into that knowledge of understand of who God really was and he could have boldly said, having that assurance, though his body riddle with that disease, pancreatic cancer, yet he knew that though this body would be destroyed, yet he would see God one day. Sir, that was the assurance he had.

Mr. President, those last moments of his life I would never forget. I stood by his bed side and I saw a man at peace no more riveted with pain but free and relaxed. After giving one hour and half electoral speech he felt satisfied, he laid back and that was it for him, and with a smile on his face he just laid there as if to say: "I have completed the task". Along with a pastoral colleague of mine that I had asked to accompany me, we read scriptures, we prayed, we talked and he had a wonderful transition from this life to the next, at peace, and with a smile on his face, a sense of contentment that says, I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, the faith that he came to know more realistically and intimately in his last six months more than ever before in his life.

The strongest evidence of love is sacrifice and I must say that I admire the sacrifice that his dear beloved wife, Mara, demonstrated in standing by him, day after day, hour after hour, week after week, not wanting to leave his side, always wanting to be there when he says, Mara, she is ready to respond. We really need to continue keeping her and the young ladies in our prayer.

Sir, life with Christ is an endless hope, life with without him is a hopeless end. He died with that hope. He died knowing it was well with his soul. He passed away at peace with God. Sir, fetes and parties that Saturday morning, we call them Friday night fetes going into the early wee hours of Saturday morning, around St. John and around other parts of Barbados, on hearing the news and verifying its authenticity, ceased as patrons begin to leave, some sobbing, crying, leaving to go home, everything just stopped once the information was verified. It seemed that Saturday there was a deafening silence over our nation. His peaceful posture as he laid there seemed to have robbed death of its sting and the grave of its victory. He seemed so peaceful that maybe the words of the Apostle Paul and Corinthians 1:15:

"Death is swallowed up in victory,

Oh death, where is thy sting

Oh grave, where is thy victory"

Sir, he seemed that he died with that satisfaction saying, death you have no hold on me. I am peaceful, at rest in God. Paul further said in Philippines 1:21:

"For me to live with Christ and to die is gain".

My sincere prayers will continue to be with his beloved wife, Mrs. Mara Thompson, Osa, Oya and Osa-Marie, his daughter as well his mother, Miss Margaret Knight and his father Mr. Charles Thompson, and I want to encourage to continue lifting this family in prayer. They have given him to us, he has served us faithful, some times by the expense of not being with them as often as he would like and now the least we can do is to make sure we give them our full support because when all this is passed, the dust is settled and everyone is going back to their various home and chores, it is easy to forget them in St. Philip.

I pledge my support to stand with that family and I am sure that many others will do the same. God will strengthen and keep them and, may he rest in peace.

Mr. President, I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Husbands.

Senator H.A. HUSBANDS: I rise to support this Resolution and to pay tribute to our dearly departed colleague, friend and brother David Thompson. Sir, I do not want to prolong the reference to Combermere but it is at Combermere that I first met and came to know David Thompson.

S/A36/4:23:51

Sequence 21

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

SENATOR H.A.. HUSBANDS: There is a story associated with the Combermere tie. This is the first time that I have worn a Combermere tie. I attended Combermere, I think this story links and began the political career of David Thompson. I attended Combermere in the 1960s and partially into the 1970 when we protested. We were living in turbulent times. The Black Power Movement was very popular in Barbados and the United States. We organised, while I was still in short pants, we protested, organised, and refused to wear ties. That was the introduction of the epaulettes. I believe that David Thompson would have come along sometime after those protests and would have been more in the epaulettes generation, but then the generation reverted to ties, just a few years after these great protests.

Sir, it is in that context that I met David Thompson. I was his Form Prefect, when he was in first form, and anyone who met David Thompson as a young boy at Combermere, in those days, knew immediately that he would be a person of high achievement of importance in this country, Barbados. In whatever field he chose, except sports of course, because I have never met a more awkward individual, former Principal, Mr. Charles Pilgrim, I heard on the radio described him in much terms that I remembered him, “all arms and legs”, and he looked really amusing in short pants and khaki. Sir, even at that young age, he was an extremely tall person for his age, and extremely slim, with some, I think Mr. Pilgrim described his knees as knocking. The only person of that era, in appearance, that reminds me of the appearance of David Thompson is former Senator Holder.

Sir, I actually said to - I remembered distinctly, although the former Senator Holder is not in my generation, asking him - I remember asking him distinctly, “There is a new boy in first form, is he related to you?” Sir, they had the same general physical appearance. The only difference was that the former Senator Holder claimed to have been a cricketer.

Asides.

SENATOR J.A.C. HUSBANDS: I think he played with some distinction.

Sir, I think David Thompson’s discussions, the fact that he participated in delivering The Debating Society, of which I had the honour to be the President when young David Thompson joined that Society. Therefore, I make claim to training and influencing David Thompson in debating skills. Sir, as a good teacher, I feel very proud that those skills would have caught up with me very quickly, and surpassed, in subsequent years when I saw him on television and on a political platform, I felt very proud that I had some hand in assisting in developing his debating skills which were very impressive from an extremely early age.

Mr. President, David Thompson, though we were not close personal friends, we remained in close contact over the years. He has touched my life in three significant ways that I want to mention this afternoon.

I remember when he was Minster of Community Development. I heard Senator McClean read a list of persons who were appointed to a committee set up by David Thompson, in his capacity as Minister of Community Development that advised him on the Youth and Business Programme. David Thompson also in those early days appointed me to a committee to advise him on general youth policy. I remember very clearly that the committee was Chaired by Dr. Frank Brathwaite. Also sitting on that committee was ‘Adonija’. Sir, that invitation was significant for me, for previous to the invitation, my involvement in politics and social affairs in Barbados, as you may well know, was firmly to the left of David Thompson.

Sir, in those days young David Thompson always showed that he was an astute politician. To those young

men on the left, like myself and Francis Belle, who is now a Judge in the OECS, David never said he supported what we were doing or saying, but he was never hostile to it. Sir, the opportunity that he gave me after becoming a Minister, brought me back into more of the center of political and social life in Barbados. From that experience I was able to go on to serve as in the Trade Union Movement, the part with the same David Thompson played in establishing the Social Partnership and I am sure that when other Senators speak, they will say something about the role that David Thompson played, a significant role, under the leadership then of Prime Minister Sandiford. David Thompson played a significant everyday practical role in establishing this NGO, now referred to as the Social Partnership. Sir, after we left school and so on, that first invitation was significant, I know its significance in my career and development has opened several opportunities to me.

Secondly, I was at the end of that period of my life in the Trade Union Movement, I decided to go overseas to study. David Thompson was then the Minister of Finance, and he wrote for me a recommendation to work with the State University of New Jersey, one of the largest and better universities in the Unites States.

Asides.

SENATOR J.A.C. HUSBANDS: Sir, so impressive was that recommendation that I was admitted to records without having to take the usual exams. To enter US universities there are these exams that you have to take if you are going to the graduate level, but this recommendation written for me by David Thompson so impressed - when I read it I did not recognise myself in it, but of course I never said that to the officials at the University. They were so impressed with this recommendation, I know that I have a copy, in recent times I have tried to find it just to look at it again. Sir, that also played a significant part in my life.

Sir, the three years that I spent in the United State studying, living, working and travelling around the United States, were three of the better years of my life. I learnt so much about race and dealing with people from different ethnicities...

4.33 p.m.

Sequence 22

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

SENATE A36, sequence 23, 4.33 p.m.

Senator H.A. HUSBANDS: I do not think that David Thompson understood or could ever understand the significance of that recommendation he wrote for me, which allowed me to enter into what I consider to be, a very stage in my life and I have a very great appreciation for that although, Mr. President, as I search my memory and my papers, I do not ever remember that I sent a card to say, thank you. Sir, you know, it is like moments like these when you go over in your mind aspects of your life. I may have seen him somewhere when he gave me the recommendation and I said thank you but I do remember that I ever sent a note or in anyway said to David Thompson how grateful I was and what part that simple letter played in my career and development.

Sir, at the end of February, early March of this year I remember very clearly that I was driving in the Warrens area and my cell phone rang and like a decent law abiding citizen, I pulled over to answer the phone and it was the Prime Minister of Barbados, David Thompson. He said, "Hey Harry. How are you doing?" So on and so forth and he invited me to Ilaro Court the next day and offered me the position, post and title that I now hold.

Sir, what was incredible about that - and I have spoken already and it is widely publicised - that in all three of these examples that I have mentioned in the way that David Thompson touched my life, nothing was to his...it was all to my credit. He has never asked me on one occasion for a corresponding favour or any such thing so I am deeply indebted to him for the part that he has played in my life.

Sir, that Saturday morning when he interviewed me at Ilaro Court, if I were the person interviewing him, there are some things I would have said. For example, I would have said, but Harry - that is how he addressed me - I know that you have a tendency to lose your temper and to run off but I never want any such thing. I took that to mean that he had absolute confidence in me. This post and position that he offered me again, it was not any immediate benefit to him. As a matter of fact, it would have been at some risk to him because I did not have a history in the Democratic Labour Party therefore I could see Party Members saying: "But wait, where you now come from?"

Asides.

Senator H.A. HUSBANDS: I had recently run into some conflict with a few members of the business community. I could see another Prime Minister saying that I cannot hire Harry Husbands. He is a liability. Never once did David Thompson take it into consideration so I decided that my conduct in this position must be exemplary, as my way of repaying David Thompson for the absolute trust that he had in me. I have said that I had the opportunity during Combermere Week to visit the school and to say this to the students there.

The other feature that so impressed me was that in all of our conversations over the years, wherever these conversations were conducted, whether we were speaking as friends or we were speaking as he is my boss, the one who employed me - and I read where one of my colleagues from Combermere made this comment in the newspaper - he spoke to me and dealt with me with the same deference, as though he was dealing with me when I was his Form Prefect in Lower 1A. Never a harsh word. He always dealt with me with the deepest respect and as I said, if I were in his position, I would have given me some clear rulings and guidelines about the behaviour I expect and so on and so forth. Never once did he approach me in that manner. The important thing about that though is that he achieved the same goal without having had to say it. That was the nature of the man.

Mr. President, there are three other aspects of the policy of philosophy that I associate with David Thompson, which that I think this country, not only me personally, should promote to his memory and to the benefit of the country.

The first of these is this concept of Families First. One Senator said this morning and I remember well, when David Thompson first raised this concept of Families First, many people held it up to public ridicule. He was accused of bringing American-style issues of politics to Barbados but he persisted.

I knew that the concept was successful and was taking roots in Barbados when some of the people who had poured scorn on it, a few years later were rushing to show that they had families too and they were promoting, looking for daughters, nieces and nephews all over the place and it makes sense to me then. It was clear to me this concept of Families First and again, it is not a concept that you expect to hear being mouthed by the everyday politician because there is no immediate benefit...there is no immediate benefit to a politician to be preaching to the nation about family life. There may be some benefit down the road but you are certainly not going to win an election on the issue of Families First but David Thompson believed so much in this concept that he was prepared to lose an election, rather than have the very idea minimised and pushed aside. Now we are in an era where this idea and concept have taken hold in the country and we owe a debt of gratitude to him for this development.

The next one is this issue, and it is quite related, of more than an economy also a society. The two concepts are brother and sister. They are related in that yes, while the unemployment statistics are important, while productivity is important, while competitiveness is important, while the UN Development Index is important, it is also important to pay attention to the quality of life. Again, it is not a concept that will bring immediate benefit to any politician but David Thompson, a different kind of politician was prepared to articulate to this country, that we had to pay more attention to some of the social issues, some of the social ills facing the country, sometimes maybe even at the expense of.

SENATE A36, sequence 23, 4.33 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Senator H. A. HUSBANDS: Most of this argument about who is an economist and which economist is better... If you listen to CNN or Fox or any of these networks, you have at every end who has the best Economics Degree, that is important. We do not want to minimise academic learning and training but we also have at the same time to pay some emphasis on the quality of life facing our young people. Again, David Thompson brought a new approach to politics in Barbados by emphasising... Yes, these things were always there but at a critical point, he took the risk to emphasise the importance of families and building the society.

The last one, more on the economic side, is the development of and the opening of a Barbados Embassy in China and a Barbados Embassy in Brazil. I believe that at some point there is going to be a further development and closening of the relationship with India. If you noticed, only this week the British Prime Minister visited China and the American President is in India and all over the East. The main focus of both visits... As a matter of fact, the leaders are now criticising the British Prime Minister for not mentioning specific incidents of human rights violations in China because he has dared to sign some billion dollar deal to the benefit of the British economy. The President of the United States of America trips around Indonesia and India are all aimed at promoting American enterprise and doing business in these countries.

Our move into these areas, criticised and belittled, is evidence of an understanding by this Government and this Party and the late Prime Minister of the significance of deepening our diplomatic and economic association and ties with non-traditional friends and maybe sometimes former enemies.

These three aspects of the policy of David Thompson, the free bus fares and the summer camps and so on, are offshoots of a broader policy position that I think is far-reaching. When we talked about a response to the economic crisis, response to the economic crisis is not only putting in place immediate programmes but thinking down the road, hence the relationship with China and Brazil. We have to spend good money, sometimes money that we do not even have, as an investment. This is what I thought was significant and different in this Party and this Government led by David Thompson.

Mr. President, many of the previous speakers in this place and in the Other Place have ended their presentations with a poem. I saw the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development wrote a poem on televison and recited it and then he finished by quoting Martin Carter. Various other speakers have quoted chapters of the Bible and so on. The good decent Anglican and Christian that I am - I attend the same church that you do, Mr. President, I am not as regular as you are - I have this habit of selecting some music to play in the car as I travel because sometimes you can turn the traffic jams into productive events and do things and get involved in things while you wait. This morning, I selected one of my favourite traditional Negro spirituals by Jesse Norman. I have heard our local Norma Bowen do it also.

Asides.

Senator H. A. HUSBANDS: I can do that but please do not. Just to recite part of the lyrics:

"There is a man going around taking names. He has taken my friend's name and left my heart in pain. Death is the man taking names."

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Hunte.

Senator R. A. HUNTE: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I rise to support this Resolution and in making my contribution I wish to say that I did not meet David Thompson like many others have done at the University of London but I met him at the institution of progress and social transformation, that is, the Democratic Labour Party Headquarters on George Street.

It was in 1978, when I returned to Barbados after a short stint abroad where I travelled shortly after the 1976 general election, that I saw this young man with his mother, whom I knew at the time of course and I enquired as to whom he was and she said, Reggie this is my son David. I went on to say but he looks everything like "Tom" Adams and she responded quickly by saying you mean he looks like me. I was unaware that this sort of comparison was made prior to when I had made that comparison.

Mr. President, the tributes to the great leader David Thompson has been wide and varied; the dramatic exercises in which he took part, the debates in which he took part in school and the cut and thrust of his politics on the platform and in institutions such as this.

I want to give my praise to David Thompson of late, in the area of family. There are not many persons in this country who have reached the heights that he has or have paid that kind of attention to families. During his illness, my hope and wish for his recovery was not about him being Prime Minister of Barbados or continue to be Prime Minister, it was that he was about to leave a young family that wanted and needed him and that is where my concern was.

I know that Prime Ministers come and Prime Ministers go but as a person who sort of feel comfortable with family because I have six children and they certainly did not come from one vessel, they went into several vessels but I have never turned my back on my children even when there were times that I could not have given them anything. That more than anything else, I felt comfortable with because I remember that at Christmas 2008, on which he celebrates his birthday, he was speaking in the kitchen, because I went rather early, about his anniversary coming up and how he had to take the children where he had to take them. This was a man who was committed to his family.

I know that many people in Barbados who have reached that level in their lives and who have sown many seeds but because of what people would say, providing that they were not done in the way they expect them to do, would deny those children, when they are satisfied in their own mind that they are...

Senate A36 Sequence 24

4.53 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Senator R. A. HUNTE: Mr. President, mostly men, unfortunately, are the fathers of those children.

Mr. President, David Thompson was a true human being, my being here is an example of how our late Prime Minister felt about people. For him, it was not about smiling in peoples' faces or talking with them, he saw everybody as equal. Sir, he saw people for what they are worth, he saw people for their value and for the contribution they made.

Sir, in his capacity as President of the Democratic Labour Party, many nights he would sit and when he saw that the number of people attending those councils meetings had began to dwindle, he would say do not let us fool ourselves, we did not treat a lot of our people right. Sir, I believe he longed for the opportunity when he could sit in that seat of power to show his understanding, humility and recognition for people who had made their contribution to the institution with which he became associated.

Mr. President, as an Honourable Senator said earlier this morning, if David Thompson bore any malice, that

malice was well-concealed; invectives, yes, abuse, yes, but not malice. I have never heard him raised his voice at anybody nor said angry and distasteful words to them. Sir, since his passing. I was a little surprised that a young man in St. John told a story of how he, that young man, was behaving badly on Gall Hill pasture and how David slapped him around his head and told him to go home. Sir, I would have loved to see that because I could not associate that kind of behaviour with David Thompson but that young man said it. Mr. President, it shows that despite that quietness and half smiles on occasions, if David Thompson wanted to become aggressive, he would have done so.

Mr. President, for anybody to have programmes and exercises within schools and who could not play any, it is remarkable. Mr. President, I heard a lot about David Thompson from my nephew, who was also a Combermerian. Eventually I got to know him. I feel very happy to have seen a Prime Minister, whether young or old, taking that interest in his family. Sir, despite the fact that David was known as a politician, I feel comfortable with anybody who relates to their family, who looks after their children, who may not always be able to give them the things that they want but still look after their family. Sir, I feel very good about that.

Mr. President, there are a few things in certain areas of tributes to him with which I feel disappointed. It shows there are persons in our society who have not yet grown up, who have not yet thrown away some of the bad behaviour and habits they have. Sir, I am very pleased to hear the contributions here today because I thought they were matured and truthful. I cannot say this for some of the others I have heard. Sir, I think that despite whatever and however we may feel in politics, there are occasions like these when we have to show respect at best and even at worst, in the presence of a departed soul and his family. I am saying that some of us really go overboard and sometimes we can make these things worse by wanting to get at somebody and by using the only quotation from that person to get at somebody else in public life because there might have been a falling-out.

Mr. President, I do not respect those kinds of things, and if there is anything so far as far as tributes are concerned towards David Thompson, it was one I heard very recently. Mr. President, a columnist for the Barbados Labour Party, while recently at Kensington Oval, referred to that young man who journeyed to David Thompson's house seeking a job, after 16 years of incarceration. Do you know what the columnist said to me? He said that David Thompson was more socialist than some of the Prime Ministers we have had, who have gone before him. That columnist said he could not understand that. Sir, I replied: "Well, to tell you the truth, I have two daughters and if anybody had come around me with that kind of background, especially if that person had confessed, I would have to think twice." Sir, that columnist replied that he would have to think three times because he has three daughters.

Mr. President, here is a man with his family, who just gave somebody else another chance in life. Sir, that is humility at its best and I could not talk about David Thompson the politician and leave out that softer side of the human being. Mr. President, David Thompson was truly a human being, I have seen what he has gone through. Sir, we had our differences, though not verbally. I did not always agree with certain things, although there is not much I can say that I disagreed with. Sir, the point is that is the second leader of this great Party who has died while making a sacrifice for the institution with which I have been associated for more than 40 years.

Mr. President, the late great Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow spent all his time and most of his funds into the institution called the Democratic Labour Party. The lately departed Prime Minister David Thompson did similarly. Let us make no mistake about it, these things take a toll on you, physically, mentally and financially. When you reach a certain stage in your life, like I am, and you are associated with an institution, you no longer see individuals, you see the institution with which you are associated. What I am trying to say is, I will not get involved in any campaign with anybody, whether that person wants to become president or leader, they will have to do it on his or her own, I am now a person for the institution. Sir, I saw what backing individuals did to this institution with which I am associated. I will not be a part of that, whoever rises to the top in this Democratic Labour Party will have my support, even former presidents will have my support, as old as they may be. I will not participate because I saw that shake our institution, not destroying it but shake it, a few years ago.

5.05 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Sequence 26 (Left)

Senator R.A. HUNTE: Sir, I am an institution, not an individual. I saw what happened to our departed David Thompson and he held that institution together because it was rattling like an old car with the steering shaking but institutions do not die, they become dislocated and things happen to them but, Sir, they live on.

Mr. President, I have to pay that kind of tribute to him today because when people ask about a legacy, you cannot compare him with the other Prime Ministers because he has not had that time, he only had two-and-a-half years. You cannot compare him to Errol Barrow in terms of time in office and you cannot compare him to

Tom Adams or Grantley Adams because all those persons would have had a long and heavy footprint on this country and David John Howard Thompson did not have that opportunity and I am not going to speak about any legacy in terms of leading this country. Sir, in terms of the Democratic Labour Party, I will speak in terms of it as far as the family institution is concerned but I really cannot speak in terms of it as far as being a leader of this country as the others may be because he did not have that time and, therefore, it is left to us whether we retire from politics, or whatever, to see that the Democratic Labour Party, in his name and those who have gone before him, not turn to that kind of tribalism that I have experienced being long associated with the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. President, this is now a time for us to mature. Sir, it shook us, and it shook us badly because the worse thing you can do in a political institution especially in small countries is to start lining up behind individuals. It creates cracks, and it creates everything you can think about in an institution and, Sir, I will not be part of that. It has caused enemies, it has caused all kind of dislocation with people. It is true that some have gone - I am glad that they have gone - and they have created problems elsewhere where they have gone too and, Sir, I have no difficulty with that even if it is belated but I am glad that they have gone. Sir, I have no where to go at this stage of my life, not as far as institutions are concerned. I do not have to run here, thither or dawn. I am here and I am going to die here and I feel comfortable about that. Sir, when you reach this stage you do not speculate anymore, you become grounded and, therefore, I am grounded as far as the Democratic Labour Party, as an institution, is concerned.

Mr. President, I am going to end because I know that we have had a long day and there are others who want to make a contribution but not with any quote from anybody, writer, or the Bible but from David Thompson himself. Sir, I was in Eagle Hall and David Thompson was on the platform and somebody served him a writ which, to this day, has not seen the light of day and, Sir, I want to refresh my mind with one of the quotes from the excerpts that were given on the radio and the televison. Sir, he said that he would not put anybody in court for what they have said about him. He went on to say that he had some of the most severe criticism in Barbados but that he does not worry about that because as long as he had the right to reply, he would not be putting anybody in court because that was what politics was all about, that people say things about you, that a lot of them are not true but that you attack people too.

Sir, I have been talking on platforms since 1970, for about 40 years and I started off in St. Joseph in the by-election with Grantley Adams and when he resigned, we ran Dudley Smith up there. Sir, it was 40 years ago and it was the first time I made my platform debut. Sir I have never got into 'brewsing' people and that sort of thing and I am not going to start now because people like the President...

Asides.

Senator R.A. HUNTE: I am going to say this about the President before I sit down. He will not enter this debate but he is one of the persons that offered that tutelage to the late Prime Minister. He was one of the persons who helped shaped him, and that is a fact of life. He may not like some of the things he has done but a man who has not made a mistake has not made anything.

The President of this Chamber has helped to shape David Thompson, the politician. He was campaign manager in 1978, and that is the first campaign that he got involved in as a 17-year-old, running all about with a cap on his head and you could see this long, tall fellow with cap going and recording the meetings of the Barbados Labour Party. Sir, anything that we have disclosed here today that David has said and whatever strategies make no difference because I have learnt one thing. You can afford to talk about your last strategy because the next one is always different, so I am not disclosing any secrets here today because the next one will always be different because of circumstances.

Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the tributes that have been made here today, with the exception of one or two, and that have been made throughout Barbados over the last seventeen days or so in respect of our late and revered leader. He has made his mark and I wish all the best to his wife, his three daughters and the extended family and, may he rest in peace.

Mr. President, I thank you very much.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR the HON. MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 5.20 p.m. today.

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

S/A36/5:10:51

Sequence 26

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Senator A.R. WORRELL: David John Howard Thompson, QC, MP, Member of Parliament for St. John, the constituency from which I came. This afternoon, this whole idea of making this tribute is were something that

any of us thought we would be doing at this time, even though we knew Prime Minister Thompson was ill, many of us held out hope and belief. We were praying that he would have a longer time with us, but unfortunately that was not the case and here we are to tribute and to show our respect for a man that many of us adored, many Barbadians love and many of us cherished because of the person he was and the way he impacted on our lives, not only us here in Parliament and many of us in the Senate, but we are here because he saw something in us and appointed us in this position, many of us on this side. Also, throughout the length and breadth of Barbados he touched the lives of many people. I am certain on that morning when people woke up on October 23rd to the news of the passing of the Prime Minister, someone who I will call a great man, he had not quite yet reached the stage to be appropriately called the Right Excellent David Thompson, but to many of us he was working towards it. If he had a longer time with us, he definitely would have earned it, he definitely would have claimed it, and he it would have been a title to which he deserved, and it would be a fitting honour to him.

Mr. President, I want to give my tribute not only as a Member of the Senate but also as a constituent from St. John. I know that many persons from St. John have openly showed their hurt, their grief and mourned for the passing of that great man.

I also want to give my tribute as well on behalf of my colleagues in the Young Democrats, an organisation to which I have the honour and the privilege to be the President. I know that many of them are also hurting. Many of them mourned for him. Many of them shed tears for him and still continue to shed tears for him up to this day, because it is not easy for us to think of David Thompson, to acknowledge that he is no longer with us, to acknowledge that he is not going to be in the House of Assembly to represent us, and to acknowledge that we cannot expect to hear great words from him, to rely on his wisdom, to rely on his depth of analysis and to rely on just the general person that he was, caring, compassionate, and the humanitarian that he was.

Sir, it is not easy for us to think that he is no longer with us and it is not easy for us to speak about him without shedding a tear or not feeling that something is missing, or not feeling that pain deep inside because we saw him as a man and we all looked up to. We saw him as man that we aspired to be just a little like him. Even if we could just adopt a few of his many great qualities we would do ourselves well.

Sir, he was someone that you not only looked up to because he was an excellent politician, he was an excellent Member of Parliament. He was an excellent Representative, but he was a genuine person, someone who showed that he cared deeply for individuals and someone that you could believe in, someone that you can trust. Sir, anything that he said, for me, this is how I remembered him and this is how I thought about him, but as long as it was coming from the mouth of David Thompson, I could recognise it and I could accept it as being true and being a fact, because he did not try to lead you astray, he did not try to pull the wool over your eyes in a bad way. He was very upfront. He was very open and he was very honest. Those are the qualities that I liked about him. Those are the qualities that I would aspire to emulate from him. It is unfortunate, for me, that I did not have more time to learn more about him and to watch him for a little longer. I was honestly hoping that he would hold the reins of office for a much longer time, but such is life, such is fate and what we can say is that even for the short period of time in which he was the Prime Minister of this country, he has left a mark. He has done a great time.

Sir, for the twenty-three years that he served as a Member of Parliament and the Representative for St. John, he has touched every single life of every constituent in that parish, to the extent that I believe everybody saw him as a part of their family, and they accepted him into their households, into their communities, into the churches and into every aspect of life within St. John.

Sir, over the last seventeen days, the ten days leading up to his funeral, many persons tried to recall their first experience in meeting David Thompson. I also did the same, and I know that my mother did the same as well. She mentioned to me that she remembered the first time that David Thompson came to our house. This was back in 1987 when he was running for the seat after the death of the great Excellent Errol Walton Barrow. He came to introduce himself as the candidate for St. John. She remembered that at that time there was a big commotion with persons within the community having an argument outside, as people would normally do, even to this day they are doing it about who is to be the next representative for St. John and so forth, because everybody believed that the Excellent Errol Walton Barrow left a great legacy and left great big shoes to be filled, so they wanted to be certain that the right person filled those shoes. Even though that argument was going on outside and was within the community going from house to house, he just quietly left the argument outside, came inside and spoke to her. He said not to worry about what is going on out there. I came to have a conversation with you. You are the lady of the house. I came to introduce myself to you. My name is David Thompson and I am running to contest the seat for the St. John bi-election.Sir, they had a very quiet conversation inside the house at that time. That is one of the things that she remembered about him, because he was not the sort of person that got himself involved in the fuss and furore which were going on the outside. Sir, he quietly came and he did what he had to do, and this is something that I would always remember about him. He was always a

very quiet person. Sir, fuss and noise would be taking place in other areas, but he stayed focused and he did what he had to do.

Sir, my first personal memory of David Thompson as a Representative for St. John came after he won the seat in the bi-election. At that time he was not a Member of the Cabinet, he was a back bencher, and there was a need within our community. It was my sister who would have approached him with regard to that need. This was at a time when constituents went to their Representatives with matters pertaining to the community, not just for personal and individual matters, but also with details that would help develop the community.

Sir, I live in St. John, a rural parish, and at that time the community where I resided, which is Sherebourne, the bus did not travel into that community, so often times you would have to get off the bus late at night and walk into the community. It was a long walk, the road was dark, even if you had groceries, coming home from the supermarket and so forth, even for women coming home late at night, they still had to make that long walk into the community.

5.31 p.m.

Sequence 27

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SENATE A36, sequence 28, 5.31 p.m.

Senator A.R. WORRELL: We approached David Thompson at that time, when he was a backbencher and we expressed to him, our concern and our need to have the bus coming into the community. He was just recently placed in the House of Assembly, he said - and this is one of the things that you can appreciate about him - he let you know what the situation was. He said, you know, I am a backbencher and I will do whatever what I can to help you with this situation. At this stage, it would basically be using moral suasion to convince the Minister of Transport and Works at that time to put an argument to him but he said that, you know, in order to get it done to have the proof and so forth, what would be good you the residents of the community to get a petition done to show that there is a need and that the people of the community really want this so even from this early days, he used that opportunity to bring together the people in the community to get that petition done.

I know that I myself walked around from house to house within the community and I got persons to sign that petition. The petition went to David Thompson and he kept in communication with my sister. He had a meeting with the Minister and with the persons from the Transport Board and because of his intervention, the bus started coming into the community. Sir, not only at 6:00 but throughout the day as well.

Sir, for me, but I was probably not yet 10-years-old, but I remembered him for that and I remembered that he kept in communication with us, he kept us up-to-date with what was happening and he also got us involved in the process as well. Sir, he showed that even though he did not have much resources at his disposal that he was still willing to do whatever it takes to make sure that he was able to satisfy the genuine needs of the persons from his constituency. He showed that he cared for them and he wanted to make sure that everything was right by them.

I continued to followed David Thompson through his political career and that relationship was indirect because that happened through my sister but there was another encounter which I had being the President of the Youth Group at the Church, a very small church, Sherbourne New Testament Church of God at that time and we were now in the stage of trying to get the Youth Group organised and trying to get that done within the Church so being the President, there was a particular activity that we were going about so I said, you know what, I will write to the Representative for the constituency I would ask him for his assistance and sponsorship for the activity. I did it saying well you would try everything, it was not just the representative that we wrote but a number of different companies and persons affiliated with St. John that we would have written.

At that time I was probably about 15-16-years-old, sending the letter, did not really expect that much would come out of it but to my surprise I got a letter in reply from David Thompson.

At that time he would....5:34:46....and he supported the initiative very generously as well. It just goes to show, and at that time he was in Opposition but he still made sure that he had resources there that he could make sure that he could be of assistance to the persons within his constituency. Sir, when I look back of those experience this is something that I would like every single Parliamentarian, every single person, who has the ambition to represent a constituency to make sure that you do whatever little to make sure you meet the needs of the persons in your constituency. Even if you cannot offer them a job at that time, even if you cannot build roads for them, even if you cannot provide them with housing, your presence alone and show that you care, your compassion would make a difference.

Sir, if we would want to give a long-lasting tribute to David Thompson, study him. Study the how he operated as a Member of Parliament and adopt some of those qualities. Study the way how he placed himself in the hearts of every single member of his constituency, study the way how he

tried to meet the needs of the persons of his constituency and he did not just give them hairy-fairy ideas but he brought to them genuine policies and genuine things that could assist them.

I believe this was one of the reason he would have started the Families First initiative and I will speak a little more about that later in my tribute but all of those are things that would really solidify his presence within the constituency of St. John and solidify the affection of St. John people for him, the admiration and that is why we would always consider him to be one of the greatest representatives that we have ever had for St. John.

I could speak because I was not in the era of the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow so I do not know much about him but I know from what persons would have said about the things that Barrow would have done, even him being within our community as well and frequenting a house within our community as well and the relationship that he had with persons there but I can speak about David Thompson because for the majority of my life, this is the person who has been the representative for the constituency that I belong to and this is the person whom I would, every single debate in the House of Assembly when you had the Budget Speech, even he was not the person...5:37:57, while he was the Leader of the Opposition, even if it was a situation where he was not the person delivering the Budget but I waited eagerly to hear his reply to the Budget, even if he was not delivering it as the Leader of the Opposition but I listened to hear what David Thompson had to say because had a way that any problem, any situation he could break it apart and break it down into the simplest pieces that the average man on the streets could easily understand. He also had a way of making everyone clear as to what the situation was. The lay of the land, what you can expect and this is something that he continued to do, being the Prime Minister with his quarterly meetings, when he was able to have them.

He remained up-front and honest with the people of Barbados. He was transparent and accountability because I admired him in difficult situations, you know, some people would try to give you the impression that all is well. Everything is okay but he let you know what the situation was. He let you know what is expected of you as a country, all Barbadians in terms of what they ought to be doing at this time. He also let you know what he had in mind and what his plans were to help us to ride out the economic situation.

Sir, he did not give you the impression that everything was rosy. He told you up-front that there will be difficult economic times ahead. He was visionary and he planned for it. He set out a road map and he laid a path, so these are the things that you have to respect him for, in that he did not try to deceive you, he kept you up-to-date with what was going on. He was very open and he was very frank about the situation and I believe these things that many Barbadians respected and that is the reason there was an outpouring of tributes for him and people showing openly how much they really cared about him.

I do hope that he knew or he recognised that Barbadians cared for him. I know there were times in his political career where it seems as though we were not very friendly and we were not very kind to him but I do hope that he recognised in his last times here with us that people in Barbados really cared about him. This is why those things such as the pray sessions that you had throughout Barbados where people came and attended, those things were important so that he could actually see that people cared for him and that people were willing to support him in his time which, I believe, was a very trying and difficult time. Yet still he remained strong, yet still he was brave and yet still he was a fighter and for all of these things, you must respect him. You must find some way of making sure that there is a listing tribute in his name.

SENATE A36, sequence 28, 5.41 p.m.

I want to say that even though he held the office for two years....

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Senator A. R. WORRELL: Mr. President, even though he held the office for only two years, he has left a legacy, he put things in place that we will remember for years. I want to make a comparison between him and the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow in terms of his passion for recognising that through education Barbados would develop. This is something that the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow firmly believed in. He put that in place and left that as part of his legacy.

Mr. President, a few weeks ago, I saw an article, I think it came out of one of the papers in Jamaica, where they said that the educational system in Barbados is very advanced and is something that other territories should look to develop to get to that stage.

For the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, education was his legacy but for David Thompson, even though he left us a little too soon, part of the legacy that he left for us, is that people in Barbados are realising the whole concept of family. Maybe that would be the next area, which I am certain that the economists and right-thinking persons within our party would find ways of making work for us because truly no matter how successful the economy is, if you have families that are falling and if you have a situation where the family structure and the support base is not there for the family, you would not be able to reap the benefit of the GDP because you would

have to spend a lot of that money in security and other areas. Mr. President, recognising the importance of family and building that strong family unit, I believe, would be another way of taking Barbados forward.

Mr. President, it was not only family. He also emphasised in his last days the importance of community. These are all inter-related because if the family is together as one, it would also help to build communities as well. Mr. President, if we really spend some time to analyse exactly what it is that he was saying to us and put his policies to work, I think that we would be taking the development of Barbados to another level. We did it through education and we need to continue to do it. We had strong communities in the past that have worked for us.

Mr. President, when I listened to some of my colleagues here, even though they came from other areas, they all recalled that they remembered him from school, seeing him on the school bus and so forth and all those different things. Mr. President, I guess it is through that that they would have built a relationship and a friendship with him.

Mr. President, we need to get back to that stage where in our communities we build relationships and friendships with the people around us so that we do not just drive in and drive out on a daily basis but we know them, we know what their needs are and we are able to assist them and help to bring them up so that as we rise, they would rise as well. If we develop that model, Barbados would definitely thrive and reach developed nation status and we would have a society, not just an economy, to be proud of.

Mr. President, in the tributes to the late Honourable Prime Minister Thompson, we could never forget the sort of devotion that he placed for young people. He seemed to have had a special place in his heart for the youth. He respected their thoughts and he wanted to have them included in the development of Barbados. Mr. President, from the day that he assumed office, he made sure that certain things were done to make sure that youth and family have priority within Barbados. A number of young people were placed on statutory boards in Barbados so that they can give their contribution so that they would not feel isolated and left out in the development of this country, in the political process and in its governance. Mr. President, he appointed youth Senators. He made sure that young people were represented in Barbados. Family was so important to him that he took his Families First concept and made it into a ministry. I am certain that that ministry would do good work for Barbados because at this time we need to do a lot of work with our family, so there we have it. He has left a legacy and he has made a valuable contribution as well.

Mr. President, David Thompson will never be forgotten, he will always be remembered by all Barbadians. Persons who do not know him now would come to know David Thompson and they would want to know who he was.

I believe that at the appropriate time some fitting monument, even though he did not necessarily believe in those things, and some lasting tribute would be there for him. I will wholeheartedly support that because he deserves it. We need to make sure that every single debate and every single speech he made is there so that persons can go over them so that they can get his message and they can get to know him and understand the perspective that he was coming from.

Mr. President, you would find that in everything he did, family was important to him and the people of Barbados were important to him. Every single decision which he made, he made sure that they were protected and that things were put in place so that they would develop. We must remember that one of the first things he did on assuming office was making sure that the pensioners got their money because of the holidays which were coming up. He also made sure that the disabilities benefits were increased. He paid attention to the social agencies to make sure that the vulnerable within our society were protected and he made sure that provisions were made for them.

The free bus rides for school children is also important. That also goes to show how much he cared. He recognised that a certain section of Barbados would be hurting so he made provisions for them. He did that to make sure that our young people would recognise the value of an education and be able to have good access to an education.

Mr. President, as a good tribute to David Thompson, it seems as though he was not the sort of person that says I will wait until X, Y or Z time. This is something that a lot of young people would say. I myself probably would have said that at some point in time. They will wait until they complete this or they will wait until they finish their degree to start giving back to community or something like that or to do certain things in life.

Mr. President, as you would recognise, we do not control the amount of time we have. You would also recognise by just looking at his life and the things that he was able to accomplish in the 48 years, still very young, that he did a lot of things in those years. I do not think that happened because he said that he will wait until a particular time to do this. This is a message that all young people should adopt and should pay close attention to. You are never too young to make a contribution.

David Thompson started making a contribution, as persons said, probably even before he walked through the doors of that institution, Combermere. I believe that he started making a contribution even before then. He was recognised as a leader even from first form and coming right through the school. I want to say to all young people that there is no set time in which you should show your potential. If you have the ability, if you have the passion, get out there and start doing. Do not wait until you have completed your degree. Do not wait until you have built your house.

Senate A36 Sequence 29

5.53 p.m.

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Senator A. R. WORRELL: Do not wait until you have settled down and developed your family, there is always something there for you to do, give back to your community, work within your community and emulate him in that regard, make sure that you take a leaf out of his book because in 48 years he has done a lot, he has left a legacy. Sir, in two years as Prime Minister, he was in continuous overdrive, so it seems. We do not know how much time we have and therefore we must not put aside things until tomorrow. We must do them now we have the opportunity.

Mr. President, finally I would want to extend condolences to his family, his mother, Margaret Knight, his father, Charles Thompson, his wife, Mara, his three daughters, Misha, Oya and Osa-Marie, his nephew Dario and to the rest of his family. We know that we cannot imagine how much they would be hurting and how much they would miss him but I hope that they would find comfort in these tributes. I would hope too that they would recognise and find comfort in the fact that the time they allowed him to be with the nation and working for the nation, that he has made a valuable contribution and that the people of Barbados respect him, love him and cherish him for it. Sir, I also know that he would have made sure that things were right within the family unit because he was a very strong family man.

Mr. President, I want to say that we must continue giving them the support that is necessary, while they go through this time of mourning and grief. They have lost a great father, a great husband and the nation has lost a great leader. Sir, we all acknowledge their lost, we all feel it and it has hurt all Barbados.

Mr. President, may he rest in peace and may his legacy continue to live on through those of us who remain. I hope that we would adopt it, that we would work towards making sure that his legacy lives on, and that we honour him, in terms of emulating him because he was the ideal Member of Parliament. Sir, he was the ideal statesman and we should all hope that through our lives and through what we do, we could at least make a fraction of the contribution he made. Sir, if we even aspire to doing that, we will be aspiring to greater things. Mr. President, I thank you.

Senator J. INCE: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution before this Honourable Chamber in paying tribute to the late Prime Minister of Barbados, David John Howard Thompson, who represented the constituency of St. John. Mr. President, as I listened to the tributes paid here and in the Other Place, as I read tributes in the electronic and print media about the ability of David John Howard Thompson, I pondered. Sir, when we spoke about his ability at a young age and the fact that his upbringing started in the Methodist Church, it tells me that he was in tune with the words of God.

Mr. President, the fact that he was described as a man of integrity and honesty, an individual who forgave persons, an individual who understood what society is all about, I reflected on the rich ruler. I also reflected on the question that was asked by the disciples to Jesus: “Sir, what shall we do to follow Thee?” If we want to be a follower, if we want to be a fisherman of men, what shall we do? Sir, Jesus said unto the young, rich ruler: “Give up thy possessions, take up thy cross and follow me.”

Mr. President, David John Howard Thompson took up his cross at a young age, as the words of Jesus stated, that is why he knew he wanted to be a leader. He took up that cross and imbedded in that wooden cross were all of those attributes Jesus spoke about. Sir, I am not surprised that glowing tributes about this individual were paid from all parts of the world, persons like David John Howard Thompson are not born overnight, they are special in the sight of God, they are created by Him. Sir, as is said in the scripture: “I knew you from your mother’s womb.” Sir, our heavenly Father knew the works of David John Howard Thompson the champion; David John Howard Thompson the humanitarian; David John Howard Thompson who carried Barbados and the Caribbean in his bosom, that is why out of his bosom flowed rivers of living water, and that living water was the human touch to eradicate poverty from our society.

He understood what it is to love persons, that is why sometimes we are puzzled, but Jesus walked among the ungodly, that is why persons in his constituency would say that despite his achievements, he was able to sit on the front step; he was able to sit in the backyard; he was able to eat from the Pyrex dish or from a simple styrofoam plate. Sir, he demonstrated all of the attributes of a holy one, one that was lent to us by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for a short time, because he knew what his works were to be on this earth.

Mr. President, we ask how can an individual unite a country? How can an individual, who was so heavily criticised, unite a country. Sir, he was criticised and there were persons who used their pens like a two-edged swords against my leader. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter and as dumb as a sheep before his shearers but he opened not his mouth. Sir, I am saying that because when the Democratic Labour Party was going through turbulent waters, I sat with David John Howard Thompson and asked him what were we going to do. Sir, my back was against the wall. David replied: "Jepter, remained silent" [and in his favorite words] "don't panic." Mr. President, I was panicking all over the place. David John Howard Thompson said: "Jepter, don't panic, keep your mouth shut, sometimes it is better to remain silent." Sir, I call him "D" and I said: "D", how could you remain so silent when these things are being said about you?

6.00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Senator J. INCE: He said, "Politics 101, you must learn to forgive and go forward." I am not surprise when I hear persons talking about his forgiving spirit. This was the man that was lent to us for a short time.

Mr. President, we are hurt, we are pondering and we are wondering why it has happened but our Father has given us a light of this world. David Thompson was the light of the Democratic Labour Party when we were in the wilderness, when we were in the Opposition, and it seemed like there was no way out, David John Howard Thompson was the light of the world for the Democratic Labour Party and the people of Barbados. Sir, the question was asked, what are we going to do with his departure? The disciples asked Jesus, "Sir, when you go, what are we going to do." He said to them, "I have gone to prepare a place for you that where I go, you he may be with me also."

Sir, David John Howard Thompson has gone but he has set some principles for us to follow. He has set an environment in which we, the people of Barbados, and the members of the Democratic Labour Party can hold our heads high and we can function efficiently. Sir, what are those principles? When he said, "I go to prepare a place for you," he meant social reform and housing every last person. Sir, that phrase "Housing Every Last Person", does not only mean building a wooden structure but our late Prime Minister meant was that he was going to embrace every family, he was going to make available to every family whether you were rich or whether you were poor, it made no difference, whatever your academic background but he wanted to make available to Barbadians, he wanted to make them feel that they were part of this country, and he was going to close the gap between the haves and the have-nots and, Sir, that was David Thompson, the outstanding leader, the man with a forgiving spirit.

Mr. President, I had the chance at a young, tender age in 1974,... Sir, I knew nothing about politics but I must say that at 13 years old or 14 years old that a by-election occurred in St. Philip North and the current President of this Senate was the manager of that by-election. There are certain things you would always remember, and I was given the task of sharing out photographs of the candidate at the time and, Sir, I found it exciting. I knew nothing, but I was running all over the place and my mother went bunkers. She said, "Jepter, I am a maid in the Public Service, what are you doing with all of these photographs at my place." I said, "Mummy, some fellows gave them to me that supporting the candidate." He asked me, "Who are these fellows." I said, "Some fellows just ask me to distribute them," but, Sir, I felt happy.

Mr. President, the Democratic Labour Party that I knew by meeting these gentlemen that came through my neighbourhood lost the by-election. (4:31) Sir, we lost the general election in 1976 under the former representative but, Mr. President, what I found important was that I met our former Prime Minister, Mr. David Thompson in the confines of the Democratic Labour Party headquarters. Sir, that was a turbulent time for Democratic Labour Party although I strongly believe that when we lost St. Philip North that it should not have happened (5:27) but that was as a result of some remarks that were made at the time and the newspapers took us to task for it but I will not make reference to those remarks at all.

Sir, the Democratic Labour Party went downhill from there on and we lost the general elections and it should have never happened but, Sir, as I have said, I was a youngster and I was a student at Princess Margaret Secondary School. Sir, from that time you saw leadership qualities in David Thompson, a calm individual, an individual who was able in times of turbulence to be able to guide and have a steady hand on those individuals at a time when they were looking for answers. Sir, I saw that as he grew, and as he matured into what I would term a statesman for the people of Barbados and the Caribbean, the young people of Barbados as well as older persons took a different view of what a society should be all about and, Sir, it is because of the teachings of David John Howard Thompson and what he stood for.

Sir, there was a time when we arranged a meeting for us at his office. He said, "Jepter, meet me at the office" and I said, "No problem." Sir, as I drove into the parking lot, I saw an individual who literally 'brewsed' David Thompson inside out. Sir, everything about David Thompson was wrong and like Peter following Jesus, I drew my sword because there was no way that I was going to lead my leader in a parking lot with this individual. Sir,

it was not a physical sword but I drew my mental sword. Sir, this individual approach David and asked him a question. Sir, my body language was one of resentment. David and I walked into his office and I watch David John Howard Thompson took out his cheque book and wrote a cheque for this individual who had challenges with a debt. When I looked at David he said, "Jepter, you hold it." It seemed to me as if my body language ... I was saying in my mind, "Yes, I would write you a cheque though, no problem, but then I would hand it to you if it is on fire." He said to me, "Jepter, you do not need that type of burden with you, there is no need to carry that with you." Sir, he was saying that if you are in a position to help, forgive, help and move on. Mr. President, that is a man of class, that is a man who can be held in high esteem at any time, at any place and in any forum.

David Thompson has departed us and what would all this stand out for me. I have campaigned and work with Prime Minister and I have campaigned and worked with representatives in the past.

S/A36/6:11:26

Sequence 31

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SENATOR J.INCE: Sir, I have campaigned and worked with representatives in the past. Sir, after the 2008 election I said to him, the night of the election, "D, my tour of duty is over. If you want me, you would find me." About six months after he had selected his Cabinet and Senators, about 6.15 a.m. my phone rang. I had my cell phone in my pocket. I was outside with my dogs in the kennels. He said, "Jepter, good morning." I said, "Yes, D." He said, "How are things?" I said, "Things good." Mr. President, he said to me, "Jepter, I am checking in to see how you are doing." For me that was like winning the Lotto. If he had said nothing more to me for the rest of his stay in office, I would have no problem. Sir, he called me on two occasions. He said, "Jepter, I am just checking in to make sure that things are alright with you, because I have not heard anything from you." I said, "D, I am fine." Sir, those two calls meant so much to me, to see that a Prime Minister who has a busy schedule confronted with challenges of an economy, who has the duties of his family, constituents, and who has to pay attention to the challenges of his Ministers, could find time to call me to see how I was doing. He had time, and that is when we look at what he has accomplished, when he was able to bring all the brains in Barbados and established what we call a Medium-Term Fiscal Strategy for Barbados in times of an economic challenge, we have to remember David John Howard Thompson for this.

Sir, when he used the brains in Barbados, persons of the public, the private sector, and established a development strategy for Barbados, for the year 2010-2014, and he had been able through focus, intelligence and rational thinking to stabilise this economy in one of the worst economic recessions ever experienced, I understand clearly what Jesus spoke when he said to his disciples, "I go to prepare a place for your." It was not just heavenly, he prepared David, departed, but he prepared an environment for us that we can now carry on the battle, carry on the fight, and continue his legacy.

Mr. President, I want to pay condolences to his wife, his children, father, mother and the constituents of St. John, and to extend God's blessings to them. I know what it is. My father departed when I was sixteen-years-old. I know what it is to face the burial of three brothers and a sister. I have seen what it is for a parent to be depressed when her love ones had departed, and they have departed at a young age. So I am praying for the Thompson family and that we would expect God's blessing to that family, and he would keep them in the palms of his hands and that he would enrich their lives and protect them from the challenges of this world, that his children would be blessed according to the scriptures and to according to his words.

Mr. President, with those few words I am obliged.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Gilkes.

SENATOR P.W.B. GILKES: Mr. President, I stand to lend support to the Resolution before us, and I too would like to say a few words about our leader, our friend, our Prime Minister, the late David Thompson. There were many parts that made up the David Thompson, Member of Parliament, Queens Council and Prime Minister. He was a gentleman that I grew to know at a bi-election in St. Peter, in 1984. There was a warm and friendliness about David Thompson that wasattractive to me, and that relationship built and continued for many years. We all loved and we all cherished him and we now miss him greatly.

Sir, one such part would have been David's political life and the politics that David practiced was one that I particularly took a liking towards. I think David was open-minded and a great politician, but a great friend to people. I think his sense of appropriateness and sense of timing were second to none. His wit was something to behold. I remember sitting in Parliament with Senator Boyce, next to me, and listening to a Budget debate in which the Prime Minister announced that we were going to be relieving the burden from parents having to pay bus fares, starting September. I remember turning to Senator Boyce and saying, "That is a master stroke. That is wonderful. I think that is excellent." Senator Boyce said to me, " Peter, that is not my doing, that is the politician in our Prime Minister, David Thompson." That about summed up the person. He

made promises and delivered all of those promises.Sir, I was very impressed by it.

Sir, he was a very people-focused person. I had a lot of time with David. My reconnection with David came a couple years out of the last general election and we spent many hours sitting, chatting, Blackberry messaging and text messaging, a form of communication that he was perfecting. At the end of it all I think some of my treasured moments were the last times we shared together, having laughs and just talking about life in general. David was a very warm person.

David, the family man, he was one that did not talk about family life, he lived family life. He put family values right out there on the top of what he had to offer. I think that his life was such that he would make sure that the person that he was, at the very end, where he had the full support and he had so many friends and family around him who wished him well constantly.

Sir, his name would long live on in the Families First Programme. I think that is work that is a very treasured part of his programme for the people of St. John.

6.21 p.m.

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SENATE A36, sequence 33, 6.21 p.m.

Senator P.W.B. GILKES: I expect that we will see that programme go from strength to strength and I know there are people who are wishing for it to go on and I am sure that in his Honour, it should be carried on.

Sir, two Thursday ago when we visited Parliament in the Lower House, I made my way to the Lower House to view the body of our beloved fallen Leader. My last six steps up to the viewing area, were probably the hardest six steps I have ever taken. Knowing fully well that it was a walk to view David, a person that was a sincere and true friend, in a place that he loved and spent so much of his life in service to his Barbadian people, in a place that he dominated so completely with his wise use of words. It was numbing time for me. This moments came as close to me as the funerals of my mother and father but that in itself sort of explains the impact that David Thompson had on my life.

I am very proud to have been given the time to have associated with David and for to have taken me under his wing and given me the opportunities that he has given me. David was a person that will not forget. During his illness while he was USA, we had many exchanges and I remember one distinctly. I sent a note to him and I said thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve my country. I am indeed very honoured to have been able to do so. His reply was you are doing a great job but do not forget your family who need you and who you need. Keep them central in everything you do and take care of your health and keep working hard as you are. This advice was given to me from his sick bed in New York, while he was going through his own share of struggles and turmoil.

I remember David Thompson as a Prime Minister having a passion...6:24:42. We hosted an event in Barbados in May of this year, the Fireball Event and the Prime Minister made a point of making sure that we held a reception at Ilaro Court. Even at a late stage in the planning he said to me, “Peter are you bringing this event to Ilaro Court?” I said, “Yes, if you want it, we will do it.” and I was indeed honoured that the Prime Minister returned to Barbados on that Thursday to participate and welcome those three hundred guests that were with us in Barbados for the event at Ilaro. In all his pain and suffering, he made a point to be there and that will live long in my memory.

I would like to say to Mara, the children, his Mom and Dad, my deepest sympathy. I just would like all of them to know that we are here for them and when all the song and dance are over, they can call. They need friends around going forward and I am very much there to lend my services in anyway that I can.

I thank you, Sir.

Asides.

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

Senator D.W. BOYCE: Thank you, Mr. President. Before I pay tribute to our let Prime Minister the Honourable David Thompson, permit me to express properly to his widow Mara and their children, very very deepest condolences, also to express condolences to his parents, his siblings, his close friends and indeed all of Barbados. We all share the pain, the loss of his passing, only of course, in small ways compared to what his family must be experiencing. I too, Mr. President, would wish to assure them that they can call on me whenever they have need and I will be there to support them in whatever way I can.

I first came to know the late Prime Minister back in the rough days of the early 1990s when we were experiencing very difficult conditions in our country. I have been asked by the Barbados Private Sector Agency under the Chairmanship of the late Sir John Stanley Goddard to come and bring some guidance and coherence to the positions taken by the private sector bodies and to

work with the Government and trade unions to fashion for Barbados a way forward, a way out of the crisis of those early 1990s.

The late Prime Minister was then the Minister of Finance and he played a very active role in three developments which many people may not know of and which I shall have to tell them today. Those three developments form very much a part of what drove this country and this economy for the next two decades. First of all, Mr. President, you will be well aware we had a Foreign Exchange Committee. Sir, that Committee brought together in one place at the same time, the key players in business, the Trade Union Movement and the Government. Even then the young David Thompson showed his metal in helping that Committee come to decisions that were in the best interest of this country. Some of the decision taken there helped us to get through those difficult times and served us for many thereafter.

Mr. President, out of those discussions of the Foreign Exchange Committee, we moved into negotiations of the First Wages and Incomes Protocol for this country. Initially under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister, now Sir Lloyd Sandiford and then later under the Chairmanship of the youthful David Thompson, I think he must have been 31 years old or thereabouts at the time and I, Mr. President, was a tad older, once you define a tad in double digits or thereabouts.

We had the likes in those negotiations of Senator Husbands, representing the Trade Unions, the BTU, and the Trade Union Movement was led by Senator Leroy Trotman, now Sir Roy Trotman. We had from the private sector, Senator Benn as part of that group. We had Ed Bushel and a number of other persons from the private sector and from the Government trying to hammer out way that would enable us to avoid the worse squeeze from the IMF.

SENATE A36, sequence 33, 6.31 p.m.

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Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: We had Ed Bushel and a number of other persons both from the private sector and the Government trying to hammer out a way that would enable us to avoid the worst squeeze from the International Monetary Fund, that would help this economy to avoid a devaluation of our currency and a way that we all can live with going forward.

Mr. President, we got through those negotiations in great measure because of the skill of our late Honourable Prime Minister, the Honourable David Thompson. Some Honourable Senators may not know that I have been involved in public sphere for that long but there are one or two of my vintage who will know.

The characteristics that stood out during those negotiations from the Honourable David Thompson was his calmness, his ability to bring order back to a situation, his assuredness - and we could work to a solution - and his patience. He was not prepared to be rushed or to rush anyone. He was tolerant. His invitation to all at the table was to make their input in their time and at their pace to the deliberations we were engaged in. All the time he sought for consensus, that was his wont. He wanted to make sure that we were all going to be singing from the same hymn sheet.

Mr. President, during those negotiations, it was obvious that he placed Barbados first. Barbados was for him his people and he placed in those negotiations always consideration for the most vulnerable people in our society. They were dear to his heart. He showed certain qualities of patriotism during those discussions. Mr. President, this is not to suggest that he was a weakling. Indeed, he was very focussed and will bring back to the meetings...to deal with the problems that we were facing with and to deal with the solutions that we were trying to craft. He was persistent in making sure that we did not dump the tough issues. He was persistent in making sure that we dotted the Is and cross the Ts.

Mr. President, he was bold. He had courage. He was prepared to take and to advise from the taking of the tough decisions that we had to take at that time. That was the impression that I had of the late David Thompson during those years 1991 to 1994.

Mr. President, during those years, he also took a decision to put additional resources at the disposal of the Barbados Tourism Authority for the expansion of our marketing in the United Kingdom. That initiative led to tremendous benefits for Barbados then and for many many years to come and continues to yield benefits for Barbados. This was a bold man, a persuasive man, a persistent man and a patient man.

Mr. President, after the 1994 election when the Democratic Labour Party lost, we stayed in contact all the time. Once or twice a year we would meet. We both had practices that involved dealing with a lot of the business community and we would sit and meet once or twice a year and go through the issues that were affecting businesses in the country and share thoughts on how things could improve as we go forward.

Mr. President, I was the most surprise person when in January 2008 I got a call on my cell phone and I heard the familiar drawl asking me if I was ready to serve. I said: ‘Well of course’ and he said: ‘You sure what it is but when

I tell you, you may not be sure' and I said: 'What is it and he told me. I said: 'Well, I have to discuss it with my family first because they would have to tell me what to do. He said: 'Go on, discuss it and come back tomorrow.'

Mr. President, besides my love for this country that made my mind up to accept the assignment that was put on me, I knew that the sacrifice that he was calling me to make was no greater than that which he himself was bearing. The attributes that I have just talked about persuaded me that this was the kind of person that I could continue to work closely with and so I accepted that assignment.

When I got to work with him very closely again in 2008, those same qualities I saw before were still there: the calmness; the assuredness; the astuteness; the patience; the humility; the desire to involve others in giving their opinion; the constructed consensus seeking; the hard work; the love for Barbados and its institutions; the love for Barbados' people and the concern for its most vulnerable group.

Mr. President, he showed once again his boldness and his courage with the policies that he fashioned and approved while we was Prime Minister for this short 33 months. Mr. President, during the 33 months I worked with him while he was Prime Minister, his concern would always be, what do we do to help the most vulnerable, the hardest pressed groups in our society. Mr. President, while he would ask that question, he would also be very realistic about how much Government could spend and what Government could do because while he wanted to do the best he could financially for our most hard-pressed groups, he also did not wish to create a sense of dependency in our people. Indeed, he felt that we had to encourage our people to embrace fully the pride and industry of our motto. Mr. President, while he looked for ways to help the hardest pressed, he also found ways to encourage people.

Mr. President, I am given towards matters to do with numbers and matters to do with finance and economics but we shared the same philosophy in that economics did not make a people, the people make the economy, that was fundamental to both of our philosophies. Mr. President, as we sat and work through budgetary proposals, we found that we had to protect one part of our society on which we all would have to depend upon, that is, our youth, so the free bus fares the free camps for school children.

Senate A36 Sequence 34

6.43 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Senator the Hon. DARCY W. BOYCE: Madam Deputy President, very early on while the price of fuel raged, while commodity prices went through the roof, we felt that the best way to help our economy, the best way to help our people without making them too independent on Government - and we could not afford it - was to increase the reverse tax credit, increase the welfare payments to the disabled, and to commit to making sure that Government did not reduce its employment of persons in this economy. That was important for us, that was important for the Honourable David Thompson, to make sure that we could keep every Government workers employed during these difficult times. Madam, David Thompson reached out to the private sector, who in turn reached back to him and we made essentially a pact to keep our people employed.

Madam Deputy President, I watched the way in which the late Honourable David Thompson treated public servants in Barbados, I watched the way he encouraged them to give their advice, the way he would make sure that they were heard in the same way as his Ministers were heard. He would make sure that they gave him options. He would make sure that they were treated with the utmost of respect. He himself treated them with the utmost of respect. That, Madam Deputy President, was something I really admired about him, he had this humility about him, this lack of pretentiousness. It was his desire to hear people around him. He gave them a chance to make their contributions. Madam, the only time I can recall during those few months of ever seeing him getting angry or annoyed was when bureaucracy threatened to stop the progress of social programmes. He could not stand that, he could not stand the long drawn-out process and sometimes processes of planning, when there were things that could be done and done immediately to improve the lot of poor people. That, Madam Deputy President, I found an excellent trait in our late Prime Minister.

Madam, he would suggest that rather than trying to start a new programme, that we start with what we have. When the plan was suggested to have a number of school buses for every school in every community, he suggested that we fix the buses that we have and that we start the route going so that those school children whose parents could not afford the bus fare, particularly as the price rose, would be able to get to school. When people would want to spend years to plan the National Youth Camps, he could not stand that, he suggested that we get cracking with the matter, that we start with the schools or the churches. He suggested that we start wherever we could, in order to get the youth into a proper form of supervision during those long summer vacations. That was the kind of David Thompson that I saw, that was the kind of Prime Minister that I love.

Madam Deputy President, he was very realistic about the capacity of the economy to carry subsidies, he

would often say that he went through the 1992 and 1994 period and that he was not going through that period again, that he had been already there. Sir, I remember him turning and looking directly at me and saying, we are not going through that again. Madam Deputy President, David Thompson was very realistic, though he knew we had to help people, he also knew the economy had a certain capacity in which it could do some of the things people were looking for, and that he was not going to make the economy carry any more burden than it could bear. Therefore, rather than having a programme of several hundred new buses to start the school bus programme, he said no, let us start it with what we have, let us have those buses repaired and start the programme. Sir, further too, rather than trying to move the welfare payments to an astronomical level, he said let us give a little something and help people.

Madam Deputy President, regarding the matter of the Diaspora, he reached out to the Diaspora, he suggested that rather than waiting for some great, big programme to get going, let us start with what we have. Sir, when we got that advice and got started, we saw progress, before we knew it, we had a big Diaspora conference in August this year. Sir, this was a man who seemed in a hurry to get things done, it was as if it was by hindsight that he knew he had only a certain amount of time left before he goes. Sir, he would not let bureaucracy stand in his way but at the same time he would not have anyone subverting the rules of neither the public service nor the rules of law, he was always observant of the law and of the procedures for checks and balances within the public service.

Madam Deputy President, our late Prime Minister in a way reminded us of the definition of what supreme Barbadian class was and what supreme Barbadian class is supposed to be. It reminded us of the humility, the sense of community, the love of family, the love and devotion to country, the regard and concern for our poorest and for the least fortunate, the courtesy, the way he involves our people. Madam Deputy President, this reminds us of what we look for in our leaders in politics, in Government, in religion and in our communities; what we look for in our brothers, sisters, neighbours and friends. David Thompson was of a supreme Barbadian class and he reminded all of us of what Barbadian class used to be, what Barbadian class hopefully would once again be for all of us.

6.51 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Senator the Hon. D.W. BOYCE: I am honoured to have had the opportunity to have worked with him very closely over the last thirty three months. The class that he has shown, the vision that he has expressed for this country and the model of servant leadership that he has demonstrated for us will remain with me forever.

Mr. President, that model of servant leader is a model where we lead through giving our all in service to our people. May we all follow his model. May we keep his vision alive. May we ensure that our people achieve his vision of a bolder, a nobler, gentler, happier Barbados for all of us who live here.

Mr. President, I am most obliged.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Madam Deputy President.

Her Honour Senator Miss K. F. IFILL: Mr. President, I rise with a heavy heart but yet with a sense of pride to associate myself and to support this Resolution. The Honourable David John Howard Thompson exemplified all that we, as Barbadians, hold dear. As a little girl, I remember watching debates on television. I did not know who they were but I remembered listening to a particular voice and I thinking to myself that when I grow up I want to speak just like him, maybe not with that drawl but with his eloquence and with his passion.

Mr. President, like our late Prime Minister, I am a proud and unrepentant Combermerian. We have been called a cult, we have been referred to as the Mafia but, Mr. President, I am sure that all of us who carry the bold name of Combermerian know that it is a love that surpasses many others and we are extremely proud. It will surpass many humans' understanding merely because it is incomprehensible to others who have not had the blessing of such an education and, Sir, for them, we have pity and we lead by example.

Mr. President, I refer to our proud heritage as Combermerians not merely because it is a great and glorious place but because last Wednesday, I sat in Kensington Oval and I listened to the voices of the school choir render our school song. Sir, I know the words of that school song like the back of my heart. It touches my heart every time I hear that but that day, one line in particular struck me as totally personifying the late David John Howard Thompson and it was this:

"Truest fame lies in high endeavour."

Mr. President, what that meant is giving selflessly, giving earnestly, giving determinedly and that is why when the current Prime Minister read that famous part of that famous passage, "Let us sing the praises of famous men, our ancestors in their generations", at no other time did I feel that those words were more true because David John Howard Thompson was truly a famous man for he endeavoured long and hard.

Mr. President, I have listened to all of my colleagues this morning speak of all their pleasant encounters but one of my favorite encounters was that I got to taste his hand. I do not know how many Barbadians know this but he was an excellent cook and on one occasion I had the pleasure of being served with his home made buljol, and it was divine. Sir, on that occasion, it was just after Old Scholars Week and we had both had the pleasure of speaking to the school that week and he said to me, "Kerryann, I understand that you spoke the day before me and they tell me I did not speak as good as you."

Asides.

Her Honour Senator Miss K. F. IFILL: We both knew he was lying but I had the pleasure of working in an office with a proud, proud inhabitant of St. John. I do not know how many more times I can say the word proud. Sir, on the day that she received her copy of the letter sent to all constituents of St. John, she brought it into the office and I do not think it has left our office since because she has been waiting for someone to laminate it for her. Sir, everyone that comes into the office that did not have the privilege of receiving such a letter she shows it to them. She regaled me with stories which continue to demonstrate the graciousness that was this man. She spoke of her love of the beach and the fact that every bank holiday she sat on the beach, she would either come and meet him there or he would be there after with his wife and his children. He would walk up and down and he would greet everyone he would pass. She said that if a conch shell stopped, he would speak too because he just made sure that he paid attention to everyone. She said that her favourite memory was when he was first brought as the prospective candidate for St. John.

Her father was at the time an unrepentant labour man and he said, "What are you bringing this long, gaulin boy in here for, I do not want to speak to him," but after David spoke with him and he left, her father turned and said, "He is a good boy, he can get my vote", and to the day her father died, her father changed and supported David John Howard Thompson for that was the quality of the man.

In her address, the eldest daughter, Misha spoke of the fact that her father taught her to be comfortable with all people regardless of age or station, regardless of their abilities or disabilities. Sir, that too, is another part that we will greatly miss in our beloved Prime Minister.

Sir, persons with disabilities are often overlooked and undervalued but not by our late Prime Minister. He valued everyone as responsible citizens of this country. When he spoke of the concept of Team Barbados, he did not speak of a team that could run, jump and leap, he spoke of a team that encompassed all people. On the occasion of the launch of the fully accessible campaign, he had these words to say:

"Tonight ceremony is a classic example of how Team Barbados can take a good idea and create a win-win situation for us all. It is an excellent example of how every Barbadian, as individuals in their own right, or as members of our organisations can make a contribution to the wholesome development of Barbados."

Mr. President, people with disabilities from across this region called on the announcement of his death...

S/A36/7:01:20

Sequence 36

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Her Honour Senator Miss Kerryann F. IFILL: ... Sir, people with disabilities from across this region called on the announcement of his death to share a little piece of their experience with him. Friends of mine have expressed that years ago, when an organisation for the disable felt that they were being overlooked, they wrote to a number of influential persons to come and sit with them and listen to them, and the only who came was the Honourable David John Howard Thompson, everyone mattered, everyone was important.

Mr. President, as I come to close, I think I would like to end with this note, which showed his value for even the least among us.

"Our Lord and Saviour said, as you have done it even unto the least of these, you have done it unto me."

Sir, after the passing of Tomas, I called a friend who lives in St. Lucy to ask her how she and her family had fared, as we chatted, we had not chatted for a long time, she shared this story. "Every day she and her children would catch the bus to Speightstown to get their connecting bus to go to school, and every time they passed the Salt Pond, her daughter was eight-years-old at the time, and would be upset that the Salt Pond was smelly, dirty, and it kept getting worse and worse. One day that little girl said to her mother, "Mommy, I want to write to the Prime Minister about the Salt Pond." She said she told her, " That is okay sweetie, but he is a very busy man. So do not be disappointed if he does not answer." The little girl said, " She did not care." She wanted to write to her Prime Minister, and so she did.

Sir, today, in their home is a framed letter that was handwritten by David John Howard Thompson. He told the little girl how patriotic she was. He praised her for her care and her love of her country, and he assured her that he

would do something about the Salt Pond. Sir, a few weeks after the Ministry responsible for such areas sent a letter addressed personally to her telling her that they had been informed of her concerns and they would look into it, and they did. Even an eight-year-old's plight was important to him.

On behalf of all persons with disabilities in Barbados and across the Caribbean region, I wish to convey our deepest condolences to his wife, his daughters and all of his family. I know that nothing we can say can replace the love of your husband and of your father, but know that our hearts are with you, our prayers are with you and our support is unfailing. To the spirit of David John Howard Thompson, I say rest in peace and rise in glory with the Lord.

I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR Hon. Miss M.P.O. McClean: Mr. President, as I stand to conclude our tributes to our late Prime Minister, I believe we would have heard for several hours many contributions which spoke to the true person, but I want, just quickly, to focus on the last.

Sir, many things have been said, but I believe that the last speaker, Deputy President of the Senate, in her contribution, in her very presence, epitomises pretty much what the late David Thompson stood for. He believed in all people and he demonstrated it by his actions, not only appropriately and accurately identifying one of the most competent Members of the Senate, who has displayed her competence over and over again, and in his belief that as a servant should at all times, as he was described, a story of an eight-year-old, should recapture the essence of our late leader.

Sir, with those words, I want, once more, to express, as this Resolution says, 'Our thanks for his life, and to convey to his widow, Mrs. Mara Thompson, to their children, Misha, Oya, Osa-Marie and Dario, his nephews. To his mother, Margaret Knight, father Charles Thompson, and to his other relatives and friends, our feelings of profound grief, regrets and our deepest condolences on behalf of our nation and ourselves at his passing.

Sir, before I ask that this Resolution do now pass, I ask all Barbadians and indeed the people of the Caribbean that we can best honour our fallen leader, our fallen brother, our fallen son, husband, father and uncle for whom he became those things, that we seek to live as he asked us to live, as he himself lived. As a person committed to his country, to his people, even as a child, that we would do all in our power to make our individual contributions large or small to making this country, this region, this world a better place.

Sir, with those words, I beg to move that this Resolution expressing our thanks do now pass.

Mr. PRESIDENT: To the Senate and colleagues, I have to draw to your attention that we do not actually vote. In due course we will stand in our places and demonstrate our acceptance of this Resolution, but before you do, I have to make a contribution. You must forgive me if, in the course of making this contribution I do not live up or stand up to my usual aplomb.

I like most, and as his dear mother has said, I have had the privilege of knowing David from his youth up, so to speak. His mother was a nurturer. She nurtured him and she brought him up. At the age of sixteen she brought him to me and she said nothing more than, " I bring him for you." We have talked about this and as his mother has said, she nurtured David in a particular way. Everyone who has been a mother knows what it means to bring up her child, whether the child is a boy or a girl. In her exuberance to bring David up to a level that she thought he should, she did not forget and constantly behaved as a member of the Democratic Labour Party. In many ways I have felt sorry for David because he had no choice but to be a member of the Democratic Labour Party.

There are many of us who had the option of joining the Democratic Labour Party. There are some of us who having joined have found it necessary to depart, but that notwithstanding their loyalty to the Democratic Labour Party, has continued unabashed and it is likely to continue forever, because where and how they became members of the Democratic Labour Party will also be a burning passion in their hearts and in their souls.

The young man came to my home when he was sixteen years old. As I said before, his mother brought him, and gave him to me, so to speak.

7.11 p.m.

Sequence 37

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

SENATE A36, sequence 28, 7.11 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I want to tell this Honourable Senate that contrary to any individual beliefs you may have had I thought at that time that the best for him to become enmeshed in the vagaries of politics was to send him to he who has now become the Prime Minister of Barbados because I had recognised in him a consummate capacity to be the best in politics that one could be. I speak of no less a

person than the Honourable Freundel Stuart, the current Prime Minister of Barbados. I sent David Thompson to him and I was pleased to see that in his peroration in the other place he said that he was introduced to David Thompson by me.

I do not wish you, my colleagues in the Senate to misunderstand what actually happened. He blooded...our late Prime Minister. He was it who prospered our late Prime Minister into understanding what his duties would be as a Prime Minister and so I say with apologies to no one that in the next few years and decades the person who will be and who is our Prime Minister will be someone whom I consider to be the most consummate politician in the Caribbean. I say that without fear of contradiction.

The young man David Thompson of whom I should be speaking was blooded and primed and trained and fashioned at a school that does not need any introduction. We have heard so much of it. The Leader of the Senate is familiar with that school, not by actual example but because all of he persons that she has regarded as highest in her esteemed estimation have been persons who were blooded, trained and consummated at the Combermere School.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your brother and four daughters, yes, you can imagine that the Leader of the Senate's brother and everyone knows who that brother is, he was one of the most erudite humans Barbados has ever seen. I speak of Wendell McClean. I do not speak of him in relation to his sister because she has had her own deficiencies and we must recognise them for what they are. In those days there was no place for females at Combermere as there are now and so, she did not have the benefit of having gone to that illustrious place across the wire. I have to speak of what I know but I feel sorry for the Leader of the Senate because she had to bear over a period of time, the ignominy of not being part of that illustrious institution.

Unlike the Deputy President of the Senate, to say nothing of the leading Independent Member of this Honourable Chamber whom I must, with reluctance, draw to your attention was my Prefect when I was a little boy in the prep form at Combermere. That notwithstanding Senator Harold Crichlow has continued as he did today, to inspire us with his capacity borne no doubt of his existence at Combermere, borne no doubt of the facility with which he was imbued over time at Combermere. It was he who shaped my own perspective on life. It was he, my prefect, because we were taught - there was a discipline at Combermere at the time which did not allow us to ignore those whom were responsible for us and he taught me to be what I have become. I have always charged him with responsibility for any errors which may have been observed by anyone about the flaws in my character.

I know that people from the Barbados Labour Party have the capacity always to understand the flaws of my character, even though they do not necessarily speak of them because they themselves have been trained properly in the where of the world.

But that notwithstanding, let me ask you to stand in your places and acknowledge this Resolution, which I support 100 per cent.

One minute's silence was observed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Resolution has been unanimously passed.

In my attempt to satisfy the necessity of Honouring our distinguished colleague who has gone before, I forgot to admit that the President could forget might not be the best thing in the world, so let us say I omitted to mention that a former Senator had communicated with the President of the Senate, and that former Senator once filled the position that is now being so eminently filled by Senator Kerrie Symmonds and she wrote me as follows:

"As you are aware, I place my appointment at the disposal of the current leader of Opposition who has now indicated that he has accepted it. Please let me take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to your Honour, Honourable Senators, the Clerks and all Members of staff of the Parliament for your courtesy, assistance and support, during the period that I spent in public life. It has been my honour and privilege to serve in both Chambers of the Honourable House of Assembly. I am grateful to the leaders of the Barbados Labour Party who reposed confidence in me and the people of St. James South who made this service possible. I leave public life, knowing that I have given my best to my country and have served Barbados honestly, wholeheartedly and loyally. Wherever I go, Barbados will remain foremost in my mind and heart and I will do my utmost to exemplify the finest standards and traits for which our country and people have come to be known.

May Almighty God always bless and be merciful to Barbados and Barbadians.

Yours Sincerely,

H. Elizabeth Thompson"

There was a time earlier when I had decided that since this H. Elizabeth Thompson was not a member of this Senate as presently constituted that I would not read that letter but I would feel a sense of total betrayal if I did not

convey those sentiments to you and in so doing, I would like to take the opportunity to express her tribute to our dear fallen colleague whom we have honoured today, the Resolution which had been proposed and which has been seconded and which we have voted on.

SENATE A36, sequence 28, 7.21 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wish to say to you that this distinguished former Senator has written to me and she has asked me to read the tribute to the Honourable David John Howard Thompson, Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados December 1961 to October 2010. She says as followed:

"Like most Barbadians, I watched David Thompson grow up. We were contemporaries. He was a month younger than I, having both been born in London in the same bitterly cold London winter of 1961. We met in Barbados at 14 and for the next 34 years our paths would converge and diverge, personally, professionally and politically."

I wish you to know that Senator Irene Sandiford-Garner falls into the same category of persons born at that time in that cold place.

"David Thompson was a man of enormous gifts which he put at the disposal of Barbados from his teenage years until his death. I watched him and shared the screen with him, when as a school boy on the television programme "Understanding," he fascinated and charmed the country. At the Bar I saw him use his undeniable skills as an orator in support of his clients. Politically, watched him win a convincing mandate and be sworn in as Honourable Prime Minister. In the last two weeks I have observed an unprecedented outpouring of love and respect as the country grieves at his passing.

One can only speculate as to what may have been the breadth of his legacy, given time. Yet, in seeking to make that determination there are some indications of the kind of leadership and policy orientation which would have characterised his style and tenure, in the way in which by sheer example and command of the spoken word, he invited a Nation to move back to family bonds and community spirit.

David Thompson demonstrated the power of language using it effectively both as sword and shield as the occasion arose. We count his chronological years but from very young the late Honourable Member for St. John had an aura and a calm that were characteristic of a much older, wiser person. Irrespective of the enormity of the challenge he appeared undaunted. Whether it was facing mature seasoned professionals on "Understanding", being Barbados' youngest Parliamentarian, becoming Minister of Finance at a very difficult period in our history, leading the Democratic Labour Party into a major electoral victory or becoming Prime Minister, he gave the country the sense that he was equal to the challenge and would give it his all and his best.

David Thompson never let his age stop him from pursuing and achieving his dreams.

In March of this year when we last spoke, he took a decision that I would be nominated as Barbados' candidate for the post of Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change. In so doing he made a mature political decision which transcended the partisan divide, recognising instead the opportunity which the nomination could mean for Barbados, particularly if we were able to get the appointment.

When I was a new Parliamentarian, I heard the then member for St. Michael West describe himself as a "professional politician". Despite his apparent earnestness, this description evoked much mirth and some derision. With the passage of time, and I should like to think, with the wisdom that comes as the years go by, I have come to fully appreciate the point which your Honour was making at that time. It should not escape our notice that in an era where young people seem little interested in society and civics and more interested in self, when attitudes to politicians seem to move between criticism and contempt, David Thompson understood the role of politics in transforming the condition of people and crafting a more normal state which he referred to as a "kinder, gentler Barbados."

He was, Sir, a "professional politician" who from an early age dedicated himself to our country and its citizens.

I join with colleagues, with the Barbados Labour Party, members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and all Barbadians in extending sympathy to his family and to the Democratic Labour Party. I pray that the Almighty God who is the Maker and Saviour of us all will cause the Honourable David John Howard Thompson, Member of Parliament for St. John and Prime Minister of Barbados to rest in eternal peace."

My brothers and sisters, it is in such vein that I ask you to accept my own condolences for the family of David John Howard Thompson, my friend, my son, my political leader. I cannot think of any other way of saying it except that may he rest in peace and rise in glory. The Senate stands adjourned.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am told that we cannot stand adjourned because we have work to do. Under the circumstances, we shall do that work.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER No. 3

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2 (1) OF THE TREASURY BILLS AND TAX CERTIFICATES ACT, CAP, 106 THE AMOUNT OF $1.2 BILLION AS THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY THE ISSUE OF TREASURY BILLS, TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES AND TAX REFUND CERTIFICATES.

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the Resolution before us to approve in accordance with Section 2(1) of the Treasury Bills and Tax Certificates Act, Cap 106, the amount of $1.2 billion to be raised by the issue of Treasury Bills, Tax Reserves Certificates and Tax Refund Certificates is one that is necessary in the context of Government's need to raise moneys for the conduct of Government business on a day-to-day basis. There are several factors we need to take into consideration. First of course, the economy is growing and any limits would automatically rise but more importantly in the context of the current financial situation facing the world and the adoption of a strategy to look first in relation to certain types of borrowings to the local market is one which would see the need to increase the limit as provided under the legislation.

Senate A36 Sequence 39

7.33 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

SENATOR the Hon. M.P.O. McCLEAN: This figure represents the extent to which Government can raise monies by way of several types of financial instruments; it is also a method by which Government seeks to manage its liquidity position, taking advantage of the relative liquidity position within the wider economy.

Mr. President, this is a very straightforward matter, Government, from time to time, will go to the capital or financial sector to raise funds and we have, at all times, to operate within the context of the law. Therefore, this Resolution recognises that fact and will, in essence, ensure that anytime Government seeks to borrow via the methods described earlier, the issuing of Treasury Bills and the use of Tax Reserve Certificates, that this is done legally.

Mr. President, very quickly I will explain two of those terms so that we are clear. Sir, Treasury Bills are pretty common, while tax reserve certificates, essentially, are used for the prepayment of corporation taxes. In a sense, those things are a part of everyday business transactions. Sir, the second one is more familiar to the individual taxpayers, which is the tax refund certificate. It is essentially an investment instrument, typically of five years, issued to taxpayers in lieu of cash for income tax returns. It is often taken because of the attractiveness of the interest rate, et cetera, but in issuing those, it essentially constitutes part of Government's debt. This figure was raised in 2008 from approximately $700 million to $1 billion and it will have some impact.

Mr. President, I want to point out that raising the ceiling does not translate necessarily into the actual expansion of the debts, to the level of the figure determined by that raising. However, it provides scope or flexibility of being able to take that better. I believe that the challenges facing this economy are very clear, this is a practice that is necessary in good times, and when I say in good time, I mean when all of our sectors are performing as they have been. It is also necessary as we are faced with certain strictures. Sir, as a Government we have to ensure that the business of the economy has to happen. We know from what has been debated in this Honourable Chamber over the last several months that with the falloff in the performance of our major source economies, the sources from which we earn foreign exchange or generate business, either in tourism or Financial Services Sector, that falloff has translated into a drop in certain critical sectors, while they have demanded on Government to play a greater role in providing and supporting economic activity.

Mr. President, with all of those things and being proactive, it is necessary that we look towards what are the projected borrowings by Government on the local market. It is also necessary that Government provides, in the legislation, the necessary cover for that capacity to borrow, specifically in the area of treasury bills and tax certificates. Sir, with those few words and explanation for the rationale for the proposed increase limit for treasury bills and tax certificates within that Act, Cap. 106, I propose that this Resolution do now pass The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 2 – SECOND READING OF THE LOCAL LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2010.

SENATOR the Hon. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the proposed increase in the limit for local loans in accordance with the Local Loans (Amendment) Bill, 2010, speaks very much to a similar issue to the one discussed before, it speaks to Government's ability to borrow. Sir, as was previously indicated, Government's ability to borrow on the local market is derived from legislation. Of course, as was indicated, one strategy for financing the national deficit is local borrowing. Sir, where

it can take advantage of prevailing liquidity in the market, Government will seek to do so. Of course, Government is doing so against the background of anticipated growth in the economy, while, at the same time, addressing its increased need to participate in economic activities in the short term, in the context of the challenges of a global, economic and financial recession .

Mr. President, it is important to recognise that this piece of legislation must be amended, at all times, to ensure that Government does not, as was said before, breach the law, and that transparency and good governance is very much the hallmark of this administration.

Sir, I must say that from the perspective of an individual investor, Government Paper has always been very attractive. It certainly is perhaps offering a better level of return that regular savings and therefore it is expected that any issue of Government will be fully taken up and perhaps even oversubscribed. In times of economic uncertainty, as you would have seen played out in the international arena, people look to Government Paper and therefore we can anticipate that any issues will be fully subscribed, if not over-subscribed, and we will anticipate that Government will need to ensure that it is legally covered.

Mr. President, as at September 30, 2010, according to the provision, the balance was approximately $3.99 billion out, of a maximum of $4 billion. Therefore, the limit will be moved to $1 billion. Sir, as I indicated in relation to the previous Resolution to which I spoke earlier, the intention is to provide adequate space, thus the increase from $4 billion to $5 billion as set out in the proposed amendment to this Bill. Sir, given its similarity and purpose in terms of legal requirement, and reasons for speaking to the need to increase the figures, in terms of Government's ability to borrow, I believe that a clear case has been made out for this. Therefore, I do not propose to engage in any long treaties on the issue of our economic situation, as we have spoken about that on several occasions and will certainly have several more occasions to speak to it. Sir, suffice it to say, this allows Government to do business in an orderly manner, as it seeks to finance its business activities, as it seeks to make decisions in keeping with stabilising and keeping our economy on a sound footing.

Senator KERRIE D. SYMMONDS Mr. President, perhaps you will forgive me if I begin on a note of requesting that my friend, Senator Boyce, forgives me for that which I thought I would never do, that is to say the following words: "truest pain lies in high endeavour", coming as it does, from a theme song which he loves so dearly. Sir, I almost anticipate that Senator Boyce will recoil upon hearing that coming from my lips.

7.40 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: I almost anticipate that Senator Boyce would recoil hearing that come from my lips. Sir, I start on that note because of the fact that this Chamber has, I think, to live up to its high reputation and that very high reputation is as a Chamber of serious and sober review of the legislative process. Therefore, Sir, we must commit ourselves even at this late hour to the highest endeavour.

Mr. President, my concern turns not so much on the methodology which is being contemplated under the use of the Local Loans Act of Barbados because the methodology, Sir, I think is sound. There is a view that rather than incur debt by route of going to the international marketplace that you incur debt by way of using the local marketplace and Senator McClean is absolutely right when she speaks about the socio-economic culture which is emerging in Barbados to the effect that Government paper, bonds, debentures, et cetera, are now being used by the average citizen who is becoming more financially sophisticated as a means of investment, so there is no quarrel there. In fact, if the truth be told, that was an approach that the Barbados Labour Party had adopted during the period of time that we were in charge of the administration of this country and so, in that regard, it is entirely consonant with the strategy and, in fact, it is a strategy that has been adumbrated by and followed by the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. President, my concern though is more in the context of the rationale and that is the second limb to which I would wish to speak. We are seeking to use Cap. 98 of the legislation of the Laws of Barbados, which is the Local Loans Act and we are faced, essentially, Mr. President, with the following proposition. Sir, that proposition is that Government, in an effort to secure the space to borrow $1 million if the need arises, is seeking to use the Local Loans Act to achieve that objective. Sir, immediately prior to coming to this point, and I purposely did not intervene because I did not realise that both of them were going to be done and this House approved a Resolution in effect to create space to raise $1.2 billion by way of Treasury Bill, Tax Reserve Certificates, et cetera. Mr. President, the concern that one has to have is that the proposition to raise this substantial amount of money conflicts sharply on its face with the commitment given by the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados that we would not be raising any new debt. Sir, I say that there is an inconsistency that appears very worrisome.

Mr. President, I am going to go through this step by step because I want not to be contentious but to seek out of concern, as a citizen of Barbados, to ask for further and better particulars.

Senator J. INCE: Mr. President, on a point of order. Senator Symmonds is misleading the Senate. Sir, this Senator Ince cannot recall when the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados that this administration would not would not be incurring any more debt or borrowing any more money. I would like Senator Symmonds to state the time and the place and make reference because that is a loose statement.

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, if I may proceed. I would be gracious to Senator Ince's intervention and I would say candidly that I am not in a position to state the time but I can say that the Press Conference that was last held by the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados revealed that was a position that he had adopted. Sir, if he wants me to say where it was held, I cannot tell you the geographical location but I can say, let us forget Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados and speak to the policy of the Democratic Labour Party. It is an unfortunate thing that we have to, in small matters, because right now I am only asking for better particulars. The time has not yet come for there to be prosecutorial approach, and Senator Ince would do well to bear in mind that I can come to that point rather swiftly. The point is, Mr. President, that the Democratic Labour Party came to office with a campaign position that debt was a central issue of concern for this country and we cannot approbate and reprobate at the same time. I am simply saying, Mr. President, that if we are going to ask the citizens of Barbados to accept that there is elbow room needed to do more borrowing, there is nothing, in principle, wrong with that. (7:03)

Mr. President, I began by saying that it was an approach used by the Barbados Labour Party, practised and followed, when one needed to have space but there should be a public purpose behind the debt and the test that must be passed in this Chamber, in my judgement, is that there has to be an examination of that which is said to be the purpose but, Sir, I am not hearing the purpose.

Mr. President, I go further if we want to be political. Sir, I have had to sit and listen repeatedly to what can only be described as the mantra about there being a building of society and building of economy. Mr. President, I know of no society that functions without economic stimulation. I know of no society which functions without economic stimulation so, therefore, the question of debt is at the centrepiece, in my judgement, of the issue of economic development in Barbados. Sir, question No. 1, therefore, has to be: How does this proposal, to raise this substantial amount of money, squares with the position that the Democratic Labour Party had taken out of office and that which I maintain on the four corners of my argument that the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados has echoed that there ought not to be the raising of new debt?

Sir, that is the first question and, in as much as Senator is so keen to join the fray in the manner he does, I turn to the question of the medium term fiscal strategy. Sir, Senator Ince told us this afternoon that the late and beloved Prime Minister used the brains in Barbados of persons in the public sector and private sector to establish and develop a strategy for Barbados for the years, 2010 to 2014 to guide us out of the worse economic recession. Sir, those were his words and I took the opportunity to write them down as he spoke and it appears to me, from his apparent agitation, Sir, that he may wish to retreat from that which he spoke. Sir, it was a good tribute to the late Prime Minister and I not want him to retreat from everything but the fact of the matter is that it fell from the lips of Senator Ince. Sir, I believe sincerely that Senator Ince is correct when he says that the purpose was to guide Barbados out of a deep economic recession.

Mr. President, if part of the medium term fiscal strategy was to bring us to a point of surplus by 2015...

S/A63/7:51

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Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, therefore, if part of the Medium-term Fiscal Strategy was to bring us to a point of surplus by 2015, and that is part of the strategy, I have read it, I am assuming it is a document of this House, then is there not a glaring inconsistency between this talk of reaching surplus by 2015 and on the cusp, the eve of 2011, seeking via one route to raise a million dollars or the to have the route maneuverbility to raise a million, and via another route to raise another $1.2 billion.

Mr. President, at its very best there is an inconsistency. The question I have sought to ask, before I was interrupted by an eager Senator Ince, was one that is a very elementary question. What is the purpose for which the money is being sought? Can you explain the plan? Is there a thinking? Is there a rationale that helps the citizen? This is not the Barbados Labour Party speaking out of a desire to be contentious, because the truth of the matter is, the request is simply one for further and better particulars. The request is simply one that any citizen in his right mind would want to ask, because none of us who are Barbadians would want to stand in the way of this Government taking the necessary reasonable measures to take this country out of the path of economic decline and possible disaster.

Mr. President, the Central Bank Governor, in his quarterly Press Statement, I believe, September 2010 - I do not know if it is a document of the House, but I am more than happy to make it a document. At Page 11 of that statement, provides us under the rubic of Government

fiscal operations and the cost attached thereto, with some insight into that which is the state of affairs, financially, in Barbados.

Sir, the reason why I want to ask the reasonable question, in my judgement, of what is the purpose? Explain the policy. Explain the rationale. Help us, the citizens of the country to get a grasp of where you want to go so that we can go there with you. Let no man be left behind. Those things are not just meant to be statements spot out in the air in commemoration of someone's values. There are meant to be a code of conduct, politically, but we should not abandon in jettison as soon as the opportunity for paying tribute has come to an end.

Sir, therefore, when I look at Page 11 of the document I have referenced, I see that there is an issue in Barbados of wages and salaries and the costs associated therewith between 2008 and 2009, where in 2008 we paid $783.7 million towards wages and salaries, but by 2009 that had jumped, by $98 million, to $881 million. These are Central Bank's figures.

Sir, the question therefore is asked, was there some form of public sector wage increase that we have not heard of? What is the justification? How does it get to that point? Is there, perhaps, an element of recklessness taking place within the public service, and this is not to antagonise Senator Ince or any other, but it is to ask the question, is it that people are coming into the service at a time when it may not be financially prudent for that to happen, that is escalating the wage bill? Is that what is happening? Sir, the question that has to be asked must also be answered.

Mr. President, I also feel that when one looks at the question of the current account balance, which essentially is just the cost of paying bills in this country, we see a tale of how this country has moved in two years from surplus to severe substantial deficit. The Central Bank's figures say that in 2007 we were in a state of surplus in the current balance, $115.7 million. Mr. President, in 2008 it went to $121.6 million in deficit, and today $449.9 million in deficit in terms of those things which we call the ability of Barbados to pay its bills, to buy rice, to by milk, complan, for people at the Geriatric. This is what we are saying. You are in deficit by half a billion dollars.

Therefore, the question that the Leader of Government Business should be answering me, not that what or so what, is what is it that is the Government's thinking that is the purpose behind this requested amount of money. If it is that the Government is saying, they are cash-strapped as a result of certain problems, then let us not deal with the matter in secret, let us bring the entire country onboard, let us ask the country to stand shoulder to shoulder and help us weather a particular rise to a set of problems.

Sir, you cannot on one hand be saying that we simply want the money and expect a responsible Opposition ...

Asides.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: You will have a chance to speak.

Sir, therefore, the question is, what are the specific issues which are causing this Government to come to the point where we need this substantial and almost astronomical increase in space for borrowing?

Asides.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: I am not done yet.

Mr. President, there is an attitude as well, because it is also as though you are pilloried for asking certain questions. I make the point that if we continue...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have to draw to your attention that no one can be pilloried in this Senate.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: I am grateful to you, Sir.

Sir, I make the point that if we continue in this vein where, and I go back to the figures because the figures are telling the tale. It is a scientific tale, not my tale, when you are half a billion in deficit, when last year you were $1.21 million in deficit. It suggests that there is a substantial increase in the current account situation in Barbados, a substantial increase in the problems relating to the current account situation in Barbados.

Mr. President, history tells you that when the Romans invaded England and they had created a wilderness, they turned around and called it a civilisation, and I hear a lot of loose talk about how we are focusing on a society. When we have eroded everything that we call the economic base of a country, you cannot build a society on it. So when once you have laid waste to the society, when once you have done what the Romans did and created a wilderness, do not pretend then to want to call it a civilisation. It will not happen. It is a very serious and real problem, and it requires a very serious and real response from the Government.

Sir, you cannot move from a situation two years ago when you merely had $1.2 million in deficit to...

Asides.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: I stand corrected. Sir, you cannot move from a situation where you are $121 million in deficit to one where you are nearly $500 million in

deficit the next year without it not being cause for concern and perhaps alarm. That is what I am trying to say, and I did not really want to say it in a contentious way because I really thought it was a simple matter as saying that there concerns and perhaps the Government would be prepared to share with us what its thinking on the matter is. I did not know it would cause people to be flaring off their hands, getting upset and spinning around in their seats and so on. Sir, we are all, as they say, fellow citizens, and we are all in this together whether we like it or not.

8.01 p.m.

Sequence 42

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SENATE A36, sequence 43, 8.01 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. President, the reality is that there is another matter of concern that faces us. We have to accept that there is right now before the House of Assembly of Barbados and therefore it is a public matter, a request, Sir, that Government provides a Guarantee, pursuant to the Guarantee of Loans Act for the National Housing Corporation to get a mere $40 million.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am aware that you are aware of the rules of debate in this Senate and you cannot allude to something that is happening in the other place ans use it as a basis.

Senator K. SYMMONDS: I would not anticipate the debate, Mr. President, it has to come to us and I will never do that but I can speak, Sir, of that which is part of the public domain in this country. I am saying that when we come to situations where we are talking about Government contemplating th possibility of raising $40 million for a statutory corporation, there has been over time, substantially more larger amounts of money, and borrowed on the strength of a Letter of Comfort from the Ministry of Finance, borrowed on the strength of an elementary guarantee because that is what the value of the Government's was

Mr. President, we are at a stage today where the conditions attached to that $40 million for the first time is that the lender is seeking to protect itself from downgrade of the Government's local currency debt by providing for an increase in the interest rate. This is for the first time being written into a contractual arrangement for a mere $40 million.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It really is difficult for me to interrupt you at this stage but we are discussing a particular matter and I would like you to stay within the ambit of that particular matter, rather than deviate and go of into areas that are not before us. I hate to have to interrupt you but please help me in that regard.

Senator K. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, as I said to you, I am very well acquainted with the rules and I am not seeking in anyway to anticipate a debate that is to come. I would not do so. I am speaking, Sir, in the context of an awareness as a citizen, who has made himself familiar with public affairs. I am saying as a matter of knowledge of public affairs, that this development to which I spoke, is a development, which in the contest of this debate becomes very relevant because the substance of this debate, Mr. President, is the difficulty which has been unspecified by the Government.

A financial difficulty clearly exists. It remains 'unparticularised' and unspecified. We do not know the full substance and nature of the difficulty. We do know that via two pieces of Legislation coming in the closing chapter of a full day, the Government is seeking to forgive itself the room to raise $2.2 billion.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not like interrupting an Honourable Senator when he or she is speaking. What I wish to draw to your attention is that the matter before us does not admit of the matters which you are drawing into the debate.

I wish to draw that to your attention before I have to rule. The matter that you are discussing has not yet been put before this Senate.

Senator K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I accept your ruling or your injunction that I do not pursue that line of argument because you really have not ruled and I do not want to force you to rule so I will not say anything more, Sir, about the situation with that $40 million loan. I try to accommodate you wherever possible.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order please. Please Senators, I have to beg you, could we have order, please. I do not wish to have a contentious situation unnecessarily.

Senator K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, the reality is I do not know what I could possibly have said that would so disturb my colleagues at this hour. In a nutshell, Sir, all I said was that the amount of money we are seeking to create room to borrow is substantial, $2.2 billion. I said that I figured in all fairness that any citizen of Barbados, the BLP, or any other would wan5t to know, Mr. President, what is the rationale of the Government.

I make the larger point that given the situation coming out of the last quarterly review of the Central Bank in September 2010, the Governor himself has made it clear

that he is at best squeamish about this borrowing thing. Sir, I spoke about the backdrop of the Democratic Labour Party's position on borrowing, only two years ago and I went to the trouble of showing Honourable Senators and I want to make it a document of the Senate because you would then hear that I said I was going to but I did not, and I am too old in this business now to make that kind of mistake so I am going to repeat page 11 so that Honourable Senators would be guided when they look at the Government's fiscal operations and realise that we did in fact have, between 2008 and 2009, a $98 million increase in our Wages and Salaries Bill and that between 1998 and 1999, Sir, this country moved from a deficit of $121 million on the current account balance to nearly a half billion, $449 million.

Mr. President if the answer is that it is money for the prison and Three S, then there is no need for contention. The Honourable Senators can get up and say so. Mr. President, the point that I am making and I will not shy away from it is that unless Honourable Senator can say with pellucidity and clarity that these are the reasons we are coming to get BDS$2.2 billion, then there is a legitimate concern in the minds of the average fellow citizen because, according to the Press Release of September 2010, things are clearly brown and that should not be a matter for contention.

Asides.

Senator K.D. SYMMONDS: I am going to make it a document of the Senate because I want Senator Benn to be able to reflect on how things were in 2005.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It will not be necessary for you to make a public document a document of the Senate. If, as you are saying, it is a document that has been published by the Central Bank of Barbados to make it a document of the Senate would be superfluous at least.

Senator K.D. SYMMONDS: Perhaps what I was doing was trying to beg Honourable Senator to read it, so that they would not ask me about that which they presume to know.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you cannot do that in the face of the presidency. I know that you are familiar with the rules of debate and I am not going to allow you to make fun of the Senate.

Senator K.D. SYMMONDS: No, Sir. I am not making fun. I was trying to speak to a very serious issue. Mr. President, that I did so without any malice and that I smiled is not to make fun of it, Sir, it is too much money to be treated lightly.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will not accuse you of malice. I know that you are without malice. I make the assumption that you are without malice. I make that assumption about all Honourable Senator and therefore when you make a statement which suggests to me that you are acting outside of the parameters, our normal methodology for debate. I know that you are capable of better than that.

Senator K.D. SYMMONDS: Yes, Mr. President, and I am guided.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Very well.

SENATE A36, sequence 43, 8.11 p.m.

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Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: (Is on a point of order):

If Senator Ince wants to talk about any money that was raised externally, there is an External Loans Act for that purpose. There is a Special Loans Act through the CDB and that is why I asked him but he chosed not to respond to me when he was on his feet but now he is staring into space to catch himself but the fact of the matter is, it is patently irrelevant. The issue here has to do with the Local Loans Act not any $100 million that was supposed to be borrowed for a rainy day on the international market but could only be finance via that route, it cannot be financed through raising money down here in the domestic marketplace so we are talking about apples and oranges. Sir, that is why I treat very lightly to this wizardry that Senator Ince is supposed to possess in these matters because the elementary, regulatory framework he is obviously a stranger to.

Senator J. INCE: Mr. President, may I continue, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, please continue.

Senator J. INCE: Mr. President, I am going to repeat. Senator Symmonds sat in a Cabinet and if that $100 million was available to us, where it was placed in a special fund, it would have not only reduce but it would minimise the exposure of this local borrowing. The US$100 million was supposed to come into in a special fund. Sir, we supported the initiative because, in our opinion, there were stormy clouds, as making reference to Senator Symmonds and his colleagues at the time, that there were stormy clouds on the horizon and we needed to have this fund. Mr. President, not a cent, and what we in this administration had to do was to refinance that $100 million out of monies that are generated from revenue locally. We had to refinance it and, Sir, that is what I am making reference to us. Sir, if that was available to us . . .

Asides.

Senator J. INCE: This is one of the economic shocks that Senator Symmonds and his colleagues were talking about at the time.

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Honourable Senator is misleading the Senate and clearly is at sea. Senator Ince cannot ask this Chamber to accept that the Laws of Barbados which prescribes that local loans are done under a specific piece of legislation were confused with external loans done under a completely different piece of legislation and that a loan raised on the international market was financed in the local market. Sir, that is hodge-podge, inconsistent globby-goo. It does not follow. In fact, it does not follow in law or it does not follow economically. Sir, Senator Ince may know better.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Ince, you may continue.

Senator J. INCE: Sir, Senator Symmonds is totally confused and bewildered and I can understand being confused and bewildered because Senator Symmonds is so nervous right now that he does not know if tomorrow his leader would get up and change him from being in the Senate so I can understand why he is going down that road.

Mr. President, the money was borrowed overseas and it was supposed to stabilise the Barbados' economy and that is why we have to go to the local markets now because if that money that was borrowed in the international market was available to us it would have minimise the exposure of going to the local market in this time of recession.

Mr. President, we have a clear agenda in the Democratic Labour Party and I have said it before and I will say it again. I have heard the rhetoric, when I warned them about trying to subsidise diesel and gasoline they said that I need to go and read economics, that I was no economist, that I was in no league with them and, Sir, I did not worry about it but, at the end of the day, I said them that they were going to incur a debt that is going expose the traded sectors in this country where they are going to be vulnerable and it is going to take some time to settle down. (5:02)

Mr. President, we incurred a debt of over $80 million through the Barbados Oil Company, so I am accustomed to the theatrics but we, in the Democratic Labour Party, are focused and we know what we have to do. We have stabilised this economy, we have done well in the circumstances, we are to clear as to what this borrowing and increasing the loan limit under the Act is all about, and Senator Symmonds and his colleagues who are wandering after all these years have done little or nothing. Sir, after all these years, they have nothing to speak about and they are trying to confuse with the same voodoo economics that we aborted in 1994.Mr. President, they are not going to set the agenda of this Democratic Labour Party because we are clear, and we are focused.

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

SENATOR the HON. D.W. BOYCE: Mr. President, I support this amendment to the Local Loans Act. I just want to make a couple points of clarification which may help in this Honourable Chamber. Sir, the first thing is that the increase limit does not translate into increase borrowing . . .

Mr. PRESIDENT: Could we have some order, please? I am sure that the Senators wish us to finish this debate.

SENATOR the HON. D.W. BOYCE: Secondly, Mr. President, the increase in the limits together is not $2.2 billion, the increase in the limit together is about $1.2 billion and that is a substantial difference. It is, I think, $200 million in respect to the Treasury Bill limit and $1 billion in respect of the local loans limit.

Mr. President, just to show some correlation between the increase borrowing limit and the medium term fiscal strategy, while the medium term fiscal strategy aims that we should reach a balanced Budget by 2014/2015 or thereabout, the mere fact that the medium term fiscal strategy does not anticipate us coming to a balance until that time. Sir, that strategy anticipates that we will run a deficit until that time. Mr. President, once we run a deficit, it means that you have to increase your borrowing and, Mr. President, that is part of the reason why we have come for the space in the local loans limit.Mr. President, what we have come with tonight is not in any way inconsistent with the medium term fiscal strategy that has been put together.

Mr. President, I just want also just to answer the goodly Senator in respect of the question he raised about the expenditure and so on. Sir, I want to prefix that by reminding Senators that Government's revenues in almost every country of the world fell very sharply over the last two years or three years and Barbados was no different particularly since a great deal of our corporate tax revenue came from the international business sector and, as we all know, the international financial sector went through a very brutal time over the last two years or three years and their profitability declined and with decline in the profitability there would have been a corresponding decline in the corporation tax revenues and that has hurt Barbados equally badly.

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SENATOR D.W. BOYCE: ...the corporation tax revenues that has hurt Barbados equally.

Mr. President, we have a fall in revenue, which we have quite openly admitted to. At the same time with the private sector struggling to maintain themselves, Government took the decision, and rightly so, that Government would not reduce its level of expenditure because that would make conditions worse for the country. Government therefore maintained its level of expenditure, so we chose to keep people employed. We chose to pay pensions to the Barbados Defence Force. We chose to pay the debt service for all of the debt we have, including the debt service for the jail and the debt service for the Barbados Coast Guard. So we chose to do that because the Government of Barbados always honours the commitments of a previous administration. That is the nature of Barbadian Governments.

Mr. President, we increased the civil servants salaries by 10 per cent in 2008, and I believe the it was that very Senator who was a Member of this Chamber which approved that transaction when it was done. Sir, when you take into account that increase along with the increments that civil servants get, that explains the increase in the wages. There was no attempt by this administration to go out there and increase the numbers of persons employed in the public service willy nilly. That was not it. We will try to keep things as close as possible.

Mr. President, you have a choice. You can cut the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's allotments and leave people to die. We chose the other way. We will incur those debt and keep the hospital running and try to improve the hospital.

Mr. President, we can choose to freeze the pensions, but we cannot do that because the pensions are legal liabilities and the pensions increase all the time, and there are past 40 per cent of our transfers. Mr. President, we cannot choose to leave those where there are.

Sir, we could have reduced the Drug Service to half its size. Mr. President, what good is it to have doctors and to have the hospital without medications. We chose to keep the Drug Service. We chose to run the risk of additional debt because we thought it was very important for this country to protect its people and than to bother about the downgrade for this country. Sir, we thought that it was very important to pay our debt service, to pay our pensions, to keep our hospital running, to keep our Drug Service running, to keep our people employed, to pay them an increase and to service the debt, whatever incurred that debt.

Sir, with those few comments I wish to indicate I support this change.

I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR Hon. Miss M.P.O. McClean: Mr. President, it is clear that the Honourable Senator on the other side did not seem to understand my simple explanations. I always try not to play to the Gallery, as I said in my welcoming back of the Senator and the welcoming of the new Senator, that I take the business of the Senate Chamber very seriously. I take life as a rule, certainly this aspect of my life very seriously even though I do not take myself too serious. I believe that the contributions on this side, particularly the comments of Senator Boyce, just now, should have clarified for all of us who are here and who are listening elsewhere to the debate, would understand the seriousness of what we sought to do. My only comment is, as we seek to make contributions, first pay some attention to the details rather than seek to confuse. I would just want to say for the records and for the benefit of the Honourable Senator Symmonds, that any discussion of Barbados being a society and the focus, what we are talking about is precisely what Senator Boyce mentioned. As we seek to stimulate economic activity and so on, that cannot take place in a vacuum. As we talk about borrowing and expanding limits and not necessarily a discussion of the engaging of borrowings up to those limits, we are doing so against a programme which recognises that the Government has a responsibility to its people to ensure that basic social services are always provided.

It is not simply about land fetching the highest economic value, because such a strategy may render many of us to turn... status. It is about ensuring that where the economic engines of this economy, the private sector in its several facets are facing what the world is facing that the Government would step up to the plate. I dare say that as the Honourable Senator returns from leave, I almost would have used the analogy of and, of course, he would imply, but I would not do that, Sir, that he would spend some time playing less to the Gallery and pay more attention to the business of this Senate Chamber.

Sir, with those words, I beg to move that this Bill be a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR Hon. Miss M.P.O. McClean, the Senatate resolved itself into Committee, Her Honour Senator Miss Kerryann F. IFILL in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 2 inclusive were called and passed.

8.51 p.m.

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SENATE A36, sequence 48, 8.51 p.m.

On the motion of Senator 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 Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Local Loans (Amendment) Act, 2010.

ORDER NO. 1 – FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION PUBLIC ENTERPRISE INVESTMENT FUND REPEAL BILL, 2010

Senator Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the Financial Administration Public Enterprise Investment Fund Repeal Bill, 2010 is intended to repeal an Act established to receive the proceeds from the disposal of Government-owned enterprises, the sale of shares and other interests held by Government or owned by Government in a variety of entities. It is important to note that at the establishment of this Enterprise Public Enterprise Investment Fund, the Government followed a cash-based or cash-accounting system. Sir, under this system transactions were typically recognised when cash was spent or received.

Ion 2007 in keeping with internationally recognised accounting practise the Government moved from a cash-based accounting method to an accrual basis of accounting and with the adoption of this method of accounting, the treatment of assets and liabilities would have changed in terms of the timing of the recognition. As such, with that change in the accounting system, it created some difficulties in terms of the reporting, according to this Public Enterprise Investment Fund Act. On the basis of a recommendation from the Auditor General it has been deemed useful and appropriate, given those accounting changes to repeal this Legislation.

I must stress, Mr. President, that in repealing the Legislation it allows transactions which would normally have fallen into this Fund to go directly to the Consolidated Fund and be treated quite transparently and efficiently, along with other Government's financial assets and liabilities in a timely manner.

In essence, it is one in which the repealing of this Legislation would seek very basically to tidy up the management of transactions and in no way would create any difficulties for Government, in terms of the existence of this. It therefore is a simple action which seeks to streamline the accounting precise in relation to these, essentially, in terms of the purpose any disposal of Government assets would be treated in accordance with methods of accrual accounting and therefore there is nothing to be lost in terms of either information or the transparency of the handing of any such transactions.

Sir, I believe very simply put, it is a measure which is necessary to reflect the change in accounting practice and to ensure that the ability to efficiently and effectively account for any transactions which would normally have fallen under the Public Enterprise Investment Fund would be done in a manner in keeping with the new method of accounting, adopted by the Government of Barbados since 2007.

Mr. President, with those few words given the rationale for this decision and this action, I beg to move this Bill be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agree to.

On the motion of Senator M.P.O. McCLEAN, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Her Honour Senator Miss Kerryann F. IFILL in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of Senator 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.

SENATE A36, sequence 48, 9.01 p.m.

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On the separate motion of Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Financial Administration (Public Enterprise Investment Fund) (Repeal) Act, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The question that the Senate do now adjourn sine die was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.

Mr. PRESIDENT: While I am at this, may I also take the opportunity to congratulate the Leader of Government Business in the Senate on her immaculate execution of the arrangements for our colleague and late Honourable Prime Minister, the Honourable David John Howard Thompson. We thank you and appreciate your contribution to our welfare and for your understanding about what is right for our country. It was an immaculately executed assignment.

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are very welcome.

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9.13 p.m.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. *Obituary speeches, Senator H. A. Husbands.* The source carries two identical copies of a passage of Senator Husbands' tribute, from 'There is a story associated with the Combermere tie' to his years of study in the United States (take-slips Senate A36, Sequences 21-22, about 4.23-4.33 p.m.). The second copy (about 1,050 words) has been left out. Please confirm.

Q3. *Welcome to new Senators.* Mr. President's call of Senator McClean and the opening sentence of her welcome to Senators Symmonds and Bradshaw appear twice, either side of the take-slip 'S/A63/11:53'. The first, shorter version (about 35 words) has been left out. Please confirm.

Q4. *Order No. 1, third reading.* The third reading of the Financial Administration (Public Enterprise Investment Fund) (Repeal) Bill is recorded twice, the first time breaking off at 'cited as...'. The incomplete line has been left out. Please confirm.

Q5. *Obituary speeches, Senator Husbands.* Several of Senator H. A. Husbands' speech headings read 'SENATOR J.A.C. HUSBANDS' (J. A. C. are Senator Hutson's initials; Senator Hutson is recorded as absent). Printed as in the source.

Q6. *Order No. 2, Senator K. D. Symmonds.* Senator Symmonds' opening paragraph is run on in the source under Senator McClean's speech heading ('Senator KERRIE D. SYMMONDS Mr. President, perhaps you will forgive me ...'), and a later passage of his speech ('Mr. President, the reality is that there is another matter of concern ...') carries the heading 'Mr. PRESIDENT'. Printed as in the source.

Q7. *Order No. 3, Resolution.* Senator McClean's speech on the Resolution to approve $1.2 billion in Treasury Bills, Tax Reserve Certificates and Tax Refund Certificates is followed directly by Order No. 2; no question on the Resolution is recorded. Printed as in the source.

Q8. *Order No. 2, Local Loans.* Senator McClean says that the balance stood at 'approximately $3.99 billion out, of a maximum of $4 billion. Therefore, the limit will be moved to $1 billion', while Senator the Hon. D. W. Boyce speaks of an increase of $1 billion in the Local Loans limit. Printed as in the source.

Q9. *Obituary speeches and Introduction of Bills.* The source contains the note '(Edited One time)' in Senator McClean's tribute, and two speech headings followed only by '. . .' (Senator McClean and Senator Benn). The Bill introduced is given as 'Financial Administration (Public Enterprise Fund (Repeal) Bill 2010', with an unbalanced bracket. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met on Wednesday, 10th November, 2010 at 11.15 a.m., with the President, Senator Sir B. M. Taitt, in the Chair; prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah. The President read Message No. 4/2010 from the Governor-General declaring vacant the seats of Mr. Arthur Eugene Holder and Ms. Henrietta Elizabeth Thompson and appointing, on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Kerrie Drurard Symmonds and Ms. Santia Josette Omara Bradshaw. Senators Symmonds and Bradshaw took their seats and were welcomed by the President, the Leader of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean, and Senator R. O. Marville for the Independent Senators. The President announced that Senator Sir Roy Trotman was excused from 5th to 20th November on International Labour Organisation duties, and that Senator Cave was away on official business.

Senator McClean laid twenty-one papers, among them financial statements of Caribbean Airways and related companies for 2006-2007, several Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Orders, the Value Added Tax (No. 2) Order, 2010 and the Annual Report of the National Insurance Board for 2007 and 2008. Standing Orders 45(2) and 22(1) were suspended, two Bills were read a first time, and she gave notice of a Resolution on Treasury Bills which, she said, had been completed in the House only the night before.

Senator McClean then moved a Resolution of tribute to the late Prime Minister, the Hon. David John Howard Thompson, recalling that she had known him from his boyhood days and that he entered the House of Assembly at twenty-five, and conveying condolences to his widow, Mrs. Mara Thompson, his children and his mother, Margaret Knight. Tributes were paid by Senator Symmonds, who stressed his attention to detail, Senator Marville, Senator Mrs. V. I. Sandiford-Garner, Senator Dr.

F. L. Chandler, Senator the Hon. H. LaV. Benn, Senator the Very Rev. H. E. Crichlow, Senator Bradshaw, Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. Durant, Senator H. A. Husbands, who had been his form prefect at Combermere, Senator R. A. Hunte, Senator A. R. Worrell, a constituent from St. John, Senator J. Ince, Senator P. W. B. Gilkes, Senator the Hon. D. W. Boyce and the Deputy President, Senator Miss K. F. Ifill.

Speaking before the Resolution was put, the President said that the young David Thompson had been brought to him by his mother at sixteen, and that he had sent him into politics under the present Prime Minister. Senators stood in their places and observed a minute's silence, and the Resolution was passed unanimously. The President then read a letter of thanks and a tribute from the former Senator H. Elizabeth Thompson, who recalled the late Prime Minister's decision to nominate her for the post of Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In Public Business, Senator McClean moved the Resolution under section 2(1) of the Treasury Bills and Tax Certificates Act, Cap. 106, to set at $1.2 billion the amount that may be raised by Treasury Bills, Tax Reserve Certificates and Tax Refund Certificates, and the second reading of the Local Loans (Amendment) Bill, 2010, saying that raising the ceilings did not of itself mean more debt. Senator Symmonds asked what had caused a rise in the deficit from $121 million to nearly $500 million and questioned the public purpose of the borrowing; the President several times asked him to keep within the matter before the Senate. Senator Ince, after points of order, said that if the US$100 million borrowed abroad by the former Government had been available, the need for local borrowing would be smaller. Senator Boyce said the combined increase was about $1.2 billion, not $2.2 billion, and that the Government had chosen to keep spending on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, pensions and the Drug Service as revenues fell. The Bill passed all its stages.

Under Order No. 1, Senator McClean explained that the Financial Administration (Public Enterprise Investment Fund) (Repeal) Bill, 2010 followed the Government's move to accrual accounting in 2007, so that proceeds would go directly to the Consolidated Fund; it passed all its stages. The Senate was adjourned sine die, and the President congratulated Senator McClean on the arrangements made for the late Prime Minister.