
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

THE SENATE

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

PRESENT

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

His Honour Dean Emeritus Senator the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLAW, G.C.M., B.A. (Hons.) (Dunelm)(Deputy President) Senator JEPTER INCE, J.P., M.B.A., B.B.A., Dip. (Mgmt) (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs) Senator HARCOURT A. HUSBANDS, M.L.I.R., B.Sc. (Public Administration) (Hons.) Ed. Cert. (U.W.I.)

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education)

Senator REGINALD A. HUNTE, J.P.

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

Senator the Hon. PATRICK M. T. TODD, B.Sc. (Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister)

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

Senator Miss VERLA A. G. DePEIZA, LL.M. (Merit) B.Sc. (Hons.)

Senator WILFRED A. ABRAHAMS, LL.B. (Hons.)

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

Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir HENRY H.S. FRASER, K.A., G.C.M., B.Sc., M.B.B.S., Ph.D., FACP, FRCP. Senator ALWIN A. ADAMS, J.P., B.A. (Ed.), Ed. Cert., M.Sc. Ed.

Senator JOHN A. WATSON

Senator Dr. JEROME X. WALCOTT, J.P., M.B.B.S., FRCS (Edin.) Senator Dr. Sir TREVOR A. CARMICHAEL, Q.C., K.A., S.C.M., B.Sc. (Econ.), M.A., Ph.D. Senator Dr. CAROL LADY HAYNES, M.B., B.Sc. Senator the Hon. DARCY W. BOYCE, M.B.A.(Finance) B.Sc.(Econ.), C.M.A., F.C.A., (Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister) Senator Dr. the Hon. ESTHER R.

BYER-SUCKOO, M.B.B.S., (Minister of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development) ABSENT Senator the Hon. Ms. MAXINE P. O. McCLEAN, B.Sc., (Hons), M.A., M.B.A. (Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade) (Leader of the Senate). Senator Mrs. V. IRENE SANDIFORD-GARNER, M.B.A., C.I.M., Dip. (Mgmt), (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Tourism)

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Senate is now in Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HER HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

MADAM PRESIDENT: I am in receipt of excuses for the following Senator McClean, who is hoping to join us later, Senator Sandiford-Garner, Senator Dr. Carol Lady Haynes and Senator Abrahams will all absent from today's Sitting.

PAPERS

SENATOR Dr. Hon. E.R. BYER-SCUKOO: Madam President, I am commanded to lay the following document:

1. (4:50) Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Mary White Order, 2016.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP 228, THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF PARCELS OF LAND SITUATE AT REDMAN'S VILLAGE IN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, WARRENS TERRACE IN THE PARISH OF ST. THOMAS, WARRENS TERRACE IN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES AND LODGE HILL IN THE PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF IMPROVE THE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER THE WARRENS TRAFFIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Byer-Suckoo, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. E. BYER-SUCKOO: Madam President, thank you very much. Madam, the matter before us this morning is a land acquisition and as you have heard, this is land acquisition in St. Michael, St. James and St. Thomas in the area of Warrens for the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project. This is a project that has been going on for quite some time and many of you would be familiar with it. If you were familiar with the area before, you would understand why the need for intervention and certainly intervention at that level. It is massive undertaking that is going on there in Warrens.

Madam President, I myself never really had to go through Warrens much, I traversed from St. George down to Bridgetown or thereabout and I never really had to go through Warrens, so imagine my surprise when I moved to the Ministry of Labour and the office were in Warrens, because the Ministry is located in Warrens only to realise the gridlock that occurs in Warrens on mornings and even on evenings, the traffic there is quite horrendous and so there was a need to do a number of things and, indeed, we have seen a number of innovative solutions put into place there at Warrens. We have the roundabout arrangement that is referred to as the lollipop and some other arrangements in there to try to manage what happens in Warrens. Madam, this is because of a number things but certainly in recent years, we have seen a lot of development come to Warrens. Madam, a lot of businesses have moved out of Bridgetown and have moved into the Warrens Area and Warrens is now very built up. There are lot of multi-storied buildings there and my own office, as I have said, is in the building behind Price Smart that building that we affectionately refer to as the Barrack Building. Madam, my office is in there as well as many other Government office and then we have the Baobab Towers where there are Government offices and now we have Warrens Tower No. 2, which is the one just up the hill from KFC, if you are

going up to Hinds Hill, that also have a number of Government offices and so we have seen in there the Electoral Office, the Drug Service, the Ministry of Environment and all these agencies that had been located more centrally in Bridgetown have now moved into the Warrens area bringing with them all that traffic that we are accustomed to seeing and, Madam, there are private businesses as well, so Warrens is really is a buzz. Madam President, we have a lot of services and we are finding more and more business entities opening branches in Warrens as well, so there was really a need for this project.

Madam President, as I have said, the project has been going on for quite some time now and I am advised that it approximately 80 per cent complete but in doing this project there has been a number of expansions of the road. Madam, let me describe the areas that we are speaking about today. We are not just speaking about between the two roundabouts at Warrens, the one near The Dome, that is one roundabout, and then there is the Darcy Scott Roundabout that is near to the SOL Gas Station. That is just one part of this whole project and we often talk about what has happened at the Darcy Scott Roundabout because there are some arrangements in place at that roundabout that are unique to that roundabout, you do not see them at any other roundabouts and, to my mind, there needs to be more public education as how that roundabout is to be used. Indeed it is not for the faint of heart and every day I see some ingenious approaches to that roundabout. I have even been behind a little, old lady who approached the Darcy Scott Roundabout coming from the east and then instead of going into the roundabout to come back, she did a U-turn in front of the roundabout and went back. She was going west and wanted to go east and rather than go around the roundabout to come back to go east, she did a U-turn right in the roundabout and went back that way.

Every day I see some sort of ingenious approach to the roundabout. It is not for the faint of heart and it requires that one has ones wits about you and pays attention to the signage and so on and certainly some education is required because folks often take the wrong lane and then find that there are on what is the middle lane if you are coming from the north and then looking to go straight when you are not supposed to so it can be very confusing if one is not aware but the project is 80 per cent complete. In doing this project, they said it is that roundabouts, we go up the hill to what they call the lollipop, that is the one but the turn that would take you into Collins Limited and then it goes all the way back up to Redman's Village where they have had to make some changes with the traffic lights and then there is a new roundabout that they have put beyond Redman's Village as you go into the Bagatelle areas, that is north. South we are coming down Lodge Hill and there are some improvements that are planned for the junction by PriceSmart Inc. and Manor Lodge where anybody who uses that area knows that there is a lot of congestion there

as well. We have seen some widening and we have seen where a lane has been created to the left when you are going north so that you can turn into PriceSmart Inc. and those areas so there is some more work to be done in there. All of this has involved widening the road and in widening the road, we have had to use land that is not necessarily belonging to the Crown.

Some 54 parcels of land were approved by the Cabinet for this project. We were advised that 39 of those parcels of land had already been entered into so arrangements would be done by private treaty but then there are 15 pieces of land that are to be compulsorily acquired and it is those 15 pieces that we are referring to today and those 15 pieces, Honourable Members would know that in your documents we have all 15 schedules listed so the details of those parcels of land would be in that document. That is the essence of what we are doing this morning. We are looking for those parcels of land so that we can improve the traffic there and not just the traffic because this is not just a traffic improvement project, as many would refer to it as, this is the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project.

Because it is that, I want to just spend a few moments, Madam President, as we look at some of the work of the Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) in regard to what they are doing here for traffic and road safety improvements and then, indeed at some of the other things that the MTW is trying to do. When I had a look at the documentation coming out of MTW, I was surprised because I would tell you, I always thought that MTW was just about doing the roads and the regulations. We all know that MTW is where you go to do your driving test and to pay your licenses. In fact, you do not even pay licenses at MTW anymore that is a Barbados Revenue Authority (BRA) function but it is not just about road and regulations. Colleagues may not be aware that MTW has responsibility for repairing all the Government buildings so all the roofs, yards and all of those things are things that the MTW has responsibility for. Of course, they are responsible for planning, policy and technical services in the area of Transport and Works and indeed electrical services. They are responsible for the regulation of the land transport industry and providing an excellent and safe public transportation system and we are familiar with that. They are also responsible for integrated transport network infrastructure for maintaining and rehabilitating roads, not just highways but tenantry roads, residential roads and other public accesses. They are also responsible for, as I said, maintaining all Government buildings, bridges, jetties and wharfs and similar structures and other public assets. They are also responsible for regulation in conjunction with the Barbados Licensing Authority (BLA) to ensure that those regulations are enforced as well as promoting safety and setting standards in relation to roads, building construction, public transport, and electrical systems

management. Yes, they regulate the traffic system in conjunction with the police and then they work with other Ministries and Government agencies in implementing projects and I want to thank them at this point, less I forget later on, that a number of the things that we have done so far in the 50th Anniversary celebrations, we have had to rely on MTW for helping us to get things in place. When we went to Golden Grove just a few weeks ago, it was the MTW that ensured that access to that area was prepared so that we could see the hundreds. In fact, I think we had about 1 000 there at Golden Grove that night but we have had on all these occasions to call on MTW to ensure that the access to those facilities was in place but theirs is no small task. Barbados actually has almost 2 000 kilometres of road, 1 950 kilometres of road on 166 square miles to be exact, which makes it among the densest road network. I am not sure how much that is in square kilometres, we learnt it at school a long time ago, that was 400 and something kilometres they taught us. I always remember 166 square miles but it makes it among the densest road network. Barbados is actually reported as having the 6th densest road network in the world and the densest road network in the western hemisphere because when you think about other places, they have these vast expanses that have no roads to them and then you have areas with mountains and so on, so there is no road access. In Barbados, we have roads across everywhere and indeed we can brag that you cannot get lost in Barbados, you follow the "Bus to City" bus stops and you get back to Bridgetown because all of the roads will link up and all the roads will lead you to where you are going, you cannot get lost. If you make what you think is a wrong turn you can get back on your road because it is such a dense network and 80 per cent of those roads are paved which means that 20 per cent are not and all of these are the responsibility of the MTW. Barbadians may be surprised to hear that in Barbados we are classed as having a relatively high position with respect to the quality of our infrastructure and the quality of our roads. We often bemoan the condition of our roads and we know that there is a lot of room for improvement but indeed all of our roads are old roads. The last new road was built in the 1980s and that was the ABC Highway, all the other roads are all roads that have been rehabilitated over time and some of them are in need of some rehabilitation as we all know, but MTW has been pressing on and trying to ensure that they do their part in this very dense road network of ours and as I have listed their objectives, they have been very busy over the last two years. I have just mentioned some of the things they have been able to achieve in the last two years, 1) the Transport Authority Service Integration Bus Service pilot project and all the Honourable Members may not be familiar with that pilot project but that is a pilot project that is where the public transport operators and the private transport operators are working together in a couple of areas to see how they can share the route to provide better services, to provide a more timely delivery of the bus service to those

areas. They have done it in Sturges, Edey Village. I am not sure if there was another area but I know that Sturges and Edey Village were two of the areas where they would have been sharing and they have had some success. As I said, that is a pilot because one of the things the Ministry of Transport and Works has earmarked that they need to so is to ensure a better, more reliable public transportation service. Indeed, if we had a more reliable public transportation service our traffic problems would be alleviated, I am sure, significantly. Yes, Barbadians like the fact that they have a car and everybody wants to have a car and everybody wants to drive a car. Indeed, we are told that Barbados ranks 23rd globally with the number of cars per capita, so we do have a lot of cars and everybody wants to have a car but nobody wants to put their car and risk taking the bus to get to where they are going because the bus service is not reliable.

The Ministry of Transport and Works is aware of that and so one of the things they are doing is this pilot project that, if successful, would allow them to expand it into other areas so that more people would feel comfortable being able to leave their cars... It is not just for persons with cars, it is also so that those persons who rely entirely on the buses can be assured that they can get where they are going in good time. We see that sometimes people who want to get somewhere for 9 o'clock have to leave home as early as 6 o'clock because they are not sure if they leave it to later if they are actually going to get there, so we want the service to be more reliable so that all road users and all passengers would be comfortable that they can reach where they are going in a timely manner.

Madam President, I only just now met with an employer and one of the concerns of the employer, as I have heard concerns of some employers, is that some of the workers are having challenges getting to work on time because they rely entirely on the bus, and so I wish this project success and hope that it is something that we can expand or that we can learn from and build on to be able to provide that kind of support because a lot of Barbadians rely on public transportation. A lot of us have cars but there are still a lot of us who rely on public transportation.

Madam President, if we talk about competitiveness, if we talk about trying to correct absenteeism or if we talk about productivity, one of the things is that people have to be able to get to work and get to work on time, that punctuality is very much a part of that so that is something that the Ministry of Transport and Works is doing.

They have started the construction of the new River Terminal. As you know that was one of the things they earmarked and there are a number of things but I am going to highlight a few. The Ministry of Transport and Works is also part of the training programme, the Passenger Transport Service Operator Training Programme, at the

Barbados Community College. That is a programme that is being delivered by the Barbados Community College in an association with the TVET Council to ensure that these service operators are well-trained. That is something that we talk about. We all realise that there is a need for training if we are going to improve the standards.

The Ministry of Transport and Works was also responsible for the terminal structure at Oistins being refurbished. They are responsible, as I said, for building out standards. I did not realise that they were more than roads and regulations for road use. They are responsible for all Government buildings so when Maxwellton was renovated so that the Disabilities Unit could move from where they were at NUPW, they were responsible for that. They are responsible, of course, for street lights, for the renewable energy system at the Chance Hall Depot, for the renovations going on at the Oistins Library and for work that goes on at Ilaro Court and Government House. The Ministry of Transport and Works is responsible for all of that work as well and those are things they have reported as having done in the last two years.

I mentioned the training they are doing with the Barbados Community College. I have had occasion including the last time we were here to talk about apprenticeship programmes. The Ministry of Transport and Works is one of our trainers as well for the apprenticeship programme. They work with the apprenticeship programme in the Barbados Vocational Training Board. They also work with the Job Attachment Programme at the Barbados Youth Service. They work with the Barbados Community College, as I mentioned, and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, as I said, the apprenticeship job attachment. As we deliver the CVQs, they are responsible for part of that programme so that persons coming through there would be certified with their CVQs.

In the coming years the Minister of Transport and Works will, of course, be continuing this. The Ministry of Transport and Works has procured loans from CAF, the Caribbean Development Bank as well as the Inter-American Development Bank for more road maintenance and construction of roads. They are working on the legislation. We have been hearing about the Road Traffic Act, that is one that is coming. They are working on amendments to the Road Traffic Act, the Transport Authority Act and to the Transport Authority Regulations. Theirs is also the task of promoting the Barbados Highway Code and they have the National Traffic Management Committee. They are going to continue work on the River Terminal, the Fairchild Street Terminal, the Seaview Terminal as well as the Warrens Project that I mentioned, that we are here to discuss, which is due to be finalised very shortly. As I said, they are 80 per cent complete.

We have also been rolling out an Adopt-A-Kilometre Programme. Everybody who has travelled on the ABC Highway must have seen the Adopt-A-Kilometre signs. At every Kilometre we see a different sign. It has been taken up by somebody, the signage is there and those persons are responsible for maintaining the sides of the highways there ensuring that the bush is cleared, and so you see them along the length of the highway and they are continuing with the roll out of that programme.

Yes, it does deserve applause because the private sector yet again has been able to come on board to say that how our roads look affects all of us when visitors come. Many visitors who come to Barbados when they come out of the airport are surprised as they drive along the highway because they expected to see dusty little roads and so on, but when they see our highway they are like oh, we did not realise Barbados had this level of infrastructural development. Our private sector has been able to come on board and assist with us ensuring that we can maintain that. Madam President, as you know when Government had to take the decision to retrench workers, we did lose in the fray some of the workers responsible for the debushing programme as well, but the Ministry of Transport and Works had rolled out this programme and we have been seeing very good buying in this programme to date from the private sector.

One of the things that the Ministry of Transport and Works would be looking at as well is vending along the highway. I know that is a matter that lots of folks have commented on. On the one hand there are persons who are earning a living there. We see a lot of activity on the highway especially on weekends. On Sundays there are more cars sometimes on the sides of some highways than there are on the roads and the highway itself as folks lined up to get their vegetables and coconut water especially. That is some that provides an outlet for persons to be able to get some money but there are concerns about the safety of it because there is not really a layby that is created for them so they are really on the shoulder of the road and sometimes very near to the roundabouts as well. Very often you see this happening quite near to the roundabouts so this is something that the Ministry of Transport and Works will have to look to address, what is the best way of dealing with this, with all of its stakeholders.

Of course, we had the issue of the garbage and so on when that is there and then when these vendors are camped out there for the whole day they may need to use facilities. What is the current arrangement? All of these are questions that have to be asked and answered. The Ministry of Transport and Works is by no means unaware that this is an issue and so it is being addressed and they do have it in their programme in the short term that they would be working on.

Another area that I will flag here is that of signage. We know that there is a need for improved signage on our roads, and the Minister of Transport and Works has earmarked that signage will be increased. We see a lot of tourists, for example, not so many now as they were maybe a month ago but we still them, who like to take a car, and I am seeing the scooters now, or a motorcycle and try to get around Barbados.

12.00 p.m.

For some of them it is a challenge because the signage in all areas is not as good as we would like it to be. I must confess, I perhaps do not see that as being much of a challenge because I probably do not look at the signs for directions as I probably know where I am going but there are folks who do use the road, even when you speak to tourists, even Barbadians who are returning to the island would say they are looking for a sign to give them directions but those signs are few and far between, so you take a turn and you go on faith and not by sight, hoping that eventually the next sign you see would tell you that you are in the right vicinity. That too is something that is being addressed by the Ministry of Transport and Works.

The Electronic Vehicle Registration programme is to be rolled out very shortly and scanners and cameras for driver's licence printing. We know that the Ministry of Transport and Works did have a challenge with their printers recently, being unable to service the public in the production of current driver's licences. As I said, Barbados is ranked 23rd globally in terms of cars on the road. Madam President, 63 cars per kilometer is how it was measured in one particular study and that ranks us 23rd. Madam President, not all those cars on the road are legal and we do encounter, from time to time, cars that are illegally registered where the police have been pulling them off the road. I know of many people who may have been in accidents, only to realise that the person whom they have encountered is not legal or has not had their insurance paid, or that they have phony licence plates. I have actually seen two cars having the same licence numbers. We are seeing things like that happening, the Electronic Vehicle Registration is going to ensure that that is a thing of the past. It will be easier to detect whether or not the licence plate is a bona fide one. Madam President, too many Barbadians are actually driving illegally on our roads. I am hearing more and more of it. There are people who now flee the scene of an accident, they know they cannot stay because their insurance or registration was not paid. That has to be addressed. It is a dangerous situation.

Madam President, when I speak to what the Ministry of Transport and Works is doing is a thing that we all associate the Ministry of Transport and Works with, that is road repairs. As I mention, they now have procured loans from at least three agencies, the CAF, the Inter-American

Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank in order to do a lot of this work. I am pleased to see that the Ministry of Transport and Works, with whom I have been able to work quite successfully for few years and have got some new roads in St. George South, in Farm Road, for example. We were able also to put a new road in Middletown to accommodate an expanded bus service. We are now seeing there are other road roads to be done across Barbados and I am seeing more in St. George South. Honourable Members, of course, you will forgive me, home drums will, of course, beat first. Highway 4B, the Melverton section, that highway is actually being completed as we speak.

Road works are slated to be done in Todds, that is something that we have tried for a long time to get. The problem is that there are so many roads with such a dense road network that it is impossible to get them all done. Madam President, there is then the challenge that we have, and I can speak from representing a rural constituency. When you make representation to have a long rural road done, when officials of the Ministry of Transport and Works come with you and take a look at the road, when they realize that there are no houses along that road, maybe they would think that this should not be a priority because there are other roads with business and lots of houses on them that may be more of a priority, but if you live in a rural village or tenantry, the only way for those dozens of cars to get in and out is through these long roads that may have no houses along them at all.

Madam President, my argument has been that it is not only about the houses along the road that determine how busy that road is, there are lots of vehicles that have to use that road, so, for example, the road to Todds from Four Roads is being addressed; the road to Workman through Jordan's is a road I use almost every day. It is little more than a cart road. It was paved more than once but it has deteriorated, that road is to be done as well. We have seen some tenantry work being done in Drax Hall. We have finally been able to get some work done there. Of course, there is a lot more work needed to be done in Drax Hall Tenantry. If I say Drax hall I know that right now the ears of a couple of people are going to perk up, they are going to be thinking that it is their road. When I leave here I am going to get calls asking about the road in Drax Hall Woods, that is one that needs to be done and we are still working on.

Of course, the Ministry of Transport and Works is responsible for sidewalks. When the Blackman Gollop Primary School opened, which amalgamated South District and St. David School, we saw a lot of little children walking from St. David up to the Blackman Gollop Primary School. There is a bus from Dash Valley, Hansen, South District and so on that brings those kids in but from St. David we saw a lot of little kids walking along there.

There is a blind corner where the Duminis Wesleyan Church used to be and so when I saw them walking there I contacted the Chief Technical Officer and spoke to him about the dangers of those little children having to walk close to that cut rock, that there is nowhere for those children to go to if a vehicle veers too closely to the left. Therefore, they have been able to cut that down where it is now easier for the children, so that there is now a sidewalk along that way. It is not just about the little children, as parents will walk along there both mornings and evenings, but it has created that need because now you have more people walking along there because of the Blackman Gollop Primary School now operating in that area. That school is a beautiful new facility that this Administration was able to open in the last term.

Madam President, some of this work that I have described that we need to do, I mentioned a few of the road works that are to be done in the St. George South, but there is work being done in St. Philip, in Christ Church, in Thomas, to name a few. I forgot to mention that Waithe Road, Greens, is being done as well, that is a road that took us a while to get approval for but that road is actually earmarked. I believe they have started some preliminary work in that area. Madam President, these are things that we have been able to have done in St. George but there are other works going on across Barbados, in St. Lucy, in St. Michael. Madam President, just about every parish work is being done, with a lot of that funding coming from these loans.

Madam President, of course, it may require in some instances the acquisition of more land, so colleagues I am alerting you that we will see, from time to time, other land acquisition Resolutions as the Ministry of Transport and Works continues on its mandate to improve road network. Madam President, a lot of these roads need to be widened. Some of these tenantry roads, for example, were built before they had one or two cars in the area. Now, I know certainly Farm Road when I was growing up there were probably two or three cars and that the road was a very narrow road. Now when we had Farm Road done just about five years ago, another road I was able to have done, there are now hundreds of cars that are owned by people now residing in Farm Road alone because we have a lot of new developments in there and so they have had to build a rather wide road and had to put in the curbs, drainage and so on. We are now seeing across Barbados that the tenantry roads that were built across Barbados for maybe one or two cars are now having to be widened and so land has to be acquired so that this programme can be done.

Madam President, I want to give lie, really, to the notion that nothing is happening at the Ministry of Transport and Works and that they have not been doing anything. As I said, certainly in St. George South I can say that they have worked very well with me, that they are still

getting projects that were started before 2013 being done. Madam President, the big one that we are looking to do is the 'Turn Pike'. Any of you coming from St. John or St. Philip will know the 'Turn Pike'.

2:12 pAny of you coming from St. John or St. Philip would know the Turnpike. It is a very confusing intersection with five roads, but they are not all together that you can do one simple roundabout. It is on Highway 4A when you are coming up from Bulkeley Factory. If you know the road, you are coming up from Bulkeley Factory, and then there is a right turn that would take you across to Carmichael and the Boarded Hall Police Station. There is a left turn that would take you back to St. George Parish Church, and then as you go a few yards, there is a fork in the road which veers slightly to the left that you would take you to St. John and to the right that would take you to St. Philip. It is a junction that is very congested now, but because of its configuration, it is going to require another innovative solution to be able to ensure that the traffic can be controlled in that area. It is not as simple as a roundabout because of how it is configured, and there are a lot of houses in the area of that junction as well. You are going to see some more work happening in St. George South as we seek to get that Turnpike road done.

We are also going to see better bus service in St. George. I am just speaking to those in St. George right now: Please pardon me, because I know that I will get the calls afterwards. We have been able to get the bus service to Windsor and to Middleton, and we are looking at the service to Woodland and other areas that have since become very populated and now require that folks do not have to walk half-a-mile to get home or get to the bus-stop.

The document I have with the Ministry of Transport and Works' (MTW) programmes is quite thorough, but I will not actually say much more on their programme right now. Madam President, I did say that with your leave I would speak a little bit to our road safety in Barbados. I think that is something that concerns all Senators, and I do hope that we can have a discussion on road safety right now. One of the things I know that we need to do is to re-educate persons driving on the roads. Persons who learnt to drive 30 and 40 years ago - with all due respect to anyone in here who learnt to drive then -- would realise that the roads, the road rules, the numbers of cars on the road, the configuration of the roads, have all changed. For some people, they have not been re-educated in the use of the roads, and you realise that when you drive behind certain people. Some are really not sure how to take a particular junction or roundabout. We have junctions which are changed from time to time, so the markings on the roads change, the signage changes to say one no longer can use certain lanes, but some folks do not read the signage. They are accustomed using one lane to do something, so they use that lane and then find themselves in trouble. People feel

that every roundabout in Barbados is a jam-busting roundabout now; so that I find folks jam-busting even at the roundabout here by the bottom of Belmont Road. Folks are jam-busting there regularly. Just about every roundabout you go to, somebody believes that the left lane is for going straight. I do not know if that was taught to them by the minibuses drivers, because certainly you see the minibuses drivers doing that as well.

Madam President, that is a whole other discussion on what we must do with the minibuses. I know MTW and the Minister responsible have been trying to work with the public service vehicle operators to ensure that there are standards which they must adhere to, not just in what they wear but in how they operate. Anybody who drives behind a minibus knows. I remember driving on the road one morning and a fellow came out into the middle of the road and stopped my car. I could not figure out why this man was stopping in front of my car. Only then did I realise shortly afterwards that this was a minibus conductor. The minibus was in a minor road, some three or four vehicles back, and the conductor came out to the major road, stood in front of my car so that I had to stop, called out all the cars which were in front of the minibus, allowed the minibus to come out, and then he got on the minibus and they went their merry way. I got to realise that this was not a unique occurrence. It is happening across Barbados. There is this flexibility with the rules; people creating their own rules. We see it all the time, and I know that there have been attempts to stop it. I remember I was driving along by Queen's Park coming out of town, where there is a no-right-turn onto the road that will take you behind the hospital. The police had stopped one minibus outside Queen's Park for whatever reason. Having stopped that minibus, another one came behind and turned right, and when the police shouted at him, the driver just looked back and laughed, because the policeman had his hands full treating to one minibus. They took the right turn. We need more police officers to monitor this situation, but until that happens, I do not know what is going to happen.

The traffic is heavy, and we are seeing persons being creative with the rules, making their own lanes, turning where they should not turn, doing U-turns where they should not, and you wonder to yourself, "Where is a policeman?" I know that if I had done it, there would have been a policeman right away, but you see folks breaking the law and you wonder where the police are; but you know what they told me? "Dog luck is not cat luck." Once I made a U-turn on Spring Garden Highway. Each of the traffic islands had signs reading no U-turn so I drove along, and then there was one that had no sign, so I made the U-turn. Of course, as soon as I made the U-turn, the police appeared. However, I was able to point out to the police that all of the signs prohibited U-turns except that one. I do not know if the sign was down, but there was no sign

against U-turns there. However, “cat luck is not dog luck,” so if I do it, I will get caught.

Madam President, you wonder where the police are sometimes, with all due respect to the police. I know their hands are full but I believe if we are going to get this lawlessness on the roads contained, it is not going to happen unless we have the police on the roads actually being able to clamp down on it. That is the only way it is going to stop. There is education and moral suasion that will work for some of us, but it is not going to work for everybody. You will have to have that level of enforcement.

This decade, 2010-2020, is actually the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety. Barbados' statistics are relatively low. We record 8.8 deaths per 100 000. In the Caribbean, you see other countries with 17 deaths and over per 100 000, but we do think our accident rate is still high. Our insurance operators will tell us that the accident rate is still high and, as I said, there is a need for education and for clear signage before we can get that under control. MTW is responsible for enforcing safety. They are also responsible for the action under this United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety. They are part of the Barbados Road Safety Association. There is also a Barbados National Road Safety Council, which is actually chaired by our Prime Minister, and it includes persons within the Ministry of Transport and Works, persons from the Police Force, from the automobile clubs, the Transport Authority, the Private Sector Association, the Ministry of Health, the Prime Minister's Office, the insurance industry, Road Safety Association, National Council on Substance Abuse, the petrol companies, CTUSAB (Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados), the Licensing Authority, Ministry of Education, Barbados Association of Journalists, PAHO (Pan American Health Organisation), Barbados Association of Professional Engineers, automobile dealers, and the Association of Private Transport Operators. The mandate of the Barbados National Road Safety Council is to develop and implement road safety promotional activities and conduct public education programmes. It is also to advise the Government on road safety issues, and lobby for the promotion of road safety and the reduction of the number and severity of collisions; and hence reduce the mortality rate on our roads, as well as the associated financial, emotional and social costs of those accidents. This is part of the action of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety.

I have been noticing -- up to this morning I saw s, Charmaine Roland-Bowen and a police officer on Morning Barbados. They were educating persons on road safety. Fortunately I saw that this morning around 8 O'Clock. By then a lot of folks are on the road already doing their own thing. So we are not catching some of the people we need to catch, but every little bit will help.

We have all realized there is a need to improve road markings on our roads, pedestrian crossings. I am always complaining to MTW about the pedestrian crossings. Even as driver sometimes you see folks step into the road and you do not realise that was a pedestrian crossing. The pedestrian crossing is not marked. As ironic as it may sound, the pedestrian crossing that is no longer in use, opposite CBC, that one is as clear as day. You can see that one beautifully, but pedestrian crossings elsewhere cannot be seen.

Again, the MTW is working on this and the private sector has come on board well to say, we have a special kind of paint that can do this. So the private sector is onboard with this.

As far as safety goes, there is another project, the International Road Assessment Programme. In this programme they are actually going to be assessing 300 kilometers of our roads for safety, in terms of the infrastructure and the signage of the road. They actually do star ratings of roads. That is something I learnt, that they actually rate roads and give them stars, in the same way we would rate hotels and give them stars. Barbados roads, 300 kilometers of our roads, part of this programmer for rating where they said they will look at the signage, infrastructure, the actual construction of the road and so on to determine the safety features and therefore to be able to rate this work.

There are actually 50 features they look at, the 50 features that are known to influence the likelihood of crashes and safety. As with hotels the five star rating is the safest and the one star would be the least safe. As they complete this programmer we would learn what is happening, where we are ranked and how we rate our roads. It is actually supposed to be ongoing, as we speak, for six months in 2016. This is with Caribbean Development Bank funding. I did mention we have some funding.

Finally, Madam President, before I sit I want to bring our attention -- I mentioned it a couple of times -- the actual challenge of traffic. I talked about some of the road safety issues, the infrastructure, the standards and working with our stakeholders in the council. I mentioned earlier the gridlock we see at Warrens.

I have read, and I think we all know it, the longer you are in traffic, the higher your stress level. They have actually reported that if you are in traffic for one hour it increases your likelihood of a heart attack, being in traffic. We see the road rage. We see the stress. We need to control the traffic. We are seeing the manifestation of this road rage.

I have seen where a driver believed he was cut off by another driver and rather than stay in his lane on the highway, veered to his right to force the vehicle that had cut him off onto the Jersey barrier. So he felt he was cut off by this driver both rather than going on about his business or honking his horn at him, he actually veered to the right and pushed this car off.

I had occasion where I was coming down the road, I came around a corner to see a car coming out of a minor road. I was not able to stop so I proceeded. Only seconds later to find this car behind me honking and carrying on like crazy and veering to the right to push me into the cut wall. Had I not pressed my brakes and allowed him to go on, he would have pushed me into the cut wall on my left. These are things that are happening.

It was recently reported to me that a motor cycle cut off a motorist. When the motorist blew the horn, that cyclist stopped in the middle of the road, blocked the car from moving, got out and proceeded to open the door of the vehicle and pepper sprayed the person inside the car. This was reported to me just days ago. This is where our road rage is leading. So we have to educate people. We have to be talking more about defensive driving. We need to enforce the laws and have more monitoring on our roads, but I think we also need to see how we can manage the traffic. As long as people are dealing with this traffic, traffic is a way of life and it is a part of our development as well, but we have to sensitise people to leave home a lot earlier to avoid this traffic, otherwise we will be seeing road rage manifesting in ways that are quite frankly dangerous. When you are going to push somebody off a road or push somebody into a wall, or pepper stray another road user. It is no longer flicking the finger or cursing them. It is now I will get out of my vehicle and I will pepper spray you. I will get out of my vehicle and I will approach you with a gun. These are things that are happening, so we have to be talking seriously about how we deal with this.

We in the Ministry have been talking about flexitime, because we believe that is one approach to dealing with traffic. If everybody is leaving home to get to work and to get to school for 8 O'clock in the morning or 8.30 a.m., we are going to see traffic especially at those peak times. If there were more flexitime you will have some people coming in at 10 O'clock, some people coming in for 11 O'clock and then some people coming in for the afternoon shift and working from 2.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m., 2.00 p.m. or 2.00 p.m. to whenever, then we would see the traffic staggered. We would not see that big congestion in the morning. That is something some workplaces are exploring. Even some Government agencies are exploring that, but as more people buy into that that could be a solution.

Also flexibility in terms of a place where you are working. You may not need to come and work in your office at 8.30 a.m. every day. You can probably work from more, or some other arrangement can be made so that everybody is not heading into Warrens, for example at 8 O'clock on mornings.

Reliable public transportation is also a part of what we need to do as well to ensure we can see that traffic, but it has to be reliable and it has to be reliable consistently, for a long time for people to start to put down their vehicles after they have driven to a certain point and feel comfortable that they do not have to drive into traffic.

They did the Express Bus route along the ABC Highway to go into Warrens, and that was successful. Again, I am not sure about its consistency. There are challenges with the Transport Board. I have not spoken about that deliberately in the time that is allotted me. I have not spoken about the Transport Board because that is a whole separate discussion in itself that can take us the rest of the day. The MTW does have responsibility for the Transport Board, but I have chosen not to open that discussion. I almost said that can of worms, but that is not what I meant. I have chosen not to open that discussion today.

Madam President, this is what is before us. I have chosen to expand our discussion so we can have a discussion on traffic, road safety and on road works, of course, because that is the MTW's remit, as well as any comments on the actual Warrens Traffic Improvement Project. I want to encourage all road users to be safe, to be defensive and to think about road safety. We want to encourage more carpooling as well. We are not seeing enough carpooling, but that is something which would certainly help to ease the traffic.

There is the discussion that is ongoing about Dash Cams and the role of Dash Cams, the cameras you have in the cars. They serve several purposes. They can actually show how a particular person is driving. Again, they can actually record some of the things that are happening on the road. Insurance companies around the world are finding them useful.

We are not sure what role that will play ultimately in Barbados. The insurance industry is a very important part of what happens on our roads as well. I do not know how many of you have ever responded to the "How is my driving?" You see vehicles and on the back of it, it says 'How is my driving' and there is a number to call. I do not know how many of you have ever tried the "How is my driving" and what kind of feedback you have gotten? Certainly some would say thank you, take the information, and others would say "Oh, nobody here to deal with that now", and that is the end of that. You get mixed responses.

Sometimes you see vehicles that are driving very badly and you would think that the “How is my driving” or please call this number, there is an insurance company number, and because they know there is reference on the back of their vehicle they would drive carefully, oh no, not necessarily.

I am not here to give any lessons in driving. That is not my role this morning, but to encourage us to have this discussion on safety on our roads, because it is something that affects every single one of us. However we got here this morning, we all use the roads. We are not teleporting anytime soon. We are not beaming here anytime soon and we do not have skyways to get us here. So for the time being we are all using the roads. So we all have a vested interest in this.

Madam President, apart from moving that this Resolution be passed, I am also hoping we can have a discussion on road traffic and road use.

Thank you, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser you have the Floor.

Sen. Pro. Sir H. Fraser: Thank you, Madam President. It is often been said that in Britain every Englishman is an expert on the function of the bowels. In Barbados when I was a boy everyone was an expert on cricket, and we all could discuss cricket in intimate detail. I think there is a risk that all of us have our own very strong ideas on how traffic should be organized. Therefore there are many different opinions as how things should be done, as there are all people in Barbados. Certainly there are many, many ways of dealing with our roundabouts and one of the issues at roundabouts is they do not all get marked the same way. Sometimes you go left and straight, sometimes you go right and straight, and quite often you do not know whether to go left and straight or right or straights because the markings have completely faded. So you have very, very serious problems of safety especially on our roundabouts, but often at other intersections. Madam President, the issue here is the Resolution to the passing of land acquisitions in relation to the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project, and therefore I feel obliged by asking, and I feel one must ask why exactly is it, that this project has been going for almost a decade, and we are only now dealing with these land acquisitions along the side?

I must say that the very much longer ABC Highway, all around Bridgetown, from the airport and so on, there are some more expeditious manner in the actual acquisition, I believe, certainly with the progress of the road, but here is a road with under construction for almost decade and we are only now after many, many years of inconvenience and

strange things happening along that highway dealing with acquisitions.

Madam President, it does seem as the presenter of this Resolution indicated there are some inefficiencies here. There are some problems in our management of projects that seem to take extra ordinarily long and hugely inconvenience people. Reference was made to roads that need work, such as Todds, in the Republic of St. John, where if you were to drive from Four Roads down into the area of Greens, it really is like going on a roller coaster, because that road is one of the most horrendous in the country. When I travel through St. John, as I try to do as often as I can, I always have to make the decision, am I going to go terribly slowly and try to negotiate all of these deep bouncing holes, or should I just race across the top and hope that I will pick up the top bounce and therefore go just as smoothly and in half the time, as I went slowly to negotiate the bounce. It is always a challenge.

Also in St. John I remember the many, many years with the Cherry Grove road, Cherry Grove to Bowmanston, it seemed to take years and years, as if they progressed one yard every month or two and the poor residents of Cherry Grove, Bowmanston and Ashford, who had to travel at that time had a really rough time.

Then, of course, there was the St. Philip, Ragged Point, through River down to Ruby, that road has taken years and years. Byde Hill down to St. Lukes, down to Frenches, that road forever and ever, years and years. What is the problem with our management that road construction cannot be started with a plan and completed within a couple of months? Usually things are all expedited in the year before election, but often the advantage in the future is completely negated for the poor residents, because the horrendous dust that was talked about is absolutely horrendous in the months leading up to the election. So, I have always noted the Government that pull out all the stops for roadworks in the year before the election, often lose the election anyway regardless of the roadworks in that particular constituency.

Madam President, this business of delays go beyond the roadworks itself. It is related to so many things. Mention was made of vending and laybys. It is a no brainer, really, when you think about the time that is wasted in cars. So many times I have had to take that route leading into the Emancipation roundabout, if you like the Bussa roundabout, or if you say Richard Allsop's terminology then the 'Busa' roundabout. He said that is how it should have been pronounced. Okay, the Ramsay roundabout. That roundabout, Madam President, almost invariably has people selling either ackees or dunks, or bits of questionable sugar cane at the roundabout. I have often times myself, and it has taken me 10 minutes from going up the hill out of the Wildey triangle to get through that

roundabout. Now, if there are 1 000 cars passing that roundabout taking 10 minutes each, that works out at 10 000 minutes, which is an entire working week, 35 hours a day for one man. That is an entire working week, and that is being repeated all over Barbados morning and evening with the vendors.

I am the first person to congratulate everyone who is an entrepreneur. Entrepreneurship is a hugely important need for us in Barbados, but when it defeats the purpose, it would be better for us to employ that person and let him do something elsewhere, just so that the men and women of Barbados can get to work on time, and not waste hours every day because we really are losing about 10% of our working time because of this problem of vendors. It is at that very Ramsay roundabout there is a lovely opportunity where there is a virtually readymade layby leading down to what was the Standard complex where, I think there is a new business operating, it used to be the Barbados Hardware, just off the road to the west of the Highway, as the Highway proceeds past the roundabout, there is a virtually readymade layby there, which I can see operating very, very well in the style of the Jamaican laybys. As you cross the country, across Jamaica, every 5/10 miles or so, there is a layby where there are half a dozen or a dozen vendors selling everything from jerk chicken and jerk pork to fruit, soft drinks and so on.

That layby is a wonderful opportunity and it should be no problem at all for Government to compulsorily acquire a strip of land along that road where all of the delights from roast corn, even to the barbeque pigtails, which I have protested about publicly because there are so unhealthy, anything can be sold along that pathway once the vendors I presume have their health licences. This is really a no brainer, Madam President.

The other reasons for delays on our roads are not that expensive, relate to the issue of the laybys for the buses, because bus laybys have two issues, (1) for every 5 bus stops or 10 bus stops you get a layby. Wherever you get that layby, if the buses use it, is wonderful, but, of course, most of the buses do not use it. The official buses, the public service buses tend to use it more than the mini buses, the ZR vans.

2:03

They use it only occasionally and sometimes I feel like writing a congratulatory letter to the Press with the actual number of the ZR van that has actually used the layby because most of the time they simply do not, or sometimes they pull off a little bit to pretend to use it but they are only one wheel out of the road and the other four-fifths of the ZR is actually in the road, so you still cannot pass it by. Madam, then there are other issues with delay traffic that relates to the minibuses, of course, because they

have a way as soon as they stop, they put on their right indicator light and that could stop you from actually overtaking because it is law that the minute you overtake, they will pull out pressing their accelerator right down to the floor to see if they can get to 50 miles an hour in three seconds and then you are compromised by the approaching car. Madam, these are issues and, as you said, there are not police around ever at those times.

Madam President, it is odd you know because the police force is under tremendous pressure. Madam, sometimes you will see four police cars in a row racing with sirens blaring to some site for a particular incident and other times you do not see a policeman around. We do not have Sergeant Cyrus around on his motor bike but it is a pity we could not clone Mr. Cyrus because Mr. Cyrus put the fear of God into the young testosterone driven gentlemen. Madam President, I hope that Senator Worrell when I said young will not look at me askance but the young men testosterone driven, who are driving crazily around the road do need to have half a dozen men with Mr. Cyrus' perseverance and speed on the motorbike in order to keep them in order. Madam President, that leads me to ask why in this day and age, in a society that has pride itself in being the best managed society in the Caribbean there are minibus drivers who are occasionally reported in the Press to have had 50, 60, 70 or even 100 convictions on one occasion and still have licences. There are all kinds of reasons alleged as to why this should be so but we, as a society, are accepting a great many infelicities and what can only be regarded as a corrupted practice where minibus drivers can disobey the law and remain on the road. This is something that needs serious attention but we have nine days wonders and when it hits the Press and yet nothing happens. I have spoken to policemen who have said, Professor Fraser, it is really a difficult job we have. We take people to court for their infelicities and their offences and they have their knuckles wrapped and they are let off again and again and again". Madam, this is an issue that I think needs explanation as to why it should be occurring.

Madam President, the issue of road marking, I would not like to leave that without a further note. It used to be said in the old days that whenever a member of the royal family was visiting many places got painted up, road markings got improved and the whole place got cleaned up and the weeds got removed. I could not help noticing when the CARICOM Heads of Government occur in Barbados the other day, with all the routes they were going to take that all the road markings were immediately spruced up. It was wonderful to drive along those roads. The Heads of Government had beautifully marked roads to deal with and if only we could do that again. Madam, I do not know how costly it is in terms of time, labour, money for the paint that wears off rather quickly as opposed to the paint that the Honourable Senator referred to that would last rather longer. I must confess that when I am in places like Britain

and the United States of America I see these beautifully painted roads and I hardly see anyone working on them, and the paint looks like it has a certain thickness perhaps of several millimeters so that it does not wear off but we have a situation where fresh paint is applied and within a matter of weeks you can hardly see it, so if occasionally as has happened around the dreaded Wildey triangle, the pedestrian crossing has been relocated 25 feet further along the road by the time a few weeks have passed, the two pedestrian crossings, the old one and the new one now look the same, so you now have two pedestrian crossing. With people randomly using the one which is too close to the corner as well as the one further along the road. Why it should be so difficult to keep our road markings clear, I do not know when it is a serious matter relating to public safety of pedestrians.

Madam President, that, of course, leads us to the other issue that in Barbados where, as Senator the Honourable Dr. Byer-Suckoo said, Barbadians all want to drive. It is a very clear case that those who do not drive and have to use pedestrian crossings if they are under a certain age, they like to demonstrate that it is their crossing and, therefore, they can saunter, as they say in Barbados, one today and one tomorrow in order to cross on the pedestrian crossing, so someone that is over 40 years or 50 years will cross that pedestrian crossing in five seconds but many of the youngsters are crossing in 25 seconds in order to say this is my right, so take your time, take your time.

Madam President, the issue of the Wildey triangle is as a difficult a one as the problems created at the Darcy Scott Roundabout. Madam, that roundabout with its peculiar shape and its multiple lands and the lack of understanding of many older people or people who use it for the first time as to what is the best way to use it is not dissimilar to the Wildey triangle. The Wildey triangle is really a problematic road and I wait with abated breath and pray every time I have to use it because if you are coming from St. David's Church and you wish to precede around that triangle in order to head into Bridgetown, then you actually have to cross four lanes of traffic in order to do so and the hill that leads from the Caribbean Development Bank area down to that triangle is one of the most dangerous places in Barbados. the angle of the road, it takes a nice sinuous bend, two lanes coming down and I often notice as I conform to the request to stick to 40 kilometers an hour, when you come along that section from the little roundabout, I notice these testosterone driven young men speeding along at 100 miles an hour in the right hand lane and in the hill where the bend occurs crossing into the left hand lane and one day, they will be a Joe's River type accident on that hill. Madam, certainly, in the first few months after that situation was created there were minor accidents almost every day. I do not think I have heard of any fatalities but quite often, you could not use the road proceeding to the former Garfield Sobers roundabout

because the road was blocked by an accident as you swung to the left. Madam, that is a very serious situation and I wish to make it clear that there is no reason why it should be quite as bad as that.

Madam President, when I suggested to the authorities that they could a roughening of the road at the top of the hill to prevent people speeding at 100 miles per hour down the hill, I was told, oh no, this is a highway and it cannot be done but I have noted at the last count, there are now 24 entries and exists in the two-thirds of a mile along the triangle when you pass the service station coming out of the Garfield Sobers roundabout and you drive a few hundred yards to the apex of the triangle where the other service station is and you take the sharp corner there and come back to go up the hill, in that two-thirds of a mile, there are 24 entrances and exits unto to that so-called highway and an elbow bend at the apex. It is therefore and extraordinary highway which is not any normal highway and I do hope and pray that there will not be a massive accident on that road. I know many people who live in the area to the east of the triangle who no longer have the courage to use that road, they prefer to wait 15 minutes maybe at the Garfield Sobers roundabout by coming through Elizabeth Village in order to avoid the dangers of that road. Madam, that road does need to be addressed.

Madam President, the issues that Senator Dr. Byer-Suckoo spoke of, of the dangerous things that people do are limitless. They are people who overtake on the hard shoulder. They are people who overtake on the slip road at great speed in the same area of the Wildey triangle that I have just mentioned. There is no public education. The very famous educator Mr. Junior Jordan does his very best but he has limited opportunities and not necessarily at the best public listening times on the radio or television.

I have said it repeatedly in this Honourable Chamber, Madam President, that the Barbados Government Information Service is one of the best equipped, one of the best staffed organisations or departments of Government with enormous skills and ability to do far more than it does. It simply does not have enough air time and I do believe that public education in terms of driving led by the Barbados Government Information Service with the appropriate skilled people like Mr. Jordan would make a great difference to the road safety that we desire in Barbados and the overcoming of the road rage.

There is another issue that relates to education that bothers me intensely, Madam President. I have had serious problems with my eyes, my cataracts, it is no secret that I have had cataract operations to deal with this but night driving in Barbados has become ever more dangerous because there is a differences, sometimes of up to maybe two feet between the level of the headlines of a large bus and the level of the headlights on a modest, average saloon

car. The SUVs lights are about 6 to 10 inches above those of an average car, the ZR vans are higher still, the pick-up trucks that so many young ladies are now driving - I am not sure if they are all farming or not - these are higher still and then the headlights of the bus are right up there. It seems to me that there is a strong correlation between the size of the vehicle and the rudeness on the road. The road hogs who drive the largest vehicles and buses refuse to dip their lights to oncoming traffic and it is not infrequent therefore that one actually has to stop at night because as a bus, a ZR van or pick-up truck which absolutely refuses to dip its lights and make driving dangerous. It is not just dangerous to the driver, it is dangerous to the pedestrian who might be on the road often wearing dark clothes and again there is a practice in Barbados that people need to be taught about. If you are going to be out at night on the sidewalks or on the roads, then do not wear dark clothes because it makes you hard to be seen in the presence of these road hogs who would not dip their lights.

Madam President, there are many issues which the Government can tackle some at considerable expense like building many new roads or improving long stretches of roads that need a fortune to repair them but there are also many minor things that Government can do. There are many places that as I drive around, I see all you need is a very modest strip of land next to an empty lot which could easily be another compulsory acquisition in order to provide another layby. The layby movement came about 20 years ago when laybys started to appear and people seem to have forgotten about the value of laybys but they certainly are things that can make driving a great deal easier and speed up the traffic movement along the road.

Madam President, the other issue that one must conclude about. At the last meeting in this Honourable Chamber we spoke of the vast sums of money that are spent on renting Government offices, some \$65 million. I think that I read about provisions for road repairs I think the sum mentioned was \$60 million. The cost of the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) building was some other huge sum and we get variable accounts of what that sum was and, Madam President, I would say once again, with the risk of being told that I always bring to back to the subject, but the sums of \$50 million or \$60 million would easily bring Bridgetown back to where it should be in terms of its revitalisation.

Madam President, as the leader of this Resolution said, the things that she was opening up for a thorough discussion on traffic, traffic regulation and specifically road safety is an opportunity, I am sure, for my colleagues in the Senate to debate their many hobby horses, their many interesting theories about improving the road networks and improving safety. I hope that the discussion will be a sensible one and I hope that the powers that be will take note of the many suggestions made by Senator Dr. Byer-

Suckoo, myself and other colleagues who can point out the usefulness of doing some of the obvious things which can only be described as no-brainers to improve road safety in Barbados.

Thank you, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Byer-Suckoo.

SUSPENSION

Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: Madam President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. for lunch.

The question that the Senate do no suspend until 2.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MADAM PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

MADAM PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Senator Ince, you have the Floor.

ORDER No. 2 (RESUMED)

Senator J. INCE: Madam President, I rise to support the Resolution that is before this Honourable Chamber that seeks to acquire lands in Redman's Village for the sole purpose of improving the road infrastructure, under what we call the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project.

Madam President, let me start by congratulating those technocrats within the Ministry of Transport and Works also the Honourable Minister, the Honourable Michael Lashley, and the prior Minister who held the portfolio, the Honourable John Boyce. Madam President, it is not an easy task to manage road infrastructure anywhere in the world. Those of us who watch international news would see that in the US they have challenges with maintaining the infrastructure and even what we would call the backup of traffic in the morning and in the evenings. If you go to Trinidad, St. Lucia or St. Vincent, you would see that managing the road infrastructure is a problem, so it is not an easy task for Barbados, as stated by Senator Byer Suckoo, with the massive road network that we have in Barbados.

I am of the opinion that I do not think that Barbados needs to any new roads. I think what is challenging is management and maintenance because if you have almost 2 000 kilometres of road network, it tells me you are actually covering the island, that there is a road maybe for every village, whether that road is paved or unpaved, so what we need, I think, is management and maintenance. The reason I say that is because we have most of our main roads paved

but when you look at the arteries, what I call the connecting roads that lead on the main road, whether you are going into the city or out of the city, you would find that most of those roads are not in the best of condition, so what you would find is that persons travelling would tend to use the main road roads maybe to reach home or the office a little earlier because the connecting roads are not in the best of conditions. I could highlight some examples. Let us look at the road that would connect Windsor to Brighton. If you live in Salters or what we call the Old Works Hill, that road used to be heavily used but now it is scarcely used at all because of the condition, so persons now go straight on to Windsor right on to Boarded Hall whereas before they would turn off at Windsor end up at Brighton down what we call Buttals into St. George and into St. John, even if you are coming from Bridgetown. Being that that road is not heavily used you would find out now that there is a major traffic build up within that area.

If I could speak to St. George North, the constituency that I represent, Madam President, I am going to give you the example of when I say the main arteries going on to the public highway. If you had to look from Market Hill going on to Cottage Plantation... From the time that I was growing up in Drax Hall and making my way through Greens all the way into Cottage because sometimes you ease out there to get some of the best sugar cane...

Asides.

Senator J. INCE: I was not stealing, but sometimes the best sugar cane and what we call the juicy cane was located between Greens and Cottage.

Madam President, that road has deteriorated. I spoke to Minister Lashley about and I know it is getting his attention so I could say that to the persons of St. George North who use that road between Cottage and Market Hill that the Minister of Transport and Works, the Michael Lashley, is paying some attention to a that.

Madam President, you would find out that persons coming from St. John, from Bowmanstan all the way down, have a tendency to go down Gun Hill so you are going to get a severe backup of traffic at the junction right there on Salters and Charles Rowe Bridge. Now, if they were able to use that road frequently and that road was repaired they would be able to go down Market Hill straight on to Lears and into Bridgetown. When you are coming from St. Joseph the road that goes into Sweet Vale that would take you on to Bowmanstan right on to Ashford right into St. John is scarcely use because the stretch between Sweet Vale and Redland going into St. John is in a terrible condition. What normally happens is that persons would now travel past Bowmanstan avoid Redland and go then into Gun Hill where there is a backup of traffic again,

so you have that problem as I said of management and maintenance.

I must say that this Cabinet under the Minister is looking at the whole idea of management and maintenance of the road network in Barbados to which we must pay attention. It is not just staggering the work hours for people to get into Bridgetown early. I know that the Honourable Esther Byer Suckoo spoke about Salters but Salters is a problem. In fact, Madam President, I call it a death trap. That junction at Old Works Hill and Carmichael is a death trap. When you leave Carmichael and you come down the Old Works Hill and you are going on to Bulkeley that junction at the Turnpike is a death trap. It is dangerous, Madam President, and I know that the Ministry is paying attention to it. The reason is say that is if you are coming from Carmichael and you stop at that junction you have to come right out in the road to see the vehicle that is coming from Buttals or the Old Works Hill. It is impossible for the person coming off the Old Works Hill not to hit you it depending on the speed they are travelling. It is dangerous. The other dangerous junction is that junction coming from Andrews Factory that butt and bound Groves Plantation and onto Sweet Vale, that four way, you have to come in the middle of the street to see what is coming. I know that the Minister has paid special attention to these areas.

Madam President, traffic backs up in Six Roads from as early as 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The reason for that, I think, is that persons coming on to Six Roads do not use the road by Four Square Rum Distillery anymore. There used to be a road by Four Square Rum Distillery that needs repairing that would take you down into Marchfield right on to Sunbury Great House, so you had no reason to come to Six Roads by the roundabout then to go into Bridgetown. That road is now in disrepair but once repaired you will be able to use that road that would take you from by Four Square Rum Distillery straight on to Hampton Pumping Station and you would end up right up above Carrington Factory and you could make your way into Bridgetown, again management and maintenance.

By the same Sunbury Great House that road is falling apart and needs repairing. Madam President, that road will take you past Sunbury Great House, into Padmore, from Padmore into what we call Bushy Park/Fairview, right into Sanford. It takes that traffic from Six Roads right into Lucas Street, from Lucas Street you go on to Thicketts, then on to Groves, but unfortunately that road needs to be repaired so that all the cars go right into Six Roads and you get a backup of traffic. Madam President, traffic backs up in Six Roads until 7:30 at night, that is the reality. Madam President, I passed and saw preliminary work being done on the road in Marchfield, that road that will carry you straight onto the market. Madam President, once the roads are done, I know that the

Minister and his technocrats have a plan in place for the management and maintenance of the roads in Barbados.

Madam President, when we speak of road behaviour, I am of the opinion that sometimes if it is not necessary for me to leave home to drive on the road then I do not leave home. I am very serious about that and let me say why. Madam President, I find it very disheartening that when you are at a stop light persons are blowing their horns to tell you to move. Nowadays in Barbados the reality is that when the light turns green you have to wait for a couple of seconds before moving or you would end up in Coral Ridge. I am tell you, I do not move just because the light says green anymore. One time you could have done that. In Barbados now it is the type of road behaviour that you have, so I wait for a couple of seconds and then I move, it does not matter who blows their horn and says to move. I have witnessed persons running the red light and having accidents occurring right in front of me, because we have a lot of reckless drivers on the road.

Madam President, people no longer care about who is travelling next to them, you see people overtaking on the highway where they just switch over without indicating. Madam President, I think what we need is really some programmes, whether on the television or on the radio which educate the drivers in Barbados on how to use the road signage, how to use the lanes, how to appreciate the vehicle in the lane that is next to you and understanding what it is and not just having a licence because you have one.

Madam President, having a licence is an opportunity afforded to us by the State but sometimes the way some of us drive we feel as though it is ours. No, the licence is not yours, it belongs to the Crown and it can be revoked, but there are many of us who drive on the road as if we own the road, we pay taxes and insurance so we can do as we like. No, Madam President.

Madam President, I am using this opportunity to appeal to Barbadians to let us be more careful, one life lost on the road is too much, especially when that person is a breadwinner to the family. Let us appreciate and respect each another, you hear too much cursing if you do not move when the light says green. Sometimes I witness where a young individual had literally 'bused an old person crossing the pedestrian crossing. I heard that and I have seen it. That was unnecessary, all of us are going to become old, some of us the Lord may call us before we get there but the reality is that some of us, despite we are driving a vehicle, the time may come that we have to put that vehicle by the wayside, we are going to have to use the bus and as a result of using public transportation we are going to be on the pedestrian crossing, but there are some of us who behave as though we are not going to get old,

that we are going to remain the way we are so that we can do as we like.

Madam President, yes, sometimes people do misuse pedestrian crossing but I have seen some drivers disrespecting persons who I consider to be old. These persons who have to take their time because they have no other means of using transportation but that of using the public's, and sometimes in Bridgetown you have to use the pedestrian crossing. Madam President, the Resolution not only embraces the improvements, it also looks at societal behaviours as far as using the highways are concerned.

Madam President, we have heard this thing about flyovers and overpasses. Now, a flyover is when you take a trip over an airspace in a helicopter or a plane, but we use the word flyover. What we really mean is an overpass. Madam President, when we speak to overpass in Barbados, you cannot build an overpass at Warrens and exit at Bussa, you are throwing cars on top of each other. All you are saying to me is, Jepter, jump in your car, exit at Bussa and end back up in the same problem that you started with at Warrens.

Madam President, those of you who travel internationally would know that travelling on an overpass you go for miles and then exit without having the traffic congestion that you normally would have encountered if you had not used the overpass. Madam President, I have a problem when I hear people saying that we have these overpass but I ask put them where. If you start an overpass at Warrens you should exit at Grantley Adams International Airport or in Gemswick. If you start at Warrens you should exit in Checker Hall or Speightstown, but if you are going to build an overpass and when I do exit I exit right by Redman's Village then something is wrong, I would end up in the same problem.

Madam President, that is why I said that the management and maintenance of our road infrastructure has to deal with management and maintenance. I am of the opinion that we do not need any additional roads, for example, you could have travelled from Bath through Foster Hall, through Martin's Bay, all the way down to the East Coast Road. Persons coming from St. Lucy could easily come through Farley Hill, hit the East Coast Road, right through Foster Hall, up Bath, through Martin's Bay and straight onto the airport. Now, why it is that people use Highway 2A is that these roads are in need of repair, but if you had that road repaired and managed it would take a lot of traffic off the ABC Highway, off Highway 2A and you can use that, as I call it, the outer ring road. For years I call it the ring road of Barbados where you could go through St. John, it is a beautiful drive for those of you who like sightseeing on Sunday evenings, it is one of the most beautiful drive you could have by going through St. John,

right away round Foster Hall, Martin's Bay, right away through until you get to the East Coast, right up Farley Hill.

Madam President, these are the things that we need to look at. Madam President, there is then the whole idea of ferry service. I know it works well in Trinidad and Tobago. I use the one that travels from Trinidad over to Tobago and back. I used it many times with my grandmother. Sometimes we would go on a trip to Tobago, which is a beautiful place so that you go there and spend a day. I had the opportunity of going into Tobago and of spending a few days walking around, then spending the day, you then grab the ferry back over to Trinidad.

Madam President, I am of the opinion that if we can establish such a service it can alleviate some of the traffic problems but you would have to have a secured area for persons to leave their cars, then board the ferry. Further, you can have a service running from Speightstown and docking right here at the Pierhead. You can then have a service running from Oistins and docking right here at the Pierhead or at Silver Sands. It could be similar to what happens if you are going to Long Island. Then you can also look at the possibility of the express bus service. I am of the opinion that if we had to charge maybe \$5 for an express service, that bus could move, let us say, from Speightstown straight to Bridgetown for persons going to work. There is a similar express service sometimes from New Jersey into Manhattan, and you have to get a special ticket. You would find that most professionals normally purchase the ticket, but they have their cars parked in a safe parking lot. If we look for a safe parking lot, maybe we can also look at the possibility of having that express service. There are a number of things that we can look at.

As I said, Barbados to me is still heaven. Look at our road network. I know we criticise the Ministry and we criticise the pot-holes, Madam President, but when you travel outside of Barbados and you ask to go into the countryside or just outside of the city in some of these countries, you would say, "Lord, I thank you that I have the pot-holes in Barbados." What we complain about sometimes, as I said, is just a matter of management and maintenance when you compare some of the road networks in other countries, especially the rural areas of those countries.

Madam President, I support the Resolution. I think it is timely. The Ministry and the Minister are doing the best they can under trying conditions. Let me say again to the people of St. George North that your roads are having the attention of the Minister. We have had numerous conversations on getting the road network in that area done, like all over Barbados, and I want to say to the people of Barbados that good things are happening in the Ministry, Madam President. Be patient. We are getting there. Thank you very much, Madam President, and I am obliged.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Worrell, you have the Floor.

Senator A.R. WORRELL: Thank you, Madam President. I rise to support the Resolution with regard to the land acquisition in quite a few areas in relation to the Warrens Traffic Improvement and Safety Network. There are quite a few parcels of land involved in this acquisition, and this would have taken a bit of time because it has happened in a very highly developed area, with both residential establishments and companies. Parcels of land had to be acquired from a number of different persons, so this would account for the project's extended length of time. This project started in the early days of this Administration, and it was done in such a way as to improve the road network and the flow of traffic in that area.

Madam President, there was a time when I would be in Bagatelle every single day visiting my great-grandmother. I had to be on that road quite often, and I knew about the horrors of the traffic in that area. I also worked in the Warrens area, and traffic there is like a nightmare, to the extent that even up to this day I still, whenever possible, avoid venturing anywhere close to Warrens during peak hours, which are early in the morning, lunch, and definitely at 4:30. Definitely avoid Warrens at 4:30 unless you have a lot of patience, an air-conditioned vehicle and lots of gas. I know too well about the trouble, pain and anguish that any motorist would go through in Warrens. When I worked in that area, in order to escape the traffic I had two choices: I either had to leave before 4:30 or stay in the office and leave after 5:30-6 p.m. in order to have a smooth drive up to Hothersal Turning, at least. There was also the option of using some back roads, which I became a 'pro' at doing. I remember, in making my trek from St. John to Warrens, Jack-In-The-Box Gully was my best friend on mornings and evenings because it was a horrible road and not many people knew about it or were willing to risk their suspension or rims on that treacherous road. That road, thankfully, has been fixed now and it is still a good road to use. There were also a number of different roads that would take you past Millennium Heights and so on.

During this project, a number of these roads had to be utilised, especially in terms of regulating the traffic flow. I guess it would have caused a bit of inconvenience to some of the communities in that area, where before you had the turnoff to go toward Welches, but now you cannot turn right off the highway. You have to go all the way up to the roundabout and come back down, or you have the other option of turning right by the new roundabout, going past the Automotive Art complex and taking a road which was recently built that would take you through the community. I still get lost when I go through here, but that, I imagine, is an inconvenience to some of those persons who live in that

area, but at the same time, it has helped somewhat in terms of traffic flow. All of these are things which had to be considered in terms of this particular project. Yes, persons were inconvenienced, and yes, a number of people probably did not want to part with their properties and to cooperate and so forth. To probably answer Senator Fraser's question as to why this particular project took so long in terms of this acquisition, I believe the planners and designers at the MTW really had to work hard to look at the best way of alleviating this problem in order to make it work for everyone, namely the residents and the motorists using that highly trafficked area.

The reality is that Warrens is now becoming a town, and there are many people who go to that area instead of coming into Bridgetown. They conduct the majority of their business in Warrens because there is almost everything; banking facilities, and at least two or three shopping malls if you consider the Welches Walk, the Dome Mall and Massy Complex. I remember the days when the only businesses you had in Warrens were Collins Limited, Carlisle Laboratory and Simpson Motors, and it was almost a ghost town. If you did not have a vehicle, it was not a very pleasant place to be after a certain time. Now all of that has changed. You can easily get to Warrens and there is a lot you can do there. A bit more recreational activity may be needed to encourage persons who work in that area not to just spring out of the office at 4:30, but park their vehicles and go to one of the recreational areas and relax. This would allow persons like myself to flow through Warrens peacefully and easily around 4:30 or so, and then you can come onto the road around 5:30 or 6 p.m. Something that is definitely needed is more recreational activities within that area and possibly some footpaths between the companies, so that instead of just driving around, you can use the Warrens area as a place for exercise as well. This would be an incentive for persons who work in the area to stay around a little bit longer and help to ease the traffic flow in the area.

2.50 p.m.

I hope that it has improved but one of the things that is definitely needed as Senator Byer would have said is the flexi work time. Madam, that is definitely needed. I still think that many of the offices that operate in Warrens still work on the eight to four thirty basis and you need a lot more of the flexi time for the employees because it is a headache trying to get to Warrens for eight o'clock in the morning. Madam, for you to get to your office for eight o'clock in the morning, it means that you have to be on the road by at least six thirty. If you do not leave home by six thirty, there will be no way that you will be able to sit at your desk in Warrens for eight o'clock. Madam, when you think about all the productive time that people waste on the road trying to navigate traffic, we really need to look at that. Madam, by the time you get to your office, you have

already spent two hours on the road fighting with traffic, inhaling fumes, dealing with the heat and so on and so forth and also with persons who definitely cannot drive and maybe persons like Senator Fraser, who cannot navigate the triangle over by Wildey as well. Madam, you have to deal with all these things and it leaves you in no frame of mind, when you get to your office to be productive. Madam, we need to look at that in terms of looking at traffic management and how it impacts on productivity in the workplace. Madam, similarly, you would want to get out of your office as soon as possible so that you can beat the traffic and considering going out for lunch hour to do business in Bridgetown to go to the Barbados Revenue Authority to pay land tax or go to the Licensing Authority... Madam, quite frankly, to go to the Licensing Authority to renew your driver's licence or pay road tax, you might as well take the day off in order to get that done. Madam, all of these are things that you need to avoid and you need to look at ways of improving productivity.

Madam President, in the Report of the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados in the first quarter in which the economy grew by 1.7 per cent, it also mentions that the number of electrical vehicles which we have on the road. Madam, this is something I would like to see. At present, the Report says it is roughly 150 electric vehicles and there a number of charging stations around the country. I mentioned the electric vehicles because he also mentioned the reduction in the fuel import bill as well. I am going there because I would like to see more Barbadians being able to leave their vehicles at home some days of the week and for us to have a reliable pts that you can use instead. Madam, I am one person who would gladly take up that option because I would rather be chauffeur driven and have the opportunity to text on my phone, go on Facebook, read a book, anything of that sort and if we have a pts which would allow me to comfortably tell myself that since I do not have much to do on Tuesday or many place to go, so I can leave home my vehicle and take the bus to work, then take a bus to gym and then get back home. Madam, I would be glad to do that, so we need to get that stage in our development as a country.

Madam President, we have to recognise that there have been some challenges in facing a difficult recession and looking at reducing our expenditure and so on but as a model and where we are going this is something we need identify as an area that is important to this country, in terms of identifying a suitable public transport network that persons would be encouraged to leave their vehicles at home, a transportation network which is reliable and utilizes modern technology so that I can possibility use my phone and there is an app that would tell me that the bus which would take me from Warrens to Hothersal Turning is 15 minutes away so I know that I can comfortably leave my office and walk to the bus stop and by the time I get there in 15 minutes the bus arrives and takes me to my

destination, I get off and if there is another bus I need to take to get me to my final destination, it can also tell me how soon that bus will arrive as well. Madam, these things are not very foreign, these are not things that you have to wait for the Star Trek generation for it to happen, you get need to put the appropriate apps on the bus and have the correct discipline in terms of the persons who would regulate the fleet as well, and these things can happen. Madam, you could have proper traffic management, fleet management and so forth because all these things are needed. Madam, if you have a public transport system which is more reliable, I do not think that many persons would spend more than \$200 or \$400 a month in goods and services when you can reduce that amount and spend a whole lot less, or they would bother to drive to work and have to spend two hours sitting behind a wheel of a car whereas you can let some do that, you just read your book, text on your phone as you normally do anyhow but do it in a safe environment. Madam, these are areas that we need to get and I know this administration is looking in that area and as soon as we comfortably clear the obstacle in the road and the finances are there, these are things we will work on to improve the public transport system in Barbados. Madam, when we are improving, we have to look at the routes as well because there is time for a change and in terms of all the buses going to Bridgetown, we need to recognise that there are difficult town centres and we need to different bus depots in these town centres, so for instance, Warrens is a good location for there to be a bus depot so that I can go there and get a bus that would take me to Speightstown, that would take me to Oistins and a bus that would take me to Six Cross Roads that would along the way pass through areas of St. John and pass through St. Joseph as well so that everything is connected, a bus that would take me from Warrens to Sheraton Centre along the way. Madam, if we work those things out in terms of changing our public transport network and improving that, you would find that you would reduce the amount of vehicles on the road and you would reduce the level of congestion. Madam, we must realise that Barbados does not have the physical land space such as places like Trinidad or Jamaica that we can even consider going to a six-lane highway. If we are having so much trouble in terms of doing the land acquisition for this highway network here, imagine the amount of trouble that we would have in terms of acquiring land to expand the highway from four lanes now to six lanes. Madam, we do not have that land mass that we can possibly think of that but we recognise that we are having a growing population, that more and more people are getting vehicles so we have to think of ways of how we are going to manage the traffic and the demand for vehicles and one of the best ways of managing that is by providing adequate public transportation so that the first option of a student leaving the University of the West Indies is not to get a vehicle to help him to get to work but if there is a decent, public transport system you can save on that money and we can

also think about it in terms of the green economy as well and reducing the pollution as well, so we need to think in those terms in terms of holistic development of our country.

Madam President, some of the traffic management options which may be available to us that we need to consider. Madam, in Trinidad on certain highways, you have the lanes in which you can go in both directions, so that in the mornings you would have two lanes going toward town and then the centre lane in the evening would be two lanes coming out of town and maybe that is something we can consider here as well because there are quite a few roads with bottlenecks that we do not really have the land space that you can expand and which are constantly busy. Once such road is Waterford, from the intersection by Combermere School straight up to the roundabout. When you go in the morning, it is bottleneck traffic going towards Bridgetown and in the evening it is bottleneck traffic coming out of Bridgetown and a suggestion, I believe that you may have the space there, you may just be able to get one other lane there but you can possibly do it in such a way that you can have that middle lane which is used to go in both directions in the morning period in the middle lane you can use two lanes in the morning period to go down to Bridgetown and then two lanes in the evening period to come out of Bridgetown and that would help to reduce the traffic on Hindsbury Road and all of those areas. A easy flow of traffic right out of Bridgetown up to Hothersal Turning and so forth, every day you have those problems.

Another area where you have that problem would be from Haggatt Hall up to Six Roads and you must commend the Government. Anytime that I speak on a Resolution regarding roadworks in Barbados I would always put a plug in for this Democratic Labour Party Administration for that road between Haggatt Hall and Six Roads. That road was done by the DLP Administration, I believe in the first term. I remember that if you were leaving Haggatt Hall and thinking to go to Six Roads, many people would have preferred to travel all the way up the ABC Highway, pass the Airport and then come back down to Six Roads because of how horrible that road was but now you have a smooth road from Haggatt Hall all the way to Six Roads. The only problem that we have not been able to rectify as yet is the traffic during the rush hour periods because that very same road, if you are coming from St. Philip in the morning period, trust me, do not go there after 7 o'clock and expect that you are going to get to Government Hill before 9 o'clock. You will be completely wasting your time, you might as well pull the car off the road and do something else but that is another area where that suggestion of a centre lane which can be used to go in both directions would be useful in that area and it would definitely help terms of reducing the traffic because to get from Six Roads to Government Hill before 9 o'clock in the

morning, trust me, you have to have a lot of patience and I am hoping the DJ is playing good music on the radio that you can enjoy yourself going along otherwise you would probably go mad. Do not ever think about using that road if you are late for an appointment. If you are late for an appointment and you find yourself on that road, just call ahead and say I am going to be two hours late or would you like to reschedule for tomorrow, anything along that line, but that is another area which you can use that.

I have to put in a plug for the road between Four Roads along Todds which Minister Byer-Suckoo spoke to because I use that road every single morning. Also Senator Fraser spoke about it already and I find that it is better to drive quickly and float over the bumps than it is to drive slowly and drop into every pothole. If you drive quickly you avoid some of the bumps, I do not know how it works but you do not feel them. I long for the day when that road is completed because it is a good access form St. John to the Airport, to Christ Church and to Oistins. If I am going to Oistins at night to enjoy some fish, I do not want to drive all the way back down through Bridgetown and so forth, just let me go straight across that road and I could be in Oistins in 10 to 15 minutes with no traffic on the road.

I am also putting in a plug for MTW to get to work on that work and get and get it finished. We would like a nice smooth road from Four Roads all the way pass Greens and Todds going straight down. Then there is the other road between Brighton ...

Asides.

Senator A. R. WORRELL: Yeah, if you do one, you need to do all so complete that road as well.

Asides.

Senator A. R. WORRELL: Exactly. If you do that you can get to Oistins, I do not drive like Senator Byer-Suckoo, I would say 10 minutes for me but maybe five minutes for her.

With regards to the Wildey area I may have a slightly different view from Senator Fraser but I like it actually in terms of traffic management and so forth. I remember the days where you had the stoplights there and you had the turn to go down Wildey, but just given that one loop, the trick with it is that you need to determine which lane you want to be in from early. The only area that I have a headache with, and it depends on how brave I feel at the time, would be when coming from Wildey and you take the right turn to take you back down to the SOL Gas Station. If I am not feeling very brave, I would take the left and go up the hill, go around the roundabout and come back down so you need to let people know that there are different options that you can use in terms of navigating that road but if you

feel brave and you figure that you have the dexterity of Lewis Hamilton, well then you can take the right there and you can navigate the traffic and you can easily make your way over. Most people do let you through or you just watch your side mirrors and you do get through that area. If there are any solutions that can improve that can improve that I would always be opened, bring those solutions and I am certain that they can be implemented but I think that what the persons in the Ministry have done so far, they have improved the traffic flow within that area. Another area for the double centre lane would be after you leave the triangle, going pass Carter General Stores, pass the Luther Thorne Memorial School going down into Collymore Rock, you could use a centre lane in that area. That would be another ideal location where you can have a centre lane that you can use depending on the direction of traffic flow and that would help to reduce the bottleneck in that triangle area.

All-in-all, Madam President, I support this Resolution and I do recognise the length of time but as I said, you had a number of parcels of land and a number of people you had to negotiate with. I believe that the Resolution has more than 11 schedules, it has 15 schedules so all of these are different land owners that you had to negotiate with and I understand that we are paying a premium for some of these properties as well because we have to recognise the area that it is in and so forth. The improvements that have been made in that area, I believe, have helped to reduce some of the traffic congestion.

There is one other road which leads from Jackson - I have not yet taken that road but I often wonder where it takes you -- when you get by the roundabout by the One Accord Building there is a road to your right. I have not taken that road but in my days of coming down from Cane Garden, I always wished that there was a road that you could get from Cane Garden that could bring you to that roundabout and I am hoping that ...

Asides.

Senator A. R. WORRELL: It does not? Well we need to put one there because you need a road that would help you to get off of Cane Garden and help you to get to that roundabout by Warrens that is closest to the Boabab Towers so that I would not have to go to the small roundabout in Jackson and then come down. In all, the work that has been done has definitely improved the traffic flow and I believe that when it is finished it will make ... Sometimes when you look at some of the areas of development in Barbados you wonder if you are really in Barbados or if you are in one of the metropolitan countries, Miami, or somewhere else so it really lends to the aesthetics. On that note, there is one little thing that I need to talk about. In the loop by the Warrens Office Complex where Senator Byer Suckoo office is, there is a bit too

much bush in that area. I do not know who is the landowner, but it is the property close to what we would normally refer to as the Barrack Office Complex by the triangle. When you take that triangle from there to take you back to Chefette Restaurant, there is a bit too much bush in that area and I think that we really need to take on the responsibility and beautify that area and get rid of that bush to make it safe. You do not really see many people walking along that road but that is no excuse. You need to clean it up and beautify that area especially seeing that it is so close to so many office buildings and so forth. The landowner may not necessarily be Government but whoever the landowner is we need to take steps to make sure that we tidy up that area as well.

Madam President, I support the Resolution.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Adams, you have the Floor.

Senator A. A. ADAMS: Thank you, Madam President. Let me say that it was whispered in my ears just before I rose to speak that Senator Worrell seemed to have touched every single nook and cranny across this island of Barbados. Madam President, that was not all that was said. It was said that it is good for him to do it now because when he gets married he would have to stay home. I can attest to that because I myself am very domesticated in this regard.

Senator Worrell spoke at great length and touched on a lot of issues in relation to this Resolution and so did Senator Ince, Senator Fraser and others who spoke. It does not leave a lot now to be said but I would want to say that the land acquisition for this road improvement should be seen in conjunction with the transportation particularly mass transit. Together there are vital to the socioeconomic development of Barbados.

Madam President, I thought I would bring that point because for most people in the modern world you find that you put a value on time. It brings us to the adage that time is in fact money, and therefore it is important for any Government in a modern society to pay particular attention to its roadways and transportation generally and to be able to appreciate and recognise the value of persons getting from one place to the other in a timely manner, for if that is not done it means, Madam President, that either wittingly or unwittingly you would be going down the path that would lead to unproductivity and either slow or no economic growth. I think it is particularly important that this Resolution should come now and dealing with the roadway in an area such as Warrens which is now highly recognised in Barbados as a new town centre. One might therefore want to find out what is the cost benefit analysis of this project. To my mind I would say notwithstanding the fact that it is costly, I understand elsewhere that it is in

the vicinity of \$17 million or \$20 million, and that of course is a lot of money, but we have to weigh that against the situation as to whether or not the improvements were to come about and when we do so we find that there will be tremendous benefits to the travelling public and to the economy of Barbados.

I think, for example, if you are as old as I am and you were to imagine Barbados without the East Coast Road or even Sandy Lane, when I was a youngster the Sandy Lane Road was not the original road, and coming closer to our times we could speak or look at the Spring Garden Highway or the ABC Highway. What we find when we do that is that those road ways and their improvements and the building of them have contributed tremendously to the socioeconomic development of Barbados and it would be difficult to conceive of a modern Barbados without that type of roadway, and so this project should be seen in that light. We have to look to see to what extent travellers either in private vehicles or in public transport would be able to travel in greater comfort, less wear and tear on the tyres and the suspension, and get from one place to the other in a shorter space of time and generally be able to do business in a much better way, and therefore those points would need to be taken into consideration in relation to whether or not we support this Resolution.

There are some downsides which ought to be mentioned and I think that even when we do that we will find that the downsides are generally temporary and although the persons concerned will be seriously inconvenience, in the long run the cost benefit will come down in the side of the benefits.

Now, the persons who live in those areas, and I actually have a friend who live nearby and he has been complaining because this project has been going on for some time, some people say over a decade, spoke about the dust and the noise and the fact that transportation, the cars and even the ZRs and minibuses and so on, have found themselves turning off of the roadway and going in the side ways and this has caused tremendous inconvenience to persons living there particularly persons with children. The environment itself, as bad as it is, has become worse in the sense that the through traffic have brought additional emissions and this obviously have affected the health or will affect the health of the residents in the area. I have spoken before in relation to the problem of emissions which sometimes we seem to overlook but in the countries where this is taken seriously, the concept of emission is seen to be a serious health hazard. When we are speaking about transportation I believe that during this debate we ought to consider the plight and the health of the persons living in that area particularly when it comes to emissions and the congestions that will come with in that way.

3.20 p.m.

Madam President, the improvement of the road, however, will hopefully eliminate some of that because we would be able to move through the area somewhat better, except that we ought to pay some attention to the ZRs and minibuses, in this country they seem to be a law unto themselves and we find that notwithstanding the fact that you might have better roadways, their bad habits of stopping three and four times between bus stops will negate the kind of benefits about which we are contemplating for those roads. Madam President, I think that the authorities ought to very seriously look into matters of that nature so that Warrens does not become the new Baxters Road or the new Tudor Street and become a real nuisance to the general public of Barbados and in the end prevents the benefits that should accrue to the general public in Barbados to come about.

Madam President, I always kind of bring things into the educational era and my principalship in St. Peter was bedeviled by the late arrival of buses coming to the school. Some of those buses came along that same route, so I am hoping that in the planning, since I believe that the situation of people crisscrossing the country coming to school will not be alleviated, I believe that the notion of having the school buses facilitated in their journey from the Warren area to the north of the island ought to be looked at, because there is the notion of time being money.

Madam President, I want to go back to that because if you are a businessman and because of road and transportation problems your workers are getting to work late, then automatically it affects your productivity and the ability to grow your business and perhaps if you are not careful it could put you out of business. Madam President, that has an impact on a business but when you translate that across the island, it has an impact on the entire economy.

Madam President, in relation to the transportation of students it is almost the same. We find that (1) you have too few buses, the students are therefore left to catch the ZR vans and minibuses and as a result they are exposed to some of the most insidious behaviour, the most outlandish music and salacious behaviour ever conceivable on the face of the earth. Therefore I would want to say that in the planning situation we may not be able to have going from Warrens straight down to the north, on Highway 2A. Madam President, in fact, I do not think it was mentioned but this project will have an impact on the Highway 2A project going from Warrens straight down to the St. Lucy Church area and this is particularly important.

Madam President, I just mentioned the school bus to say that some special provision should be made for students travelling along that route by the school bus, so that they would not have to catch ZR or minibuses, to be able to get to the various schools in the north on time. Madam President, only a couple of months ago we had a

situation where one of those ZR vans overturned with about 12 or 14 students from one of the schools in them. I think that is something that we ought to bear in mind when we are thinking about this.

Madam President, we think that those kinds of situations ought to be considered, so that the cost benefit situation, when we consider it every day, even though you are going to have to put up with some inconveniences, I believe that overall this project will redound to the benefit of the travelling public, eventually to the people in the area because they will first have to go in there where those people would be somewhat inconvenienced, and generally to the whole economic development of Barbados.

Madam President, I think that having heard many Senators already touching the various areas of the project those are the areas that I thought I would mention without having to repeat things that have been said before. Madam President, I believe that this project for the improvement of the infrastructure of the roads around the Warrens area is a good project. I believe that notwithstanding the cost and the delay that has come about before it has gotten underway, that this Honourable Chamber will be very happy. I myself will be very happy and I am sure that other Members of this Honourable Chamber will be very happy to give it our support. I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Todd, you have the Floor.

SENATOR the Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Madam President, I rise to support the passage of this Resolution to approve in accordance with Section (5) of the Lands Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of the parcels of land situate at Redman's Village in the parish of Saint James, Warrens Terrace in the parish of Saint Thomas, Warrens Terrace in the parish of Saint James and Lodge Hill in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island, for the public purpose of improving the road infrastructure under the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project. I would wish to congratulate this Democratic Labour Party Administration for working assiduously to improve the quality of the road network within our country, which has been neglected by the Barbados Labour Party when they were in office for 14 long years.

Madam President, I had the opportunity to work in this general area since the coming into office of the Democratic Labour Party where I served for the first ten months in the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development which was then and is still located in the building in Warrens, commonly referred to as the Barack Building, next to the SuperCentre Complex. I served there subsequently in other capacities, in the Ministry of Trade for the first few

months, then in the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development and so I am pretty familiar with that area.

Madam President, as you would know, Madam President, certainly during the week by minutes to 3 p.m. coming out of town, one would find oneself in a long line of traffic from Warrens stretching past the former Bim factory right past your church, Madam President, and as far down as some of the hardware stores and bonds of some of the leading distributors in the island. It is close to a mile, because of the congestion of those junctions, including the one by the office complex as one crosses over into the Eden Lodge and Lodge Hill areas. As the mover of the Resolution, Senator the Honourable Esther Byer-Suckoo, mentioned, the road is being widened at that junction to create an additional lane to ensure that you have less traffic congestion from the main road over to the subsidiary roads, and so on. This very creative and timely improvement at the various junctions in that area would definitely increase traffic flow and reduce the long wait of motorists on those various roads.

Madam President, as I understand it, there has been some level of public-private sector collaboration, where investors and business entities were able to present proposals to Government as to where funding would be sourced. They are taking that risk in a proper PPP (public-private sector partnership) arrangement that is symbiotic and mutually beneficial, so that we can have a win-win situation. Madam President, this reminds me that this Democratic Labour Party Administration in several other areas -- I am not repeating what was said by other speakers, but adding -- has really been working assiduously to repair one-by-one the roads which were neglected by the Barbados Labour Party. For example, there is the Wharf Road. There were serious problems related to the collapse of parts of that road, and it called for very extensive work, but this Democratic Labour Party Administration executed it very efficiently. That is why we have that road fully accessible. We also did a number of resurfacing projects within the Bridgetown area, which of course is the nation's capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We were also able to resurface a number of roads in the Bayville area; not all, but we made a significant start. We were able to resurface within the City side of Bayville, because Bayville is divided by Beckles Road. Coming from the sea, the left hand side up to Old Quarry Road is in the City of Bridgetown and the right hand side is in St. Michael South. Certainly on the City side, we were able to resurface much of St. Paul's Avenue, which is where one would find the Centre for the Blind and Deaf and the Bayview Hospital. Much of St. Paul's Avenue was resurfaced by the Democratic Labour Party, as well as Old Quarry Road, Bayview Avenue, and other parts of Bridgetown including Jemmotts Lane and James Street. Now we are working assiduously to rehabilitate Huntles

Street, which is next to Baxters Road and was terribly neglected and in serious disrepair under the Barbados Labour Party Administration. I would therefore wish, on behalf of the good people of the City of Bridgetown, to thank this Democratic Labour Party Administration for addressing these very pressing issues in relation to improvements in the road network, Madam President.

I also know that as part of the loan financing which we have been able to access because of our membership in the Latin American Development Bank (CAF) based in Venezuela, over a period of time we will be drawing down tens of millions of dollars. In one of the initial phases, it is earmarked that Coleridge Street and Whitepark Road leading to the court complex will be rehabilitated. This is where you have the entrance to Central Police Station, which was neglected seriously by the Barbados Labour Party, with pot-holes galore, as they say. This Democratic Labour Party Administration is ensuring that this will be a thing of the past when we rehabilitate that road, Madam President.

The Barbados Labour Party really must be ashamed of itself for having held the reins of Government for 14 years and neglecting the nation's capital to that large extent. In fact, this Administration has been able to sort of address the issue of pot-holes in a very systematic manner, where we are ensuring that the necessary depots and personnel within the MTW will make a priority of fixing as many pot-holes as possible in a timely manner so that you do not end up with large craters while we access the necessary funding to do the more long-term rehabilitation of various roads. The timely intervention of the tar and aggregate to fix these pot-holes, especially before the onset of the rainy season, would ensure that the roads are not destroyed to a larger extent. This is being addressed, as we speak, by this caring Democratic Labour Party Administration.

Madam President, we also have been looking very seriously at the whole issue of the sidewalks. For example, I remember while the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in the Other Place acted as Minister of Drainage, I accompanied him one day after Cabinet to the corner of King William Street and River Road, which had been left in a state of disrepair by the Barbados Labour Party Administration such that the sidewalks had actually caved in. It was in a very perilous state, for vehicles and pedestrians, but in short order, the Minister was able to mobilise his team within the Ministry of Drainage. At that time, drainage matters had been transferred from the MTW in the creation of this new Ministry, and in short order those sidewalks were properly reinstated, Madam President. Therefore, I am very happy that we have also continued to address this issue of drainage very seriously, so that we have actually covered the drains at the entrance of St. Mary's Primary School on Masonhall Street as well

as several metres of the drains in Lightfoot Lane. These are heavily traversed by students and adults in these very densely populated urban areas, and in fact the Democratic Labour Party, in its 1986-1994 period in office, was able to cover the drains in Baxters Road. We see those well covered sidewalks in Baxters Road, but the older folks remember that prior to the intervention of the Democratic Labour Party Administration, you had deep drains and no sidewalks, and pedestrians would sometimes fall into these drains and injure themselves.

3.39 p.m.

This Democratic Labour Party was not just interested in the well-to-do but we are interested in interested in the masses and in the pedestrians who have renegotiate the roadways and the more sidewalks you provide for them, the safer it is for them and, therefore, it reduces the incidences of persons being struck by traffic as the walk the roadways because of the absence of sidewalks. Madam, these simple issues are very important for public safety and this Democratic Labour Party is much aware of it and we treat these issues as a priority, that is why you see, as we speak that the entrance to Kesington New Road and Baxters Road is now being addressed in terms of improvement of the roads and the sidewalks, which were neglected by the Barbados Labour Party until there long-standing Member of Parliament at the time, the constituency office was right at the corner of that same junction.

Madam President, we are serious about roadworks and I am therefore the people of the City and the people of Barbados that as we access the funds from the Inter American Development Bank that more and more roads will be resurfaced and improved. Madam, all cannot be done overnight because of the neglect of the Barbados Labour Party over the year so we are doing it systematically. I know that the loan from the Inter American Development Bank will be focusing a lot on the rehabilitation of the bridges. Madam, throughout the country there are certain bridges that again have been neglected. We have seen television programmes where the engineers have gone into the gullies and the ravines and look at these bridges and realise that there has been serious decay and therefore this Inter American Development Bank loan project is timely where we would address these urgently to ensure that public safety is not compromised. Madam, an ounce of prevention is a lot more than a pound of cure.

Madam President, this Democratic Labour Party administration, I remember the late Prime Minister, David Thompson would take the entire Cabinet from time to time out of the ac office at Bay Street and into the hot sun to conduct site courses and see for ourselves those areas of critical need and on one such occasion we ended up touring

the River van stand where we were able to see that the Barbados Labour Party had neglected that van stand to the extent that there were huge craters along the road there next to the John Beckles Day Care Centre where the ZRs and minibuses had to negotiate those massive craters to gain entry or exit from that terminal and, Madam, in short order....

(TAPE MALFUNCTIONED AND LOSE ITS VOLUME)....

Sequence 18

INSERT S19 BLANK

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Senate C 27 Seq 20 4.15 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This session is resumed. Senator Todd.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy President. As I rise to conclude my presentation in the support of the passage of this Resolution to compulsorily acquire land in the Warrens/Lodge Hill area for the purpose improving the road infrastructure.

I would wish to reiterate that this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Administration is committed to the rehabilitation of the River Van Stand in a multimillion dollar project that will see the commuters not having to wait in the rain and sun but would be treated to a state of the art indoor waiting area with the necessary washrooms and the provision of modern, sanitary stalls with running water and other amenities for operators of food and other items for purchase by the travelling public which would be much improved from what the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) Administration, in its 14 years in office, would have had those working-class people having to suffer where, for example, for many years the washrooms in the same River Van Stand were inaccessible to the public on Sundays. We do not want, as the Minister of Culture in the Other Place mentioned a few days ago that we are discouraging people relieving themselves and answering the call of nature in alleys and along people's palins and so on because that is very unsanitary. The provision of these modern facilities at the River Terminus would definitely provide the infrastructure and the environment which would reduce the likelihood of people having to use alleys to relieve themselves but would have modern public conveniences. I urge members of the public to treat them as they would treat their facilities at home, do not vandalise the plumbing fittings.

Mr. Deputy President, we would also be addressing the issue of drainage because that area is flood-prone during the rainy period and these issues will be addressed in a meaningful way. We have already started improvements in lighting and this will continue because we have had instances of robberies in that area. These lighting facilities would definitely reduce the likelihood of robberies so that we would not need to have the ZRs after 8.00 p.m. converging on the junction of Independence Square and Fairchild Street by the old National Insurance Building to pick up and set down passengers on the Silver Sands/Silver Hill routes and other routes because of their concerns about robberies in the River Terminus. These are very pressing issues, Mr. Deputy President, that this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) is addressing when we execute this multimillion dollar upgrade of the River Bus Terminus and as the leader of the Resolution mentioned, Senator Dr. the Hon. Esther Byer-Suckoo, this Democratic Labour Party is also committed to the construction of a modern terminus at the, what we call Seaview, for the ZR and mini-bus operators, this is just to the west of the General Post Office building. The Barbados Labour Party left the travelling public in the northern and central area, the Wanstead, Grazettes, Holders Hill, Speightstown, Jackson and other routes, those commuters have had, under the Barbados Labour Party, to wait for over 14 years in the sun and the rain without proper washroom facilities immediately accessible to them and have to go over to neighbouring facilities. They will have their own modern terminus there at Seaview and the CAF funding is being earmarked to execute this project as well as the modern state-of-the-art integrated terminus as the Fairchild Street location. The Barbados Labour Party (BLP) had neglected the old market there and this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) had to intervene and remove the asbestos roofing therefore we are committed to a multimillion dollar state-of-the-art terminus facility that would ensure that you have improved areas for the travelling public to wait for the buses. We would then have, of course, market facilities and parking facilities for taxi drivers and others, Mr. Deputy President, everyone would be accommodated in a very modern measure.

For example, Mr. Deputy President, in the interim, I am very happy that the Barbados Transport Board has been able to do some upgrades to the current terminus there in terms of ensuring that when you go into the Fairchild Street terminus and even at the Princess Alice Terminus you will find modern electronic monitors/screens where you can have live coverage of news, entertainment and also just as if you were in an airport terminus, you have a listing of the proposed arrival and departure times for the various routes and the public is very appreciative of these interventions to ensure that they are able to get improved quality of service, Mr. Deputy President.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Five minutes more, Senator.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Yes. While talking about street lighting would like to congratulate this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Administration for taking street-lighting very seriously. We were able to erect three flood lights on the barracks of the Royal Barbados Police Force's Central Police Station which of spot on to Tudor Street and then we were able to Milk Market and we were able to erect a number of flood lights that actually illuminate that area, reducing the incidents of crime and this is heavily traversed by thousands of Barbadians as they seek to get in and out of Bridgetown on mornings and evenings. Certainly the street lighting would help at night, therefore I would take this opportunity, Mr. Deputy President, to call upon the persons out there who are engaging in this gun play to stop and put down the guns. We mourn the lost in Bridgetown of the late Colin Forde who lost his life in a robbery attempt last night in Baxter's Road. We really have to call upon these Barbadians to ensure that we can get away from this undesirable behaviour, seek gainful employment ...

Senate C 27 Seq 20 4.25 p.m.

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd: These Barbadians to really ensure that we can really get away from this undesirable behaviour and seek gainful employment, be it even entrepreneurship, but we do not need to have innocent people being injured. A few days ago we had a stray bullet killing a grandmother as she travelled along the Barbarees Hill area just a few yards away in a vehicle, so I really take this opportunity to call upon those perpetrators to really stop the gun play. Innocent people are being hurt and we do not need to sully the name of Barbados in terms of this behaviour. We know better and I am confident that common-sense would prevail and we would have the cessation of this very negative behaviour, Mr. Deputy President.

As I conclude, I would really also wish to support the call for the reduction of road rage because as a pedestrian myself I can tell you, Mr. Deputy President, that even at a pedestrian crossing the pedestrians have to be very careful, especially at those stretches of road be it Broad Street, Wharf Road that may be two-lane one-way. The traffic signal would be telling the pedestrian that they have the right of way to cross and the lane closest to the pedestrian that traffic has stopped and if one is not careful and look to ensure that there is no moving traffic in the second lane... I have seen for myself, Mr. Deputy President, that some unscrupulous road users would actually seek to drive past that pedestrian and if that pedestrian does not stop they would be knocked down

although they had the right-of-way. In fact, just along the ABC Highway opposite the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, I understand a few weeks ago as reported in the media, a lady got knocked down by a vehicle in the area of such a pedestrian crossing, so this road rage really has to stop. We are God-fearing people and common-sense must prevail. We should not as other speakers mentioned take advantage of innocent poor people because they are pedestrians and because you are driving a big SUV or a large vehicle that you think that you can just do as you like.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Todd your time has expired.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd: Yes, thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I fully support the passage of this compulsory acquisition and really congratulate this Democratic Labour Party Administration for taking transport and works to a higher level to ensure that the quality of these public amenities to the general public is maximised.

I thank you.

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

Senator R. A. HUNTE: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy President, I shall not be long really as some of the major areas in respect to this Resolution has been already spoken to. I just want to say that the attitude in respect of road repairs, road rebuilding, et cetera has changed to the effect that people used to be very concerned about the conditions of their roads of yesteryear and when the necessary repairs were done they used to be so happy and glad of what is taking place in their districts, these days when roads are being repaired, renovated or built there are complaints, complaints about dust and complaints about noise, so we have gone from one extreme to the other.

My first experience was in 1961 when my neighbour then, a lady who has now passed on by the name of Daphne Graham, had complained to the then representative - and of course candidate because the election was on - a man named Mencea E. Cox -- that the condition of the roads in the Garden Land, Laundry Road, Tamarind Road and those gaps were very, very bad and Mr. Cox immediately ordered about three or four truckloads of marl - I distinctly remembered that - and that marl, not only with the spreading of it, had in a lot of fleas. Nobody knew where he brought it from. They were not chiggers. They were flying out and biting you. Chiggers did not use to fly away, they used to crawl about. Nobody knew where this marl came from, but the people of course, despite that complaint and that concern, were happy that the marl at least came to fix the holes that were in the road that all of the coke trucks and all the different vehicles used to run aground so to

speak. The whole attitude now has changed and people are complaining about noise they are complaining about dust yet they want the improvement to the roads.

There would always be complaints about roads. Roads are still part of Barbados politics. It has been so from inception. When the East Coast Road was being built, concern was then expressed by the opposing politicians at the time to the new Democratic Labour Party Government that the whole of the East Coast will be washed away. I distinctly remember those things, in fact it is documented.

We have always had this complaint about the conditions of roads and the fixing of roads and if you put them in you are going to get a road fix. That kind of politics seems not have left us in Barbados. It really and truly concerns me somewhat because there is some areas and aspects of our lives that we have not grown up, we have not matured. Some of the same things I have been hearing over 50 years ago, I am hearing now again today and experiencing again today. People go on the call in programme and they keep all sort of noise but when the road is finished... I could give for example the Black Rock Road. When all of that stretch was being done there were so much concerns and complaints: I do not know why they do not fix this, all kinds of things. I mean to talk about it really and truly burns me inside but this is how it is today as it was say 50 or 55 years ago that I remember.

Our roads came out of the whole cart road system, take for example Highway 1. Highway 1 is the same road so to speak, and that is the West Coast. From Eagle Hall right down to Speightstown or part I should say from the roundabout at the bottom of University Hill has remained the same way with hardly any sidewalks and narrow roads. I do not know what would ever happen in my lifetime as far as doing anything different to those roads than they were for the last may be 100 years because you have to take in a lot of properties. I believe because of the kind of challenge that would come to the traffic and so on and the vehicles on that road, which is a very important stretch of road, I think that is one of the things that is holding up the sewerage project for that area .

4.35 p.m.

In Christ Church, there are a lot of alternate roads but there are really none on the West Coast. When you are going through Fitts Village and so on, there is nowhere to turn off. You can probably turn off when you get to Holder's Hill, but it is not the same as on the South Coast. The West Coast is one of our lucrative areas in Barbados, as far as our tourism is concerned, but that is for the experts and the engineers. I know that people use a lot of politics by cursing the politicians when certain things are not done, including the same Warrens Roundabout for which we are now seeking to have this land Resolution passed in this

Chamber to improve that area, but the politicians are not engineers. Engineers are paid to do a job, but nobody curses or attacks them. People always attack the politicians because the politicians sell themselves so short. The politicians have to come and defend these matters when, in truth and in fact, they are just being the legislators and providing the funds. That is the narrowness which still exists in the Barbadian society, and the politicians do not help because they think that once they are on the outside of Government that they can say all the things to satisfy the populace. Those politicians on the outside are looking to get into the seat of power, and when they get there, they have to deal with the same kind of public servants and engineers, and it goes on and on. Honestly, Mr. Deputy President, that frustrates me. It really does.

I repeat this: The things that I was hearing as a 12-year-old and a ten-year-old following politics -- that was how early I started following politics, or even earlier -- I am hearing and seeing the same attitudes and the same kinds of behaviour from today's politicians. They are playing on the people's psyche. That is what I become very disturbed about because I did not expect it. I did not expect that one day I would be standing in a Chamber, but I am hearing the same kind of behaviour, the same kind of language, and the same kind of attacks that take place here and elsewhere, as I was hearing well over 50 years ago. I am very disappointed.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Hunte, the President is returning to the Chair.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Proceed, Senator Hunte.

Senator R.A. HUNTE: Thank you very much, Madam President. I am going to speak on a little politics here now. The ABC Highway was built under the Tom Adams Administration, and paid for. Probably a Cabinet Minister or someone may be able to tell me if that matter has been settled, but the whole cost of that had to be managed, supplied and financed as far as the repayment is concerned, by the Democratic Labour Party Administration. Let me say something about that ABC Highway. I saw the plans originally for that road, which was then referred to as the "spine road". The plans were in the possession of the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, and he felt then that there were other things that had to be done in this country for the advancement of the people; although the road would have had to come at some stage, whether in his time or somebody else's, as it did. Hence, it is now called the ABC Highway. There is nothing wrong with that. Everything cannot be done at the same time. That is why I have said in here before and will continue to say it: No-one knows anyone living on the face of the earth who can say who had the idea first about anything. Nobody knows. You might find it here, but then it goes further back there; so let us pay a compliment for

the execution of those who carried out the plans, but it did not start with them.

I was fortunate, and I had access to Mr. Barrow's files; not when he was Prime Minister but when he became the Leader of the Opposition, because I worked with him. I must say this here now, but every prime minister is entitled to a copy of matters concerning his office when he leaves office. Every prime minister. Personal letters and so on are his or her property. That is a fact of life. I was privileged to look through a number of his files. Unfortunately, nobody knows where they are today. This is very unfortunate because there were some very important matters. They were files but of course they were his property, and relatives have the right to claim them. Where they are today, I cannot tell you. I asked a question, and I heard where they were supposed to be. However, there are so many projects that were initiated during the time of Mr. Errol Barrow, and that is why I can refer to a lot of them. I saw the records and the information. However, Madam President, in some cases that is water under bridge, and some of those projects have come to fruition and are with us. Let us accept them for what they are, as long as they are of benefit to Barbados.

Senator Adams spoke about the ZR culture in Barbados, and it is a deadly culture, because some of the things that you see on the streets of Barbados done by some of those public service vehicles really and truly are very sad, to put it mildly. It is very sad indeed. I see some things which make me wonder. We ask for the police to do something, but the police cannot be here, there and everywhere. It is a culture that was allowed to develop in Barbados, and that is because a lot of people in the society became involved in the ownership of those vehicles. Some of the owners were police officers, some were politicians

4.45 p.m.

Madam President, it seems as though they became a law unto themselves because they felt that they had the backing of certain people in society and it is almost out of hand. I think it was Senator Byer-Suckoo who said that they stop anywhere, they stop at least three or four times during a bus stop. They stop anywhere, in any fashion and anyhow without any regard for others who use the road. Madam President, how are we going to get it stopped? I do not know, all things are possible if we would only believe, but that has developed into a very sad affair in this country. Madam President, there are a lot of concerns, I believe that matters involving the usage of the road, the construction of the road, the repairs of the road, Madam President, whatever matters that there are they will continue for a long time to be an issue in Barbados.

Madam President, some of these vans do not even have conductors on them anymore, as the driver drives and

also collects the fare. Madam President, that driver can then become a target. Like I was told the other day by someone driving a bus going to St. Philip, he said that there were two guys who seemed to know exactly what they were about to do, so that when that driver was making change, these two guys snatched the bag and ran through a cane ground. What could the driver have done? It is a very dangerous thing having no conductor on the bus, with only the driver having to both drive and watching the traffic, while at the same time having to collect the fare. Madam President, as they say in Bajan terminology we now are preparing ground for monkey to run on and therefore what we are doing is giving people opportunities to rob and possibly to kill. Ma'am, there are a lot of issues on our roads, other than repairing them and the building of them.

Madam President, I think that all the areas that people would have wished to cover in this debate have been covered and I wish to say that we could only hope that as legislators, whether it is this group or elsewhere, we have to provide the necessary framework as far as the rules and regulations are concerned here in Barbados to govern this culture that has developed in Barbados over the last 25 to 30 years. Ma'am, it is a very sad state and people in my age group, the older we get the more concerned we become. I am only hoping and praying that the necessary things would be done, would be put into force and that we would have regular training sessions. Madam President, people must see it as their business to talk to their brothers, sisters, children, nieces and nephews who will be involved in the transportation business in Barbados because no matter whether or not you are a driver, or for how long you have been driving, all of us are pedestrians at some stage therefore we have to be concerned. Madam President, with those few words, I beg to support this Resolution.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Watson, you have the Floor.

Senator J. A. WATSON: Madam President, I want to make my contribution to this Resolution, one which is to improve the infrastructure under the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project. Madam President, I think that this is a very worthwhile project. I think that it is an area that for some time needed some sort of regularizing. In fact, Ma'am, I think a lot has to be done not only in terms of traffic improvement but in terms of the roads themselves. I think it was mentioned this morning that we have about 2 000 kms of roads in Barbados, the question is what percentage of those roads are in disrepair. I believe, Madam President, that a lot of us like quantity but that those of us who know better prefer quality and it might be better to have 1 000 kms of really good roads than to have 2 000 kms of roads that are in a state of disrepair.

Madam President, for some time now, I mean over the last ten or 15 years I have always been concerned about

the quality of our roads. I remember, and I believe I am a little older than Senator Hunter, that as a child one of the things that used to intrigue us as children was to watch the 'rocking engine,' as we used to call it, rolling the roads. They would put down these big boulders and they would roll them in, they would then put some smaller boulders and roll them in, they would then put down some aggregate of marl and roll that in, then on top of that they will put some tar and roll that in, then they would put in some grids and roll that in, then some more tar and roll that in. They then finished with some very fine, fine aggregate and roll that in. We used to watch that happening, especially during the holidays, that was watching real road building. Today we watch a big barber-green machine comes down the road and rolls some black substance on the road.

Madam President, I believe that our roads now are far... As a matter of fact, I am beginning to believe that our roads are built with built with built-in opalescence because within a year of a new road being built you are seeing deterioration. As a matter of fact, I believe that if you get heavy rains it would also deteriorate quicker, faster and more, as the rain would wash away big pieces of the asphalt and some of the underlay under that asphalt, so we have to be concerned about the quality of the road that we are building today.

Madam President, added to that, apart from the rain, we are faced with some very large vehicles in Barbados now. Every now and then I see a bigger one. There are some 10-wheelers that carry a lot of load, then there is what you call a low-load where you put a big crane on top of that and so we are destroying our roads. Madam President, I believe that roads are built to withstand a certain level of weight. I think the engineers might talk about pounds per square inch (PSI) and our roads obviously would have been built to withstand a certain amount of pressure.

4.55 p.m.

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Senator J.A. WATSON: (Seq 24)

Madam President, the engineer might talk about psi, pounds per square inch and our roads are obviously built to withstand a certain amount of pressure. Madam President, we also know vehicles in Barbados that we have licensed because when you license one of those vehicles the weight that they are and the also the weight they intend to carry is also part of the licence. Madam, I believe that in order to protect our roads, we have to be very selected with the roads on which certain vehicles can travel and also be very selected of the kinds and types of vehicles that we allow into Barbados to be on our roads. Madam, this should be done because by not doing it, I think that we are costing ourselves a lot of money unnecessarily. Madam, every now

and then, you can see the indentation of a road because some large vehicle pass on it. Madam, some of them even go on the sidewalk and you see the sidewalk crushed in and that, Madam President, is a cost to the country. Madam, when these indentations are caused, they quickly turn into potholes and eventually, we drive our vehicles over them, our vehicles begin to deteriorate, we have to replace shocks, rod ends and suspension and all of that and, Madam President, those things are not made in Barbados. It means that because of bad roads, we are wasting foreign exchange that we could well do with because we need as much foreign exchange so that we can retain the value of our dollar and, therefore, maintaining our road properly would be a saving in that area.

Madam President, the rocking engine that I talked about and the building of the roads in those days used to slope on each side from the center of the road so that water drains from the road using the slipper drains or into big box drains and, again, some of us of my age group might remember during holidays or even on weekends we would racing in those slipper drains, getting tamarind leaves or some other small object and you would be racing. Madam, very often you keep the little piece of wood and you give it a name so that you would be racing those things in those slipper drains. Madam, those are boy days that I do not think exist anymore. Madam, the fact is that those drains saved us from a lot of flooding. I do not know why we get so much flooding now. I live on a straight flat road on Maxwell. Madam, when I moved there many years ago, we had no flooding but today if the rain falls for five minutes that road is flooded.

Asides.

Senator J.A. WATSON: I do not know why and there are box drains on both sides of the road but, Madam, I think I have an idea why some of it is happening. I went to Foundation School and the bus that took us to school would pass along Worthing and there was an area where the Lucky Horseshoe is now that no matter what quantity of rain fell, that area became flooded, and there was a little swamp there. I finished school many years ago, but that problem was only solved about 10 years or 15 years ago.

Madam President, another area, for those who know Dover is an area just after Luigis Restaurant going into Dover and right on that corner is always flooded and then Sandals came and it is not flooded any longer, so there had to be some competence in getting it work in the same way there was competence in stopping that flooding on Worthing Main Road. Madam, then there is an area which still exist by the Holborn traffic lights as you are going away from Bridgetown and you take the left turn on to Spring Garden Highway, right on that corner, a small amount of rain falls and that whole area is flooded. Madam, there has to be some reason for that, there is some reason

why our drains are blocked and why our drains no longer work. Madam President, I have a feeling that people who are reckless, who just throw paper and plastic bags out of their vehicles and have no concern about environment whatsoever and the drains get blocked up.

Madam President, I experienced something about a year or two years ago. I was driving towards Bridgetown along Fitts Village, approaching the hill by the university and along that stretch I passed a guy who was using one of these blowers in front of a very nice property. He had just cut the hedges and he is blowing all of this stuff into the road. Madam, this thing bothered me all the time and when I got to the roundabout at the university's hill, I turned and went back down and I spoke to the guy. I told him that when he blow the stuff into the road that it will go into the drains and, Madam, in front of the proper was a metal grill where all the stuff was going. I pointed this out to him and told him that as he blows the stuff it goes into the drain and that somebody then has to clear it. Madam, I was so surprised when the guy told me that he was sorry and that he would clean. Madam, by the time I had turned around, he had taken a broom and started to sweep the stuff away. Madam, I figured it was not enough so I checked out who the property was being managed by and I called the person and told them about the problem. I told them to instruct their handyman not to do things like that but you would not believe that the young lady who was supposed to be the property manager asked me if I drive around Barbados looking for big properties who are blowing stuff in the road, that was her response. Madam, I cannot tell you exactly what I told her but it was obvious that the handyman realized what he was doing was wrong and I am sure that he would not do it anymore but the person who was managing the property apparently saw nothing wrong with it. Madam, that happens a lot over Barbados.

Madam President, along Hastings, almost every morning, at least one person is blowing stuff in the road and that causes a lot of blockage of our drains. I do not know what the authorities can do about something like that but maybe they need to send as they have been doing now with the dumping, maybe they need to send some people along the road on mornings to see who are using these blowers and blowing all this stuff into the roads.

Madam President, drainage is a very serious thing. I know people talk about the amount of concrete around now but I do not believe that is the problem. I think that problem is our indiscriminate dumping of paper bags, plastic bags and throwing stuff all over the place and it just goes into the drains and block them up. Madam, the other thing I think is that some drains are covered and have very small holes to get the water in and very often, those holes are blocked.

Sequence 24

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Senate C 27 Seq 25 5.04 p.m.

Senator J. A. WATSON: ... have very small holes to get the water in and very often those holes are blocked and sometimes another thing that happens, I do not know who is responsible, but for those people who weed the road and cut the grass and leave it at the side of the road for three and four days, then the rain comes down and washes it all into the drains, that causes problems as well.

Madam President, this Resolution is also aimed at improving traffic and I have to admit that traffic in Barbados needs to be very much improved. I could tell you one thing that I have noticed and I believe other people may have noticed it. One of the actions that the Government took when it first came into power was the idea of a school bus system and I have to admit and have to agree because I recognise that action has taken a lot of traffic off the roads on mornings. Where I live, I had to be leaving home at least by 6.40 a.m. to get to work on time. These days I could leave at 6.55 a.m. or 7.00 a.m. and I do not have any problems. The problem that we used to encounter was at the Top Rock Roundabout. At that Top Rock Roundabout, before the school bus system, it used to be blocked from about 6.45 a.m., these days you could get to that roundabout at about 7.00 a.m. or 7.10 a.m. and you could still drive through reasonably easily and I believe that came as a result of that school bus system.

The other problem that I encountered there is that any morning that I know that I am leaving home about 6.55 a.m. or 7.00 a.m. and there is a blockage the line backs up all the way up to Dover or there about, I can guarantee you that there is a policeman directing traffic at the roundabout. I could close my eyes and say that and when I get there, there is one. The reason for that is at that roundabout when there is no policeman the traffic regulates itself, one person coming from Graeme Hall, the other person coming from Maxwell and they do it alternately and the traffic moves, but when the policeman is there, he stops all the traffic from Graeme Hall and allows all the traffic down from Maxwell, then he stops all the traffic from Maxwell and calls all the traffic from Graeme Hall so it blocks up. I believe that Barbadians are reasonable people. The only problem you would get at that roundabout is from the minibuses and I believe that a policeman could be there to regulate that.

Another idea about the traffic, and I heard it mentioned two or three times, is the idea of staggered working hours or flexitime. I do not know, Madam President, but you know they talk about being in a democracy and people have rights but sometimes I believe that a Government also have the right to regulate things in the best interests of a country. I have a feeling that one of

the complaints that a lot of people have is that they go to work and they do not have any time for shopping because the shops open the same times as the offices.

Madam President, I have a feeling that maybe the shops need to open from 6.50 a.m. and the offices open from 8.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. I have a feeling that the same way we have a Shops Act maybe we might want to write that into the Shops Act. A shop must not open before 10.00 a.m.

Aside.

Senator J. A. WATSON: I am positive that would take a lot of problems off of our hands in terms of the sort of gridlock that we have going on from time-to-time. I think it was mentioned, Madam President, I think we do need driving education. I myself might need some of it. I used to have a word with my wife every now-and-then because I always believed that there is a fast lane and there is a slow lane but my wife believes that there is a lane that you should be in depending on where you are going. For years I would always try to impress on her that there is a slow lane and there is a fast lane. Then there is another friend of mine who insist that none of the highways in Barbados have fast lanes or slow lanes, it is a dual carriage highway therefore you can drive in any lane. I guess sometimes things come to you with age and at this stage, Madam President, when I am going home from training at the university, I take the right lane even though I always said that is the fast lane. I take that lane because that is the lane that would take me right up to Top Rock and on to my home rather than staying in the slow lane and then trying to cross over into the other lane which presented problems. I maybe need some education as far as how to use the lanes on the highway so I look forward to BGIS coming out with some programmes telling us how we should use the various sections of the highway.

The other thing, Madam President, I find distressing at some of the roundabouts on the highway. I think jam-busting was mentioned this morning. I could understand jam-busting when you are in two lanes and going into two lanes but I do not understand jam-busting when you are in two lanes and going into one lane. That happens at the Graeme Hall Roundabout and it happens at the roundabout after that, Kendal Hill Roundabout I think it is. You are in two lanes and people jam-busting but you are going into one lane and the fellow on the outside trying to overtake you on the inside so that is a problem. I had my father did not really teach me to drive but I drove with him a few times and he gave me some tips. One very important tip he taught me is that any vehicle on your right or any vehicle in front of you have the right of way so if a vehicle is on your right and you go and touch him, you are wrong. If a vehicle is in front of you and you hit him you are wrong so I use that as a guiding principle. I do not try to challenge any

vehicle on my right or in front of me. When I am going around a roundabout I do not look at my left at all because no vehicle should be on my left when I am going into one lane. I have not had an accident like that and I hope I do not have one like that.

Another problem I find with the highway that I will need some guidance on from the BGIS programme whenever they do it, I do not know what you would call it, the feeder lane. When you come out from The Belle, for instance, there is a lane that you drive up on and then you have to merge into. I get the impression that so long as a person is in that feeder lane and they are trying to merge, whichever traffic is there should slow down and let them in, that does not happen. I think people speed up to stop you from merging and I think that is some of the lessons that Barbadians need so that we know how to use those merging lanes.

Another thing, Madam President, which I really think need action almost immediately is this thing of people stopping and using hazard lights. It is the most confusion thing because if a person is stopping you would see their brake light come on. If they are going to pull aside, they would probably use their left indicator and pull aside. When a person uses their hazard lights it tells me that maybe their engine has stopped, they have broken down and because you do not know them, you go to overtake them and you are in trouble. Hazard lights should not be used for any purpose of stopping unless you are stalled and you are pulling aside to park because you have broken down but I think too many people are using hazard lights now when they are stopping. I had an experience, it was not on the road, but it could have been on the road, where I was in a car park ...

Senate C 27 Seq 25 5.14 p.m.

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Senator J. A. WATSON: People are using hazard lights now when they are stopping. I had an experience, it was not on the road but it could have been on the road, where I was in a car park, a guy in front of me turned on his hazard lights, obviously he was pulling to his left and the hazard lights came on and I pulled to my right to overtake him and then he veered across because he was really slowing down to stop to reverse into a parking space, fortunately we were both moving very slowly so that did not cause a problem but it could have.

Madam President, every now and then you get people digging up the roads in Barbados and it causes some trouble sometimes, and again I believe that these things should be written into regulations somewhere. I have to admit that the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited is not so much a guilty person of those things but

many of the other people, gas people, telephone people, have the one side of the road blocked and you have to fight to be able to pass if you are on that side of the road.

Madam President, I think it should be a regulation that so long as you are doing road works and you have one side of the road blocked that you should have persons designated to direct traffic so that traffic on both sides of the roads can pass. When one side of the road is blocked and there is no one directing the traffic, only the traffic on the opposite side of the road can pass and therefore you sit there for a long time until some kind-hearted person stops to let the traffic come through. I think there should be a regulation so that once you are doing road works you should have what you call a flag person and that person should be able to call traffic alternately from each side.

Madam President, I keep talking about education. The pedestrian crossings is another area of education that we need. Apart from the crossings not always well-painted, just a few nights ago I recognised that you need lights at the crossing too. I do not mean traffic lights I mean light to see from. That was at the Bussa junction and that is a wide junction and there is a crossing right at the junction, there is a light on the other side of the road but on the left side of the road there is no light and you really cannot see anybody crossing the road. What is worse is that the markings on the ground is also faded.

I believe that there is a method of using flashing lights at crossings. I think one is on the Harbour Road and one is at Oistins. I think that those sorts of lights should be used at all crossings so that you are aware that you are approaching a crossing whether it is daytime or night-time. I think that is very important for saving some souls because, I think it was mentioned today, I do not remember who mentioned it, people come to a crossing and believe that they have a right to cross the road no matter what traffic is coming or not, not realising that the first thing you have to do is to make sure the traffic is stopped before you start to cross. People cross and expect you to stop. Some of us may be not be as careful as we should be. I have not heard of any real accidents at crossings like that yet but I know it is waiting to happen. The method that people just stand at a crossing and attempt to walk across the road is something that needs to be controlled and I think it can be with the flashing lights which I think is a very good idea for helping drivers to recognise when to stop at crossings.

Just by the way, it was mentioned this morning about people selling ackees and dunks by the roundabouts and they were referred to as entrepreneurs. Madam President, I want to tell people that an entrepreneur is not just somebody selling dunks and nuts, I consider that a vendor not an entrepreneur. An entrepreneur is a person who sees an opportunity or a problem and tries to solve that problem. I do not know what problem it is that a fellow selling dunks

sees and is solving. I do not see any problem in that at all, so I think that we must stop misusing this word entrepreneur and start using it in the correct context so that those people who are real entrepreneurs believe and understand and are given the respect that is required for an entrepreneur, as I know the engineers did recently. Every person who could fix a little machine used to call themselves an engineer, so with all due respect I think we must not call those people entrepreneurs.

Madam President, finally, since you told me my time and so on is up, I took the point that was made by Senator Byer Suckoo about the signage when you are lost in the country. Madam President, I have been lost in the country on more than one occasion. I do not know Barbados as well as Senator Worrell does. I just know the main roads. I could get from here to Bathsheba or from here to Sam Lord's Castle but if you put me in St. George to get to Sam Lord's Castle I have to come to town or to some other point and then get there. I do not know all of these back roads and all of that.

Madam President, I will tell you this. When we went to the event at Groves Plantation even getting there I lost my way, but fortunately we got there by using the back road rather than the front road so when we left I took the road that I should have come by but obviously I did not take that road so I did not know it, so when we came out, I do not remember exactly, if I should have turned left I turned right or if I should have turned right I turned left, but while we were driving, because I think I can understand orientation a little bit, I realise something was wrong, I was not going in the right direction, so I told my wife that when we get to the next bus stop let us look at it. Fortunately, the bus stop that we got to first was the one on the other side of the road so I had to stop and look back and that bus stop said to the city so I knew I had to turn around and follow that back down. Every sign said to Bridgetown so you only got to look for that, so when I saw the sign that said bus stop to the city I know I was going in the right direction.

The idea of signage in Barbados being effective... Our signs need to be upgraded in many cases but I think that if you tell a visitor in Barbados that if they get lost to look for a sign that says Bridgetown and go to Bridgetown and start from there, that would work.

Madam President, I have absolutely no hesitation in supporting this Resolution. I think it is a good start. I do not travel that road up there very often but every time I do it is really a mess getting to the Warrens Roundabout. When you come up Green Hill you have to get past Popular Supermarket first and then when you get past there then you end up in another set of traffic, and that little left turn that Senator Byer Suckoo was talking about has been left undone for too long so I believe there is a lot of work to be done with the roads in Barbados.

Madam President, I want to finish off by asking that our roads be well constructed. I am not a road engineer nor a civil engineer but I do not believe that prohibits me from criticising the roads. I do not think you have to be an expert to criticise the work of an expert, constructively that is. I believe that our roads need to be properly constructed, our road repairs needs to be as quickly as possible to stop further deterioration and our drainage needs to be considered how you are going to deal with it. I think that the idea of doing a little bit of inspection over time with these ... could help in that area.

With those words, Madam President...

Senate C27 Sequence 26

5.25 p.m.

Wednesday, MAY 11, 2016

Seq. 27

Senator J.A. WATSON: ... I think that the idea of doing a little bit of inspection over time with these blowers could help in that area. With those words, Madam President, I want to thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Crichlow.

Senator Hon. Rev. H.E. CRICHLLOW: Thank you, Madam President. I shall be brief as usual. I would like to support all that has been said by previous speakers. I always feel that if I happen to be speaking after Senator Watson that there is not much more to say about anything. He is so full of ideas and so on. Let it be a compliment. I believe that we ought to be more courteous on the roads. Courtesy, I think, would help us to avoid a lot of accidents. It is so easy to get involved in an accident. It takes just a split-second, and it could be tragic as well, so one has to be so very careful when driving. Another way of saying it is that we have to show concern for the welfare of others. Sometimes we do not get that impression when we are driving. We think of our own problems, what we have to do and where we have to go and so on, and we forget that others are using the roads. One of the things I have witnessed on the roads is the small amount of space that some people leave you when they overtake, especially motorcyclists. When they are passing you, they swerve right in front of you. I witnessed one chap almost being killed like that. I understand that some of them do it as a prank and want to frighten those they are passing, but I think that we need really, as others have said, to have more education on how we should use the roads.

Our tenantry roads need to be looked at. Sometimes we spend most of the time looking after the main roads and so on. We have some very good main roads in Barbados,

and I wish to congratulate the relevant Ministry on this, and hope that we will continue to have these kinds of roads. A lot of people live in tenantries, so we have to remember that our tenantry roads need to be repaired and a lot of them need to be resurfaced. I have seen some of our older females having to leave home with two pairs of shoes as they come to church. One pair is to wear through the cart roads, and the other is to wear in church, and that should not be so. I have actually seen this, so our tenantry roads need to be looked at. When I used to take Communion to the sick in the tenantries, I found that I often got flat tyres because I picked up a lot of nails in my tyres on the tenantry roads. I know that it is posh to be driving on the main roads, but a lot of our people live in tenantries.

Another thing about using the roads, and I had an accident involving this, is that people, and children especially, with their cellphones almost stuck onto their ears, walk over pedestrian crossings without looking left or right. They simply walk right across the road, and because they are listening to their cellphones, they stop thinking about what they are doing. On the road that takes you down to Kendal Hill, there was a little girl about age seven or eight who just walked straight across without looking left or right, and the car in front of me braked suddenly. I braked as well and ran into the back of that car. I know parents say they want to be in touch with their children at school and so on, but I am wondering whether it is a good thing to have children using cellphones. I feel that it is dangerous, and I have heard of the abuse of cellphones in schools. I have heard of people giving information in exams and that sort of thing, and I really think we need to rethink our use of cellphones by children.

Madam President, I just want to commend those who think of others as they drive, who keep their eyes on their rearview mirrors as well in order to ensure that those driving behind them are not too close, or that they have enough time to give them notice when they are turning or stopping.

5.34 p.m.

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Senator the Very Rev. H. E. CRICHLAW: All of this is what the Christian faith speaks of as love, really, when we are courteous on the roads. When we think of the welfare of others we are really practicing the Christian faith which most of us claim. Madam President, with those few words I would like to join all those who are supporting this Resolution. I thank you, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Byer-Suckoo, you have the Floor.

Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. Byer-Suckoo: Madam President, I rise to wrap up this debate. As I do so, let me begin by thanking all of my colleagues for their participation today. I believe, as Senator Fraser suggested, this is something that would have touched everyone, as everyone would have had their own ideas, and for as many people that we could have polled we have had just as many suggestions. Indeed, that is what has happened, everybody has taken a different look at this matter.

Madam President, I know that of course it has been transcribed and so on, but I know that this will provide a lot of information and ideas for the reeducation. Madam President, one of the issues highlighted here today is education and reeducation of drivers. Madam President, there are a number of things that have changed. Yes, I know that Senator Watson recalls being taught certain things by his father, I do not know how many decades ago that may have been but since then there have been a lot of changes as well. As I mentioned earlier, there have been changes on the roads, there have been changes in the configuration of our roads, there are new patterns, and there are more roundabouts now than there were before, we have legislation changes and so on and so it is necessary to reeducate the public in a manner that reaches them.

Madam President, we talked a lot about the Government Information Service because for many of us Government Information Service works but we probably need to be using mobile apps and other such arrangements to be able to reach more people because not everybody is going to sit in front of their television at the time Government Information Service may be showing these types of programmes but definitely there is a need for persons to be more aware.

Madam President, I said it initially and it was reinforced, that we need to have more policemen. I know that the police is doing its best in all kinds of areas. We do attach a little bit more value or significance on crime and violence and we want them working there but we do have to pay some attention to what is happening on our roads, it is costly in terms of lives, in terms of our property, our cars, our health, our emotional well-being. This kind of driving that we are seeing on our roads, the lawlessness that has been described by almost every speaker to today does actually have a cost and so we probably need to be looking at increasing the enforcement.

Madam President, there have been suggestions about how you go about punishing these persons. Somebody mentioned the fact that you may have a minibus driver who has had several convictions but that person is still driving. I know that in some countries, I believe that Jamaica is one where you have a point system, for certain offences when you have amassed a certain number of points that is it, they take away your licence for some period of time. Those are

things that we probably need to be more serious about. Of course, I know that the day will come when the Road Traffic Act will be before Parliament. As I mentioned earlier, it is on the short-term programme for the Ministry of Transport and Works, so that when that Act comes I am sure that a lot of these matters will be addressed and we will be able to speak but at that point they would already be in legislation and hopefully what we are doing here can inform some of those things that are still very much at discussion stage.

Madam President, we have talked a lot and nobody has mentioned drunk or buzzed driving. I really do not think it is because we do not believe it to be a problem in Barbados but that is still, I understand, responsible for a lot of accidents and so that reeducation needs to occur. Also, if the Breathalyzer is coming under the Road Traffic Act then we certainly do need to tighten up the education and so on in that particular area.

Madam President, I did hear mention just now about cell phones and I thought I would have heard more about it because I still see people driving and texting. I had to drive alongside a lady on the dual carriageway and asked her to put down her phone because she was veering all across the road in front of me that is when I realised she was texting. These are things that people still believe that they can get away with, that they can take the call, that they can reach for the cell phone when it falls, that they can answer a text and we do see that there is a price to pay for that.

Madam President, Senator Crichlow did mention tenantry roads. I did attempt to touch on tenantry roads earlier because I have a lot of them in St. George South. There is the issue of persons having to wear two pairs of shoes because of the state of the roads. Drax Hall Woods, as I mentioned this morning, is one such road. In fact, it is because of Drax Hall Woods that I have gone from a Sedan to a Land Rover because of the state of that road, the flat tyres and the different things that would occur there, that particular road is a challenge to us.

Madam President, I say that but at the same time I say thank you to the Ministry of Transport and Works because they have worked very well with me and with a number of my colleagues, as we have heard several of them describing roads that have been done in the constituencies for which they are responsible. I have been able to get a lot of attention to roads in St. George South but they are a lot of roads and resources are limited. Madam President, land in terms of expansion is also limited, that is why we are here today. As we see, the acquisition of land is a long process, it goes through many phases before it gets here and so it is not something that one just does readily like that, so that these are things that will take time.

Madam President, as we talk about education and reeducation we have been talking about drivers but several times the point was made today about pedestrians, how they use the roads, how they cross, how they should get the attention of drivers before they actually step onto the pedestrian crossing, also wearing dark clothing at nights. Madam President, I see people still a lot of people wearing dark clothing at night. Very often while driving I barely miss pedestrians because of the fact that they are not wearing any reflective or light-coloured clothing, it is only by the Grace of God that they were not hit.

Madam President, there is also the issue of pedestrians texting while walking on the sidewalks, or wearing the over-the-ear headphones and not the smaller ones. If you are walking you should wear one earphone in the ear that is not to the side of the traffic, but sometimes you see people with both earphones in their ears, or even worse wearing the over-the-ear headphones. Madam President, if you look at international news, from time to time you will see that there have been a number of accidents due to that practice. I was in Geneva last year or the year before where a little boy was crossing the train line with the earphones on his ears. He did not hear the train coming and sadly that was it. Madam President, those are things that can be avoided if there is education and then the enforcement of those things.

Madam President, road rage was mentioned many times. Nobody here has confessed themselves to having road rage themselves but again those are techniques that need to be taught, for example, how to keep calm while in traffic. Madam President, try as I may, if I can avoid going out sometimes at 7.00 a.m., I would but sometimes it is not up to you what time you have to head out.

5.52 p.m.

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Senator the Hon. E. BYER-SUCKOO: (Seq 29)

... those are techniques that need to be taught, how to keep calm when you are in traffic. Madam, if I can avoid going out at seven or eight o'clock on mornings I would but sometimes it is not up to you what time you have to head out to an event, so you have to go very early and you are stuck in traffic but there are techniques of keeping calm.

Madam President, one radio station that I listen to does a traffic jam break at minutes to eight on morning. You are stuck in traffic and rather than getting all worked up, there is some nice gossip music and it allows you to help the steam off and it is really very good rather than getting all tense and all worked up. Madam, you an also

listen to audio books if they are not distracting you from what you are doing on the road.

Madam President, I know somebody who says that is their time to read the newspapers, so they carry the morning paper and read it while they are stuck in traffic. but, Madam, I am not recommending that at all. Madam, we are all trying to find ways to cope with that time in traffic because we do recognise that for many busy people that is lost time when you are sitting for up to an hour and sometimes more in the traffic and that is time lost. Madam, the idea of coming back to public transportation that works and that is reliable and that allows you to be able to sit in the bus and do your reading of your newspaper and look over your documents for the day because somebody else is driving, and you can actually text and send emails because you are not the one in the driver's seat. Madam, those are things that we have to continue to work on. I know, as I have said, that in particular is not a new idea and we are hoping we can actually reach that point with our public education system. Madam, the level of lawlessness has to be checked. Just one example, driving along the ABC Highway coming from Hothersal Turning into Norman Niles Rounabout, I have seen people coming from Hothersal Turning to Norman Niles Rounabout and what they do is create a third lane. Madam, this is lawlessness about lawlessness. They drive on the shoulder, turn as if they are going up to Lears and then double back around that little triangle, come back along the triangle and along the shoulder and go as far up as they can get and then merge, so they have create their own lane from all the way back down in Hothersal Turning and coming back on to get closer to Norman Niles Roundabout. Madam, we see a lot of lawlessness and that has to be checked. It is reflective of what is happening in our society and so we do have this conversation, how can we bring things around. Madam, there is moral suasion but I do believe we have reached a point where we have to emphasise some enforcement in that area.

Madam President, one last point that was mentioned and I want to touch on it. I have forgotten whom but somebody did speak to energy, alternative energy and so on. The Ministry of Transport and Works have estimated that the transport sector contributes U\$120 million in 2012 to the economy, about three per cent of GDP but also realizing that transport uses 33 per cent of our oil resources, transport in Barbados uses one third and makes it the second largest contributor to CO₂, carbon dioxide emissions after electricity generation and so MTW are trying to see how they can reduce emission. Madam, somebody mentioned electric vehicles but also on their buildings as well. Senator Boyce can bear me out on this that they are ensuring that they are part of the Smart Energy Programme implementing a renewable energy pilot as I have said. They have at least eight electric vehicles but also using solar power at their headquarters to power the

administrative with some 80 photovoltaic panels and also doing that in other areas as well. Madam, while they realise that transport is using a lot of carbon dioxide, Barbados in all our agencies are committed to becoming a green economy and so we are trying to offset the carbon dioxide used by using photovoltaics and electric vehicles. Madam, Senator Boyce is responsible primarily for that and he is confirming that is being worked on right now. Madam, that was another plug I wanted to put in MTW. Madam, as I mentioned at the outset, they have a very large mandate, they are not just responsible for roads and regulations, they are responsible for Government building and for a lot of things and we look objectively at what they have done, very often we complain about our roads but when we realise that the resources are limited, that there is a very dense road network, we really do have to take our hats off to MTW. Madam, as they try and continue their efforts in the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project, I am pleased that everyone here was able to give it their support today in this debate and so with that, Madam President, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the House and agreed on.

MINUTES

MADAM PRESIDENT: I am in receipt of the Minutes for Wednesday, May 4, 2016. Are there any errors or omissions? There being none, I ask that these Minutes be confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR the HON. MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that this Sitting be adjourned until May, 25, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn until May 25, 2016, at 11.00 a.m. was put to the SENATE and agreed to and Madam PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.

Sequence 29

End of day's sitting

CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HER HONOUR THE
PRESIDENT

PAPERS

SENATOR Dr. Hon. E.R. BYER-SCUKOO.....1

1. (4:50) Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption)
Mary White Order, 2016.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE LAND
ACQUISITION ACT, CAP 228, THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN
OF PARCELS OF LAND SITUATE AT REDMAN'S
VILLAGE IN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES,
WARRENS TERRACE IN THE PARISH OF ST.
THOMAS, WARRENS TERRACE IN THE PARISH
OF ST. JAMES AND LODGE HILL IN THE
PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND FOR
THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF IMPROVE THE ROAD
INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER THE WARRENS
TRAFFIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT....2

Senator the Hon. E. Byer-Suckoo, 2; Sen. Pro. Sir H.
Fraser, 10.

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 2 (resumed)

Senator J. Ince, 13, 14; Senator A. R. Worrell, 16, 19;
Senator A. A. Adams, 20; Senator the Hon. P. M. T.
Todd, 21.

(TAPE MALFUNCTIONED AND LOSE ITS
VOLUME)....

INSERT S19 BLANK

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 2 (resumed)

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd, 23, 24, 25; Senator R. A.
Hunte, 25, 26; Senator J. A. Watson, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31;
Senator Hon. Rev. H.E. Crichlow, 31, 32; Senator the
Hon. E. Byer-Suckoo, 32, 33.

MINUTES

SUSPENSION.....13

ADJOURNMENT.....34

Senator the Hon. Miss M.P.A. McCLEAN, 34.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ADAMS, Senator A. A.

BYER-SCUKOO, Senator Dr. Hon. E.R.

BYER-SUCKOO, Senator the Hon. E.

CRICHLLOW, Senator Hon. Rev. H.E.

Fraser, Sen. Pro. Sir H.

HUNTE, Senator R. A.

INCE, Senator J.

McCLEAN, Senator the HON. MISS M.P.A.

TODD, Senator the Hon. P. M. T.

WATSON, Senator J. A.

WORRELL, Senator A. R.

DISCLAIMER. *This transcript was prepared with the assistance of artificial intelligence tools and is provided for reference only. It has not been reviewed, verified or approved by the Hansard Department of the Parliament of Barbados and does not constitute an official parliamentary record. It may contain errors or omissions, including inaccuracies in wording or speaker identification. For authoritative quotations or confirmation of proceedings, consult the official Hansard record when available.*

EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Order No. 2, Sequence 18 to 20 (about 4.15 p.m.). The source notes '(TAPE MALFUNCTIONED AND LOSE ITS VOLUME)...' and 'INSERT S19 BLANK', and the debate resumes with Mr. Deputy President in the Chair and Senator Todd concluding his speech. Part of Senator Todd's speech and any suspension are missing. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Order No. 2, take-slip S:No.C27(28), 5.52 p.m.. Either side of the take-slip the reply repeats in different words the passage on techniques for keeping calm in traffic and avoiding going out at 7.00 or 8.00 a.m. The overlap is short and both versions are printed as in the source. Please confirm.

Q4. Papers and Adjournment, speech labels. The Senator who lays the paper is labelled 'BYER-SCUKOO' (elsewhere BYER-SUCKOO), and the Leader of the Senate is labelled 'MISS M.P.A. McCLEAN'. The paper's title also carries '(4:50)'. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 2, question and Minutes. The question on the Resolution is recorded as 'put to the House and agreed on', and the Minutes of Wednesday, 4th May, 2016 are confirmed after the Resolution rather than at the start of the Sitting. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, 11th May, 2016 at 11.00 a.m., with Madam President, Her Honour Senator Miss Kerryann F. Ifill, in the Chair; prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah. Madam President announced excuses from Senator McClean, who hoped to join later, Senator Sandiford-Garner, Senator Dr. Carol Lady Haynes and Senator Abrahams. Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. Byer-Suckoo laid the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Mary White Order, 2016.

The only business was Order No. 2, the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown, under section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, of parcels of land at Redman's Village, St. James, Warrens Terrace, St. Thomas and St. James, and Lodge Hill, St. Michael for the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project. Senator Byer-Suckoo said that the project was approximately 80 per cent complete; of 54 parcels approved by Cabinet, 39 had been dealt with by private treaty and the 15 before the Senate were to be compulsorily acquired. She described the roundabouts near The Dome and the Darcy Scott Roundabout and invited a wider discussion on road traffic and road safety.

Senator Prof. Sir H. Fraser observed that everyone had strong ideas about traffic, regretted that acquisitions were only now being dealt with on a road under construction for almost a decade, and referred to some \$65 million spent on renting Government offices and \$60 million mentioned for road repairs. After the luncheon suspension, Senator J. Ince supported the Resolution, recalling the area from his boyhood, and Senator A. R. Worrell spoke of traffic around Bagatelle and Warrens and of roads needing completion. Senator A. A. Adams said that the acquisition should be seen together with transport policy. Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd, who had worked in the Ministry of Social Care building at Warrens, spoke of sidewalks for pedestrians and resurfacing funded by the Inter-American Development Bank; part of his speech is missing from the record because of a tape malfunction.

With Mr. Deputy President in the Chair, Senator R. A. Hunte recalled complaints about roads in 1961 to Mencea E. Cox, and, after Madam President returned, said that the ABC Highway had been built under the Tom Adams Administration. Senator J. A. Watson spoke on drainage, gridlock and driver behaviour such as the use of hazard lights, and Senator the Very Rev. H. E. Crichlow urged attention to tenantry roads and courtesy on the roads as an expression of the Christian faith.

In reply, Senator Byer-Suckoo thanked Senators for their ideas, stressed the education and re-education of drivers and ways of coping with road rage and time lost in traffic, and said that the Ministry of Transport and Works estimated that the transport sector contributed U\$120 million to the economy in 2012, about three per cent of GDP, while using one third of the country's oil. The Resolution was agreed to. The Minutes of Wednesday, 4th May, 2016 were then confirmed, and on the motion of Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean the Senate was adjourned until 25th May, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.