
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Building on Wednesday, the November 16, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Her Honour Senator Miss Kerryann F. IFILL, B.Sc. (Hons.) M.B.A., (President) His Honour Senator the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLLOW, G.C.M., B.A. (Hons.) Dunelm (Deputy President)

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

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

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

Senator Mrs. V. I. SANDIFORD-GARNER, CIM, Dip. Mng., M.B.A. Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and International Transport)

Senator H. A. HUSBANDS, M.L.I.R., B.Sc. (Public Administration) (Hons), Ed. Cert. (U.W.I.) (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation)

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

Senator R. A. HUNTE, J.P.

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

Senator Miss V. A. G. De Peiza, B.Sc. (Hons.), LL.M. (Merit)

Senator Dr. J. X. Walcott, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S (Edin.) J.P.

Senator W. A. Abrahams, LL.B. (Hons).

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

Senator Dr. Sir Trevor Carmichael, K.A., L.V.O., Q.C., B.Sc., (Econ.), M.A., Ph.D.

Senator A. A. ADAMS, J.P. B.A., Ed. Cert., M.Sc. Ed.

Senator J. A. WATSON

Senator Carol Lady Haynes, M.B., B.S.

Prayers were led by Reverend Cannon Errington Massiah.

MADAM PRESIDENT: This Senate is in Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HER HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

MADAM PRESIDENT: I am in receipt of excuses for the following Senators: Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. Byer Suckoo, Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. Durant and Senator Professor Emeritus Sir Henry Fraser. They will be unable to join us for today's Sitting.

I am also in receipt of the Minutes for July 6 and 27, 2016.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. The Public Service General Order, 2016;
2. The Public Service Qualifications Order, 2016;
3. The Barbados Investment and Development Corporation Annual Report, 2013 - 2014;
4. The Child Care Board Financial Statement for the year ended March 31, 2014;
5. The Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust Limited

Nineteenth Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended June 30, 2012;

6. Duties Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Barbados Film and Video Association Inc.) Order, 2016;

7. Value Added Tax (Waiver) Order, 2016;

8. The Financial Management and Audit Financial (Amendment) Rule, 2016

9. The Sugar Industry Sugar Workers Provident Fund Order, 2016;

10. Air Transport Licensing Authority Annual Report 2012--2013;

11. The Barbados Economic and Social Annual Report, 2015;

12. The Barbados Revenue Authority Annual Report 2015;

13. The Police Complaints Authority Annual Report 2015;

14. Reports of the Judicial Council for the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015;

15. The Caves of Barbados Limited Annual Reports and Financial Statements 2010 and 2011; and

16. The Barbados Conference Services Limited Financial Statements for the years ended March 31, 2015.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that Standing Order 22 (1) be suspended for the remainder of the day's Sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and resolved in the affirmative without division.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to give notice of a Resolution that the Parliament of Barbados congratulates Barbados on the attainment of its 50th Anniversary of Independence and hails the efforts of all Barbadians in making this accomplishment possible.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER No. 2

RESOLUTION THAT THE PARLIAMENT OF BARBADOS CONGRATULATES BARBADOS ON THE ATTAINMENT OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE AND HAILS THE EFFORTS OF ALL BARBADIANS IN MAKING THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT POSSIBLE.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Thank you very much, Madam President. It is with great pride and honour that I rise as Leader of Government Business in this Honourable Senate to start the debate on what I consider to be perhaps one of the most important Resolutions since I have been a Member of this Honourable Chamber, and I must start by reading the full details of that Resolution. It says, Madam President:

WHEREAS on the 30th of November, 2016 Barbados celebrates its 50th Anniversary of Independence;

AND WHEREAS over the last 50 years Barbados has made significant strides in its economic, social and political development;

AND WHEREAS over this period Barbados has emerged as a highly Small Island Developing State whose voice resonates in the Regional and International corridors;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Parliament congratulates Barbados on the attainment of this significant milestone and hails the efforts of all Barbadians in making this accomplishment possible.

Madam President, as I speak to this Resolution, I will describe myself as a child of independence not being born in the year of independence but some ten years before Barbados became independent and as a citizen of this country who, as a little girl, recalls and I still recall, the excitement of independence. I might not have been at that age aware of all that had taken place to make it possible for us to be in a position to celebrate, but over the life of this nation, as the 50 years as a nation, we have grown as a

country from what I will describe perhaps as a small village in relative terms to, as the Resolution describes, a highly respected Small Island Developing State. That is important because a mere 166 square miles for most of its existence in terms of how we recognise our space Barbados has been able to accomplish substantially more than many countries times its size and substantially more than countries of similar size and certainly we have been able to do so in a way that all Barbadians should be proud.

We have been able to weather many storms. We have been able to utilise the talents of our people where we exist in a small country with limited natural resources of the type that we traditionally talked about, minerals and things of that nature. We have very little oil, we have no diamonds or emeralds, the diamonds reside in our eyes and in our brains but we have done so as a country committed to the rule of law, committed to democracy and ensuring that we move from where we were many decades ago to a country that is highly inclusive in terms of its provision for its citizens, ensuring the accomplishment of all and the realisation of many dreams.

Madam President, in speaking to this Resolution, I propose in the time allocated, one hour essentially which I will try my best to capture in that time frame the critical elements which constitute a reason and a basis for congratulating ourselves and congratulating and acknowledging the contributions of our forefathers. I will put into context the environment that obtained prior to our negotiations for Independence. I will also highlight the accomplishments of successive Governments but in doing so I will have no qualms in recognising the significant contribution of the Democratic Labour Party in its several years of Government, when it ran the Government as it does now, in terms of its contribution. We have had to major political parties and we have almost shared equal terms in terms of Barbados' 50 years; in our case 26 years, in theirs 24 years. In those 26 years and in the total 50 years Barbadians in Government, Barbadians in both the private and public sectors and as individual citizens have all done much to bring us to where we are now.

Madam President, beyond being a young Barbadian who would have been able to see this nation grow, I speak as the beneficiary of some of the important institutions, the contribution of institutions. I speak as a beneficiary of the significant investment in education, for example. I speak to the significant investment in our social safety net to ensure that all citizens have a fair and equal chance. I speak as a person who was able to exercise my democratic rights to vote from the time I became 18 years old and I would have done so in every election until now. I speak as a Barbadian who had the opportunity therefore to apply the education that would have been given me and the opportunities that that has provided for me. Madam President, I speak as the child or working-class Barbadians who has the distinct

honour of following my second brother in this Honourable Chamber, something that perhaps might not have been envisaged before. I speak as part of a Government that has been able to continue what has been a commitment to the building of a just society. Madam President, as I said, that has been done by successive Governments but that I needed to flag high points that would have demonstrated the commitment of certainly the Father of Independence, the architect of Independence as he was described, the then Errol Walton Barrow, who later became one of our National Heroes, the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow.

Madam President, if I were to contextualise the period immediately preceding Independence, the 1940s, 1950s, the decade in which I was born, Barbados was one in which we were still a colony with a level of independence, based on the British system of colonialism, where because of the nature of British colonialism we would have had the opportunity to put in place a number of institutions which characterised the political and Government structures of the United Kingdom; in large measure, these institutions would have been transplanted. Presently we still operate under the Westminster system of Government but we were also part of a society in which there was a level of injustice, a level of lack of opportunity and therefore while we had good solid Government structures, we had a Parliament.

Madam President, only a few people could have voted in the early days prior to having a Parliament, a few people owned any significant wealth which was concentrated. We had an economy that was essentially operating on one leg, it was agriculture, more specifically the production of sugar, rather than a diversified agricultural sector. We did have a reasonable investment in education but again it was restricted and there was perhaps not a very clearly articulated comprehensive educational policy. Madam President, so that in the 1940s and 1950s we had what people may describe as grammar schools, we had several what we now call primary schools and so on, so that Barbadians would have been getting a basic education, et cetera, but there was a perceived need to improve on that if we were indeed to pursue what has been the objective of this Administration in its many iterations the pursuit of a just society.

Madam President, we had a commitment at that time to ensure that we were able to move beyond being the provider of wealth to our Mother Country, so to speak, the United Kingdom. For those who are interested in history and who have had a chance perhaps to visit some of the landmarks, whether it is London or Birmingham, for example, you would see the contribution this little island has made to that country. Madam President, we had young political leaders who had great ambition, who believed that we needed to ensure that we provided the kind of

opportunities that would allow our country to grow, that would allow our country to grow in a particular direction, one in which we were able to make provision for the welfare of people, one that was able to provide an opportunity to have a firm basis in terms of provision for health. Therefore, Madam President, as we went into Independence, we would have seen a commitment to ensuring that provisions were made for the people, in ensuring that we grew our economy but of course committing to something that we continue to say now, that is, that Barbados is more than an economy, it is a society. Therefore if we are to ensure that an economy can function in its fullest, then we would have to ensure that things were put in place.

Madam President, some would have described the road to Independence as a long, rough road and I commend to persons who might never have done so, to read a publication called: "Thirty Years and Onward. The Democratic Labour Party in Celebration of the 30th Anniversary." Madam President, by no means do I plan to make this a partisan contribution but as I said, it is important to be able to check the records and to identify what are some of the factual bases for that. Madam President, at the time that the Government of Barbados would have gone to the United Kingdom to negotiate our Independence, Barbados, as I said, would have been operating on a limited kind of economy. Ma'am, perhaps it is also important to speak to that, the world at that time would have been witnessing the height of the Cold War, the Soviet Union as it was then was very much still in existence, China as we know it now did not exist, the cultural revolution, et cetera, had not taken place and we were pretty much operating on the fringes or on the periphery, except the level of economic support that we offered in terms of the ownership of our plantations and the production of sugar and the transfer of the revenues and wealth generated by that.

Madam President, however, with the signing of the Independence, Barbados was placed on a trajectory following the mandate of the people to pursue Independence to grow. Over the 50 years, Madam President, we would have seen significant investment in education. Today we spend, between our education and our health budgets, more than perhaps 40 per cent of our total budget. What we have been able to do, Madam President, is to ensure that all the people sitting around these tables -- certainly the generations of persons if they were children growing up in Barbados over that time -- have had access to education. In fact, when I look at the profiles of Honourable Members of the Senate, we can say that we have been prime beneficiaries of the Independence Project and of the vision of the early leaders of this country. We have seen our economy grow from a heavy reliance on agriculture to the expansion of the financial services sector, and I must say that I do not plan to apportion credits for

every single thing but I must acknowledge that the foundation legislation was set very early in 1960s. What I can tell you is that as Independence was contemplated, the diversification of our economy was similarly contemplated, and we have seen all of that grow. Tourism, which has become the mainstay of our economy, was also built and expanded, and that has continued. What we have been able to do then, as we became independent and took responsibility for the full running of our country, is to participate fully and take our rightful place as part of the global family of nations.

Madam President, before I go there, because I do not want to spend too much time setting out the background, I want to say something, and I did get permission from you, Madam President, to call names. I will tell you that I will call several names, hopefully, in my presentation if I have the time, but I will call them all in a positive sense. In reflecting on this, I was invited by the Right Honourable Prime Minister to chair a coordinating committee, another signal honour, and I felt that it would be useful to speak to many of the persons who would have been part of this process. Madam President, over the weekend, for example, I had a conversation with Captain Hartley Dottin. Some people may not know that name but Captain Dottin was the young cadet who raised the Flag, and in talking to him he said when he sat to reflect on that occasion, he recognised that as a young man, a young cadet, he was given a very important task. He gave me a very beautiful description of that night when, as he said, at about a minute or two to midnight he approached that flagpole and the lights at the Garrison Savannah would have been put out. When the lights were put back on, the Flag would have been flying. For him, that moment was the birth of this blessed nation. He understood that part but he also understood what it meant in terms of his need to continue to be a good citizen of this country. He said it has always stayed with him. It was a moment in time, but a moment which forever transformed this country. Madam President, at that time there were many people who had doubts, who had fears perhaps, most of them perhaps not justified because if we understand the politics of Barbados as a colony, we were functioning to a large extent in an independent way. This also took place at a time when we had just been part of an attempt at a Federation which had collapsed. A further attempt was made and, if I recall correctly, the Father of Independence said, "We will go into Independence within or without a Federation," because there was an attempt to bring together the Little Eight. That is one of the signal moments.

Madam President, if you talk to persons who would have participated in the negotiations and would have been very proud that at the time they were negotiating, they were able to sit around the table with their colonisers and make a proper case. We were celebrating at a time when there was another contribution which perhaps foretold the importance

and sent a signal that we were able to chart our own course. Madam President, as we celebrate this year, we also celebrate a landmark for our only living National Hero, the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers who, as a young cricketer, took on the United Kingdom along with other members of the West Indies team but certainly along with his cousin and other key Barbadians, to show the world and to certainly show England that we had the wherewithal to succeed. I am not like the Right Honourable Prime Minister to remember statistics as he does, because as a very close follower of cricket then and now, he would have been able to cite those statistics. It really was a critical symbol of what Barbados was capable of, and that is important to remember. As we celebrate, we can look back and see the kind of quality individuals, the kind of quality systems that we had started to put in place and have continued to put in place to allow a country heavily populated -- in fact, with one of the densest populations in the region and the Hemisphere -- with limited resources but investing heavily in our intellectual capacity. We therefore need to celebrate and thank those Barbadians who were our teachers, our public administrators, our politicians, and above all, our citizens, because if the citizens did not believe and act as though they believed, we probably would not have accomplished a lot of what we have accomplished. I believe that Barbados has been able to do this, as I said, because of our people.

Madam President, if we look, as I said, at our connection to the world, which became possible at Independence, we are congratulating Barbados as a Small Island Developing State. What does that mean? I speak to this matter, Madam President, as the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. Barbados did well in cricket and maybe one day again we will. I notice that many Barbadians are being called out to duty now, and maybe that will help to get us back to where we were, but Barbados was always a leader in the region, and a leader in hemispheric and global affairs. I want to move forward a little bit because I am conscious that I have limited time and lots of things I want to say, so I might be moving back and forward but I want to get some critical points in as I look to the Resolution. As the Resolution said, we have emerged over that period as a highly respected Small Island Developing State. On becoming independent, Barbados became a member of the United Nations family, and many of you will remember the inaugural speech -- the first address -- of our first Prime Minister when he signalled to the world the philosophical underpinning of what we intended to do as a nation, which also spoke to some of our values. We always use a snippet of that address when we talk about being friends of all and satellites of none.

Madam President, what that translated to and continues to be, as we congratulate ourselves and all that is Barbados, is a recognition that as we take our place among the community and family of nations, we will do so

operating on best principles and guided by a level of objectivity and commitment to the rule of law that will allow us to engage bilaterally with countries but not become tied to such countries in a way that we could be described as satellites. We have an opinion, we have a view on how world matters should go, and we will share them. No better example is there of our role as a small nation enjoying the world's attention than the situation of Small Island Developing States, Madam President.

We have been very successful, Madam President, but we have also been very vulnerable because of our basic geography, our size and openness as an economy and the implications of that for our ability to withstand the literal and figurative storms; the economic storms that may come our way and the storms that may come our way in relation to where we are located on the face of the earth.

Madam President, we have gone to the world drawing their attention and getting recognition because we have stood in the corridors of the United Nations (UN) and elsewhere to advocate for Barbados. We have demonstrated that even though we are small, we have the capacity to manage ourselves and we have done so in what I call very critical ways. In doing that, Madam President, we have been able basically to influence a number of critical decisions and one such decision, of course, has to do with the issue of climate change which is one of the major existential threats to our existence as a country.

We have also been able to advocate through our deliberations with the same United Nations agencies, the World Bank, the InterAmerican Development Bank, et cetera, to say to the world that in evaluating us and in classifying us, you have to take into consideration a number of factors. I used that just to illustrate, Madam President, that we have been able to say to the world, you should not penalise us for our success but you should recognise that that success is balanced by a level of vulnerability that is important.

Madam President, today if you read the Human Development Index, for example, which is often cited and many people who do not read the details of that and how the index is derived would say to you, Barbados was at level X last year or two years ago and it is now at level Y, but part of the explanation for that is a recognition that we have been able to get others to see that in classifying us, we cannot only focus on indicators such as Gross Domestic Product but we also have to come up with metrics that would allow us to use some other indicators, such as vulnerability, vulnerability to things like hurricanes, et cetera, and we know the real nature of those things. We just have to look at The Bahamas a few weeks ago. Madam President, when we look at it we have been able to do this.

My question is: Why? Why have we been able to achieve a number of these things? I spoke earlier of our investment in education. As I stand here, Madam President, I see myself as a classic example as is anyone of my colleagues on Both Sides who would have benefitted from education in Barbados. When I was at school, we started school from five. We did not have nursery education but I benefitted from primary education, secondary education and tertiary education at, what I would call, the expense of taxpayers. I hopefully now am paying back some of what was spent on me as I pay taxes. What that was able to do, Madam President, was to create a pool of well-educated competent Barbadians who could take on the world. I say take on the world because as we celebrate this independence, I would want to flag that we are celebrating Barbadians all across the world, Barbadians at home and Barbadians in the diaspora.

I will share quickly because again as I am concerned about the time I have, as we celebrate in Barbados, we have been doing so in many ways. These celebrations have thrown up the opportunity to really reflect on the contribution of Barbadians at home and abroad. I will give an example of that. The initiative taken by the Consul General in Miami, Mr. Colin Mayers, has resulted in a publication which should be available by the end of the month, before independence we are hoping, which captures the contribution of Barbadians across the United States of America (USA) notwithstanding the reluctance of many people who are saying well, I do not know if I qualify to be put in a book or I do not want my name in a book or I am not sure. They were able in some months' time to collect a total about 400 Barbadians and, Madam President, I can tell you that as names kept coming and as the Consul General and his staff reported to me, I was amazed at the diverse contributions but the very important contributions of Barbadians and this is where I may want to cite a couple people.

We have had persons in the medical profession. I will give an example and I take the opportunity to thank him because I know that he is getting ready to hang up his hat as our Honorary Consul in Atlanta, Dr. Edward Layne, 22 years or so as our Honorary Consul, who went to Atlanta 40 something years ago and was one of the persons who started Moore House Medical School. When Atlanta was nothing like what it is now, he was one of the pioneers.

I speak of a young woman in California, Dr. King Whitehall. She trained in Metrology at Cave Hill, is now a big Data Scientist with the Jet Propulsion Lab of NASA in California.

We have Barbadians in film, in California as well working with Steven Spielberg. Mr. Drayton, his first name would come back to me in a second, Miguel Drayton who is in the new technologies relating to film, he worked with

Steven Spielberg training Barbadians. While he was not able to get here physically, he was willing to participate in our diaspora conference.

I am citing these because at the end of the day, my colleagues would talk about our contribution in tourism, health, education, finance, et cetera, but I want to paint a big picture. A picture of a little country, 166 square miles, we are bigger now because we now encompassed our ocean space.

I would cite a young woman who won a Barbados Scholarship and decided that she wanted to study outside of Barbados and who was determined to do that and certain colleagues among us would have ensured that she worked for the year and got experience. Do you know what? She is about the finish, Sir Trevor, and she has been offered a job by an accounting firm of which coincidentally has a partner in another State who is from Barbados. This young lady has been offered a job and she has also been told to spend an extra semester or two and do your Masters. A young, humble working class Barbadians, Renisha Leacock is her name and I put it in the records because from the time she was three or four years old, she said, I want to certain things. Notwithstanding the limitations of her family's financial situation, she stuck to her guns, got the support she needed from good Barbadians and has been able to go out there and already demonstrating her capacity, competing with a whole class, and I can go on and on, Madam President, but I cite those because if we go to the UK we can see the same thing.

In Canada we know of the then young Mr. Emtage who would have pretty much developed the search engine, and we can go on and on. I say that because I think it is absolutely critical that when we start to congratulate we should congratulate. I congratulate the many farmers in Barbados who would have spent years toiling. I congratulate the young people who are now going into agriculture and applying technology.

Solar energy is something we have been talking about and generating electricity and so on but I can tell you that they are many young women and men in Barbados working to develop and apply the technology in several years beyond just getting electricity to turn on lights but using it for the cooling of greenhouses and these are the things that we need to talk about. I am taking time, Madam President, because it has upset me that as we sought and are seeking to ensure that this seminal moment that is our 50th anniversary is recognised as a critical landmark. We have persons who are basically seeking to debase the whole process and to politicise and so on, and that I find is unfortunate and therefore remind me to spend some time to talk about that.

How did these people get Barbados Scholarships? How did they get to go overseas or stay and start businesses, et cetera? It is about the value we have imbued in successive generations. I would stick a pin to say, Madam President, as you recall I mentioned that I had the honour to serve as the Chair of the Co-coordinating Committee of the Celebration. I would want for the record to also indicate that when I was invited to do so, I was also instructed on what should constitute the main focus. The Right Honourable Prime Minister, Freundel Stuart, sat me down in his office and said "this is what I want you to do and these are the things." We will celebrate but as we celebrate we must reflect. We must reflect on what are the things that would have allowed us to accomplish. By now most of you would have known the three questions he would have posed to Barbadians, essentially saying as we celebrate we have to ask ourselves what are the things that have allowed us to achieve and what are the things we would have perhaps picked up along the way, and these are my restating of the questions in my own words, and what are the things we have to loose and what are things we have to hold on to?

So in essence this process of celebration and self-congratulation is one, Madam President, that we must stock take, and will get details of all that we have accomplished in several things. Stocktaking about why it is we were able, notwithstanding limited financial resources, to invest heavily in education, what were the values that have allowed us to take advantage of those things and not waste? Are we still not wasting? Why is it that we have been able to face elections every five years, see Governments come and go and at the end of the day find ourselves in a position to ensure that the day after elections we get up, the public officers are there and business continues. We know we hear of many things and I would not dwell on it. We can reflect on what happened elsewhere. In one of those places where it is described as the pinnacle of democracy.

In essence, when we reflect on the values that have allowed us to get to this place, we can then start to analyse why we have performed well in tourism, why our school system has performed well, why we have been able, up to now, still deliver notwithstanding any financial constraints the level of medical care whether it is primary, tertiary, et cetera, to Barbadians? Why we continue to be respected as a place that respects law and order, and that, Madam President is very critical.

I think as we look at this Resolution, I made reference to issues which speak about the strides of our economic development. As we do this we have limitations. I want to say something about the strides we have made in economic development. I want to move away a little bit from the whole contribution of Government to look at what I consider to be the efforts by the populace to address the issue of economic development.

We have a traditional private sector. To some extent it has been closely held. We have seen, certainly in my lifetime, the rise sometimes even the fall of many small businesses, et cetera, but in the context of my assessment of the 50th Anniversary, what has brought us to 50th, I would not be able to look myself in the mirror tomorrow if I did not take time to congratulate those persons, who built on the pioneers on what I consider to be perhaps the most important citizens, movement, grassroots movement, that is the Credit Union movement. Having been a volunteer and looking around this room and seeing persons who have been involved in that institution, that is the credit union movement in Barbados, I can tell you that the credit union movement in Barbados began in the 1930s. The Shamrock Credit Union was the first to be set up. You can go and trace the history of it. I can perhaps in an article I wrote many years ago when I was an academic, but I can tell you in the 1980s that movement came into its own. We would have had the Public Workers Credit Union and I know we have persons who would have given some of their professional time to do the marketing in that credit union. Since I am calling names, she is in here, Senator Sandiford-Garner, was a Marketing Manager at the largest credit union in Barbados for some time and would have left her mark. We have other volunteers here. That credit union movement today, Madam President, has transformed the financial services sector in Barbados. We have in excess of 100 000 members and what I can say in terms of that 100 000 members is, what we have is a significant opportunity to move beyond what it has been able to do, that is to mobilise the financial resources of ordinary Barbadians. If you look at the profile of our membership in the movement, what we have is a movement that has been able to bring poor people, lower middle income persons together and so on, and by pooling their resources and so on, because if you look at the average savings per capita in the credit union, it would not be a significant individual sum of money, but it has allowed us to mobilise about 10% of the domestic savings which would be seen in the credit union movement.

I want to put something on the table as I go along. I have advocated, Madam President, for many years that the credit union movement has the capacity to transform even further, not only the savings landscape of Barbados but the investment landscape and I would put a number. I like to look at things in multiples and simple numbers.

The credit union movement, Madam President, is one that if we were to look at using the membership base, as the base, and to look at a number of \$1 000, I said at least 100 000 members. If we were to do that, a 100 000 members mobilizing in one year \$1 000, we are talking, Senator Boyce \$100 million? That is \$100 million. Think about it. Ask any of the young professionals in Barbados today who have no children and who may be living at home, if they can account for one cent that they spent in the

last three months, down to the last \$1 000, and they probably cannot. The point I am making is, if you were to set that aside, you are creating the opportunity to have an investment pool for the young people we have educated. So I would put that there, because I think we sit down here and we complain, we moan but I think that is one of the weaknesses. I cannot congratulate us for doing that, but what I can do is, I certainly would congratulate us if we can do that, particularly when we often complain that the majority of the population, people of African ancestry, the black Barbadians, have not been able to control. This is what people may say, have not been able to control investment in that way, but I say that we have not set out to do it in a way that we can. I want to put that on the table because I think it is important.

We have the capacity to support the young people, who I mentioned earlier, who want to go into farming using state-of-the-art technology, who want to explore the opportunities in the cultural services sector, et cetera. I believe that as I congratulate what I would call the third sector, as it is called in the literature sometimes, the cooperative sector, the financial cooperative sector, which also transformed back in those early 1980s and 1990s the practices of the commercial banking sector in terms of interest rates, et cetera, I want to congratulate them but I want as I reflect on our success and congratulate them to continue to challenge them, because I have done it over and over, over the last several decades, to recognise that they have a responsibility, not an option, a responsibility to provide mechanisms and avenues for us to self-enfranchise.

I was part of the movement when we were talking about economic enfranchisement and so on, when the Mutual was demutualised. I had just come back to Barbados from overseas and I was part of that movement, and we talked about it but we have not followed through. I remember saying to one of our major advocates, activist, in relation to the whole question of the enfranchisement of black people. I remember making this point on a programme to him, as he talked about celebrating the decade of people of African descent that if he, what I would call the primo advocate in Barbados for these things could show me before the decade ends, he starts the process of mobilizing based on what I just said, then I would be happy.

I am suggesting that is another category of persons we have to congratulate because at the end of the day they have been able to give to average Barbadians the opportunity to own homes, property, to send their children to school, to meet their day to day living, to avoid the heavy cost of hire purchase and these kinds of things. I must before I end congratulate them, because I think that is a significant element of our economic development.

If I talk about the significant social development, Madam President, and we can hear specifics when people speak to the role of our health and education. I started out, Madam President, when I left school as a clerical officer in the Welfare Department of this country and it was there as an eighteen-year-old, that I was able to see what I would call the social safety net at the time in action, operating. I used to pay Old Aged Pensions. I worked in the Accounts Department. I used to pay Maintenance. That is where persons who did not voluntarily support their children had to come, having agreed with the court, to pay money. I was the cashier paying the money. I also paid welfare benefits. Those are things that existed and would have been built on because of the vision of the father of Independence. Those were things we have now -- we have now expanded them.

For example we now have in place a programmed called the ISEE Bridge, a programme that would have been Chaired by Chile, one of our bilateral partners and one of the countries in the hemisphere, with whom we engaged at the level of the OAS and so on. They have identified that if we want to tackle poverty we have to do it in a wholistic manner. We have to do it at the level of tackling the family, so we tackle generation. So that is something to be proud of.

We have moved away from the simple grants and so on, that characterized welfare support in the past. A much more sophisticated approach to how we deliver on these things, and that must be congratulated. As we did so we not put systems in place, but we trained persons. We have trained persons how to do that. I think that is very important. That is only one illustration of the social kind of structures we have in place. As I said before, multiple times since I have been speaking, we will get details from other Members on this side and I am sure we will hear it from the entire Senate, examples of that.

I believe, Madam President, as we congratulate Barbados and Barbadians if I did not spend time to go back to the contribution of the diaspora I would not have done a full and comprehensive discussion and congratulatory kind of contribution. Again, coming back to my role as the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, I was mandated on assuming the office coming out of the strategies adopted by this administration in 2008, to ensure we pursued a very formal and structured policy to address the members of our diaspora. I gave some examples of contributions of others, but there was a recognition that Barbados and Barbadians, we do not just locate ourselves on the island. Across the globe we have had Barbadians making significant contributions in their adopted homes, et cetera.

We also recognise that as we look at Barbadians abroad, the diaspora extend several generations, and we have sought to ensure that they are embraced in a way that

they can identify with Barbados and things Barbadian. We do not only see our diaspora as bases or sources of remittances, but we also believe that wherever they are and in whatever capacity they serve, or operate, or exist, in their new countries or places of residence, et cetera, they are ambassadors for this country. I can tell you that in my many visits to represent this country and my engagement with Barbadians, you hear of the contributions they have made. Not only that, you hear from them that the ability to contribute as they have done, has to do with their grounding in Barbados. Their educational background, the values that were instilled on them whether it was going to church, making sure parents stressed the importance of education, respect for others, respect for law and order, et cetera, and that is important. We can cite the comment of the late Shirley Chisholm. I had the opportunity to sit with her sister at a funeral recently. She has a sister living in Barbados today, who made a very important contribution working in the NGO sector in Barbados. We were fortunate to include a clip from Shirley Chisholm, talking about what going to Vauxhall Primary School meant to her ability to stand up, and tell America long before there was Hillary Clinton, that she wanted to be considered as a candidate for the position of President of the United States. She would have been on record of saying that she attributed a lot of who she was, to the fact that she was sent home to a boarding school in Barbados and what that meant to her. Eric Holder Jr., former Attorney General of the United States, spoke about it on multiple occasions. When he became Attorney General and when he was demitting office, he spoke about his father instilling in him and his brother the value of education and all of those things as examples. We can cite many more. That is what we hear and see, the pride of being able to say this is what made me what I am. Those things that little Barbados, that our grandparents if you were sent home to spend your holidays with them, or parents when they relocated to the metropole, and were operating in a society where they had to deal with a very different environment, that is what grounded us. I think those things are important. As I said, when we are congratulating all Barbadians, I want to congratulate those persons who have stood as Barbadians, and demonstrated to the world good work ethics and so on. On that note I believe I have to insert at this point, Madam President, the importance of us reflecting on a number of things that we have to discard. Madam President, it hurts my heart when I travel the length and breadth of Barbados and see what I call the diminishing standards of many of our people, how we speak to each other, how we speak about each other and our lack of appropriate work ethic. I always tell people we have to address these things, and it is a simple approach to it. I always say to myself what would I have people do to me and therefore what do I do to people, how do I treat people, because at the end of the day that is important. We can talk about systems and all of these things, but this is important, this is what we have to look at. Sometimes it is

with regret when people say but you know you Barbadians do -- and I say we used to.

About 10 years ago I was staying with a Jamaican friend of mine in Jacksonville and one of our friends came across and I remember having a conversation with him and he was talking about a headmaster he had as a boy growing up in Jamaica and what that meant to him in terms of the kind of person that he conceptualised Barbadians to be, and I said to him you know unfortunately some of our young people are forgetting those things. What I would therefore want us to do as we congratulate people is to take a minute and ask yourself what is it that has allowed us to be who we are, what has allowed our parents to be whom they are and what are some of the things that we are straying from that perhaps we need to revisit.

I had the opportunity, Madam President, to be part of a celebration of another phenomenon that is Barbados, and that is our centenarians. We have approximately 115 Barbadians who are 100 or 100-plus years old at the moment. Recently the Minister of Social Care, Mr. Steve Blackett, had a celebrations and there were several of them there and they talked about getting here because of hard work, their faith in God and the consumption of the things we produce, our ground provisions or complex carbohydrates that are sweet potatoes and so on, and about living a life that is balanced, et cetera, and that is something that we have to be thankful for. They are the ones who continue to certainly inspire me to try to achieve. These are people who had very simple lives for the most part given their age but they can tell you how they have observed this country, and I think that is another route. They are the builders of this nation essentially and we have to look at that. I think, Madam President, that when we start to look at these things that is part of the economic, social and political development already, but I believe that what is important is that we need, as I said, to reflect.

I also want to reflect on what I would call the benefits of what we describe as tripartism. We have lived in a society in which the private sector has worked closely with Government over these 50 years and in more recent decades as well as our trade union movement and we have of course to recognise the pioneering work of all of these persons. To my right, Madam President, is my colleague Senator Boyce who could probably tell you about the formation of the Social Partnership for example because he was very much part of that and we have a trade unionist in our midst in the form of Senator Husbands who would have been part of that process as well, so we are not only celebrating those pioneers of many decades but we are talking of people who are very much part of the system and who have been able to make some contributions.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senator, has four more minutes.

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Madam President, you see that is what I fear, but anyhow what I will use the four minutes... I have been offered some of my Senator on the other side time but you do not allow such, Madam President, but I will in the four minutes perhaps try to just pull together what I attempted to do in this presentation.

As Leader of Government Business, Madam President, I thought it was critical that I set the stage for the offering of congratulations to Barbados and to Barbadians, and in doing so I attempted to provide a background of where we were at the time independence was contemplated and pursued. Having accomplished that independence it is important to recognise that there has been a continuous development of our country and of our society. We have done so in a way that domestically we have seen our population become more affluent and more educated. Interestingly this morning, Madam President - I was not able to listen to all of it because I was trying to reflect on some of what I wanted to say - there is a programme that comes on on one of CBC stations at a quarter to six weekdays and on Wednesdays it is a programme from the Methodist Church and the priest or the person, I was not sure if it was the priest or a layperson, who delivered it was speaking to this whole issue of this period of celebration but he lamented -- I remember this because it stuck out with me - that we are now better educated but perhaps less productive, and that is one of the things I expressed a concern about. What I am saying is that we need to do some more of that reflection. If I could listen to the whole thing again I will try to do so.

The point I am making is that we have grown continuously but we have also seen with that growth and success the encroaching so to speak on that growth and success of a number of negatives of which we need to take stock. I will argue, Madam President, that it is not for Government or the church alone or the school meaning the principal and the teachers but it is at the family unit and at the individual level that we need to take stock and ask ourselves as we celebrate because we have a lot to celebrate, how do I assess myself, how do I assess my community, my society and my country in a way that would allow us to identify what we need to do to improve on and to continue to build. I believe that as we do that we should be able to achieve and come to a place where we can answer those three questions posed by the Honourable Prime Minister where we are looking to reflect on the things that brought us here and that we need to hold on to, the things that have been part of us that we need to get rid of and those things that we need to do to build on.

Madam President, as I wrap up, I mentioned our being part of the global family of nations. The United Nations recently identified what they call the 2030 Agenda where we are pursuing as a family of nations the global

sustainable development goals. I am happy to say that when we pursue those goals as it relates to education, health, citizen security and all of these things that we have done so against a background where this little country Barbados, in advance of the United Nations so articulating those goals, has said as a commitment and as a vision and as a set of pillars to guide this country that we want to be and will work and continue to work to be a nation that is socially balanced, economically viable, environmentally sound and characterised by good governance. I believe, Madam President, that when we look at those four pillars... We also say that we would pursue a green economy. We have been working towards that. I can say successive Governments have focussed on the whole question of a green economy and have articulated in a very formal way that is what we will pursue, but again as I said consistent with the Prime Minister's request to reflect as we celebrate, we are doing so bearing in mind that if we maintain a focus on those four pillars which again bear repeating, a country, a society and an economy that is socially balanced, economically viable, environmentally sound and characterised by good governance, we will have in the next 50 years much to celebrate.

Madam President, with those few words, I beg to move that

this Resolution do now pass, as I wish Barbados a very happy 50th Anniversary of Independence. I am obliged to you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Adams, you have the Floor.

Senator A. A. ADAMS: Madam President, I am especially happy to be able to speak on this Resolution which states inter alia:

"WHEREAS on the 30th November, 2016 Barbados celebrates its 50th Anniversary of Independence;

AND WHEREAS over the last 50 years Barbados has made significant strides in its economic, social and political

development;

AND WHEREAS over this period Barbados has emerged as a highly respected Small Island Developing State whose voice resonates in the Regional and International corridors;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Parliament congratulates Barbados on the attainment of this significant milestone and hails the efforts of all Barbadians in making this accomplishment possible."

Madam President, I want to say that I am totally in agreement with the Resolution because it is the hallmark of great nations, as of great institutions to celebrate their achievements and indeed to give kudos to individuals and institutions that have contributed to this. In this sense we believe that Barbados is on solid grounds and that there are extremely good reasons why we ought to be celebrating. Madam President, I just want to make the point, in the case of schools as I am a school teacher, if you see a school that is not celebrating, it is obviously not achieving and this is the same thing with a nation. The school would, in fact, be starting over every year and would not be able to build up its traditions and to let people know exactly what it has been doing all over the years.

Madam President, one other point that I want to make and it is a bit personal in the sense that I am standing here as an Honourable Senator and when I look back at my family's history, I am saying that not only has the country come a long way but my family has gone a long way. Madam President, it was actually in one of the plantation tenancies which are very interesting, peculiar and almost unique institutions in the Caribbean, my grandfather who was a thorn in the sides of the plantation owner literally died of hard work in trying to support 13 children. When he died, before I was born, the plantation owner, as was his right, evicted my grandmother with her 13 children from that plantation.

Madam President, I am saying all of that to say that that plantation owner's brother, I think it was, was a member of this Honourable Senate and basically within a generation or two the grandson of the person who was evicted from that plantation can now be in this Honourable Chamber. Madam President, that example tells you how far Barbados has come.

Madam President, I cannot predict other Members' contribution but I believe that in the interest of young people that I ought to give at least a broad sweep or synopsis of some of the things that happened in Barbados from its inception. I want to say that as early as the 17th Century this country established for the first time in history a slave regime, so that if young people ought to look at the 1660s Laws of Barbados, they would see there laws for the governing of slaves. It is set out in very great details and the examples of what had been mentioned there have been used in the United States of America. They are probably still using it up to this day, certainly across the rest of the Caribbean and in South Africa as well.

Madam President, we say all of that to say that young people ought to be aware that they are inheritors of a very rich heritage, a proud tradition and an enviable history because what they are enjoying now has come as a result of blood, sweat and tears of our ancestors. Madam President, that slave code established in one of its provisions that the

blacks in Barbados were chattels, that means that they could be bought and sold at the owner's pleasure. It also did other things, it sets out a series of punishments in great details which would make any person cringed, because they were so terrible and so inhuman. Madam President, you found things such as the slitting of the ears, severe whippings, the treadmill, placing people in stocks, and indeed the right to murder with impunity. All of those things our forefathers had to undergo, and that is not really all. Madam President, I believe that they deliberately set out to suppress and destroy any semblance of our African culture, and I want to particularly mention this because if you say that a man has no culture, it is saying that he is not human. Therefore, you are denying him his humanity. It is interesting to note as well that the thinking at the time was that a black slave could not be made a Christian, and the rationale for that was that if you made him a Christian, you would be admitting that he is a human, and if he is a human then you could not keep him as a slave. Therefore, we have a history in this country where -- we have come a long way -- at that time the slaves could not be made Christians. Before I forget, I want to say that certainly later on in my presentation that the Anglican Church which was involved in that -- and I am a proud Anglican, naturally -- can now be exonerated because they have done such splendid work. Nonetheless, the facts are the facts, and I thought I ought to mention that.

Our young people ought to know as well that Barbados was the first country in the world to undergo what historians have termed a sugar revolution. It is called a revolution because the sugar was not the original crop but the change from the tobacco and cotton and so on was so drastic and so profound that it had to be deemed a revolution. There are other reasons why it has been referred to as a revolution, because you had to move from small holdings and from people who were not really wealthy to large plantations and the need for capital and technology. Sometimes we do not use that term in reference to that era, but there were three significant things: The plantations meant that only a few people owned every single millimetre of an inch of land in Barbados, and secondly they had to have capital in which to set up the technology. I want to mention this because the capital did not only come from Britain -- maybe a minority of that capital came from Britain -- but from Holland where the capital markets of Antwerp and Amsterdam actually financed the setting up of the factories, which were the windmills. If you look across Barbados, up to this day you may still find close to 100 old windmills standing. That technology came to Barbados via Jews coming through Brazil into Barbados, and they brought the technology and the chemistry to convert the sugar juice into the crystals and into the sugar as we know it. Therefore, they played -- we need to mention that and it is important -- the Jews would have played a very important role in the historical and economic development of Barbados. The introduction of sugar then made

Barbados what historians tend to agree, at that time, to be the jewel in the crown of the British Empire. It led to the triangular trade which, starting from Europe into West Africa, into the Caribbean and back to Europe, and at each leg of the journey profits were made. Goods set out from Britain into West Africa traded for the slaves, brought to Barbados first and then to other Caribbean islands. The profits that were made were astronomical, so much so that Eric Williams in his work, 'Capitalism and Slavery', indicated that the industrial revolution in Britain has actually been achieved on the backs of the black slaves in Barbados and the Caribbean. Our students really ought to be very clear on that, and when they get the chance they should also read that work, 'Capitalism and Slavery'.

Another significant argument which Williams did make was that, contrary to popular belief, the Abolition of Slavery did not just come about as a result of the outstanding work of the philanthropists in Britain, the Clapham Sect with William Wilberforce, Clarkson and people of that nature. They did their part but there were two things which Williams -- at the time it was revolutionary academic -- indicated that it was really the economics of sugar that led even more to its demise. He said that as a result of the rise of the industrial revolution, the British then wanted free trade so that they could sell their goods across the world while the sugar magnates wanted monopoly and operated on the mercantilist theory. In the work of Adam Smith, 'The Wealth of Nations' -- there is a significant part of the book which I read some time ago -- he extolled the virtues of free trade, but he also said that although slave labour appeared to be the cheapest of all, when examined -- Americans say "when you dig down" -- you found that in fact it was the most expensive of all. Going along with that economic argument was the fact stressed by Williams in his seminal work that, contrary to what people thought about the Blacks being docile, the Blacks in the Caribbean including Barbados had never been reconciled to slavery. Resistance to slavery took passive forms, where malingering, sabotage and even poison were used, and it took an active form and as early as 1649 and right through the various periods, which we cannot go into right now, you had slave revolts, the most famous uprising as we know in Barbados was the Bussa Uprising, and it is out of those uprisings which were also going sometimes simultaneously across the Caribbean that the British felt that unless something was done and they save the slave owners from eventual slaughter that they ought to abolish slavery and so we had the Emancipation Act of 1834 or around there and emancipation in 1838. The point I am making here is that blacks in Barbados played a significant role in the abolition of slavery and it is not correct to say that it is something that was just given.

Going along with that was the economic argument, a kind of Marxist argument, that everything redounds to economics and that it was the economic argument that also

played a significant role in eventually bringing about the demise of slavery along with the struggle of the blacks, so we want to make that extremely clear for our young people.

The post-emancipation period is an interesting one because people might be of the opinion that you are now free. Someone said that freedom had been given but the society has not been formed and the reason for that was that immediately as early as the early 1840s the legislature here in Barbados used their power to pass laws to make sure that things did not substantially change in the post-emancipation period from when the blacks were actually slaves and they did this with pieces of legislation which I will refer to as the Located Labourers and the Masters and Servants Act. One of the most important things that we need to know during that period is that because the blacks did not have any land and there was no spare land in Barbados as in the other Caribbean countries they had to rely on the plantation for their livelihoods and these Acts tied - they are peculiar because they are not found elsewhere in the Caribbean - the Barbadian ex-slaves, our ancestors, to the plantation and the origin of the plantation tenancies which was a very peculiar institution, a very inconvenient place for blacks to live because what happened is that in exchange for having a little plot of land and a house spot and so on and sometimes land that you could work on you had to work on the plantation - that was the problem between my grandfather and the plantation owner - in order to remain in the tenancy. Not only you but your children, the third gang and so because they had that stranglehold wages were extremely low.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senator has nine more minutes.

Senator A. A. ADAMS: I want to say that these starvation wages kept the blacks in Barbados in a state of perpetual cycle of poverty and they just could not get out. There were things like migration, highlighted in Panama and then some to Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba and different places but the main thing I want to rush on to in the time I have left, is that the Anglican Church, particularly the pioneering work of Bishop Coleridge. He was a prolific church builder and he wanted to Christianised the slaves which the whites in Barbados did not want, and as I said in here before, every time he built a church he built two schools, a boys schools and a girl schools. I want Senator Husbands to remember that the motion about girls not going to school and so on is old hat and has no basis in real history. He was followed by Parry and then by Mitchinson and so on, and within a relatively short time a there was network of primary schools, boys and girls schools which has made a difference. In some parts of the far-flung areas of the country there might have been just one.

The black ex-slaves recognising that they could not depend on the legislators who were bound by the doctrine of social Darwinism and so on that they would not spend public money/taxes, in doing anything to upgrade the black population, recognise that their hope laid in getting their children in those schools. All of them could not do it because life was so hard but many of them, whatever they did, struggled and sent their children to the elementary school. That is what my grandfather did and I will come back to him. He had 13 children and all of them went to school. As a matter of fact, if you hear my mother reading the Bible in church and so on you would feel that she was a boss scholar but she probably only went to Class 3 or 4. My father sent his children to school and kept them out of the plantation from picking pond grass, sour grass and all those sorts of things.

Through the Anglican Church as well there were about 10 secondary schools in Barbados. The parents decided that they are not going to stop at the elementary school and they struggled as well. Sometimes they had to go through the Vestry and so on and ask favours because the secondary schools were fee-paying schools therefore, you can understand that it was not that easy for persons living on starvation wages to find that money. In the case of my mother, it was \$8.50, and that was like \$8 000 in those days. Very often I had to go to some friends of hers to beg to get the money when the fees were to be paid or I had to wait until a pig was sold in order to get the school fees because by the fourth week if you did not have the school fees you had to go down the gap and that was great degradation, but the point is that education is the thing.

Madam President, I just want to make an important point because the time is running out. In the 1940s, a very important person in this country was walking quite a mile, a rarity in the far-flung parts of Barbados, to the Coleridge School and when the women in the cane fields - the women are very important people - when they saw him and his friend dressed in uniform with shoes and socks, and bags over their shoulders they stopped work - they were picking up the canes and tying them and so on - and headed to the hedgerow to have a conversation with these two boys. This is what they said to them to highlight the fact that they are seeing their future in these boys. They said: "make sure that you walk fast and get long to school on time and work hard - this is in vernacular though - and don't give the masters no trouble and make sure that you get some papers so that you do not waste your father coppers." Even at that time those boys understood what getting an education meant for the masses in Barbados and they did not let them down. One rose to be an Assistant Commissioner of Police, I am not sure who I can say who the other is, but the other is really the most important person in this country, he holds the highest office in this country. That is what education has done, and that is what our young people ought to know, that you are able as a result of education to come from what

people call the "nigger yard" and be catapulted into the highest seats of power in this country. This is what independence is about. I have not touched on it as such but I wanted to let people see the road to independence.

Independence, in fact, came when a confluence of things had already happened. In education you had the newer secondary schools and the older secondary schools. Free education was brought about in 1961 and soon after free education at the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill. For the first 50 years - and they cannot get much beyond that, they want to talk about the next 50 years -- it is through education that the growth and the development of Barbados really for the most part has rested. It is not that the education was perfect. A lot of it was academic and so on but it did at that time what it needed to do.

What we need to do now, because I have no time, is to look at meaningful reforms in our education. I spoke at length in here about the fact that while the students at the University of the West Indies ought to be asked to pay something, we now have to pay our fees because the cost and the expansion of education have outstripped the ability of the taxpayers to pay, that we have a duty to come up with a new funding model which would be a win-win situation for the students and for the Government and for the economy as a whole. I do not think that we have yet come up with that model so I hope that in future discussions we may be able to do that.

I also feel that in our reforms there are a group of students who are not benefitting as much as they ought to and certainly not as much as other students are and I think that there are some meaningful reforms that I cannot go into right now which would bring them into the fold, but essentially what we want to do is to look at bringing the reforms in such a way that technical/ vocational education is given parity of esteem with the academic education. We are not saying that we want to do away with academic education but that out thrust now must be to bring the technical/vocational education on par with the academic because of the nature of the Barbadian economy and the way the world is going so that our students will be able to compete in the technological world and the skilled world with students from other places not just in the Caribbean because we have been boasting about our prowess in outdoing our neighbours. Our neighbours are really not CARICOM students, our neighbours are the students from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore and those places, and therefore in the next 50 years the thrust of our education would be to bring that parity of esteem to the technical/vocational education so that the students who are involved in that area of our education ought not to be looked down on and must be seen to be travelling on a paralleled path as we go forward to grow and develop this economy in the manner in which we would like to do it.

With those few words, Madam President, I rest my case.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Thank you, Madam President. I am happy to support this Resolution to congratulate Barbados on its 50th Anniversary of Independence. Back in 1966 I was a young teenager and never thought that in the 50th year of our independence I would have been in this Honourable Chamber to say congratulations to this country. Madam President, I was of that view because I come from very humble circumstances and while the goodly Senator Adams stood over on the hills of Springhen in Rock Hall, a few years later I stood on the hills of at the northern point of Chalky Mount, and I dare say if we had good spy glasses in those days and I were his age we would have been able to wave to each other across that divide.

Chalky Mount, where I come from, is a very little village on the north-east coast of this country, a place where the soil is not particularly good, where the wind is very high and very cool and where they were lots of poor people when I was growing up. My own father who was a tailor had bought some land and my mother was a laundry maid and a vendor and had inherited some land and I am always very grateful that she inherited a bit of land and that daddy was able to work hard and buy a piece of land quite early because we were spared some of the other hardships that we saw some of our colleagues, our friends, had to go through in those early days at the dawn of independence.

I am not going to dwell too much on the past - Senator Adams had begun to give us a lesson in that - other than to just remind people that in those days most of the primary school children, at least the ones that I knew, went to school barefooted. Most of them did not have substantial lunch when midday came. Running water was generally for most people at the stand pipe, all the time. Unemployment and sickness benefits were unknown. Madam President, people would leave home on mornings with their hoe, their fork and their basket and go to the plantation house and hope for a day's work. When the cane season was finished, those days of work became very few, so much so we used to call them the 'hard times,' because it was either one or two days' work per week. Electricity did not come to Chalky Mount not until the late 1960s. I think I remember doing my O' Levels in 1969 by lamplight. Telephones were not there, I think there might have been one or two phones in the area, one at the plantation house which would have been half-mile from the village and the other one at the police station which would have been 2½ miles from the village. Sewerage systems were unknown, there was very poor quality in housing. Madam President, I say that only to remind people, those of us of that age, that we have in

this day of celebration, first of all, be leading the thanksgiving to God for what He has brought us from and where He has brought us to at this stage. For those persons who were not at the age to know what it was like at the turn of Independence, for them to begin to have a little appreciation of what might have been if this country had not been blessed with bold leaders and a very entrepreneurial Government at every time.

Madam President, what we had back then, I believe most of all, was an attitude at that time, certainly in my district, that we could achieve, that we could do it. We have heard other debates going on about what we could not have done and about what we can do; about why we had to be afraid and why we did not have to be afraid. I know in my little district of Chalky Mount that we believed that we could do it. We had always had to live a life of relative independence. When you are only getting one or two days' work per week you had to be able to work your land, you had to be able to produce pottery to be able to make ends meet. Therefore we felt very clearly that we could make it through Independence and that we had to move from where we were because we were, as it were, spinning top in mud almost and therefore we all knew that we had to move on from that place, otherwise we would have stayed there for ever and ever. Madam President, it seemed to me as a young teenager then that what determined how we were to be treated and what you got was not how good you were but who you were and whose child were you. After Independence I think we began to move away from that position.

Madam President, I was not the first son of a working-class family to become the Head Boy of a major school in Barbados, I believe Major Sam Headley had done that back in the 1950s at the Lodge School. Maybe there were some others at Harrison College who had done it before my time but in 1971 when I became Head Boy at Harrison College that to me had said that we had moved away, if only a little bit, from the position where who you were had determined where you went, to one where what you were which determined your future and your position in life. That was important to me.

Madam President, when I think back to those days, there were some hard times, yes, but I remember as a youngster where my older brothers and their friends, my friends and some younger people, those who went to Harrison College, Combermere, Alleyne School, Federal High School, Modern High School, the Academy and so on, including those who did not go to those schools would all gather around what we would call 'on the block' nowadays. In Chalky Mount there were no 'blocks', you would lean up and rest your back against one of the hills, but what would we do at that time. We would talk to each other about the experiences we had at school and at work. Ma'am, those people who did not have the academic

training were very much part of that group as well, because they brought to us the experiences that they had on becoming tradesmen and skills artisans.

Madam President, it was a wonderful feeling where all of us could gather without consideration of class. Well, we were all of one class because in a small village like that everybody becomes family and therefore when seeking a spouse you tend to go away from that village. We did not have these pretensions about education where because you had gone to a high school that you were separate from the others, we all recognised that we were all from the same grouping and that our purpose of getting together was that we could share and help each other as we move forward. It was that attitude of independence, that attitude of I can do, that attitude of cooperation which I think helped us to begin to go forward as citizens of the newly independent Barbados.

Madam President, maybe we have to go back there a little bit as we go forward. In those days if anybody were to offer you money for any purpose other than for doing a good job you tended to get a little offended. Why were you offering me money for things that I had not done? Were you trying to make me change the principles under which I was brought up? Secondly, there was the view that we should learn to help ourselves. We should only go seek assistance when we had exhausted all other avenues of self-support. I hope we have not lost that attitude as we go forward, because the way going forward will be within a lot tougher world than the one we have just come through. At least initially we had some protections. Going forward we will not have those. Going forward is almost every man for himself, and it is only the case of might being right. Nobody bothers about small states any longer, except the small states when they make lots of noise in the various places, and there are often lots of promises but very little delivery on those promises. Madam President, I want us to celebrate this year, and it is those very things that I want us to re-embrace going forward, such as the independence of thought, the initiative that people were prepared to take to better themselves, dependence on oneself, the co-operation within communities, and the building of communities so that we can go forward together. Madam President, one of the things I want us also to celebrate is the risk-taking behaviour, the entrepreneurship of our Government over time. We have had a private sector all this while and that private sector has done its fair share, but the greatest risks have been taken in this country by our Governments. When our Governments built the Hilton, when our Governments established the School Meals scheme, when they established the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), when they did the Freehold Tenantry scheme and so on, when they did the Deep Water Harbour though that was a little before Independence, and when they expanded the airport, our Governments were taking risks that nobody else would take or could take in this country. We ought not to persuade

our Governments not to continue to take those risks. When they built the Community College, when they upgraded what was then called the comprehensive schools and made them equal to the old grammar schools, that was the behaviour by a Government that was taking risks and believed in its people, and believed that they had to make that investment to make this country succeed as an independent country. I hope that as we go forward, that remains there, because if we go forward Governments are going to have to continue to take those risks of re-equipping this whole society, both in terms of technology and the educational systems beyond, and in terms of the investments they make.

Where are those investments going to come from if we want a Barbados that we can look forward to being a better Barbados in 50 years' time? Those investments will come, for example, in making sure that our sewerage systems are upgraded and expanded and that they are maintained all the time. Those investments will come in making sure that our energy systems are problem-free, resilient and not dependent on importation. They will come in making sure, as Senator Adams says, that our technical and vocational education is on the same level as our academic education. They will come in making people understand that our neighbours are not only the Caribbean but the whole world. They will come in making sure that our water systems are resilient and efficient. They will come, Madam President, in making sure that we have school meals at the primary level and, God willing, at the secondary level, and that no child goes hungry. They will come in making sure that we capture all those young children who are liable to fall through the cracks, and that we capture them early by way of an education system that has got more psychologists and counselors in it to be able to work with those young children and their parents. They will come in helping our churches to set up systems to help our young parents, particular our young single parents, to be able to raise their children in the way that we would want to see them raised. Madam President, they will come in the investment in our Social Partnership.

It seems nowadays as if we wish to move away, some of us, from the consultative process that saved this process back in 1993. Anyone who seeks to do that, if they were to succeed, would have to tell God a great deal on the Day of Judgement. Madam President, Barbadians as a group have always liked to talk about things; talk and come to reasonable solutions. As a group, we have never been ones to fly off the handle and do things just like that. One of the things that Barbados has created is a Social Partnership; a mechanism by which labour, the private sector and Government can meet at the request of any party and talk about any and all issues. We must guard against any attempt by anyone in any position to threaten that mechanism of consultation. It got us through 1993, it is recognised worldwide as being a Barbadian institution, and

all of its principles are adopted in the International Labour Organisation. We must not let foolishness interfere with that mechanism, because if it interferes with that mechanism it is going to interfere with the viability and the future of this country. We must not let that happen.

Madam President, I cannot finish without saying that one of the things we must celebrate at this time is the boldness of the leadership that we have had in this country. By that, I refer to the political leadership, the business leadership, the leadership in the Public Service, and the leadership in the unions. They have all played an important role in helping us to achieve what it is that we have reached. We must ask all those parties to exhibit the same quality of leadership as we have had in the past as we go forward. We must not let ourselves become a nation of second-rate performance in any area, and so while we celebrate what these people have done we must send the message to our people now and those who would be leaders in the future of what we expect from them. Only the best will do for us.

Madam President, through these celebrations, let us always seek to maintain what I call “Barbadianess”. Barbadians are who we are. We will quarrel with one another but we will still live good with one another. We will argue about things but we will still bring rationality and judgement to bear on it.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senator has five more minutes.

Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Thank you very much, Madam President, that is lovely.

In celebrating that “Barbadianess” we must begin to chronicle the history of our various communities. We are not going to go through the next 50 years as well as we went through the past 50 years unless we begin to teach our people and remind our youngsters of where we came from. They must understand the history, not only what is set out in the history books but what the old people have got in their heads, what they can tell us about how communities developed and how relationships developed. If we do not understand the legends of our villages and if we do not understand the ethos of our various communities we are going to lose a great deal of the strength we have to help us to go forward.

Madam President, I want to encourage places like the National Cultural Foundation, the University of the West Indies and the Community Development Department people to get out to the rest of Barbados to help us find out who we are and who our families are because sometimes there are people who think that they are nobody and then suddenly they realise they are related to so and so, that so and so is their third cousin or fourth cousin and it lifts them

up and says to them, you know what I have it in me too to become somebody because look where my family is. That is why, Madam President, I am delighted when I go to a funeral on the odd occasion or when I am met in Bridgetown and somebody comes in and says to me: “Mr. Boyce, how are you” and I said: “I am well, how are you, but I do not know you” and they says to me: “You are the son of Edmund Boyce and Edmund Boyce was this relation to me by way of so and so and so and so and so”. They may be a seventh cousin but in the country whether you are first cousin, second cousin or twelfth cousin, you are still a cousin and that was the kind of bond with which we grew up in Chalky Mount.

I am delighted to find some of those young people. This week I was at the at the Energy Exhibition at Sherbourne and there was a very decent young man who asked a good question of me on the ministerial panel on the green energy business and then the next day when I saw him he began to tell me who he was and low and below I had to tell him but I think your father and my mother were related. It is these little stories that help the youngsters to recognise that they too come from a goodly heritage. We all have to encourage our youngsters to understand that they have it in them. They come from goodly heritage and who knows. I did not know who Dean Harold was until about 10 years ago. I remember there was a lady who always used to pass down Chalky Mount and when she got to our house she will shout out ‘cous’ and my father would always answer. Now, he knows the connection between him and that lady but I am not going to tell you how, but it is so important for us to find these ways to encourage our youngsters, to let them understand their worth, their value and their potential because they are waiting on us for that leg up, that sense of community, that sense of belonging and that sense of being Barbadian.

Madam President, as we go into the 51st year I am looking forward to a little change in the procedures in this Honourable Senate. I feel that as we go into the 51st year that we should start all of our sessions by reciting the National Pledge. Maybe if we recite it, it may help us to get rid of some of the rancour that sometimes invades these places. Seriously, Madam President, it may help us to understand where our loyalties must always lie not only in this place but in every place in this land. Madam President, I do not know whether the Rules would allow it or if you will have to change the Rules, but if we have to change the Rules then I think we should change them so that we can pledge allegiance to this country. I for one pledge allegiance always to Barbados and to its flag, to uphold and defend their honour and by my living to do credit to my nation.

Madam President, I am much obliged and I really do support this Resolution at this time to congratulate

Barbados for a fine achievement and look forward to celebrating, not the next 50th, but some more anniversaries.

Madam President, I am obliged to you. I thank you.

SUSPENSION

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

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MADAM PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

ORDER No. 2 (RESUMED)

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

Senator W. A. ABRAHAMS: Madam President, I rise happily to lend my voice to the debate on the Resolution to congratulate Barbados on the attainment of 50 years of Independence. Madam President, there is perhaps nobody more Barbadian and more nationally proud than I am. I have loved Barbados from the time I was able to appreciate what true love is. There is a calypso that says it is a paradise this country that we are live in. One day we Bajans would wake up and see that we live in the best country.

I can say without hesitation, Madam President, that had I actually not been a Barbadian Senator Boyce would have in his capacity in charge of immigration to find me and deport me because I would come here and never leave. I believe that we have a lot to be proud of. I listened to Senator Adams and I was talking to Senator Husbands in the anteroom prior to speaking and it is interesting the different perspectives that we all have on the same country. It is interesting the different experiences that we have depending on whether you are in the 18-30, the 30-50 or 50-plus age category. I think universally what all of us feel here is a love for our country and that is why we do what it is we do. At the heart of it every politician or every person who tries to represent people in Barbados should have at their core a deep and abiding love for Barbados and a desire to do what is in its best interest. I can only guess at how people felt on November 30, 1966 when the union Jack came down and the Broken Trident went up. I can only guess at the feeling there. I have heard about it, I wish I was there to see it and I wish I was there to see Sir Garfield Sobers being knighted but that is for those who were there. They felt that pride of having been there at the

beginning but this has not diminished the pride I have felt for the last 44 years coming up in Barbados.

My family came from Bank Hall. I will say Peterkin but people who live up there would say "Perterkin". If you go up, "Perterkin" Road onto the main road and drive straight across and crash into a house, that is the house in which my father was born. I went to St. Giles Boys School before it became St. Giles Primary. I went there when it was still all boys and I went to Harrison College. I thoroughly as a young man enjoyed growing up in Barbados. They say it takes a village to raise a child. Things have changed but I remember back when I was growing up that if I did something wrong anybody in that gap could beat me, and if you got licks in one house you dare not go home and tell your mother that you got licks by Aunt Pat -- sorry to call your name Aunt Pat, I hope you are listening - because you would then get it again because if Aunt Pat beat you she beat you for a reason. We had that culture of looking out for each other. Your neighbour's child was not the person next door, that was effectively your child. You ate in whatever house you happened to be in when food was serving. When licks were sharing everybody got some and when chocolates or sweeties were being given out everybody got some such that the people I grew up with I also share a pride in their accomplishments. I share a sense of pride when they do something I have not done. I share a sense of pride in feeling that my neighbours Peter, Richard, Nicholas and Grahm and my cousin Ralph... They were not extended people, they were my brothers. This is what it meant for me to be a Barbadian. Equally at school, I have never lost a friend. The friends I had at Primary school are the friends I still have now. The friends I went to Harrison College with are the friends I still have now. I have 26 godchildren. I am close to all of the people because that is what Barbados was that. Madam President, you may not know but I met Senator De Peiza almost 35 years ago. I know she looks like 21 but we have been friends for years.

The point, Madam President, is that Barbados has always been an interesting society. We have shared a similar value set that that was instilled in us by our grandparents and then our parents and by teachers who actually cared about us. We shared a value set that treasured what we received and the benefits we gained and we shared a value set that wanted Barbados to do well, that wanted Barbados to succeed and to see Barbadians doing well. Until recently, Madam President, we could say that was the value set of almost all Barbadians but if we are honest with ourselves a lot of young people now do not feel the same sense of pride that we do, and I believe that we need as a country to apply the brakes and see what is going wrong and see what it is that we need to do to put us back on the keel where we had a common set of values because the values of the majority generally tend to be the right values.

Madam President, I know I should not call name but I am going to give you an example that happened today. Today when I pulled in to park my car by the old Supreme Court I got out and there was a rat in the spot next to me in the car park that the next person coming in probably would have driven over so I asked the security guard there, a Mr. Ian Gooding, if he has a plastic bag and he said for what and I said for me to pick that up and he said no Mr. Abrahams I will do that. I said: "I will never ask you to do that, and he said: "but you do not have to ask me to do that, I will do it, my job is not just to be a guard, my job is to make sure that everything is right and it will be my pleasure to move that." Senator De Peiza knows the man I am talking about. I said to him: "Mr. Gooding I want to call your name today in the Senate and, he asked why and said I did not do anything special, and I said no, what you do not understand is many people now would say that is not my job and I am not touching it so the fact that you are doing something to make life better for other people or doing something that is not your job because it is something that needs to be done, I believe that I should mention you, you may not want it, you may not look for the accolade but it is important that other people look and realise what it is to be a Bajan." Madam President, a true-true Bajan does not drive in a car and throw a Chefette box out the window; a true-true Bajan does not hit somebody else's car in a car park and drives along without telling that person that did it; a true-true Bajan does not let their house lot that they do not live on becomes overgrown and becomes a nuisance to somebody else. When we start to drift into the realm of "it is somebody else's problem, it is not my problem", then we start to lose it as a country and as a community. We need to get back to community living, too many people in Barbados now do not know who their neighbours are. You do not know the person who lives two houses up from you. If you are in trouble and you scream out, chances are that they are not even coming to look. Once upon a time we used to call it maliciousness but do you know what, maliciousness has saved many a life. We have once again to become our brother's keeper.

Madam President, I believe there are certain things that have made Barbados, for example, free education. The Government took whatever position it had to take on that issue because of the financial difficulties in which it found itself but at some point in time, and sooner rather than later, we need to revisit that because I have benefited from free education. I might not be a lawyer if that was not available to me. A lot of us might not be where we are if we did not climb up that ladder. It is our duty to try to put that ladder back for the next generation. If we have intelligent men and women who have no avenue to pursue their intelligence, then we are going to end up with a set of intelligent criminals and then we are sunk.

Madam President, I want to feel the pride in my country that I once did but it is difficult. It is difficult to

feel that pride when I move around Barbados and Barbados is as overgrown as it ever was. Madam President, it is out of control at the moment. There are areas in Gibbons and in Wilcox where the bush is so thick that it looks like a rain forest. It is not even bush anymore but a forest. We constantly hear people saying that they are harbouring vectors or causing mosquitoes and that they are harbouring criminals. Madam President, we are getting increased criminality because of the state of our country, so that cleaning up Barbados and debushing is not just aesthetically pleasing, it also makes Barbados safe and we have to make Barbados safe once again for the people who live in Barbados.

Madam President, I would love to be proud of Barbados but I cannot be proud when there is garbage piling up everywhere. We have to bring Barbados back to where it was and take the necessary steps to do the things that need to be done to get it done. Madam President, we are spending a lot of money on the Independence Day Celebrations and the Year of Independence Celebrations. I am not going to weigh in on that, I want simply to point out that there are other areas that need urgent spend of money. Had we, over the course of this year, bought five garbage trucks at \$250 000 each, the Sanitation Service Authority would not be in the mess in which it is presently, Barbados may have been cleaner. We are behind the ball and we are not going to catch up before Independence. There is no way that this country can be debushed and be made pretty before Independence. These are the things that used to make me feel proud and these are the things that are stopping me from feeling 100 per cent proud.

Madam President, I would like to be proud but I cannot be proud when there is raw sewerage running in the streets on the south coast and the Minister of Health's response today is that we may open the sluice gate. Ma'am, the last time the sluice gate opened when there were issues at Graeme Hall sewerage went down the coast. We have problems that need fixing, I am not saying that the problem of the sewerage lies at the foot or that it is the responsibility of any particular persons, I do not know, I do not know exactly what has caused it. Ma'am, things happen but it is how we deal with them.

Madam President, I would feel proud if every possible resource of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage, the Ministry with responsibility for Water Resources was deployed now to deal and to clean up that sewerage mess that it does not happen again. It is dangerous, it is not just unsightly, and it is not just smelly, it is not just inconvenient, but we are going through a situation where we have water issues in Barbados. Madam President, if we have water issues in our country and we have a situation where sewerage is running free in the streets, that is a recipe for disaster. I appreciate the fact that Minister Boyce has finally came out and said

something but there are some things from which we cannot hide. Ma'am, they say that silence is golden but sometimes silence is dangerous, there are things from which we cannot hide. If sewerage is running raw in the streets, we cannot hide from it, it is going to make the paper, it is going to be a topic, and it is going to be the principal topic of discussion. This is where a caring Government comes out and addresses it.

Madam President, everybody has their own way of dealing with things but there are certain fundamentals that we have to hold to, our citizens in Barbados need to be respected. If something has gone wrong, then confront it, own up to it, fix it. You get more props from fixing the problem than from hiding from it. Madam President, I started by saying that I am proud to be a Barbadian. Ma'am, things are hard right now, things are difficult but we Barbadians are a resilient people. We are a people who bounce back from everything and keep coming better and better, stronger and stronger. Adversity knocking us down does not keep us down, instead it gives us the platform to show how strong we are and how far and how high we can rebound from a defeat.

Madam President, one of the things that have me upset about the whole Year of Celebrations was the fact of the little-to-no consultation with the Opposition in respect of the celebrations. We have been Independent for 50 years, 26 of which the Democratic Labour Party was at the helm of Government and 24 of which the Barbados Labour Party was in Government, it is almost 50-50. Ma'am, half of the pride and the development of Barbados is at the foot of the Barbados Labour Party and half is at the foot of the Democratic Labour Party. Madam President, a lot of people feel or believe that the celebrations are political, that they are being used to bolster the image of the Government. Ma'am, that could have been avoided and may still be avoided through a consultative process where everybody was brought in.

Senator the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: I rise on a point of order. I believe that by suggesting that there could have been a consultative process, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable Chamber. I did not plan to do so but I have to because I cannot let it go as that. Madam President, the process has been consultative, it is not a political process, it is a process in which two Members of Cabinet have been invited to serve on a very wide-ranging Committee. There is no Member sitting there representing the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party. There are persons there who have brought on to represent a cross-section of interests. Ma'am, political parties have not been included, it is an event organised by the Government of Barbados and we have a wide-ranging Committee.

I will supply to this Honourable Chamber a list of the membership which includes persons representing religion, business, youth, civil society of various types, the University of the West Indies, the Barbados Association of Retired Persons (BARP), and so on, but there are no political parties represented in the position of political parties, including the party that constitutes the sitting Government. The Democratic Labour Party has organised its own events as a political institution, and to say that it is intended to be partisan and so on is misleading to the Chamber, but I will speak to that in fulsome measure when I wrap up, Madam President.

Senator W.A. ABRAHAMS: Madam President, I would like for us before the year is out to do something that has an enduring effect, something that 50 years on somebody can point to and say, "This was done for me on the 50th anniversary," or "I am here because of this that was done on the 50th anniversary." I do not know what resources Government still has at its disposal within the budget for these celebrations. Madam President, for example, I would say give 50 scholarships to the University of the West Indies (UWI) this year, reward somebody. Give 50 scholarships, pay the full tuition fees of 50 people. Let them say years from now, "I got this on the 50th Anniversary of Independence." Madam President, plant 50 mahogany trees. Let my children say, "This tree was planted for the 50th anniversary of Barbados' Independence." Encourage 50 entrepreneurs or encourage entrepreneurs to come up with a suggestion, a plan or some strategy to develop or enhance Barbados in areas where it needs developing and enhancing, and reward 50 of them.

Aside.

Senator W.A. ABRAHAMS: I am glad then, Madam President. Sorry, I am not hearing that Aside. Madam President, it is not exhaustive. The parade is going to come and go, the fireworks will come and go, but let us truly do something or some things in our 50th Year of Independence that will endure forever, that leave a lasting impression, that people can say, "This was done" or "I saw that being done." Madam President, with the best will in the world you will have a concert and it might be the best concert, but next year I will not be able to tell you what the singer sang or who performed. Let us do things that mean something. Let us purchase some garbage trucks, and say this is the 50th anniversary gift to Barbados. Abrahams asked for these trucks and Barbados was clean once again. Let us do something like that.

Madam President, I simply threw out some things but I would like to end as I started and tell you that, until I discovered that my blood was red, I thought my blood was blue, yellow and black. Madam President, I eat and breathe Barbados, I believe in Barbados, I have represented Barbados in different sports, I follow and contribute to

things that are Barbadian, I like to play my part in providing legal aid, working in charities, anything to help uplift Barbadians who are not as fortunate as I am, and I do not think it is only me. I believe that is the Barbadian way. That is the way I came up. I came up to be proud of my country, I came up with a strong feeling of Barbadian nationality. When Senator DePeiza and I were on campus....

Aside.

Senator W.A. ABRAHAMS: Sorry, Madam President. When I was on campus and she was at campus somewhere else, Barbados was perceived a certain way in the Caribbean. Other students were jealous of us. They did not like us because of what we had, because of how Barbados was perceived, but it made us proud to talk about our country, it made us proud to have one of the strongest economies, it made us proud to have free education, it made us proud just to be Bajan and all the things which that stood for. A lot of people do not even realise our area code, 246, spells Bim, B.I.M. You can look at it on the dial pad on the phone. The nationals, the strong, diehard Bajans know that. Madam President, I am one. I actually firmly believe that every Senator seated around this table is also one. We all have our different political ideologies and we all have the different places we come from. We may all have different approaches to different issues but I believe, at heart, all of us around this table are here because we care about Barbados and we are willing to do what needs to be done to keep the Barbados that we knew, that we love, that we treasure, alive for others to come. We are not doing this for us, Ma'am. We are doing this for the future. I am proud of Barbados. I am proud to celebrate with Barbados this year. I want to be proud of Barbados in the future, and I will do everything within my power to make sure that my children and my children's children can feel the same pride that I feel in celebrating our 50th Anniversary of Independence.

Ma'am, to all who have come before and who have made Barbados the great country it is, to the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, the Right Excellent Grantley Adams, all of our previous leaders, the different Governments that have shepherded and stewarded Barbados to where we are today, there is good and there is bad, but on the whole if we look at it in its totality, I think we can all say that we have done well and we are proud to be Bajan. Madam President, I am obliged.

Madam PRESIDENT: Senator Ince, you have the Floor.

Senator J. INCE: Madam President, I rise to support the Resolution that is before this Honourable Chamber, a Resolution that seeks to congratulate Barbados on the attainment of this significant milestone, and hail the efforts

of all Barbadians in making this accomplishment possible. Madam President, as we approach our 50th anniversary, I stand in this Senate a proud Barbadian to speak to the people of Barbados as the son of a labourer, as the son of a maid, as the son of a man who worked in the quarry in The Mount, St. George. My father was Leon Fitzherbert Atwell, a gem of a man; a man whom I admired greatly, a man who contributed to the building of the Deep Water Harbour, from whose sweat and labour stones were removed from that quarry and taken at the back of a truck to build the Harbour. Madam President, for his hard work I did not see the economic results. Madam President, once the quarry closed, my father also ran his barber shop on weekends to maintain his family. Once the quarry closed he then moved to Chapel Quarry, I do not know if he was a quarry specialist, cutting what we call now those coral stones, those soft stones, with a machine. At that time he used a machine that had a vertical blade and a horizontal blade. Madam President, for those years that my father would have worked hard I did not see the economic results of his labour. He then moved to Carrington Factory and again through blood, sweat and tears in a hot factory in a sugar industry and despite the prices that were paid for sugar and for rum and molasses I did not see the economic gains for the labour of my father and many more who toiled with him.

Madam President, as a result of what we call an independence and as a result of what the voice of labour who would have represented many like my father and my mother, since 1966 we have seen an improvement in the lives of those persons who were underprivileged, the forgotten heroes of Barbados, the women who worked in the field with no sanitary conditions, the men who toiled, the fishermen and the word sweepers as we approach this 50th Anniversary. As a result of the efforts of those who would have fought the colonial masters and as a result of the voices of the trade unions in this country we are able to see a Barbados as it is today where our social infrastructure has improved.

Madam President, when the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow spoke of friends of all and satellites of none, it was not just for what we call the bigger countries. What the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow meant at the time is that he embraced every individual. What he was saying is that a man should not be judged based on the colour of his skin or the family class that he or she came from. Madam President, that is what the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow meant. He did not just mean the United States of America and the United Kingdom, he meant that he was going to change the social conditions of our people, friends of all satellites of none, that is what it is, that he was going to manage and overlook a country, that is what a satellite is, that he was going to be vigilant in the day-to-day lives of Barbadians and that he was not going to see a white or a black, Indian or a Jew, that he was

going to see Barbados as one country for the benefit of all and he embraced this country as a nation and as a country.

Madam President, where do we go from here, that is the question? How do we see ourselves in another 50 years from now? We built this country on hard work, labour, honesty and debt. We paid our debt. We borrowed to build the harbour, the Queen Elizabeth and the Hilton Hotel and we borrowed for our road infrastructure. It bothers me, Madam President, that in those days where we had academics, but those academics were not as numerous as we have them today, that you are going to hear that we are putting our children in debt but our forefathers borrowed and repaid our debt so that we could have an improved society. Our forefathers made sure that despite the social and economic challenges that on this day they were preparing for a future, they were not preparing for a now.

The late Sir Grantley Adams and the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, Sir Frank Walcott and all of those who went before us would have prepared that pathway and that is why within the National Anthem we speak to these fields and hills. We sing the Lord has been the people's guide but without the vision and the foresight of our forefathers and the unsung heroes, let us ponder on what Barbados would be like today. We can stand here and say proudly that we are Barbadians because of what went before us, but what is going to come after us. We now have the responsibility to prepare and shape what is going to come after us because we are living the results of what went before us, and what went before us was the hard work, a vision and a platform for Barbados.

On the 30th of November, we must ask ourselves the question what are we going to put before us that those who are coming after us can say this is what we are able to enjoy because of what was done. Madam President, had it not been for the sacrifices at all levels in Barbados we would not be able to sing proudly the words of the National Anthem, which speaks to in plenty and in time of need when this fair land was young.

Like a child we started out at one year, and Madam President, we battled. There were times when we would have fallen but because of God's help we were able to get back up and go again. Madam President, as a result of being able to get up and go again and as a result of good leaders both within the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party we are able to say a pride that makes no wanton boast. We are able to say that because of the stewardship of the political parties in Barbados, where the transition of power and the transition of the administration of the country election after election was done smoothly without death or violence and as a result of that we were able to go to the chorus of the Anthem and say we loyal sons and daughters all do hereby make it known. It is because of those people who we have

entrusted with the reins of the administration of the country both economically, socially and financially that we can say we are loyal sons and daughters of Barbados.

Madam President, we have a lot to rejoice about. We have a lot to thank God for during this independence celebrations. We had many other challenges to overcome. There is no perfect country, no perfect person, no perfect political party or no perfect Prime Minister but as a group of people within a country with the reservoir of talent and with the abundance of skills and the knowledge base that we have in Barbados because of an educational system we can stand on November 30 and say this is our independence, this is our country.

Madam President, look at our path to success in housing and look at our path to success with our water resources. We listen to criticisms but have we ever taken time to remove the political blindfold and look at the management of the water resources of this country and examine where we are as far as our housing stock is concerned or look at our health systems.

Madam President, Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow Sir Grantley Adams, Sir Frank Walcott and many of those whom we speak about daily would have taken on the mantle of a Moses. Madam President, I have said it before and I will say it again, it took 48 hours to get the children of Israel out of Egypt and it took 49 years to get the behaviour of Egypt out of the children of Israel. For those persons who are grounded in theology, it took 48 hours through the Balfour Treaty to get the children of Israel out of Egypt and it took 49 years - go back to the history - to take the behaviour of Egypt out of the children of Israel.

I am saying to you, Madam President, that the road Errol Barrow took at the time was like a Moses leading the children of Israel out of Egypt. We were confined to the colonial masters, we were confined to the thinking of the colonial masters, and fed daily with the breast milk of the colonial masters, that is what it is, and Errol Barrow took on the mantle, so it was not going to be easy to change the mind-set from a colonial mind-set to an independent mind-set, and that is why at 50 years we still have a lot of work to do because we were born in a mind-set of colonialism so as a result of the efforts of every Prime Minister in Barbados we now have to remodel or rebrand our mind-set which is not going to happen overnight and that is why I ask the question: Where do we as a people want to go from here?

Madam President, I look forward to a Caribbean Community where we can see ourselves as one common market not only in theory but in practice. We are but one body within the Caribbean region. We share a common market, common ideas and similar foods but different

cooking habits, but the food is the same and the end result is the same. If you like the best cou-cou, you have to find it in Barbados, there is no guessing about that. If you want to find the best jerk pork and curry goat with white rice and red beans, you have to find it in Jamaica or in a Jamaican home in Barbados. If you want the best of what we call a 'hot pot', you have to find it in Trinidad and Tobago. If you want the best 'oil down' or what we call stew food, you have to go to Grenada or to St. Lucia. Madam President, these are the common things that bind us, this is the reality. Therefore, when I listen to individuals saying that there is nothing to celebrate, when the son of a labourer could stand in the Senate on November 16th and speak to the people of Barbados, then I have something to celebrate about. Ma'am, years ago this could not have happened to the son of a labourer and the son of a maid. Where? In which Senate? Ma'am, we have a lot to celebrate.

Madam President, when we look at our education system and listen to the challenges that many of us would have gone through, for example, walking to school; when we speak about school meals against a background that a child who is hungry cannot learn. Ma'am, when you are hungry sometimes you see all kinds of colours, blue, yellow and all types of things, including dark colours. Therefore, tell me how could a child go to school from 9 o'clock, only drink some water at 12 o'clock, go back to class smiling and is expected to learn?

Madam President, the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow and many of his Cabinet colleagues identified school meals as a critical service. Madam President, as a result of that school meals many parents who work in the cane fields, many parents who work in what is called the cottage industries, many parents who work in the public service, many parents who could not afford to prepare a morning lunch all knew that when their children went to school that they had a meal and that even when that child returned home in the evening after school, no matter how small that meal was, those parents knew that their children had lunch. Ma'am, that generated a conduit to education success in Barbados.

Madam President, when we hear that there is nothing to celebrate, or that we cannot celebrate because of, Ma'am, my mind reflected to Jeremiah 13:23. It says: "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots?" Madam President, I am not surprised when I hear the Opposition saying that they cannot celebrate the Independence celebrations, that is why I used that Scripture verse because from 1966 they have criticised every social service that was important to this country and we can list them. They criticised Independence, they criticised school meals, when we went to the International Monetary Fund they criticised that too, yet they were they first Administration to take us to the International Monetary Fund. When we built the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre

they criticised that too, so that I am not surprised, it is a history of behaviour, that is why as a result of the history of behaviour, I am not worried when I hear the Opposition saying that there is nothing to celebrate because as I said, Jeremiah 23:13 says it all for me.

Madam President, I am saying to the people of Barbados, let us celebrate, let us be proud of Barbados as a nation. Were there times when we could have done things better? Yes. Were there times when we should have discussed things a little more? Yes. Madam President, I am saying on the 30th November, let us lift our eyes unto the hills, let us remember Galatians Chapter 6:9, let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not give up. Madam President, with those words, I am obliged to you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Carol Lady Haynes, you have the Floor.

SENATOR CAROL Lady HAYNES: Madam President, what a very difficult act to follow, Senator Ince? That was excellent and I love your religious exhortations. Madam President, I started in a very emotional place as I listen to the Leader of the Senate speak about Hartley Dottin who raised the Flag at our Independence here. I remember as a school girl in Jamaica being there when the Flag was raised for Independence and it was highly emotional then and is still now. Madam President, I feel doubly blessed to have been there in Jamaica to celebrate Independence and to be here in Barbados to celebrate 50 Years of Independence. I have particular joy as I have always considered myself to be a child of the Caribbean and forgive me, Madam President, if I say that I do think I am privileged and honoured to be able to call two countries in the Caribbean my home.

Madam President, I am going to present this afternoon from a slightly different perspective and I will speak from the perspective of the young student who came here to work on a new Queen Elizabeth Hospital in 1968, a mere two years after Independence. I therefore feel compelled in the beginning and close to the beginning for Barbados' Independence not just to congratulate them but to say thank you to Barbados for all that it has been to me and to the people of Barbados.

Madam President, I married a Barbadian and by virtue of that I became involved very early in my marriage as part of a support team for a highly controversial politician. In those days I enjoyed most of all the opportunities of house-to-house canvassing, being able to go right across St. Michael South Central to canvass extensively and to feel really part of the lives and homes of so many of those whom we canvassed and of the people, the team of which I canvassed. Madam President, I have treasured to this day the many friendships I made then as

we canvassed together through good days and not so good days and from that long ago I have celebrated the ability of Barbadians to support so strongly their candidates from opposing sides but at the end of the day, to come together and to work together for the country we all know and love so dearly.

Madam President, I hope you would forgive me if I celebrate some of my teachers when I came here, because as I said, I came as a young student. Many of those teachers have gone to the Great Beyond but I remember the renowned pediatricians Sir Bertie Graham and Sir Frank Ramsey, Doctor Harold Forde, Mr. Cyril Nelson, Dr. Joel Hall, Sir Arnott Cato, the late Dr. Rothwell, the late Sir Jack Leacock, Mr. Frank Hoad who is still with us, Dr., Sir Errol Walrond, the late Dr. Oscar Jordan and, no, Madam President, I am not going to omit to mention the late Sir Richard Haynes. I also remember the nursing sisters from whom I learnt so much, in particular Mrs. Alwyn Clarke, Mrs. Katherine Bradshaw and Mrs. Leila Sealy, to name just a few. My class was in the second group of medical students to come to Barbados, but the first group to come here for a year, and it was certainly one of my life's best decisions.

I want to thank Sir Trevor Carmichael for, from a conversation he had earlier in this year, allowing me at that point to reflect on the changes in medicine over these 50 years. In 1968 the infant mortality rate, which is the number of infants who died before the age of one per 1 000 live births, was 45.4. In 2010 that rate was down to 13.68. That is where we have managed to reach in Barbados. I also of course celebrate the immense changes and improvements in technology at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), with its access now to virtually every specialty; in ophthalmology, interventional cardiology, interventional radiology, open-heart surgery, kidney transplants, dialysis which in those days was only peritoneal dialysis but is now routinely hemodialysis, and the list of developments is a long one. I can remember the days when tuberculosis was treated as a disease which caused you to isolate the patients in a ward by themselves, and it was not integrated into medical care. I remember the days when HIV patients were treated in a silo and not as part of the chronic disease grouping which it now is; when in fact there was a need for a home for people living with HIV, away from families who were unable to care for them. Now our HIV community is absorbed into our community, which is a great attainment.

An important part of the changing face of medicine has been the growth in support of the QEH, which began years ago, way back then, with the very important League of Friends of the QEH started by the late Mrs. Hyacinth Cummins 50 years ago. This in fact continues to provide comfort, support and companionship for the patients. Over the past 20 years several service clubs and a few high-

ranked individuals have contributed to various areas of the QEH, examples of which are the complete refurbishment of Ward C7 and C8 and the Paediatric Department by the Rotary Club West, the Lions' Eye Care Centre, the painting of a mural in the paediatric oncology area and Ward C8 by the Optimists Club of Bridgetown, and the painting of murals in the heavily trafficked areas of the hospital by community groups. With the increasing publicity of the plight of patients in the hospital and the alarming shortage of goods and supplies we have serviced, more and more in past years the QEH has seen a burgeoning of what can best be described as public-private partnerships. Most recently the Williams Trust committed to the refurbishing of Ward C9, Broadway Barbados Trust has committed itself to the reopening of the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) earlier this year and is now working with the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department, and is in fact providing stocks and supplies in parts so that people can purchase them for use in the A&E and Medical ICU. What that does is it allows the ordinary person in Barbados who does not have \$5 000, \$10 000 or even \$25 000 to contribute; you can contribute \$200 and get one of those parts and know that you are making a difference in terms of supporting the QEH. I go through all this to say that this is very different to Independence when there was one wonderful support group, but now more and more we are having public-private partnerships and having corporate and high-worth individuals understanding that this is part of their responsibility.

In 2015 the Minister of Health described the Ministry of Health as transitioning from the main route of a healthcare provider to that of a regulator of health services. He explained the Ministry's assignment as being the provision of healthcare services through partnership arrangements with private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including long-term geriatric care, substance dependency treatment, diabetic specialist care and cardiac rehabilitative care. Our population demographics have shifted significantly over the past 50 years, with a ratio of dependence -- those under age 16 added to those over age 65 -- to the working age population now being approximately one to three. One-third of our total population are, in fact, dependents. This therefore means that nursing homes now will become increasingly important catering to the elderly, and there has in fact been a proliferation of those over the past 20 years. Right here in this House, we have previously and over the past year debated on a Motion looking at regulating the actual operations of these daycare centres and homes more closely, because it is important that the people who work in these homes understand not just nursing care but the emotional issues and the challenges of people who are not only ill but sometimes, and more often these days, have mental issues as well, particularly with Alzheimer's, of which we seem to be seeing more and more.

I choose today not to remark on the challenges, because with development will always come challenges. In the same way that we have dealt with improvements over many years, we will deal with the challenges of today, but today we are about congratulating Barbados and I am just going to continue to reflect on some of the changes as I have seen them over these many years. I remember taking my three young sons to train as young swimmers with the Alpha Swim Club under the late Dr. Norris Procope, proudly representing the country and training with the Barbadian team in whatever small swimming pool could be found. There was the Convent swimming pool, the Marine swimming pool, the swimming pool at Long Beach Hotel, and all of those were probably a quarter of the size of the Olympic pools that they would have been competing in when they swam internationally. Today, due to the vision of Mr. Maurice Foster and the hard work of a number of people, our young swimmers have been able to train in an Olympic-size swimming pool, and I look forward to the day when one of our swimmers will follow the lead of Leah Martindale, and not just swim in a final at the Olympics but in fact medal there. Those are the changes over 50 years; from the small swimming pool to Olympic-size swimming pools and strong, well-trained coaches and children training. I proudly watched the talents of our young athletes, our netballers, volleyball players and cricketers, and revelled in the successes of the Cave Hill sports team where 50 years ago there was just a very new, fledgling campus not yet even at the Cave Hill site. I have watched the cultural journey of many of our artistes - yes, of course Rihanna -- but a long list of gifted artistes in both the visual and performing arts who are making their names and that of Barbados as they share their outstanding talents with the world. I was reminded recently of the most important place in the cultural landscape of the Landship. Today, as we reach our 50th Anniversary I was very proud a few days ago to go to a performance put on by a dancer/choreographer from the Barbados Dance Theatre Company, Gene Carson, who in working on his Doctorate, has studied the Landship. In the same way and inspired by Rex Nettleford who studied Kumina in Jamaica and translated that into a dance movement, right here in Barbados Gene Carson is looking at the Landship and translating it into a whole vocabulary for dancers to use. It will be used as a teaching tool. That night there were dancers from many of the schools across Barbados. This will go a long way to perpetuate the original form of our Afro/Caribbean heritage in dance. Gene Carson is an artist of whom I am very proud.

Looking back also, I remember that when my children were very young there was no Crop Over. When I tell people this they say what, but there was no Crop Over. They had a few fairs that I would take my two children to. Today, we have a huge Crop Over festival. It is a huge income-generating festival. I am reading that we are now looking at exporting Crop Over. Similarly, there was no

NIFCA in those days and now NIFCA is a wonderful incubator for the marvellous talent in our young people and our artistic population in Barbados. I read too that NIFCA may very well be exported. These are huge steps forward from 50 years ago where these festivals did not actually exist.

I also learned that next year Barbados will be hosting CARIFESTA, and that again is a major achievement. Again, we tend to take these things for granted but the last CARIFESTA we hosted here was in the early 80s, so that there are a number of young people who have absolutely no idea what CARIFESTA is. That we can bring CARIFESTA to Barbados and allow Barbadians over a period of a week or 10 days to be exposed to this rich cultural heritage that we have in the Caribbean, I think, is something that is absolutely a wonderful achievement for Barbados because I can remember that in the last CARIFESTA we had the Bush Negroes from Suriname, the Cuban Dance Troupe and dancers and artists from Jamaica and the entire Caribbean. It was an unbelievable experience and I think that as we mature this one will be even more rewarding for all of us.

Madam President, I cannot stop without looking back at the incredible achievements over the past 50 years of our women. I would want to particularly recognise our Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Professor Violet Eudine Barriteau who is the first female head of the Cave Hill Campus, and that is just an extraordinary fact for me that we have produced that in these 50 years.

Women in politics: There is the active engagement of so many women in politics, women in Government, in law, in sports, in medicine and in culture. This year we have a young female, Aziza, as our calypso queen and the list goes on and on. We have truly achieved as loyal sons and daughters all.

Madam President, before closing I do want to remember the unsung heroes in my life who I have had the joy of coming in contact with in every walk of their varied lives and mine, and I am grateful to each and every one of them, who I am not going to name today.

Yes, the Lord has been the people's guide for the past 300 years and we are I think aware as we stand here that we write our name on history's page with expectations great, each and every Barbadian, and so I am grateful to be able to see and celebrate so much of this and to join my colleagues in this Honourable Senate in congratulating Barbados on the attainment of its 50th Anniversary of Independence and to hail the efforts of all Barbadians in making this accomplishment possible.

I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Hunte, you have the Floor.

Senator R. A. HUNTE: Thank you very much, Madam President. I wish once again to read the Resolution, for which I have gotten up to support. It reads:

“WHEREAS on the 30th November, 2016 Barbados celebrates its 50th Anniversary of Independence;

AND WHEREAS over the last 50 years Barbados has made significant strides in its economic, social and political development;

AND WHEREAS over this period Barbados has emerged as a highly respected Small Island Developing State whose voice resonates in the Regional and International corridors;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Parliament congratulates Barbados on the attainment of this significant milestone and hails the efforts of all Barbadians in making this accomplishment possible.”

Madam President, I wish to express my total support for the Resolution that is before this Chamber. Madam President, recently there were a number of lectures on the BBC called the Reith Lectures. I listen to them, I could not hear all of them but I listen in part. This came about and named after Sir John Reith, the BBC first Director-General. From 1948 to present, they have been having these lectures. The last one was given by Professor Kwame Appiah, who is the son of an English mother and a Ghanaian father. He is now a resident and citizen of the United States of America. Professor Kwame Appiah said some very interesting things in those lectures. You have to get up very early, about 3 or 4 o'clock, in the morning, of course it would be 7 or 8 o'clock in England, to hear these very historical and interesting lectures that were done over the last 68 or so years. Part of what he said is exactly how we can lay it at the feet of the introduction of our independence. He said among other things that to have an attitude about something, you have to know the concept of it. I am convinced that a lot people's attitude to independence today is still the same as it was 50 years ago because they certainly do not understand the concept of independence, and that is why we are getting the kind of yes, no, praise, and criticism, because it is the same as it was 50 years ago. I lived through it and therefore I know. I was very privileged, Madam President, to follow the very first debate when the White Paper on Independence was introduced which started in January of 1966 when the discussions took place in London and of course the series of meetings across Barbados. I was only 17 years old at the time and I listened to those independence debates in the yard down there. They had two large speakers outside for

the public because it was a very important step which Barbados was taking.

Madam President, I feel honoured today almost 50 years later to be able to speak in this august Chamber on a Resolution such as this congratulating ourselves for what this country had been able to achieve. There was a lot that we were able to achieve in this country which far outweighed the shortcomings so much so that you heard it repeated over and over elsewhere even in this Chamber today.

During the Appropriation's Bill I spend my full hour spelling out the achievements of Barbados under the Democratic Labour Party, so I am not going to do that again today because the record is there and I think people clearly understand and do have knowledge of what this country without any natural resources and never being a grant-aided territory was able to achieve in the last 50 years or more particularly from 1971 to today, from education to manufacturing. All of this development took place in this little Barbados without any natural resources.

Madam President, I remember quite clearly when the Central Bank of Barbados was initiated. When the Central Bank of Barbados came into being in 1972 what was set out... I am saying the Central Bank of Barbados because I said all of the other things we know of, the education and all of those other things which I am not going to repeat. Madam President, because the Central Bank of Barbados is the political football of persons for whatever reasons, I wish to just mention what was said of the Central Bank of Barbados in the initial stages.

The Central Bank of Barbados was to function within the framework of the Government's overall economic policy administering the currency system and note issue, act as the Government banking agent, manage the public debt, accept deposits from banks in Barbados and regulate the credit and banking system in Barbados. Those were the five layers in which the Central Bank of Barbados was set up. The Central Bank of Barbados does not belong to the people in Asia, it belongs to the people in Barbados and the Government of Barbados so when I hear the term about printing money, although not literally, the Central Bank of Barbados is there to assist the Government of Barbados. Any Central Bank in any part of the world is there to assist the Government. That is the original purpose of the Central Bank of Barbados so therefore every institution that was conceived in Barbados under this Democratic Labour Party has been torn to pieces by the opponents of progress in this country.

The Barbados Labour Party has not changed. It is the same Barbados Labour Party that run down this country opposing independence and development in this country as it is today. A little praise here but you get lambaste yonder.

When I hear credit coming from the people in the Barbados Labour Party I does keep my hands quiet and my ears open because I know later on the lash is going to come in the tail. They cannot walk a straight line for anything and that is how the Barbados Labour Party and their activists have been behaving for all of these years and they will not change the mind or the view of Senator Reginald Aldine Hunte, Esquire. If I go down Broad Street now and see all kinds of guts in the road down there, cat guts, dog guts or pig guts, I could pick out the Barbados Labour Party guts. They have not changed.

I stood up in that Lower Greens during that campaign in 1966 and heard the late Ernest Deighton Mottley lambasting Errol Walton Barrow, Sir James Tudor and Members of the Democratic Labour Party. He was down there cussing like a pirate. If you had the Public Order Act then he would have been arrested in that Lower Greens down there. Nobody cannot tell me about the 1966 campaign. It was the most divisive campaign ever witnessed in Barbados. I live through all of this. We had a good export industry. We were exporting okras, eddoes and all of those things to Britain. I got the figures here. When the Barbados Agricultural Management Corporation was first opened in 1963 over \$84 000 in sales were made and by their 10th year nearly \$10 million in income was made from the BAMC because they were responsible for the exports of this country.

The Barbados Labour Party came into office in 1976 under Tom Adams and destroyed the fishing industry and the agricultural industry. I should be here talking about what we achieved but I cannot do it when I hear these Barbados Labour Party people speaking here, there or elsewhere. They have always been opponents to progress. We got some water challenges but nobody in the Democratic Labour Party is responsible for that, it is a natural thing that is happening

Madam President, about 10 years ago I was going down Roebuck Street one Saturday morning, as I got by Lionel C. Hill Supermarket I saw two women talking, one of whom complained that her feet were hurting her very badly. The other lady asked her how old was she, to which that lady replied that she was 78 years old. The other lady remarked, "Cud dear, after 78 years and they carried you 'long, you don't expect that they are tired and would hurt you now?" Madam President, that is the same thing with the 100-year-old pipes that are all over Barbados, so that if they have worked for 100 years, do you not expect that they would be now broken. Ma'am, those pipes are bound to rust out, which is no fault of the Democratic Labour Party.

Ma'am, there is something about the people of Barbados that sometimes bothers me, that is, the people like progress but they do not like the inconvenience. If you

have to run a new mains replacement programme that should have been done about 10 years ago, the people will criticise that the roads are getting dug up. Ma'am, people are never satisfied. Madam President, the thing is that we have probably progressed too quickly. I was told by a former minister who has gone to the Great Beyond that... Madam President, when Sir Grantley came back here, of course, he was in the Senate because the West Indies Federation had broken up and of course until he led the party into the 1966 election. Madam President, in those days people used to communicate and talk despite which side of the fence that they were on. He said that despite all that we have done the people were going to forget about us. Ma'am, that happened in 1966, after all of that work that was done between 1961 and 1966. I will say it once again for the record, that the Democratic Labour Party had to scramble to win the election in 1966. During that time we lost the heavy roller, Sir Frank Walcott. They were all persons who built Barbados in the progress and strides that we make.

Madam President, I am indeed grateful, I am indeed thankful, I am indeed proud as a Barbadian to have seen the strides that we have made over the last 50 years and beyond. I know what this country was like during the 1950s and the conditions of the people. Ma'am, I see people now running about the cane ground saying that the people of Barbados do not have their conveyances, but they have never had any. Ma'am, with all those days under the plantation tenancy the people did not have any toilet or bath, that is why the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow has always been critical of that industry because of the conditions under which the people had to live and work. Madam President, all of those persons who used to 'head' the canes onto the trucks and trailers were referred to as "beasts of burden" by the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow.

Madam President, I know there is an attitude towards agriculture but Madam President, you cannot get vexed with the people, it was hard work and very little money and they were like slaves living on that plantation land. Ma'am, I had a front seat view of that when I was an insurance agent on behalf of British American Insurance Company, as my debits were mostly in St. John, St. George, Christ Church and so on and so I had a chance to go into those people's homes and see and hear because they were people working on the plantations in Clifton Hall, Hothersal and others. Madam President, I understand and have seen for myself the conditions, for example, people going into the Park for food and fighting over a dumpling. I know a man called "Boo" whose hands got broken because of snatching a dumpling out of another man's plate. Ma'am, people had to go through all of that.

Madam President, when the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow and the Democratic Labour Party

introduced School Meals between 1962 and 1963, it was the late J.E.D. Brancker who represented St. Lucy which at that time was one of the driest parishes in Barbados. He said that if at least we give people a meal during the hard times they would appreciate it. I sat in this Honourable Chamber with a member whose father was part and parcel of the fight in those days, who was a former speaker in this Honourable Chamber. I have to call his name, he is Senator Dr. Sir Trevor Carmichael, who is a product of one of the great fighters, Dr. Edison Carmichael, who laid down the foundation in this country for people to live better lives and to have better living and standards. Ma'am, now there are a lot of fly-by-night people who come criticising, saying that the Democratic Labour Party cannot do anything right. They criticised free secondary education, they criticised hot School Meals, they criticised almost everything, including the labour legislation that were introduced. Ma'am, in 1964 the Democratic Labour Party amended the Trade Union Act so that there can be peaceful picketing, while during all of those years the Barbados Labour Party had never seen it fit to do so because they could not see black people picketing on anybody's property.

Madam President, the Democratic Labour Party has transformed this country. Ma'am, I must say this, I have no intention of attacking the Trade Union Movement, but that I am going to attack the leaders because the Trade Union Movement now has a set of leaders who want to pull more politics and other things in this country, they seem to want to bring this country to its knees. They seem to want to bring all that we have worked for to its knees. There are a lot of fly-by-night people who are being financed by certain politicians to run for office.

Asides.

Senator R. A. HUNTE: Madam President, Barbados is a small country, one hears things. I am a patriot. In mentioning patriotism I want to say that Alpheus said that nationalism could be development but that patriotism will always win out because it comes first. Therefore, a person could become a national of a country by citizenship or by whatever form but that a patriot is one who was born there, one who loves it, understands it and appreciates it. Ma'am, I am a patriot and I will speak in those terms to defend my country when people who came along, who got free secondary education, people who work in the professions that make money during the last 50 years. Do you mean that there has been no development for them? Do they not have any gratitude because there are some challenges in relation to water and certain other areas? Ma'am, if things were so hard in this country, why are the supermarkets not closed? Why are the stores in Swan Street not closed?

Madam President, I go to "Q-in-the-Community" and sometimes I see two truckloads of beers being sold every Thursday night.

Asides.

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Senator R.A. HUNTE: ... Do not tell me that. I am not in here to speak untruths. I move around and I see for myself. This is my country. Recently Saudi Arabia, one of the richest countries in the Middle East, had to cut back salaries by 20 per cent because obviously there has been the drop in oil, and therefore the standard of living could not be sustained. Let me come close to home in Trinidad, which is going through difficult circumstances. Those are oil-rich countries. All that Barbados has is some sugar cane and it now has some people, but we are able to do better and hold our heads above the water; yet we get people who are living in this country and all they can find to do is criticise. Where is the praise? Where is the credit? I have seen people in this country barefooted, patches in their backsides, hungry, chiggers on their feet, but I have seen some of them advance as their children came along. I feel proud about that. If they do not feel proud about themselves and they are ungrateful, that is a matter entirely for them, but nobody is going to tell me what this country was like. I have lived long enough to see this country move from one stage to the other, and it hurts me to see or hear people being critical because some of them were born with a gold spoon in their mouths. They do not know what it is to be poor. They do not know what it is to catch a bus; not even to hop onto one. I have seen all of that.

Asides.

Senator R.A. HUNTE: Madam President, we have to clearly understand and appreciate what the late John Kennedy said, to paraphrase him, "It is not what your country can do for you; it is what you can do for your country." All you are hearing is "things hard" and "things tight" but I interpret that another way. We have a lot of people in this country who are corrupt, and their thing is to get an extra \$20 bill under the table but they may be only getting \$5 or none now, so the things get hard, but they are still working for a salary. It is not that they are out of work. They are working for a salary but all the extra money that they used to get is not there anymore. That is why they oppose the Barbados Revenue Authority. This is Barbados, and sometimes we have to call a spade a spade. I went and paid my Land Tax two weeks ago and I could not even get inside the door down here at the Treasury Building. People were in there eager to pay their tax to get an amnesty or a five per cent discount. I went and paid mine and got a little five per cent too. One thing about Barbadian people is, if they own a property, they like to go and pay their taxes. All of those old people go and pay their taxes, because they cherish what they have.

Madam PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has five more minutes.

Senator R.A. HUNTE: Thank you very much. I do not need more than that, Ma'am. The progress of teachers has been extremely rapid. When I hear the kind of behaviour now from some people who are employed, some of them are not really working for their money; that is a fact. They are just using up space. To see what teachers like my aunt, who helped me to join this Democratic Labour Party in 1967, was paid; in 1961 it was \$74 a month for a female, \$80 a month for a male. By 1971 it was \$140 for both. We, this Democratic Labour Party, removed the discrimination between male and female. A qualified female teacher got \$112 and her male counterpart got \$136, and that went to \$300 in 1971. A graduate teacher got \$224 for females and \$260 for males; that went to \$520 in 1971. A headteacher got \$184 for a female Grade 1 and \$220 for a male Grade 1; that went to \$560 for both sexes. That is the progress that occurred in the initial stages and is part of the history of our 50th anniversary, and it was not even from 1961 to 1971 but from 1966 to 1971. That is the kind of progress that we made within the last 50 years.

I am not going to go over the whole thing. I have done it in here already, and I am not going to do it again. We all know and we are at the age to know what took place in this country and the kind of progress we made. I had a roller-coaster life, and things were not always smooth with me but I am a patriot. I am happy for my country. I am happy to see that my children have come along and all of them are working in jobs. I feel proud about that. Madam President, there is a lot more, of course, that I can say but I need say no more. I wish to thank the Almighty God for sparing my life so far, and pray that I will live to see, in another few days, the 50th anniversary of this country's Independence. I was there for the first and I hope, God willing, to be there for the 50th, although I must say it is closer to 50 than it is to 49, because it cannot get back there, so I can say all like now that it is 50 already. I can say that: It is 50 already. It is closer to 50 than it is to 49, and I wish, as I look around this table and I see all persons here who have made tremendous strides in their lives, to congratulate the Dean Emeritus on his recent matrimonial status and wish him all the best. He is a good friend of mine. I really appreciate his words of wisdom sometimes. Next to him is Sir Roy Trotman who is a longstanding friend of mine, and I wish to praise him for the work that he has done over the period as a trade union leader. Of course, everybody else around the table, including Senator Dr. Sir Trevor Carmichael -- a lot of titles but he deserves all of them -- Senator Adams for his work in education, Senator John Watson for his work in the industry. One I have great admiration and respect for, make no bones about it and I want to make it quite public, is Senator Carol Lady Haynes; a great person. Everybody else on this side, Senator Worrell, preacher Senator Ince, Patrick Todd and all the others, Ms. McClean and of course the President of this Chamber. I thank the Almighty God for being in this

company and giving me the opportunity. I never thought it would happen 50 years after I have seen all that I have seen in this country, but I am proud, I am grateful, I am thankful, and I ask God's blessings on this country that we would go on further. Thank you very much.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Worrell, you have the Floor.

Senator A. R. WORRELL: Thank you, Madam President. I rise to make by contribution to this debate on the Resolution congratulating Barbados on the celebrations of its 50th Anniversary of Independence. It is a great honour for me to be part of this debate today and to speak in this Chamber on my country achieving this significant milestone.

Madam President, before I go into my presentation I would want to say congratulations to the Leader of Government Business in terms of her delivery and opening into this debate today and who also sits as the Chair of the Committee which is responsible for planning the activities to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Independence. I would want to say that that Committee has done an excellent job. I think that it makes our job here easier today when we reflect on all of the activities that we have been to or that we have heard about over the last few days because there are a few more days left until the 50th Anniversary of Barbados' Independence.

The celebrations started in earnest from December 01, 2015. The activities were well thought out and gave each and every single Barbadian a sense of pride to be a part of this country and to be in Barbados to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Independence not only in terms of the activities, but also in terms of recognising the country that we live in and the progress that we have taken over the last 50 years, even before we achieve independence, and the work that went into us being able to take those bold steps as an independent nation, and so we really must be thankful and we really must give thanks.

Madam President, I am not one of those persons who was there at the Garrison in 1966 to witness the transition so my experience would be based on the stories that I would have heard from other persons, and therefore I would want to put my presentation in that context, in terms of the importance of our younger generation recognising what we have been through and the transition and the changes that we have accomplished over the years because we need to be able to relate that experience and hold on to those memories as we build on our country and develop our values and our culture because that is all part of our culture and the living history which we must continue to share and never allow to die because in that it gives us a sense of who we are and it also gives us reason to aspire and to dream and to have visions and to realise that we can accomplish

many things, so I would want to share my presentation in the context of someone not being born at that time, I came several years after in 1979.

I know that one of the elements of the celebrations which we would do next week happens to do with the Human Chain Link. Even though I was alive at the time of the first Chain Link I was not able to participate. Recently, I heard my mother and my sister talking about it in terms of they being able to be a part of that and reliving those memories, so it is important for us to share those memories with the younger generation so that they would understand what it is to be a Barbadian and that this is a really special country that we live in and that recognising this milestone is not something to just pass aside or to just walk over but it is something for us to really celebrate and to be truly thankful for. I am indeed very thankful for this country and for all of the developments that have taken place over the years.

Many of my colleagues here, myself included, would not be here sitting in this Chamber had it not been for the vision of those persons who decided that yes it is time that Barbados seek independence from Britain. Not only did we seek independence but we went forward for independence with a vision in terms of how we wanted to see the country progress and develop. That vision included ensuring that we have in place the foundation in terms of education and developing our people so that they can truly run this country and look after the affairs of this country, so we really need to celebrate the pillars of achievements that we would have encountered over the years. One such pillar is education which started in 1962 where secondary education was made free and compulsory for all Barbadians. That in itself helped us to be able to accept, manage and handle the affairs of this country because it opened up the doors and opportunities for many working-class Barbadians because it gave them hope and new avenues that they can pursue in terms of careers because before that many persons only went to a primary school level. The whole idea of having a job within a commercial bank in Barbados was something which was foreign to them. The whole idea of being able to work within the civil service of Barbados was possibly something very foreign to them. The avenues which were opened to many of our grandparents and parents, myself included, because I am from St. John, a rural parish, would be working on the plantation or if you could get a job you working in a factory someplace else or working within the hotel sector as a maid or something of that sort. Madam President, because that avenue was opened up for education where we can build and develop ourselves it has helped significantly to transform the landscape of Barbados and has helped to develop what has become a middle-class in Barbados.

Madam President, we started off that journey in terms of making sure that the education was there. That

brought the diversity in terms of ensuring that the new jobs were there because we would have started in terms of looking more away from agriculture into bringing in tourism as an industry and you then had the expansion of the manufacturing industry with the creation of a number of industrial units across the landscape of Barbados, so you had diversification in terms of the job opportunities which were available to many of the young people at that time growing up in Barbados in the 1960s and the 1970s. Those young people would be my parents, some of them a bit older who would be grandparents and some of them would be brothers and sisters of many of you around here.

As a result of that expansion in terms of opportunities for employment you had development taking place within the country, so next you had to find suitable housing for them so you had the National Housing Corporation coming on board and a number of housing developments taking up in Barbados. You had what would be West Terrace and Eden Lodge and then the developments in areas such as Wildey where to some extent the majority of the middle-class in Barbados reside.

Over the years, there was a planned progression in the development of Barbados which we have come to benefit from today. You had the education, diversification in the jobs and next you had in terms of the progression in the development of Barbados which we have come to benefit from today: You had the education, diversification in the jobs and then you had an expansion of the housing stock within Barbados. Senator Carol Lady Haynes would have dealt with health because you needed that development in healthcare to also support the population as well, so you would have had a significant development within the healthcare sector in Barbados with the opening of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the establishment of a number of polyclinics across the island to provide the healthcare for a growing population.

Madam President, all development over the last 50 years has not been by chance and it has not been haphazard, it has been by a process of planned, orderly development. You had institutions such as the National Insurance Board which came on board again to provide security for persons who were living much longer. Today we boast of having a large number of centenarians living here in Barbados. Nearly every week the Governor-General is visiting a new centenarian in Barbados. We have the National Insurance Board which came on board to provide pensions for persons so that people could retire at a decent age and look forward to something being there for them.

Madam President, if you think back about the vision and the boldness of Barbadians back in the 1960s in terms of thinking about concepts such as the National Insurance Scheme, which to this day is not even available in other jurisdictions, and the way how we started it here in

Barbados with persons going around from job to job with forms and collecting the national insurance contributions on a weekly basis and to see how it has developed into a multibillion dollar investment portfolio that is significantly contributing to the development of Barbados not only in providing pension benefits to persons who would have contributed but also providing other benefits such as sickness and disability to a wide cross section of Barbadians... All of these things have positioned us to have something to be thankful for and to celebrate in this our 50th year of independence because without these pillars, these foundations and these building blocks being put in place the progress of our development towards 50 years would not have been as smooth or as well defined as it has been over the years.

Madam President, not only that, we also had the work within the trade union movement. You have the Barbados Workers' Union which predated independence and you had the National Union of Public Workers being established just before that so that the civil servants would also have a representative body. We also had the financial institution which used to be the Barbados National Bank being put in place and the credit unions coming out as well with the major credit union being the Barbados Public Workers Cooperative Credit Union Limited. Some of these things would have predated independence but a lot of them came out of a vision that we wanted to build a sustainable country because you had the movement towards education which would have predated independence, but all of it helped us to be able to reach the stage where after 50 years we can stand here today and say that we have had a successful period of planned development which allows us to be looked at as a Small Island Developing State which, as has been said time and time again, punches above its weight in the national arena all because of the planned orderly development of Barbados over the last 50 years.

Madam President, if in looking at that picture and that journey does not give you something to be proud of or to celebrate, something is fundamentally wrong with you. You have to be able to recognise and be thankful for where you have come and the journey you have made and recognise that in a small country as this that we have achieved more than other countries who are blessed with more resources than we have. In Barbados the only resource we have that we can say we have some control over as we often say is the people. We are not blessed with gold or bauxite or diamond or much oil that we can trade on the world market so we have to utilise the resources of our people. We spent significant time in making sure that that resource has benefitted from the development of the country so now we have come to the stage at 50 years where we have put all of the building blocks there to develop our people so we need to make sure that we utilise our people in the best way or that our people try now to turn their minds to how best they can help to maintain what

we have achieved and what we have accomplished and that level of development that we have come to appreciate and to treasure.

Madam President, some of the things I would want to speak about is in terms of the values that we need to maintain within our Barbadian society. There must be something special about us being Barbadian. When you look at it in terms of the geographical landscape I do not see why we should be that much different from our Caribbean neighbours but yet there is this uniqueness and this specialness about being here in Barbados.

Over the years we have not had any coups, we have not had any major revolts or any major issues in terms of the transferring of power from election to election. We have always been recognised in terms of our ability as a very peaceful nation so there must be something special about the values that we have as Barbadians that we transfer from generation to generation. There are some things that we do which I think over the years we have not necessarily transferred those values in the correct way over the generations.

Those persons who would have benefitted from the free education knew beforehand that in order for you to be make it to certain schools such as Combermere or Harrison College or even The Lodge School you had to look for some change. Those persons who had the opportunity to enter into those schools took advantage of what they had because the relationship was there in that if you had an older brother or sister the parents would tell you well only one could go because they could only afford to send one and when in 1962 the opportunity was provided that you could go without paying, I am certain that many of those people recognising that this was a unique opportunity took advantage of it so that over the years we have developed quite a number of scholars.

Madam President, there is one thing that I have recognised in that although we have given a lot in our education system we have not necessarily treated it with the same amount of respect that we should and oftentimes you hear some cadres of the society, especially when it comes around to the Common Entrance Examination, trying to give the impression that you have to have a certain amount of money in order to succeed in Barbados, and that is far from the truth. You hear often in Common Entrance Examination when they are looking at the grades and at how the children have performed at the various schools and they are doing the comparison between the public and private schools, there are some people who would try to give you the impression that some elements of the society perform better because they have the wherewithal, which is money, in order to help them to so performed. Ma'am, that is not true, if you go back to our history you would see that families who had grandparents

or parents who worked in the plantation, who had no money but that their children got the opportunity to access education at the highest level and they made the most of it, they did not squander it, they saw it a way out and they made the most of it. Ma'am, today you now have a cadre of people who would want to believe that there is nothing to that education, that you go to school, you do not see a bill in terms of the cost of that education and so they do not necessarily make the most use of it.

Ma'am, there are a number of people who through the school system who do not necessarily take advantage of the opportunity that they have and try to make better for themselves. Even if they have come from a broken family or one that has faced intergenerational poverty, you still have within this country the resources that are freely assessable to you. The same thing that is given to the son of a banker is given to the son of a maid up to this day and so anyone can take advantage of that opportunity and make more for themselves.

Ma'am, these are things that we need to continue to instill within our people, that it does not matter where you came from, you have to determine within yourself that you want to make something better for yourself, that this country provides you with a number of opportunities at no cost, in terms of education from primary through to secondary, through to tertiary, for example, the Barbados Community College and a nominal fee at the University of the West Indies, you can afford yourself a decent education. Madam President, the same thing applies to healthcare, we do not ask if you can pay for healthcare services when you go to the polyclinics. If you go to the polyclinic or to the hospital with an illness you are treated just the same way as any other person. No one asks you how much money you make on a monthly basis or whatever.

Madam President, we have to recognise that we have to make good use of the resources that are put there for us, so that we can continue on the progress of development to sustain the quality of life that we intend to have. Ma'am, when it comes to education we have done well. I would wish that the media would probably highlight more of the young people who are achieving and doing well, instead of focusing so much on the few who may have fallen by the wayside. Ma'am, there are quite a few young people in Barbados who are achieving and are doing good things with themselves. We have taken a long time to transition our young people to get them to realise the new vision in terms of the destiny for this country, in that we are not educating you to find a job, we are educating you to create employment for yourself. Ma'am, more and more important a number of our young people are recognising that and are they are trying to seek out new ways for themselves. Ma'am, there is a brilliant programme through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water

Resource Management called agro-entrepreneurship programme where they are helping young people to development new skills, how to utilise those new skills and techniques in terms of agriculture through greenhouse farming and other innovative farming practices to show that these things even today are still relevant and are still financially viable and can take this country forward.

Madam President, we are also looking in terms of the development of the creative industries. We would have recently passed the Cultural Industries Act, it is the only tax concession which you can get from your income tax this year. Ma'am, a lot of young people are taking advantage of that and are utilising it in the correct way, in terms of developing projects. Ma'am, you are seeing it in terms of the creativity of our young people in terms of the videos that are coming out and the art work, et cetera. It is even being seen in the presentation, as you are seeing it in the music, in the performances, in dance, et cetera. This will help us to develop a more sustainable economy that can take us forward where our young people would use their God-given talents to help them to be able to develop a career that can sustain them throughout their lives.

Madam President, all of these things are coming into place. There is also the renewable energy sector which is mostly driven by young entrepreneurs who saw this as an opportunity to get involved in the renewable energy sector which again is helping to transform this economy and this country. You can go around Barbados and you would find solar panels on a number of homes, corporate buildings and Government entities. All of that is helping to transform Barbados and is helping us to develop into a more sustainable economy and country. Ma'am, that is the sense of progress and development that we need 50 years after Independence that will help us to go beyond, that would take us to the 100 years.

Madam President, we need also to look at our vision. When the Democratic Labour Party came to the people of Barbados in the 1961 elections and spoke about Independence for Barbados they had a vision, it was a very bold vision. It was a vision that saw tremendous industrialisation and development throughout Barbados. If we intend to continue to have the same level of quality of life and development, we need to have that same level of innovation, that same vision and that same pace towards the rapid development of Barbados over the next 50 years to maintain the quality of life that will take us into 100 years of Independence so that we can celebrate with pride.

Madam President, we would need to see that vision being translated in terms of innovation within Barbados to deal with some of the problems which we have identified over the last few years. Therefore, instead of complaining daily about water outages, about not having water in specific areas, that your taps are dry, we know that we are

having rain today and over the last couple of days but we know that earlier this year in what should have been the rainy season, June, July and onwards, we were not having any rains nor were we having adequate rainfall in Barbados. Ma'am, it therefore means that we need to start utilising the education, the experience and the skill sets that we have to identify new ways to deal with these issues in terms of water conservation. We need to look at that in a significant way and also at a way of capturing some of the surface water and being able to put it to good use.

Madam President, we also need to identify long-term solutions to some of these problems because we recognised that with the impact of global warming that these problems can become more severe. Ma'am, it has nothing to do with who was in Government at the time, because in 2008 when we became the Government we did not know that all now in 2016 we would have been experiencing four years of drought. None of us knew it, none of it had the crystal ball to have predicted it or that it would have been so severe. We have what is necessary in terms of making our progress and development and so we need to start incorporating that level of innovation and ingenuity within our country. Dealing with our solid waste issues as well, we recognise that has been a challenge. What do we need to do? How can we make it easier for us as a people on a household basis to start recycling from the home and from our kitchen, and not wait until it reaches the yard of the Sustainable Barbados Recycling Centre (SBRC)? How can we start the recycling process from our homes and in our kitchens? We need to start with that level of innovation and efficiency if we are expected to move into 100 years with the same level of quality of life that we have now. Madam President, we have come a long way as a country and we have a lot to be proud of, and I would want to say to all Barbadians: Over the next few days, make sure that you get into your communities and celebrate with your family, your friends and your neighbours the joy of being a Barbadian and the 50th Anniversary of Independence. I am seeing it daily in terms of everyone trying to get a flag for their car or a pin, or something else. Even now you are seeing the bunting on houses, so Barbadians are generally happy, and I am glad to see that. For the 50th Anniversary Independence Secretariat, every single activity which it has done has been oversubscribed so this notion that we should not be celebrating Independence, thankfully it is not germinating nor taking root with the large cross-section of Barbados. I know that a number of people are making their way here; Barbadians who live within the Diaspora. There must be some significance to it because this is a country of which we ought to be proud, and I am very thankful to be in this Chamber and to have the opportunity to congratulate Barbados on attaining its 50th Anniversary of Independence. I have benefited from all of the planned development over the years, and I am sure that as a nation we will continue to grow and be stronger in terms of our sustainable development pathway which we must now

begin to dig into and build out. Over the next 50 years, this country will possibly be one of the greenest economies in the world and, hopefully, the most efficient and most vibrant and productive economy and country within the Western Hemisphere. I thank you, Madam President.

Madam PRESIDENT: Senator Carmichael, you have the Floor.

Senator Dr. Sir T.A. CARMICHAEL: Thank you, Madam President. I rise, I almost said reluctantly, because I think we have all been treated to such a wide array of excellent presentations here today that it would be lovely to be able to just sit and have nothing to do but listen to them all. I must discharge my duties, however, and I do so happily. This is a special Resolution, and I shall repeat certain words of the Resolution, as some of my colleagues have done, and I do so for the reasons which I will explore a little later. The Resolution talks about the attainment of the 50th Anniversary of Independence, and those words, "50th Anniversary of Independence", are important. The other words that are very important are "all Barbadians". I say that, Madam President, because this Resolution therefore has what I call a spatial or a temporal context -- the last 50 years -- and I am going to suggest that it has to be extended even further, as my friend Senator Adams has done. I suggest that in relation to that spatial or temporal context, we have enough licence that we can take it even further back than the last 50 years. It also speaks about the efforts of all Barbadians, and I suggest, Madam President, that this is also one of syntax or interpretation because I use here -- and I think the Resolution is intended to mean -- "all Barbadians" being not only those who were born in Barbados but those who have actually made Barbados their home and are friends of Barbados. Indeed, it may very well be said that that person is an even more special Barbadian because, in most cases, they do not have to but they have chosen to be Barbadians. This is therefore a very important Resolution and it is very all-encompassing in the way that it is worded.

Madam President, I only make those two observations so as to give me the latitude to go even further and speak on what I consider to be the Barbados Project. I think if we go further, beyond, and look at Barbados in a historical context, there is something which I call the Barbados Project. I know Invest Barbados talks about it in terms of the Barbados Brand, and my friend Sir Paul Altman refers to it as the Barbados Style, but I call it the Barbados Project. Any term will do, but if we look at the Barbados Project and look at it in its historical context, we can readily recognise why Independence for Barbados took on such a special dimension and indeed why, as the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow said, we really were always independent. We were never grant-aided. We were a settled community. We never went from one European power to another. We were always Barbadian, and that is

really the significance of the Charter of Oistins which we have heard so much about, but this is not the place this evening to be talking in those terms.

Let me say that Barbados and this Barbados Project, if you will, has been the bedrock of what makes everything possible today. Senator Adams very carefully reminded us of Barbados being the jewel in Britain's crown, and that was something that was said in the 18th Century. Madam President, I suggest that this jewel is one with very rare qualities. It extended to our flora and fauna and to our food itself. Senator Ince gave us a very good exposition on food, and I thought since he did such a good job, I should try not to match him but indeed to compliment what he said, and in that case compliment is spelt both ways: to compliment him and also to complement him. Madam President, I thought in best respect I would remind that the grapefruit is one such fruit or part of our flora and fauna which actually originated in Barbados as a combination of the sweet orange and the shaddock, both of which were introduced in the 17th Century. Madam President, grapefruit first appeared as the forbidden fruit tree in Griffith Hughes' book, 'The Natural History of Barbados', and this was a book written in 1750. Interestingly enough, this is the description which accords with the scientific name which literally means "a citrus of paradise". This fruit was very common, I am told, Madam President. I was not around. The American, George Washington, whom we have heard of in his Barbados journal written between 1750 and 1751, mentions grapefruit and mentions it as "the forbidden fruit", being one of the local fruits which was available at a dinner party which he attended right here in Barbados. Later then in 1836, and this is in a book on the flora in Jamaica, our neighbour and friend, the grapefruit was described as quote: "The Barbados Grapefruit". A lot of these historical arguments along with others clearly put the grapefruit as having originated here in Barbados.

We are a place where many things have originated. Another one which has not originated here is the Aloe. The Aloe fruit did not originate here, but what is important is that in the early years it was developed in Barbados. Even though it is native to the Mediterranean region, Aloe with its 200 species was able to develop a special Barbadian variety, and my friend Senator Irene Sandiford-Garner knows about it, the Aloe *Barbadensis* Miller, which is supposedly the best form of Aloes available. I am told, Madam President, that in 1693 this Aloe *Barbadensis* Miller was being offered by the top London pharmacists such that in even later reports in 1869 it had continued to be such a popular form of usage and the big cosmetologists and the pharmacists were using it in London and the ladies and I am told some gentlemen too who were fastidious were applying it to their skin with great care because this was the 'in thing' at that time in London, so here it is Barbados' footprint so strongly etched in the London market in an Aloe plant that we are now using here so

casually but at that time such an important product in the London market.

Madam President, I am hopeful that in our next 50 years we would see a regeneration of the Aloe and that I would see it being exported and that I would see some of our young persons who will not be so young as the years go on getting into Aloe production and making it into something which is an exportable product. Madam President, I will tell you, the first market that one would go to would be the German market because Germany loves Aloe and Germany uses Aloe in any form available including the raw form here and if you would notice that German visitors here would readily take to Aloe before any other visitors.

Madam President, there are a lot of reasons for this but this is not the place for me to go into that but it is in Germany where a lot of experimental medicine has actually started in terms of acupuncture. German Acupuncture is one of the leading schools if not the leading school of acupuncture. Some people say it is the Chinese acupuncture but there is the debate but the German acupuncture is definitely cutting edge if you will.

I am suggesting, Madam President, that there has been this ingenuity, if you will, in the national psyche. My friend Senator Adams talked about the production of rum and sugar and so I will not go into all of that. What I will say however is that rum is an essential part of the Barbadian project. Furthermore, as early as 1785 Britain imported more than 3.5 million gallons of rum in a single year and over 70 per cent of that came from Barbados. The Barbados project has been going on for a long time and it is in this context that we have to look at more modern home-grown inventions. We have had a cotton seed delinter here, a chicken house cleaner, a yam digger and several sugar cane harvesters, all inventions which were introduced essentially to alleviate the burdens of the users and to be friendly to the environment. The late Dr. Colin Hudson was at the forefront of a lot of those inventions, all Barbadian inventions.

I suggest, Madam President, that it is against the backdrop of the environment which was also the core of Barbados' pioneering work in the solar water heating industry which you heard about earlier. In 1974 we introduced solar water heating. We were the second country in the world the second behind Israel to introduce the solar water heating industry but the project extends also to our built environments in the overall development of this country. If we come to the present and come within the 50 years where the historic role was ascribed to Historic Bridgetown and Its Garrison in July 2011 when we were officially accorded that World heritage status, I suggest, Madam President, that that recognition encourages reflection on the ethos which imbues these architecturally

inspired and historic locations in Barbados. I also suggest that sometimes strident linkages of outward appearance reflect in a purpose because at the core, an important accolade, such as this is a silent message about the gratifying aspects of the Barbadian way of life and its journey in this respect.

Madam President, as I said, we have to go back before 50 years and if you think of Bridgetown in the early 17th Century there is a lot of archaeological evidence which suggests that there was an extraordinarily striving culture, a very well documented culture. In Bridgetown there were things which were called the butchers' shambles. These were general markets for husters and vendors, and guess where they existed, at Cheapside, right there where they are now and then they moved southward to the Jubilee Gardens upon Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee of 1887 and that is why they call it the Jubilee Gardens.

Complementing this vibrant market activity, there is a lot of archaeological evidence which also reveals a very wealthy class of Bridgetown residents. Today in the Barbados Museum is a gold pendant set of nine sapphire stones of recent archaeological discovery, extraordinary rare.

Madam President, there was a lot of pain and suffering in the society as a whole but I am not talking about that, what I am suggesting is that in this space there was a level of commercial activity which was way beyond most places within the whole world and that is something you cannot ignore because that did not exist in Trinidad and Tobago, in St. Lucia or anywhere else. We have to recognise that there was a strong commercial culture, a strong agriculture culture and a strong culture of hustering within the 17th and 18th Century in a most unusual fashion for a country of this size.

I will not go into the importance of sugar production in 1654 which was brought here by the Sephardic Jews but

is important is that at that time they established the synagogue in 1654, so in addition in starting sugar cane production and rum production, which was the first in the world happening right here, they then celebrated or made secured their presence by setting up the synagogue in 1654 which was the first synagogue in the western hemisphere. It was destroyed by hurricanes, rebuilt and more recently restored. On the January 21, 2017, the newest synagogue, because there has been a new synagogue restored, is going to be opened appropriately enough on Errol Barrow Day. It is basically finished. I sit on that Committee still but the planner recognised that rather than try to seek to appear to be taking away anything from what is taking place during the independence celebrations that they will do it on an

occasion which is equally befitting the birth date of the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow.

Madam President, that restoration will seek to bring back and match in Bridgetown what Bridgetown was in the 17th and 18th Centuries because not only is it a completely new space but it also will invite and introduce arts and crafts, the old blacksmith shop and things of that kind, in that neighbourhood and will transform that whole space in Bridgetown. I mean when one looks at it just from the artist's impression or one gets behind the hoarding one is amazed at that restorative project which is taking place.

Madam President, I suggest that this is part and parcel of what has happened in Bridgetown over the last 50 years. We have that synagogue restoration, and I am suggesting, complementing the ongoing repair which is taking place at the 1786 St. Michael's Anglican Cathedral, a place with which our Deputy President has great familiarity and acknowledge. It is further being complemented by the work which was undertaken at the Central Bank of Barbados in terms of the new ...museum which is there and which is a masonic museum as well and which is open to the public and again which is complementing that area.

Madam President, when one contrasts that then with the work, again all part of our 50th year, which is being done on Roebuck Street, the restoration work which is being done by Dr. Kirk Lambert, a Barbadian who has now purchased one property and is restoring it completely into a coffee shop and a mini conference facility at the top, as the lead project on Roebuck Street... This is someone who has already contributed significantly to Barbados in terms of the work that he has been doing with the dialysis machines and making those available at minimal cost to many Barbadians who are badly in need of this type of service.

Madam President, I suggest that the work at the Garrison itself, I mean one could talk about that, again mixing the past with the present - is again a symbol of not only Barbados' pride but its protection. When you consider that the Barbados Militia of 1640 is the oldest in the Commonwealth... The Garrison was also home to the first truly regional institution, the West Indian Regiment and it was also, as you know, the first non-white British Regiment and gave 132 years of service in the West Indies and worldwide.

Madam President, the cannon collection at the Garrison is over 400 pieces and it has the only surviving Elizabethan cannon and rare 1652 period gun. You cannot find these things anywhere else. This is a complete blend with present and past. Each one works in harmony with the other. Each one gives strength to the other.

I suggest, Madam President, that a nation such as ours which passionately protects and preserves its heritage is one which will dutifully respect and revere the persons who come within and under its care and control, and that is what we have tried to do in Barbados. We have built on the conviviality and the familiarity which Senator Boyce has talked about during his excellent presentation. All of these things are bound together. In our 50 years of development we have done wonders. There have been challenges but we have done wonders. I looked at something like the print media and I smiled because newspapers have always played a fundamental role in Barbadian life. As early as the 17th Century there were several newspaper publications in Barbados so there is a history of people reading the newspapers. There was the Globe, the Gazette and later the Advocate, which came into being in 1895. I will tell you something, Barbados has - I mean I have not seen the statistics thing but some research have done some analysis - the largest percentage of newspaper readership next to the United Kingdom on a per capita basis. People read newspapers here, and over the last 50 years this thing has continued to thrive. In 1973, I think it was, the great Advocate Newspaper was joined by the Nation Newspaper and now we have a variety of additional publications which everybody is aware of and the columnists. You have a cadre of columnists that I think is unmatched in terms of different ideologies, different perspectives and different viewpoints. You have Francis Chandler writing in the Nation and Jeff Cumberbatch writing in the Advocate both bringing professional views which are strident, a different style, but capable of being read anywhere in the best literary circle. You have to remember that there was also a time when Sir James Tudor had some time on his hand and he wrote a column for two years. I would like to see somebody collect those writings for those two years because they were writing which were, as they say, depth in terms of the style. He had a style which we all know was unique but it also was interesting because it also costs... I mean there were winners and losers as a result of his writings, let us put it that way. Madam President, I say that only to suggest that the newspapers are important in the public life of Barbados, not just the public life but in the life of Barbados. I say here that that is one of the good things over the first 50 years. The first thing I do in the morning is that I read both papers cover to cover without any prejudice. I enjoy Roy Morris as well.

Madam President, there are so many other areas where we have performed and outperformed in the 50 years. There is also the Visual and Performing Arts, the development of the Fine Art collection at the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, an exhibition gallery opened was in 1950 with an active monthly schedule featuring local, regional and international artists but in the 50 years that has reached great heights. Madam President, as part of Barbados' Independence in 1966, if I may remind you, a Visual Arts exhibition was mounted featuring over

100 works from over 40 artists and this year on November 28th the Museum will mount another Independence exhibition which will complement what it has previously done.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has two minutes left in which to conclude.

Senator Dr. Sir Trevor CARMICHAEL: Madam President, I will be very quick and also say something about international business where we have made great strides because both of our political parties have been smart enough to recognise that we are best suited as a low-tax jurisdiction, rather than a zero-tax jurisdiction and we have done well as a result.

Madam President, we are facing some serious challenges at the moment, such as de-risking in correspondent banking, a threat which is very, very serious and which is going to require a lot of hard work over the next 50 years. Madam President, despite these challenges ahead we must not forget our past and we must let it be the impetus for change and correction, for direction and development and for true partnerships and progress. We should listen to the words of Jack Layton and I quote:

"My friends, love is better than anger;

Hope is better than fear;

Optimism is better than despair;

So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic;

And we'll change the world."

Madam President, I suggest, if we do so, we will continue to change Barbados. I thank you very much.

SUSPENSION

Senator the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended for 15 minutes, to be resumed at 5.25 p.m..

The question was put to the Honourable the Senate and was resolved in the affirmative, without division and Madam President suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

MADAM PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Senator DePeiza.

SENATOR Ms. V.A.G. DePEIZA: ... Madam President, I too am grateful for the opportunity to give thanks and celebrate with the people of Barbados on the

occasion of the 50th Jubilee Year of our Independence. It is a moment that should not only be cause for rejoicing but also reflection; rejoicing because despite the hills and the valleys we have reached here through God's help, and a period of introspection because going forward we must have charted a course and have a plan to be followed that would allow us to be satisfied that we have built well on the foundation created by our forefathers. Let us first examine what those foundations are, because I think that somewhere along the line there has been a blurring of purpose, of a misunderstanding or a miscommunication of intent in relation to the celebration of our Jubilee Year.

First of all from the Biblical context, the Year of Jubilee was intended to be one of celebration; a year. There were seven seven-year periods affixed, 49 years in total, and a 50th year was to be a year of celebration, festival and reflection. Certainly, for those with an inclination toward religion, the celebration of this event should come as no surprise. To those who do not have the religious underpinnings, they do celebrate birthdays, and even in that secular environment the 50th year is seen as worthy of significant marking. Then we have as a country to take a look at what has transpired in the last 50 years, the good and the bad, to conclude that our 50th year is worthy of celebration. I do not think there are any persons left, although they may be left alive, who will argue that Independence was a mistake. There were the detractors at the time, but then that is the nature of any venture that you enter into. Some will be for you, some will be against you, and a whole heap will sit on the fence, but I think the consensus must be, at this stage of our development, that Independence was a worthy venture for Barbados.

In the grand scheme of things in the British Empire, we were small though we liked to refer to ourselves as a jewel. We had a thing that created finance for other people such as sugar and rum, the derivatives of the sugar cane industry, but on Independence there was the possibility to create economic activity for ourselves. That was Achievement No. 1. It was not only in terms of sugar, but we got to decide our own destiny and could look to create opportunities certainly to take advantage of what naturally was gifted to the country in terms of our climate and environment, and to create a tourism industry which has evolved over time but has remained a major contributor to our economic development. We may have started as sun and fun, but we have capitalised on other aspects. We have widened that and we have created another type of tourism. We have our heritage tourism and we have developed a form of tourism built around international business. Our tourist product, of course, is heavily dependent on issues beyond our control but then again, this is not a situation that makes Barbados distinctive. All countries operate in a world environment, and so I am satisfied that the challenges that the financial markets are having fall on a cycle. We have had these issues before. We have found

solutions. We have the issues again, and we are working on the solutions. That is part and parcel of the concepts that are encapsulated in our National Anthem. It starts "In plenty and in time of need," so there always was the expectation that there would be some periods like now and very likely in our future where there will be struggles. The building of character, though, is very much related to how you deal with the struggles, and this is where our national pride and our national industry should come to the fore.

Certainly, those strides that we have made in terms of our economic development cannot be denied, and it is not just in that global market where Barbados has a name and a presence but in very simple matters that we take for granted now, like the flushing of a toilet. Those who did not have a pit toilet in the backyard had to dig a hole. Those days, for the most part, are past. It is all due to the economic development and steps forward that we have made, always with the understanding that there will be a few steps forward and that there will be a few steps backward but that the steps forward must always be more than the steps that we take backwards. Sometimes in our own lives we come to those crossroads, and we have to make critical decisions as to how we move forward; not if we move forward but how we move forward. That is why this past year has been a year in which we take pause to celebrate what we have become, but also to take that pause to reflect on where we go next. Our social development has been so vast that one is hard-pressed to stick a pin in any particular place. Anywhere that you go in the world you are likely to find a Bajan. This is not an exaggeration. When there was the tsunami around the other end of the world, there were Barbadians there too who could report back as to what was happening.

S No: C33 (34) 5.45 p.m.

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Senator Miss V. A. G. De PEIZA: ...in the world you are likely to find a Bajans. This is not an exaggeration. When they had the tsunami around the other end of the world there were Barbadians there too who could report back as to what was happening. The reason that Barbadians can travel widely and well is because there has been instilled in us a desire to succeed and so as the world moved towards technology and innovation, the Allan Emtages of the world could come to the fore. As we move towards architectural excellence we also can have Barbadians who are making international marks. In that regard, Nicholas Springer comes to mind.

We had then, as I am sure we have now, a cadre of teachers like Mrs. Maxine Holder at Erdiston Model Mixed School, as it then was, who demanded nothing other than excellence and whether we have found ourselves in teaching, in non-traditional areas of employment, in

marketing, as doctors or as lawyers, we have found ourselves exhibiting excellence because nothing else was expected of us. I can speak of that personally but I can also state without fear of contradiction that she was just one of many such leaders in schools who brought the best out of our people.

We like to think about education giving opportunity in terms of its freeness except that education never actually was free someone paid for it and so a derogation from free tertiary education should not be seen as a slippage in our determination and conviction that education holds the key to success. Perhaps, maybe, hopefully, having to make some contribution to one's education would also assist generations in restoring the value that education was intended to add to our lives. It was not meant to be a road passed but a road travelled, experience lived and applied to your lives, so maybe that value in terms of dollars will translate to value in terms of asset in life. Undertake education because of its value not because the State said so because I came to the conclusion that was the point to which we had reached, that persons were entering university because it was the next thing to do after you finish secondary education without a mindfulness of how it would assist them in contributing to society as their next step.

We have had other social advancements. You would need to go deep into the cane fields to find a cart road these days but they were the roads at one point in time. Our infrastructure has developed at a significant space. The roads actually cannot bear the traffic that we have now because it is part of that development economically and socially that we have moved along. There was a time when perhaps one person in a village owned a car, that is no longer the case. We have had significant moves forward.

Now, any reflection would also have to put in context that there have been missteps. Successive Administrations have failed to maintain the infrastructure to a sufficient standard and so we will have incremental failings in terms of plant and products but there is nothing wrong with acknowledging that and finding the move forward so that when we continue to sing the National Anthem about when this fair land was young, we look for the cumulative effect, we acknowledge the failings and we give kudos where it is due and understand that we have to move forward by the grace of God.

This is our 50th year, some of us may live to see the 100th year and hopefully participate in that grand celebration because there is none that can satisfy me that the 50 years is not worthy of a grand celebration. We have had moves forward in terms of other industries not just a fisherman catching fish and selling it in the market, that continues, but processing, canning and preservation have come on stream in Barbados.

We have had other markets open up and coming out of our food industry we have developed our restaurant industry, again world-class dining experiences in Barbados. I am not just talking at the five star high-end level but Oistins Gardens has a Zagat rating, it is internationally known. The thing to do when you land in Barbados is to spend your Friday night in Oistins, a major achievement for what was once a little fishing village. We call it one of our towns but it met none of the international standards for a town but now it has that development and we have moved ourselves along and ahead at a pace that suggests that our foundations are secured, but what good would be all of the social and infrastructural and economic development if it were not built on solid political foundations as well.

Barbados can boast internationally of smooth transitions from Administration to Administration which is a fundamental principle, stability. In order to invite business to Barbados we have to demonstrate certain things and one of those things is that political stability and we have it in spades. Is that at the very least not worthy of celebration? We have built out Barbados and hopefully will continue to build out Barbados. Any capital city that you visit in the world is buzzing 24 hours a day and I have a hope for our Bridgetown that we reach that point eventually but it cannot happen by continuing to do what we did before or by resting on our laurels.

Yes, we received our heritage designation but I am satisfied that is a reflection of our past but does not in any way speak to our future development. We need to break out of the mode that says that if a thing works, you need never ever tamper with it, "if it ain't broke don't fix it". Sometimes it is not broke but it is obsolete. My father's radiogram stayed in the house for a long time way past its usefulness. It was not broken, it still worked but it took up a significant portion of a room and eventually it had to go because things move on.

One of the biggest mistakes you can make in life is not to move on as well. It is not that you leave behind but you have to press forward and you have to improve, and because the fields and hills are now our own we get to make those determinations for ourselves, we get to decide what the next 50 years will look like for this country.

Madam President, even though we are happy and we are pleased and we celebrate all that has happened cumulatively in the last 50 years, in our jubilee year we take a pause and we stick a pin understanding that the future is not without risk but again leaning on our National Anthem "With Him still on the people side we have no doubts or fears." We make a decision and we move forward. We have to be inspired and to be exulted by the changes and be free to make them.

Our 50th year is not an end point, it is a starting point for the next phase of our development. Even though our 50th year coincides with a period of pain economically speaking we have too much to gain by plotting from now and charting our course for the future. It is not about wallowing in self-pity of what is going on right now. Yes, we have water issues. I will never pooh-pooh the water issues, I suffered too. I live in St. Thomas and I was without water for months, I know what it feels like but it did not in any way dent productivity. There was every understanding that it was a temporary situation. It is also a logical situation because you cannot expect the infrastructure of the last century to meet the needs of our expanding population growth including migration and of the increased water-borne needs of our nation. It is a fairly logical conclusion that we need to uproot our water system and start again.

I am happy to declare that this Administration has seen the need to undertake those very extensive works. I do not find a period of dislocation on me to be in any way a disparaging comment on my country because this is the price of progress. There will be some pain felt in order to get yourself past the point and to grow because there is every expectation that the generations following on behind will feel the same desire to move Barbados forward and to make the decisions, easy or hard, that are necessary to get us to that next point.

There should never be a period in our development when we plateau. We will accept the hills that we have to climb, we will endure the valleys that we fall into but in every stage we will move forward in strength and unity. If ever there was a time that loyalty to our country was demanded, it is in the times when we need most not when we have most. That is the test of character that Barbadians are being called upon to demonstrate now and which I am satisfied that we will pass because we have met enough hurdles in our past to arm us for the ones we have now and will meet in the future.

Madam President, more than Rihanna, more than Christopher Elcock and more than any who have already written their names in our history's page, will stand up for the development of this country hearing but ignoring the naysayers because somebody has to make the hard choices to move this country forward. Madam President, because I am satisfied that there will be enough of us to have the fullness to craft our fate, I can celebrate our jubilee year firm in the conviction that what our forefathers did merely inform what we do today and chart a course for our tomorrows.

Madam President, I wholeheartedly, unreservedly congratulate the people of Barbados in this jubilee year and wish them well in every year going forward.

I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Trotman, you have the Floor.

Senator Sir Roy TROTMAN: Madam President, the Resolution before the Chamber is one with which I upfront and immediately identify and I would wish to venture the thought that there is no one either within this Chamber or within the country as a whole, who should fear in his or her desire to hail and salute our nation Barbados on its attainment of 50 years of Independence. Whatever we might be tempted to say about how we feel about certain aspects of what may be happening in our economic, social or political development, it should be a given that we all are happy, as a previous speaker said, with the fact that we have made the journey to Independence and that we have journeyed this far along the road and that we will continue to do so with God being our helper.

Madam President, the contention is always there, when we are reflecting on the passage of time, to reduce what comments you would want to make to comments about individuals. Ma'am, I wish to avoid that position because (1), there is not enough time that is accorded to me and (2), because you run the risk of forgetting important contributors and then having their families believe, if they are dead, that because they have departed that they have also departed from your heart. Madam President, I wish instead to take the position that I speak here, in my view, as a person nominated not merely in the discretion of His Excellency but because in me he saw a representative of workers and therefore I want to be given the permission to speak from the perspective of the worker in the country, reflecting on 50 years of workers' contribution to an Independent Barbados.

Madam President, in doing that I have taken the liberty of referring to the policy position of my organisation, the Barbados Workers Union, written 35 years after Independence and reflecting on what was happening then and looking forward to what continued to happen so that we are in a position to reflect adequately. Ma'am, some of the things that I would wish to do, as we salute the passage of time, as we salute the work that our nation has done, is to look at what I would consider to be certain stepping stones which there have been, either put there by ourselves or placed there by the Master as a means of helping us along the road. Ma'am, b put there by ourselves we would see the very important stepping stone the changed work environment which has taken place since 1966. Madam President, it is not proper for us to believe that because it was 1966 and that now it is 2016 that automatically we would have made the levels of progress, because we have had other countries which have also gone pass that time and their rate of growth or their path of progress may not reflect our rate of growth or our own

progress. I would want to hail this as a very important measure that has been taken in our nation and I think that in reflecting on that we have to see who the contributors are as we look at those stepping stones.

Madam President, we are looking at Barbados moving from a land of agriculture to a country where industry became the order of the day, and now to a position where in 2016 we are into the service industry. Madam President, in that regard, I think that we did have some comments that we made some years ago which may have some reflection, certainly for me as we look at that progress. I would wish to quote from the policy position of the Barbados Workers Union to say -- and I shall make this a document of this House -- that anyone who has been taking time out to follow what we have been doing in the Barbados Workers Union would note that while we have remained true to the basic principles governing the organisation 60 years ago we have, at the same time, been incrementally adjusting our policy and/or our action programmes to accommodate the changes which we anticipate, not merely within our Barbados environment but within the wider Caribbean region, as well as our view of our position as a trade union within those global affairs that impact on us.

Madam President, the point I wish to make, particularly in this season where the trade union sometimes get undue attention - and it is not my intention to get into bull-doggy, I am certainly not a pit bull. It is not my view to doing that but while I will not deal with that I would wish to say that if we are going to reflect on those 60 years, I would think that a very important element within that reflection has to be the element of the contribution of labour to the growth and development of our nation. Madam President, I would never wish to say that labour has done this by itself, nor do I wish to suggest that labour relates only to those people who were the 'carriers out' of labour orders or the people who wielded a hoe or a machete. I think that all work has to be commended during that period and so managers, supervisors and all those people who contributed either mentally or manually to the development of our nation from where it was as an agricultural community, from where it is today as a service industry helping to build the quality of life for our nation, they all need to be complimented because, in fact, Barbados is a wage earning community and whatever individual sums of wealth individuals may have, the success which we have made as a nation can only have been made through the institution of work.

Madam President, the world's economy is an economy that deals with work and if there is no work, then there will be no growth. If there is no growth then there will be no success, either economically or otherwise. Madam President, I wish to make the point then that the celebration that I join with others in putting out here on the

50th Year of the Independence of Barbados are as well as they are generally for the nation, comments regarding celebration, salutations and commendation to the institution of work and to those who have toiled. At the same time that I wish to put out words of encouragement to those who may not yet have toiled and who need to recognise that 50 years do not represent the end of the cycle.

Madam President, Senator DePeiza has indicated that this only marks the beginning of much more to be done and that the Honourable Member looks forward to the next 50 years. Madam President, I do not know if the rest of us could be so bold to say that because that might take some of us beyond what is the given longest age of Bajans, but I still look forward to the next 50 years. We would have then to see whether we would be able properly to recognise that the institution of work will get the level of respect that every Bajan -- I do not mean people born here, I mean people who work here and who contribute to this economy -- has to give to our nation. If we are reviewing those stages of our development, Madam President, then we have to look at what has been happening at the level of work. We have to recognise that the sections and the sectors of workers have undergone tremendous change, and it is not to say that they may not be the same families but it rather is that the work that has been assigned to those families has changed overtime and that therefore we have had to change our education and our training regimes to make sure that we have been able to keep pace. I make this reference to make the point that whereas in other nations and communities the level of the preparation for the world of work, and therefore the level of the preparation for the owning of wealth and the development of the nation, has been done commendably in the case of Barbados, I think that we should take great heart and accept sincere congratulations on the level of education and training which our leaders have been able to give to our country, preparing us not merely for 2016 but for a period beyond that. It is to be hoped that we will continue with that same regime, that same vision and that same acuteness in our perspective regarding where Barbados has to go over the foreseeable future. I will not refer to 50 again in that regard.

Madam President, one of the other things that I think we have to be careful to see as part of our stepping stones is the embrace by Barbados of international standards, international protocols and international practices which have been conducive to the wellbeing of the country, to the conditions under which capital and labour have been able to work, and therefore in which the country has been able to progress over the years that have passed. A number of other countries have also had the possibility to come into contact with these international protocols and standards, and in many instances in my awareness, people in leadership positions have made the decision that their countries were not ready for those adoptions of some of

those standards or protocols. Therefore, in comparison with other countries of its size and its stage of development, we might very well find that Barbados is ahead; not in all but in many of those standards, protocols and practices. It is true that there are some in which we have fallen behind, and while I do not want to go into details about which ones it has or has not progressed in versus the others, I would wish to say that in any dynamic community being compared with another one, there are likely to be areas in which we have an advantage in some things but we fall behind in others. In terms of our acceptance of the standards and protocols, I believe that what we are able to say is that the world of work in Barbados has benefited significantly from the willingness and the courage of labour leaders, of leaders in the Government, and of leaders in industry, to want to bring our standards in line with what should be proper practice. I do not know how many persons here will recall those occasions when, in the sugar industry for example, we used every crop season to dread the news when we heard the radio give the peep that suggested there was breaking news that was going to be brought on, because we were bound to hear of some caterpillar, some tractor that had overturned and somebody who had lost his life. We were prepared to take on the guidance of the International Labour Organisation, even though it was costly, because we felt that matters to deal with safety and health were matters which were not luxuries but which were investment in the workforce. Employers began after a while to recognise that it did not cost them money but it saved them money, because employers were ready to join the labour movement and the Labour Department in investing in international standards, particularly those dealing with safety and health. I think that if we are going to be able to look at the issue I am raising, that is the world of work, and reflect on that, we have to be able to give proper respect to the embrace by Barbados of those standards, protocols and practices.

Madam President, from the very outset of our labour management systems Barbados, following the British system, committed to a methodology of volunteerism; a policy of volunteerism. Volunteerism in labour management circles relates to the situation where the Government broadly sets a body of rules but does not get bogged down into codes as other countries may do, but prefers to encourage employers and workers to meet together and to work out their own kinds of conditions for reaching understanding and reaching levels through which they would be able to have the collective agreement; because we use the term “collective agreement” as opposed to using the term “contract”, since contract has a different meaning. I think that in the Barbados circumstance, that matter is under significant test right now, and it is my understanding that an earlier speaker did make some reference to the question of the extent to which we are prepared to recognise that the system we have used in volunteerism has served our purposes as a nation very well.

Although Senator DePeiza has warned us that you must not simply keep it because it is not broke, we have to recognise nonetheless that the voluntaristic method in terms of Barbados has allowed us to embark on higher levels of discussion and social dialogue. Those higher levels are based not only on the approach that says let us grab what we can as an employer, a union or a worker and let us impose what we can as a government, but it is an approach that should say and hopefully will continue to say that it is based on an understanding that there must be mutual respect, and that if we are going to build the world of work, if we are going to make our country grow and get stronger for the next 50 years, then that has to be structured and built upon mutual respect -- employer for worker, worker for employer, both for Government, and Government for them as well, and that neither side should believe that it has power which allows it to bypass the sharing of information and the granting of mutual respect by one to the other or the third. If there is not that mutual respect, then the world of work is going to suffer as a consequence of the failure of people to be able to come to the table in a spirit in which they are ready to compromise.

The world of world, depending as it does on voluntarism, depends beyond that fundamentally on the willingness of parties to compromise. In our system of labour management relations there is not a question of how much you can get, we tried for that, it is how much you can get given that you have heard what the other side says it is able to give and given the environment in which the country finds itself. Out of that you have to move beyond the maximum to come to the position of the optimum. By that I mean that where the maximum may be 50, whatever 50 means, that you may sometimes have to be ready to understand that 45 better suits all of the parties that are involved in that exercise because at the end of the day it is a country that benefits from the overall dialogue that is required by the parties and as a consequence of that kind of discussion we have to move to that level of discussion where we do not only talk about what we want without talking about what we can collectively afford. Madam President, that is why we understand and how we spoke to questions of that sort in the exercise. In the document, which I am referring to, we have often spoken of the need there is for us together to be able to recognise issues of that sort.

When we were dealing in the matter of agriculture and workers were given the task only to carry out instructions not to be involved in any forms of dialogue then to a very good extent workers were within their rights to insist that everything that was possible should be had. Now, in the circumstances of Barbados being 50 years old as a nation we ought to have reached a position where workers are able to back away from that stance and where we are together able to say that we believe that we should help business to develop the profit agenda. We have said in

this document 15 years ago that we believe in the profit motive and the implementation of profit and that we should all contribute by our productivity and our efficiency to this arrangement. Now, those who attacked the labour movement without knowing might do well to receive a copy, I will not charge them excessively for it. What we have said in all of this is that what should be understood by that is that everybody should work towards building the pie and making it as great as possible provided it is equally understood that the sharing of that pie beyond the payment of wages should go to sharing the profits by some kind of profit-sharing methodologies where it can be seen that everybody who has contributed should benefit from what has been the profit returns in the exercise. Now, that does not seem to me to be an unfair exercise and that in fact was part of what was driving employers, unions and workers in the 1990s when we got together and decided we would talk more about how we could develop that relationship at the workplace beyond merely talking about the recognition of unions.

We should not in Barbados have a position where we have to fight about recognition. We should not have a problem where there is a fight about agency shops, but people do not wish workers to be strong because they feel that strong unions will not contribute as much as they can and will to the overall benefit and advantage of the country. I do not share their view and I believe that as we develop more fully the next institutional arrangement that has again to be revisited much more vigorously that we will find that our next 50 years will take us further, and I speak to the institution of tripartism.

In the 1990s, 1990 or thereabout, a few of us commenced an exercise - and because of committing I will not be calling names, I will not call the parties, at least one of them may be here - and moved towards the arrangement where we felt that beyond the individuals we had to get situations where employers and Government and workers would come together because the country was going to enter into a crisis, we were not in the crisis yet, and that if we were going to go into the crisis of the 1990s and if we were going to come out of that crisis successfully then it had to be recognised that Government needed labour and Government needed the employers, the employers needed Government, the employers needed the workers and the workers needed Government and the employers and so the tripartite Social Partnership was established to remove the crisis to develop further levels of respect, to share information, to build the wealth and to share that wealth.

Today, that fifth element of the sharing of the wealth is being neglected because where information should be shared and the wealth should be shared it is not happening in that way. We are at the point now as we celebrate where we are to tell ourselves that we have to revisit that element of the tripartite structure and of our successes within that

structure and we have to ask ourselves where has that taken us and what is it that we could do beyond where we are.

Madam President, one thing that stands out significantly of all of us is the matter of the shared responsibility which has been placed on every man, woman and child, not child labour, older than child but old enough to work, is that all of us should see that we have a shared responsibility to grow Barbados and to work together to make the country stronger. Work should become a motivator. Work should motivate us into contributing to a country which we are able to recognise as being our own and which we should recognise as having something to offer us, so there has to be hope for our people 'on the blocks' and the unemployed. Constituents must be ready to put their country first, and by constituents I do not only refer to workers, I refer to businessmen and to leaders of Government. Political discrimination should be rejected.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senator has five more minutes.

Senator Sir Roy TROTMAN: The Resolution also speaks beyond what I have said before to economic development. I would be happy in the last minutes to speak to the need there is for greater worker democracy in this country.

It is something, Madam President, that you have heard me speak to before. I believe that the great leaders we had who brought us to the point of political democracy did not by any stretch of the imagination believe that the job was finished and they wanted to take us beyond that to economic democracy where we were ready to take off to a position where small businesses could pool the resources of their staff or groups could pool their resources and could move towards building worker democracy as the attempt was made at the United Commercial Autoworks Limited (UCAL). Unfortunately, in that case, UCAL has been deliberately stifled and denied its opportunity to fulfil its dream of worker democracy and is stagnating while it is owed more than \$20 million. Now, that is something which we cannot afford to carry forward into the next 50 years.

We have to have urgent consideration of ways and means by which we are able to empower Barbadians to feel themselves as part of the building of the wealth that we are talking about, and I urge, Madam President, that as we reflect on our 50 years we also look in the resolution side of our plans to situations where we re-establish encouragement, vision and hope for young people and that they must be able to recognise that we want them to give of their best but that in return the country is going to create avenues so that they will also share in the best.

I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Watson, you have the Floor.

Senator J. A. WATSON: Thank you, Madam President. It is only once that you get to reach the landmark of a 50th Anniversary and therefore I have absolutely no problem in supporting this Resolution and in offering my congratulations to all Barbadians. I believe it was mentioned this morning of the diversity of our population. This is significant for me for another reason as well. Madam President, 1966 was the year when I was just about cementing a relationship that if I live until April 08, 2017 I would have accomplished 50 years of marriage. I started very young.

Madam President, all of the speeches today were extremely good. I cannot fault anybody and I did not hear anything that I disagree with with any vigour. I think that most of the things said were really very acceptable even the very highly charged speech of Senator Hunte, but the one that touched me most was the one by Senator Adams. As a matter of fact during his speech I had to contain myself a little bit because I was getting a little bit emotional. I came up in a household and went to school and throughout my life I have always tried to act fairly because that was my upbringing. I came up in a household of four and fairness did not always mean equal because I was the youngest and what the eldest got I may not get but it was still a fair distribution so I understand fairness all the time.

I also understand that we must always display good manners and that we should be respectful to all people particularly our seniors and people in authority, but Madam President, in spite of this basic training that I have had I will never forget what I know about the struggles and the treatment of my forefathers. I think that slavery was a serious and terrible injustice to human beings. Even though I am not a student of history the little bit I know about what took place and much of what Senator Adams pointed out this morning gives me a feeling that we have achieved much and we have much to defend. The moment you raise the question of slavery or the moment you raise the question of black economic enfranchisement the first thing people jump to say is that is it racist but it is not being racist. I think that putting me in shackles was racist and I think that stopping me from making a living was racist. There are several things that were done to us that were racist but certainly remembering what happened to our forefathers and working towards a system that would do better for black people in Barbados cannot be racist. As a matter of fact, Madam President, I always believe that wherever there is a disadvantage, the disadvantage must be a particular handicap and I always equate it to horseracing because that is the only area that I know it will happen. The fastest horses get the heaviest weight, the slowest horses get the lightest weight. If you are an A-class horse you get a heavier weight and if you are a C-class horse you get a

lighter weight. It is not so otherwise. I think all people ought to be treated equally and that is something that we have to consider because as I said just now my parents treated us fairly but not equally and it was necessary. They could not treat us equally and I think that we need to treat Barbadians fairly and work out where they need to give the advantages and handicaps.

Madam President, I really can imagine what Bussa would have gone through during that revolt in April 1860, the sort of determination and tenacity and planning. It took real heart to have done what he did along with the other people around him. We were always a tough and strong people from long ago. We did not come here or we were not brought here as weaklings, we are tough and strong people. Over the years people like Sir Frank Walcott and Grantley Adams would have fought and later on His Right Excellency Errol Walton Barrow would have fought tooth and nail to bring about social legislation into Barbados, and I am not going to go into all of the details because we all know them. We had a lot of improvements in workers right. We had a lot of social legislation, Holiday With Pay and that kind of thing, and those things had to be fought for. The establishment did not give it to us just so because they realise that the more they gave, as was said earlier, the less profit they would make and we got to realise that even though profit is not a bad word there is something called a social conscience as well.

Madam President, I heard a statement the other day that made a lot of sense. There is enough for everybody's need but never enough for everybody's greed and I think that in Barbados sometimes we should pay attention to things like that. Madam President, I think that 1966 was a landmark achievement for Barbados, no doubt. I was old enough to be there. I think Senator Lady Haynes would have mentioned the feeling she got as a Jamaican school girl in Barbados and so you can imagine the feeling that conscious Barbadians - I do not think that all Barbadians are conscious -- would have understood the lowering of the Union Jack and the raising of our Flag. That was a feeling and an experience that you could only have once, like we are now.

Madam President, we could only have the experience of a 50th Anniversary once and even though I might understand the reasons for some concerns and complaints... I understand the problems of not having water. Fortunately, I live in an area where we do not have water problems but a few months ago it happened, though for less than a day I believe but it was extremely inconvenient. Can one imagine having that problem for a week or a month? Therefore I can understand people who would have feelings about things like that. Madam President, it is not beyond every Barbadian to celebrate this 50th Year of our Independence Anniversary because it is never going to come again. I hope that as people heard the

debate that took place in the Other Place and hear the debate that takes place here today, that they who were reluctant would now get up and get. I have already started my position about how Bridgetown looks, I believe that even in the countryside there are some businesses that could do a few things. One thing I have noticed is a lot of cars with Barbados Flag on them which is a good thing. I think lots of Barbadians, with the exception of some, are wearing pins but there is some effort to celebrate this important milestone or landmark if you want to call it that.

Madam President, those few people whom I have mentioned and I supposed that there are a lot more who would have brought us up to 1966, along that road we would have, like I said, created much social and political enfranchisement. What we have failed is to create an environment and programmes for economic enfranchisement. Madam President, I was pleased to hear the Leader of Government Business mentioned it this morning because it seemed to be a phrase that not many people like to talk about because the moment that you talk about economic enfranchisement immediately people think of black economic enfranchisement. Madam President, for those who do not want to believe that, I believe that it means black economic enfranchisement, but when there is economic enfranchisement the only reason I see it as black economic enfranchisement is because we are 95 per cent of the population. The problem that exists now is that the economic enfranchisement that exists does exist among the 5 per cent. Ma'am, that is a total imbalance and there has to be a programme to correct that.

Madam President, I have already mentioned in this Senate that I had the opportunity of going to Malaysia where there were three different types of people living in Malaysia, there were the Indians, the Chinese and the indigenous Malays. I do not remember the exact years, whether it was 20 or 30 years but they had a Government development programme laid out where they were going to make sure that all three races do become equally economically within that time and so they created programmes for the Malays in which the Chinese and Indians were not allowed to participate. They deliberately gave contracts to cooperatives of Malays in which the Chinese and Indians were not allowed to participate. Madam President, therefore, it is not unusual for any Government who believes in fairness, who accepts fairness as a responsibility, to create programmes where they use their procurement as a means of enfranchisement. That is definitely not unusual because right here in Barbados we do it every day, for example, we want to favour a tourism sector and we give them incentives. There was a time when the manufacturing sector was favoured and they got incentives, so it is not unusual, so that when the Small Business Sector wants to have a policy that gives them the handicap that they require it is not unusual and it should not be frowned upon, but the moment that you mentioned

things like that, you get down to this thing of being critical of small businesses and black businesses. I think that should be a thing of the past.

Madam President, I believe that all businesses make mistakes, I believe that all businesses run into trouble at some time or other. When a business fails, it is not a failure but an experience. I am sure that if a business makes spectacles and fails making spectacles and is given another chance to make spectacles they will succeed. In Barbados what we do is that that person does not get another chance, so that all that experience that persons would have got from his failure would be wasted. Madam President, when a child goes into first form at school and fails, you do not put him out of school. What you do is that you keep him in the same form where he is able to develop, then he is able to move up to the second form, but in Barbados in business you put him out of the form and so he is finished.

Madam President, I wanted to quote something from Dr. Ralph Gonsalves called "The Idea of Barbados." I wonder if many of us have read it. He had recognised that Barbados is special but that we in Barbados do not recognise how special we are. Madam President, it says:

"Barbados is at once the most conservative and the most progressive society in the Caribbean, bar none! It extols continuity yet engineers, and embraces, change. It is the only Caribbean country that has had, since conquest and settlement, unbroken representative government, albeit on a restrictive franchise until universal adult suffrage in 1946. It is the first Caribbean country to have attained mass adult literacy, universal primary and secondary education, and "free" university education. It is the first Caribbean country to have transformed its economy from sugar to tourism, international financial services, and other services. Very early it embraced the Caribbean Court of Justice and cut its judicial umbilical cord with the British Privy Council, yet it values its connection with the British Crown." Madam President, that first part that said, "We attained mass adult literacy, universal, primary, secondary and free university education", is significant. Do you know why it is significant, Madam President? We spend a lot of time talking about the development of Barbados through education, and what a great stroke of development strategy it was to have given free education, and we saw it as education. We never saw the idea of free education from primary to tertiary as a development towards economic enfranchisement, because that really is what it is. We worked in the fields, we worked as tradespeople, so we know how to cut the canes, but we do not know how to make the sugar. We had to bring somebody to teach us how to make the sugar. We could do a lot of things with our hands but we did not know to create other things and how to market them, how to manage the enterprise, and that is what the education was supposed to do. The education was take us not just to get a degree or to get a certificate; the

education was to take us to be self-sufficient, for us to be able to create our own businesses and manage our own businesses. That was the beginning of economic enfranchisement, in my view. It may not be so in everybody's view, but in my view that is what it was.

Madam President, we were going to develop businesses and therefore we had to be educated. We had to know accounting, marketing and management and that kind of thing, but if we did not have the support institutions, we would have failed. Therefore, another set of actions were taken towards economic enfranchisement, and we keep missing the understanding of what was happening. We created the Barbados Development Bank, the Barbados Industrial and Development Corporation, the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity, the Barbados National Standards Institute, the Polytechnic and other institutions, but apparently we just saw them as institutions. We did not see them as a process toward economic enfranchisement. That, again, is what it was. Madam President, even when you consider, as Sir Roy spoke just now, the sort of thinking within the trade union movement and the relationship it got into with the Social Partnership, all of that has to be towards economic enfranchisement. Do you know why? It was one thing over the years to have capital and to have labour, and they seemed to be separate. I think commonsense made people begin to understand that they are really not separate, because one cannot work without the other. Therefore, the Social Partnership was extremely important, and I grieve every time I realise it is not functioning the way it should be because that should be the engine of development in Barbados today. It needs to function better.

Madam President, let me cool myself because I get on this subject and I get carried away sometimes. We went through that period of those institutions and during the 1960s, '70s and '80s, even maybe the '50s, there was an industrial boom in Barbados. Thousands of people were working, things were happening, Barbadians were seeing creativity coming out of people that you did not think of. Again, I want to quote something from Dr. Gonsalves, because he sees more in Barbados than we see in Barbados. Here is what he said again: "An acute and dispassionate observer of Barbados notices the distinctiveness that goes beyond and is partially evident from an especially unique accent in speech, a restraint in the use of bombast in the day-to-day language, an intolerance for slipshod work, an insistence that Government deliver basic services of quality, a subtle but not unsubtle mirror image of themselves and an elemental patriotism devoid of gaudy exhibitionism. These observances are evident in the outlook of Barbadians, of Rastafarians, writers, performers in the field of the creative imagination, civil society leaders and assorted professionals. It has always struck me, for instance, that Barbadian entrepreneurs, be they the offspring of the traditional planter-merchant elite or the

newer type, commit themselves to Barbados in a way that appears to be different and better when compared to the commitment of most other Caribbean entrepreneurs to their respective countries. Examples abound from Barbados, the Big Six owners, Kyffin Simpson, the Goddards, C.O. Williams, Rayside, Muhammad Nassar, James Husbands, James Tudor of blessed memory, and other entrepreneurs of more recent vintage." I list a few of them, Madam President, and I am going to call them: Andrew Bynoe, Rawle Brancker, the Hinds Transport group, Jordan's Supermarket, Eddie's, Trevor Clarke, Sandra Hooper, Mapps and Hampden.

Asides.

Senator J.A. WATSON: These are people who were building Barbados; the entrepreneurs who came out of a process of enfranchisement that for some reason was stopped. It was that movement of development of education, development of those institutions to nurture those people who got into business, and for some reason it stopped, Madam President. I am not sure why, but I want to suggest, and this is the second time I am calling for it and I am going to keep calling for it until it happens because I see less important things being researched, Madam President. I am going to call today on the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Research to check what happened to our industrial sector between 1960 and 2010. There have to be lessons in there that will help us to rebuild an industrial sector again. Why do we need an industrial sector again? Madam President, we need an industrial sector again because we are building a hotel industry and a tourist industry that should be provided with....

Madam PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has five more minutes.

Senator J.A. WATSON: Okay. Thank you, Madam President. It should be provided with products from the manufacturing and from the agricultural industries, and that is not happening. I think that if we have a tourist industry that is really very important to Barbados right now -- there is absolutely no doubt about that -- it can be important by using the products and services of Barbados. We have, as was mentioned this morning, a cadre of young people getting into agriculture now. There is a whole set of land lying down idle all over Barbados. Madam President, I met a guy at the back of the supermarket two or three days ago delivering. He told me he has seven acres of land. He got the seven acres of land because the place where he was working offered him a package. He is a young guy. I think he was 55 at the time, and he decided he would take the package and do a thing on his own. He was delivering to one of the largest supermarkets in Barbados a product grown locally, and he showed me the invoice. It was \$2 700 or something like that, and he said that he would do

that a second time that week, so in a week he is making \$5 000 and he is doing that with him and his family alone. Now, that is only one supermarket, he is probably doing about four others so you could imagine what he is making out of agriculture, and we have land lying down in Barbados and we are allowing people to import all sorts of things that can be made in Barbados and are not encouraging our farmers to grow...

Another thing, Madam President, that I was surprised about is that even the small acreage that we give to people in the programme that you have for agriculture you cannot put a house on it. If you put a chattel house on a lot like that, what is wrong with that? The guy has the land one place and he has to travel six miles every day back and forth to his land when all he needs to do is to put a little two-bedroom or three-bedroom house on the land. If there is a planning hindrance to that, then change the planning hindrance and let the farmers be able to build their little houses and live on the plot, there is nothing wrong with that. We do not understand development, we really do not. We understand how to be a professional and how to be a consultant. We understand all of these things but we do not understand how to develop our people.

Madam President, the next 50 years has to see Barbados with a serious programme of economic enfranchisement. We have to see the hotel industry supporting the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. We have to see the education system change its methods. I am not getting into too much education but the one thing I want to say, Madam President, is simply on nursery education. I am pleased to see that we have universal nursery schools now or education I should say. I really want to impress that if we are going to have the nursery schools do not put little children teachers there, put professional teachers because that is where your best teachers are needed. Your best teachers are not needed at university level, your best teachers are needed at the nursery level because once you get it right down there it is going to be right right through to university.

Madam President, there is a little more I can say but you gave me five minutes and I am grateful. I therefore want to conclude by congratulating all of Barbados again. I am happy to be able to have spoken on this Resolution. I am pleased that the Government has seen it fit to do celebrations for the 50th Anniversary. As I said at another time, I knew that \$7 million was not enough but in the circumstances I could understand that it was probably too much, but the fact of the matter is that the 50th Anniversary has to be celebrated and I hope that all Barbadians of all walks of life understand that 50 years of Independence comes only once. Christmas comes every year, but the 50th Anniversary of Independence will come only on November 30, 2016.

Thank you, Madam President.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Madam President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, November 23, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, November 23, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MADAM PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.

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1. The Public Service General Order, 2016;
2. The Public Service Qualifications Order, 2016;
3. The Barbados Investment and Development
4. The Child Care Board Financial Statement for
5. The Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust Limited
6. Duties Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption)
7. Value Added Tax (Waiver) Order, 2016;
8. The Financial Management and Audit Financial
9. The Sugar Industry Sugar Workers Provident
10. Air Transport Licensing Authority Annual
11. The Barbados Economic and Social Annual
12. The Barbados Revenue Authority Annual Report
13. The Police Complaints Authority Annual Report
14. Reports of the Judicial Council for the years
15. The Caves of Barbados Limited Annual Reports
16. The Barbados Conference Services Limited

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ABRAHAMS, Senator W.A.

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BOYCE, Senator the Hon. D. W.

CARMICHAEL, Senator Dr. Sir T.A.

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HAYNES, Senator CAROL Lady

HUNTE, Senator R.A.

INCE, Senator J.

McCLEAN, Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O.

PEIZA, Senator Miss V. A. G. De

PRESIDERNT, MADAM

TROTMAN, Senator Sir Roy

WATSON, Senator J.A.

WORRELL, Senator A. R.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Order No. 2, end of debate. The Leader of the Senate moves ‘that this Resolution do now pass’, but no seconder is recorded and the question on the Resolution is not shown as put; after Senator J. A. Watson’s speech the record goes straight to the Adjournment. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Order No. 2, text of the Resolution. As read by Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean, the third recital reads ‘emerged as a highly Small Island Developing State’; as quoted by Senator A. A. Adams it reads ‘a highly respected Small Island Developing State’. Printed as in the source.

Q4. PRESENT. The President and the Deputy President are run together on a single line of the PRESENT list. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Opening and Resumption. Prayers are recorded as led by ‘Reverend Cannon Errington Massiah’ (presumably Canon); the opening reads ‘on Wednesday, the November 16, 2016’; and the Chair’s label at the 5.25 p.m. Resumption reads ‘MADAM PRESIDERT’. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Order No. 2, Senator Miss V. A. G. De Peiza. The Senator’s name is spelt ‘DePEIZA’ and ‘De PEIZA’, and both parts of her speech open with ‘...’, suggesting text may be missing at the take-slip. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 2, Senator J. A. Watson. The Senator refers to Bussa’s revolt ‘in April 1860’. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 16th November, 2016, with the President, Her Honour Senator Miss Kerryann F. Ifill, in the Chair; prayers were led by Reverend Errington Massiah. The President announced excuses for Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. Byer Suckoo, Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. Durant and Senator Professor Emeritus Sir Henry Fraser. The Leader of the Senate,

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean, laid sixteen papers, among them the Public Service General Order, 2016, the Barbados Economic and Social Report, 2015, the Barbados Revenue Authority Annual Report 2015 and the Reports of the Judicial Council for 2012 to 2015. Standing Order 22(1) was suspended.

The only business was Order No. 2, the Resolution that the Parliament of Barbados congratulates Barbados on the attainment of its 50th Anniversary of Independence and hails the efforts of all Barbadians in making this accomplishment possible. Senator McClean, describing herself as a child of independence and as Chair of the Co-ordinating Committee of the celebrations, reviewed the country’s development, the Human Development Index and the value placed on education, and closed with the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Senator A. A. Adams traced the history of starvation wages, migration and the struggle of the descendants of slaves for education. Senator the Hon. D. W. Boyce recalled growing up in Chalky Mount and warned against moving away from the consultative process which, he said, had saved the country back in 1993.

After lunch Senator W. A. Abrahams, recalling his schooling at St. Giles Boys School, regretted the ‘little-to-no consultation with the Opposition’ on the celebrations; Senator McClean rose on a point of order and listed the bodies represented on the committee. Senator Abrahams called for something of enduring effect to mark the anniversary. Senator J. Ince invoked Errol Walton Barrow’s ‘friends of all and satellites of none’ and spoke of the country’s borrowing to build its infrastructure. Senator Carol Lady Haynes paid tribute to her teachers in medicine and said that infant mortality had fallen from 45.4 per 1 000 live births in 1968 to 13.68 in 2010. Senator R. A. Hunte spoke on patriotism and on teachers, and Senator A. R. Worrell on the celebrations since 1st December, 2015, the Human Chain Link and the National Housing Corporation’s developments.

Senator Dr. Sir T. A. Carmichael described Barbadian ingenuity, hoping for a regeneration of aloë production for export and noting the place of rum in what he called the Barbados project. After a short suspension Senator Miss V. A. G. De Peiza spoke of the teachers who demanded excellence; Senator Sir Roy Trotman drew on a policy paper of the Barbados Workers’ Union to describe the move from agriculture to industry and services and the need for work if there was to be growth; and Senator J. A. Watson said the next 50 years must bring economic enfranchisement, with the hotel industry supporting agriculture and manufacturing.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. D. W. Boyce the
Senate adjourned until Wednesday, 23rd November, 2016

at 11.00 a.m.