
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 23, 2016

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, the November 23, 2016, at 11 o'clock in the morning.

PRESENT

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

His Honour Senator the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLAW, G.C.M., B.A. (Hons.) (Dunelm)(Deputy President) Senator the Hon. Miss MAXINE 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. DARCY W. BOYCE, M.B.A.(Finance) B.Sc.(Econ.), C.M.A., F.C.A., (Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister) Senator Mrs. V. IRENE SANDIFORD-GARNER, M.B.A., C.I.M., Dip. Mgn., (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Tourism) Senator JEPTEP INCE, J.P., M.B.A., BB.A., Dip. (Mgmt) (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs) Senator HARCOURT A. HUSBANDS, M.L.I.R., B.Sc.(Public Administration) (Hons.), Ed. Cert. (U.W.I.) (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education)

Senator REGINALD A. HUNTE, J.P.

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

Senator the Hon. PATRICK M. T. TODD, B.Sc., (Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister) Senator Dr. the Hon. ESTHER R. BYER, M.B.B.S., (Minister of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development)

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

Senator Miss VERLA A. G. DePEIZA, LL.M. (Merit), B.Sc. (Hons.) Senator Dr. JEROME X. WALCOTT, J.P., M.B., B.S., FRCS (Edin.)

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

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

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

Senator JOHN A. WATSON

Senator Dr. CAROL Lady HAYNES

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Good morning, this Sitting is resumed.

PAPERS

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

The National Cultural Foundation Annual Report for the Year 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The Barbados Deposit Insurance Corporation Annual Report 2015.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Senator Hon. Ms. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders 22 (1) and 45(2) 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 Hon. Ms. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that the Barbados Jubilee Honour Bill, 2016, be read a first time.

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 3 – THE SECOND READING OF THE
BARBADOS JUBILEE HONOUR BILL, 2016.

Madam PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, you have the Floor.

Senator Hon. Ms. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise to speak to the Bill which is intended to provide for the conferment of the Barbados Jubilee Honour on 50 persons. The Barbados Jubilee Honour Bill, 2016, is intended to put into law or to legislate and thus establish the Barbados Jubilee Honour, and this Honour is conferred on 50 deserving Barbadians. Madam President, I will go into some detail, but I will put that in the context of all that we have been doing so far this year, and that is the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Independence. Our accomplishments to date have in large measure been due to the contributions of a wide cross-section of Barbadians in political life, in other aspects of public life, in communities, et cetera. Therefore, as we examine how best to celebrate this landmark in our history, it was felt that there should be some additional recognition. Madam President, of course we know that on an annual basis we have our Independence Awards, but at this landmark we felt that it was necessary to go beyond that to recognise a cross-section of persons who would have made significant contributions. This process is not new. We would have seen this in the past with the conferment of a Bicentennial Honour to recognise contributions, and therefore I will spend some time, briefly however, identifying the broad categories.

If I were to specify for all those who would want to properly understand: The Act, when passed, will provide for the conferment of the Barbados Jubilee Honour on 50 persons who have contributed to the development of Barbados since its attainment of Independence. By that conferment, it will allow them to utilise the post-nominal, BJH (Barbados Jubilee Honour), and clearly show it to the world. Of course, they will have the necessary insignia which will capture what the Honour is representative of. In looking at the whole question of who should be nominated and how they should be nominated, it was identified that the nominations can come from among citizens and residents of Barbados who have given significant or meritorious service to their communities and their country

as a whole. In talking about their communities, we have recognised that there are many Barbadians who may not be resident but who, by their acts and contributions in their new places of residence or their involvement internationally, are making significant contributions not only to Barbados but to the world. Therefore it was felt that Barbadians, at home and abroad, because they are citizens of Barbados, Barbadians resident at home, persons qualified to be citizens would be contemplated, and, of course, in doing that, this would require an Act of Parliament. In doing that as well, the conferment of the awards would be done in the usual manner by the Governor-General. In order to insure, Madam President, that we had a wide cross-section of contributions, we would have identified a series of areas and I would list them for you. There would have been areas including education, entrepreneurship, science and technology, cultural arts, the labour movement, business, innovation, sports, medicine, civil society and the public services and in looking at those many categories, it is evident that in identifying those, the committee which would have sat to identify the categories would recognise that the contributions made by Barbadians should be recognised across the full gamut of areas of competence, areas of interests, areas of commitment therefore we would have given all people who have made significant contributions whether as volunteers, whether as professionals in the public services, whether as entrepreneurs established or new, persons who have contributed to the very foundation of what made a lot of this possible that is education, and so on. Of course we recognise that a society and civilisation cannot only focus on business but they also have to focus on things related to our culture and social development, et cetera. The question of the process of being identified, we have used in the recommendations here that would have been used rather because the process has been gone through in terms of soliciting nominations. There is publication and the publicising of the information as we do with other national honours where Barbadians were invited to go through a nomination process and that nomination process would have been given a specific deadline to be met. Those were done and similar to, as I said before, what obtained in the past in relation to other national honours, Barbadians would have submitted those. There is a standing National Honours Committee, Madam President, and that Committee was pressed into service to review and recommend from all nominated, persons to be considered for those 50 awards. That process has worked in the past and it has worked in relation to this as well. I believe that a critical part of that, of course, in terms of the nomination was the actual design of the medal and the process would have involved drawing on the talents of Barbadians to do this. We certainly have utilised, in the past, the resources of the Barbados Industrial and Development Corporation (BIDC) to use their design team and that has been done. I believe, Madam President, that in doing this, I think the important thing about this is to say to those persons who

would have been identified by the process and ultimately become the 50 persons to be recognised, we are saying to them that we in Barbados believe that it is absolutely critical that we acknowledge, recognise and, in essence, reward significant contributions. I trust that as we look at that we would inspire, not only those individuals to continue their contribution wherever they may be in whatever fields of endeavour or disciplines they may be but that we would inspire other Barbadians to recognise the value of excellence, to recognise the value of service, and by doing that give significant contributions. I believe that in looking at the award as identified, the process by which an existing committee was pressed into service, that is the Honours Committee, and I can tell you that Committee, from my understanding, has sitting on it a cross-section of persons. The structure has been the same for many years and they are the people who normally shift through to identify, based on the recommendations, a list of recommended persons for final selection. I have identified the categories for which people would be recognised, the eligibility categories. I also have indicated that we are doing this particularly at this point because we feel, as I said, that as a nation we must provide opportunity for Barbadians to recommend fellow Barbadians who they have observed and identified as worthy of this. I am sure that the recipients of this special honour, our Jubilee Honour, will of course, themselves feel very proud. I think I have heard many Barbadians over the years receive honours and are particularly happy when they are recognised by their peers, when they are recognised by Barbadians. I do not believe that I have a lot more to say, Madam President, about this process. I anticipate that when the persons receiving these awards when they are named, we will get to hear of their several contributions and I believe that Barbadians would be very comfortable that given that wide list. Before I do that, I simply listed them but it might be useful for the record and for information purposes to give a sample of the criteria because a set of criteria would have been drawn up and shared as part of that request for nominations process. For example, I will use education because we know that in this society education has been the conduit for much of the success of citizens and thereby the success of the country. It says under criteria:

“Education. The person nominated for the award in this category must be an educator at the primary, secondary or tertiary level who has exhibited outstanding commitment and dedication to the teaching profession. This individual must have contributed not only to the intellectual but also to the social and moral development of their charges. They should be a positive role model with the ability to inspire their students to achieve their best in every sphere of endeavour.”

In respect of cultural arts, Madam President, the criteria read as follows:

“This award will be presented to the individual who has demonstrated outstanding skill and aptitude in his or her chosen field. By mastery of their art, they must have contributed significantly to the cultural landscape of Barbados. They must also have had a positive influence on others thus, helping to increase the creative capacity of our nation and allowing Barbados to make a meaningful contribution to the arts regionally and internationally.”

Madam President, I will share with you civil society:

“The award for excellence in civil society would be bestowed on the individual who has demonstrated transformational leadership while inspiring positive change, and addressing specific community needs. They must have contributed to solving a pressing need in the country by using an innovative approach. They should have also assisted in the upliftment of the needy and downtrodden in society through their efforts and endeavours. In addition, they should have contributed to the empowerment of Barbadian communities via the sharing of knowledge, expertise and experience through networking and learning.”

While there are many others, I will share on final one with you and that is the award for innovation.

“The award for innovation will be conferred on the individual who has launched a unique and viable business venture or product. They must have demonstrated excellence in design, strategic planning and the ability to engage and positively impact their community. The produce or venture in question must have a practical application with either significant earning potential or tangible benefits to any aspect of Barbadians society. Original and pioneering ideas are those which represent a significant advance on our already existing technologies will be given special consideration. Those, Madam President, are the kinds of criteria used for the categories for consideration for the award.

Taken together, Madam President, what I have attempted to do was to explain the importance of the honour for which this piece of legislation is necessary to ensure that it is legally established. I think that in recognising these people we have indicated that it is important that honour be bestowed on persons as we recognise their respective contributions. It has been an effort to afford Barbadians at home and abroad to identify a cross section of persons in a multiplicity of areas saying to them that we appreciate what they have been able to do so far and saying to them that we hope that this would inspire other to do the same or more and for them to continue to make significant contributions.

With those words, Madam President, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HER HONOUR THE PRESIDENT (Recommitted)

MADAM PRESIDENT: I have received notice that Senator Abrahams would be joining us late this morning.

Senator Fraser, you have the Floor.

Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir Henry FRASER: Thank you, Madam President, I rise with considerable pleasure to support this Bill which I think is tremendously important. I have the pleasure as public orator at the Millennium in 2000 to present 100 BCH Awardees for the Barbados Centennial Honour and this decision to provide 50 awards to 50 hardworking dedicated builders of Barbados is in my opinion one of the most splendid things that we have had to deal with in recent times.

I always like to make the distinction, Madam President, because recognition and appreciation because I see recognition as an expression of awareness and a kind of reward for hard work for achievement but often achievement of a more professional kind, I see appreciation as an expression of awareness and appreciation for service and I see service as another form of love. Love is service and service is love. The famous business and motivational speaker guru Ken Blanchard of the United States of America likes to remind us that everyone wants appreciation whether it is from your spouse or partner, your parents or your children, your friends or your work colleagues, your community or your organisation, or from Parliament or the people of a nation. Appreciation is very special and while some people seek almost obsessively like certain precedents for awareness because of a narcissistic personality there are the great majority of us who contribute to the development of our country through their love for that country, for that community, for that neighbourhood, for that organisation, and so Madam President, I am very pleased to promote and support this Bill. A material life without service in the sense of contributing, building and having goals to work towards for the benefit of others is in my view a wasted life and an unfulfilled life.

I was pleased to hear the emphasis that the Leader of Government Business placed on this issues such as education because there is certainly a certain lack of appreciation for the hard work that our teachers do and for the increasingly difficult task that teachers have to operate under in today's secular changes with the problem of crime and different approaches to learning and different social standards that are being manifested around us across the world and in Barbados. I think teachers are an underappreciated community. Madam President, although I did not address the awards myself in terms of making recommendations, having been placed on the spot I can certainly think of my teachers at The Lodge School who

have dedicated their entire teaching career to the school and who at the school were very much considered as heroes. They are still very much alive. I would not embarrass them by naming them publicly but I can think of two teachers at The Lodge School that I now wish I had nominated for the Jubilee honour.

In terms of medicine, Madam President, the Leader of Government Business did not get as far down the list in terms of addressing the medical issues but certainly there are people in medicine who I think have done certainly as much as I have in their own sphere of primary care and in research who I would like to have nominated but I confess I did not take that step at the appropriate time.

Madam President, I would just like to finish with one further comment, that is the issue of our National Heroes. Having taken part as a member of the first National Heroes Advisory Committee and the second National Heroes Advisory Committee, there are three persons that I have repeatedly felt and expressed the view were people who suffered for the country who were outstanding individuals, absolute icons of the Barbadian tradition, of Barbadian leadership and Barbadian suffering, people who literally lost their lives at a young age having contributed immensely to the glory that we have in Barbados, people who helped Barbados to punch above their weight, people who by their inspiration made a huge difference in Barbados, and I refer to those people who have not yet been named as National Heroes but who like Bussa were the only prominent patriots who lost their lives on behalf of Barbados.

I speak first, Madam President, of the famous Clennell Wickham, Editor of the Herald Newspaper who did an enormous amount to change things. He was one of those people who demonstrated the principle that the pen is mightier than the sword and he was so successful in fact that he eventually having gone perhaps a little bit too far in his criticism of a public businessman in Barbados was sued for libel was landed with a debt that he could not possibly pay and he literally had to become a fugitive from his home in Grenada where he died at an early age. Whether of a broken heart or poor health, I am not entirely sure but I think that Clennell Wickham is someone who deserves to be recognised as a National Hero of Barbados. An almost contemporary of his was the man known as the "White Rebel" within us, Atholl Edwin Seymour Lewis or T.T. Lewis who fought individually a man with nothing more than a couple of years of primary school education to become a brilliant self-educated man, a politician who brought nothing except himself, his sincerity and as he said to the cross he clings when he made his public speeches, the man who promoted year after year after year the need for free secondary education in Barbados which was finally taken up by the our maximus leader the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow in 1961. Atholl Lewis was one of

those people who was joined by Grantley Adams in the march of thousands through Bridgetown because of his trade union activities and he was fired from his job and a collaboration among the business people prevented him from ever working again in Barbados so that he died of heart failure, probably of malnutrition, suffering for the people of Barbados, and therefore I say that Bussa, Lewis and Wickham were the three National Heroes of Barbados who died for the cause of democracy and love of country.

The third person in my pantheon that I would like to see as the final Baker's Dozen of the National Heroes would be Sir Frank Worrell who engaged the community of Barbados in a way like no other, whose leadership was iconic, whose leadership was brilliant and whose leadership was modelled. He inspired our National Hero Sir Garfield Sobers and the whole of the West Indies for his performance as a very brilliant leader.

With those few words, Madam President, I would like to give my total 100 per cent warm-hearted support for this very brilliant innovation.

Thank you, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I certainly would want to thank my colleague Senator for those words and of course we will note the continuing calls for additional National Heroes but that I suppose will have to be taken up by those who have the power to address that, the calls are worthy. Thank you very much for that, I would, of course, indicate that we will certainly look forward to the bestowing of these Honours and seeing and hearing more of the recipients.

With those words, Madam President, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

On the separate motion of Senator the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill. His Honour Senator the Very Rev. H. E. CRICHLAW in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 7, inclusive, were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Barbados Jubilee Honour Act, 2016.

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

Madam PRESIDENT: Senator Byer-Suckoo you have the Floor.

Sen. Dr. Hon. E. BYER-SUCKOO: It has been a hectic year but a wonderful year, so far, as we have had a number of activities planned and well executed, if I may say so, as we celebrated Barbados in a number of different ways.

Madam President, I know that you have not yet reached that milestone of 50 nor have but I am planning, I am planning to celebrate it in a few years' time. I am planning to celebrate 50 in a big year, so I have no problems with ...

Asides.

Sen. Dr. Hon. E. BYER-SUCKOO: You will help me? I know my colleagues will help me celebrate. This will be for my 50th year as well. Let me just say so now. I will let you know when that time has come, and I will be celebrating for the whole year and I will be accepting gifts of all kinds, trips, cruises, everything for the whole year. So you are forewarned and to be forewarned is to be forearmed.

Madam President, in a similar vein our country has chosen and our Prime Minister, wisely so, has mandated that spend this past year in celebration. It has not been a year of merriment. Indeed, as I do on my birthday and I believe we here do on our birthday, it is often a time for taking stock. If no other day of the year my journal comes out, and my journals are very secret, but on the birthday the journal tends to come out. We look back on what we wrote last year, sometimes on the last few years and realise you made progress on somethings, and no progress on others. There might be a few pounds you planned to lose five years ago, but realized you were unable to do so, there were some other boxes you wanted to check off, but cannot check off all, so you can check off all, so you made some new lists as well. Our country has certainly opted to do that in this year. It has not all been about merriment. It has been about taking stock.

As we took stock though, I know they are some who would venture to say we should not celebrate, because we are not in perfect condition. Everybody in here celebrate their birthday regardless of where we are. We do not let ill health stop us from celebrating a birthday. We do not let our dreams stop us from celebrating our birthday. In fact what we do is put that on our list of things to do. We do not let the fact that we have not attained the degree or the job we want stop us from celebrating our birthday. In fact, we put that on our list of things to do and we probably make a plan on how we will get there, but we will celebrate our birthday and whether the doctor has given us a clean bill of health or not we celebrate our birthday, but we put in plan the usual things to our birthdays, we are going to exercise more, we are going to eat better, we are going to clean up our act and so on, and we probably hold true to that for may be a week or two. In fact they say these kinds of resolutions last six weeks at the best. My point is though, we do not let the fact that we are not perhaps stop us from celebrating but we use the opportunity to reflect, we use the opportunity to consider where we are, and we use the opportunity to plan where we are going. That is what our Prime Minister has asked us to do.

Last December, just after we celebrated our 49th Anniversary of Independence, our Prime Minister addressed the nation and he said that for the coming year he wants us to look back, at where we have come from, what we have achieved, to look at where we are now, to look inward at who we are, what we have and where we are, and to look forward as to where we want to go, what we want to be and what we want to do. He also reminded us to look upward because unless we look upward, looking forward is not really making any sense. We have to look upward in order to look forward and to move forward.

So this year we had a number of activities planned all centered around that project, around us looking back at where we have come from, and we looked back 200 years even when we celebrated Bussa, April 28th, I believe it was, we celebrated from Bussa to Barrow and beyond and we looked back on the occasion -- that was not the 28th that was the April 16th, the Bi-centennial of the 1816 rebellion. Indeed this year we have taken the opportunity to celebrate not just 1966, but to celebrate significant things that have happened in our life as a nation. We celebrated 1816. Madam, 1816 is when as a people, as Barbadians we decided we could run our own affairs and we know of that attempt then led by Bussa and others to take charge of our affairs. That was not to be but that was the beginning of a movement. We looked at other things that have happened in the last 200 years. That is where we are because indeed we do realise it was not 1966 alone that brought us to this place. So we have looked back. We looked back at 1937. We have looked back at a number of significant events in the life of this country.

In terms of celebrating 50, Pride and Industry. Pride and Industry of course is our Motto. If we traced pride and industry I have to look back and ask why pride and industry? Why did we choose pride and industry as a motto? I searched all Mottos of all the countries I could find on the internet and not another country has a Motto similar to ours. We see mottos about unity. We see mottos about together we aspire, about one people, one nation. There are mottos about progress and homeland. Mottos about peace and justice, about honour, even about work. Our Motto is so very unique, there is not another motto I have found that is as simply stated as ours, Pride and Industry, and it got me thinking. Why would we have chosen Pride and Industry as our Motto back in 1966? I can only thing ...I have not found it written anywhere yet, but I think we chose Pride and Industry because that is a reflection of who we are as a people. Indeed everything we have, and we have said it so many times in this Chamber and outside of this Chamber that everything we have is because of our people, because of who we are, because of what we have accomplished and Pride and Industry is an important part of that, because of our pride in ourselves and our pride in Barbados, because of our industry we have been able to achieve everything we have to date. We have invested in our people and we boast of that pride and that industry. So Pride and Industry as unique a Motto as it is, is being the essence of who we are as a people. That is why it is so fitting.

I sat on the Co-coordinating Committee and we looked at a number of different possibilities suitable for this year, and we came back to Pride and Industry because Pride and Industry is what we want to recapture in our people. That is what we wanted to stir up again as we approach our 50th Anniversary of Independence. So we chose Pride and Industry. We have a number of activities. I alluded to one or two but we had a number of activities that looked at rekindling that national pride. We started with the Commemorative Broken Trident. Those of you who were there and saw the parade back in November last year, would remember the Commemorative Broken Trident was presented to the Prime Minister on that occasion. Then on January 6th the Prime Minister presented it to the St. George Parish Ambassadors, and from there it made its way around the country. That Commemorative Broken Trident caused the parishes to celebrate, caused the parishes not just to celebrate in merriment but to think again about who we are. That Commemorative Broken Trident was accompanied by a Pledge Book, and every month we asked Barbadians to make a pledge as to who they are and who they want to be as Barbados moves forward. We put some ideas for them in February when we launched the actual pledges. The theme was Love Safely. In March the theme was promoting health and wellness. In April it was Entrepreneurship and Business Development. In May, Child Month, dealt with children. In June, environment month, of course the theme was

environment and so on. So we used the Pledge Book and pledges online as well to encourage Barbadians to make a pledge.

Madam that Commemorative Broken Trident moved around Barbados. I think it was singularly successful. Barbadians came out and they took photos with it. They were very excited about it. I have the opportunity to move with that Trident to a number of different schools. It was an opportunity to remind our students and in some cases teach a new generation of students about Trident, about Independence, about what the Trident stands for. Even reminding some people -- I do remember speaking on some occasions reminding some people what our Trident stands for, that the three prongs of the Trident stands for governance of the people, for the people, by the people. Reminding people that this Trident today in 2016 is not just about our breaking away from England when we learned about the Flag, what the blue stands for and the Broken Trident. We were all taught that the Broken Trident represented our breaking away from England, but today that Broken Trident represents so much more. That Broken Trident represents who we are today, what we have accompanied in 50 years.

As I said, I was able to accompany the Trident to churches, schools and different activities, and it went to all kinds of activities. That Trident was requested by business places. As I said it went to all the schools in Barbados, the private, the public primary and secondary schools. It went to the university and other tertiary institutions. It went to businesses. It went to private functions. It went to Foreign Embassies. It went to the Court. It went to the Airport. Everywhere you could think of, people asked to have this Trident and it created excitement everywhere. In fact, so much so that some people were afraid it carried some kind of cultist movement with it, but that was not what it was about. It was about rekindling pride and as people saw the Trident, this Trident was embellished with our national colours, with ribbon and our national flower, the Pride of Barbados was also embellished. This Trident is going to sit in the National Monument which we will reveal next week. This Trident has been moving right across Barbados to rekindle in Barbadians, that passion and that pride for who we are and for what we have accomplished. As I said we used it as a teaching point to remind people of what we have done in the last 50 years.

Madam, I will use the opportunity to remind you that we have done a lot of things this year. Of course, you will never please everybody, and there are some who will feel that we omitted folks and we did not do this and we did not do that. We started with a list of activities and there were other activities included as we went along. Of course, in an effort to capture the views of as many people as possible, a wide cross-section of people, I must let you know that the Coordinating Committee, headed by Minister McClean, and

I as Deputy Chair or still am, we have not yet completed our work. We still have another week to go. That Committee also included persons from the disabled community. It included the youth. It included education and tourism. It included cultural practitioners. It included our labour movement, members of the business community and tourism. It included members of the religious community, members of the Indian community. We had a wide cross-section of people at the table with a lot of activity and there have been a lot. We had a dozen or so iconic events.

If you look back there had been so many events that had been planned by churches, private movements, there had been lecturers, the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners did lectures. The university did lectures. All kind of groups did lectures. The Museum has an Exhibition on. There have been several publications and I invite you to have a look at these publications. They will make a good addition to your mementoes on this our 50th Anniversary of Independence. A number of publications have been completed and some are yet to be revealed. We engaged the ideas of many as we progressed, and even people who are not on the Committee make contact with the Secretariat, make contact with me or Minister McClean to ensure we have other things on the programme and that other people were not forgotten. So we continually refined the activities and the programme for this week.

Those who were too busy criticizing the activities actually took that journey with us, persons from all walks of life. They were bolstered by what they saw and by what they experienced. We had activities in Independence Square which people attended in their numbers, were actually all the richer for being a part of those activities. I mentioned the pledges.

Even in the civil service we did not increase our budget for the 50th Anniversary of Independence in our ministries, but what we did, those activities we had planned we actually branded and themed around our 50th Anniversary of Independence. So it was not adding more money to our budgets, our Ministry of Finance would not have allowed that, but all those things we had actually planned.

In my Ministry we did the Give Celebration which is an award for civil servants who have performed well. There was an award that was branded as celebrating 50 Pride and Industry and a number of agencies have done the same thing. The Ministry of Culture would have done that with Crop Over. The Ministry of Tourism did that with the Food and Rum Festival. We gave that flavor to all the activities we would ordinarily have had on our budget.

This year we had activities, as I mentioned, the Carrying the Pride Programme. That is the actual name for

the Commemorative Broken Trident, Carrying the Pride. It is now November, so it is now finishing up in St. Philip. As I said, it will come to rest on the night of the 29th as part of the Monument that is being erected at the Garrison.

The Pledge Programme I mentioned the 1816 Rebellion, Bussa to Barrow and Beyond. On Heroes Day we had the tribute to the Prime Ministers. We had the Literary Festival and Book Fair. We launched the Barbados Nation Park as part of this activity because we also ensured that the environment was considered in this activity. Crop Over, of course, took on the 50th flavor. We celebrated the 80th Birthday of our only living National Hero. Again, our Prime Minister reminded us that the exploits of Sir Garfield back in 1966, also helped to stir that pride in us as Barbadians and encouraged us that we were ready for Independence, and we could take on Independence in spite of the fact that there were naysayers around at that time. That event was well attended.

The Diaspora Conference, we saw many Barbadians coming in from across the world to be a part of that. Again something that was not in our budget but was flavoured to the 50th Anniversary. Then we had a tribute to the Right Excellent Sir Frank Walcott. He would have celebrated 100 years this year were he alive. So we did a tribute to labour and a major march. The Food and Rum Festival I mentioned. The event “Mirror, Mirror Show me a Hero” was dedicated to the late Dame Nita Barrow, who also would have been 100 years this year. So we used the opportunity to remind Barbadians, again, of black Barbadians. NIFCA too was branded in that way. We have a lot of events coming up for the remainder of the month. We had the Prime Minister’s Ball. We have the Parade. We have the church service. We have the Mega Concert. The revealing of the Monument and a lot of things still yet to come. Oh yes, Hands Around Barbados on the 28th. I urge Barbadians to be a part of that. Go on the website and register so we actually complete the chain around Barbados.

As we look forward, Madam President, we are ensuring that the theme Pride and Industry remains our Motto. We have to remind all, especially the millennials, of who we are and what we have achieved, so they too could be proud, and they too could be industrious as they continue to build Barbados.

Immigration comes to mind. We have a young generation that is exposed to technology and recipients of our wonderful education system here in Barbados. It is important for them to have that pride of who they are.

I have spent the time growing up with my Trinidadian grandmother and I spent time in Jamaica and I remember hearing, feeling and noticing a difference at that time. Perhaps it is less so now, but in Trinidad they talked

about how elated they were because they had the steelpan, and in Jamaica they were so creative because they had the Reggae. We in Barbados were not so proud of our Spouge, road tennis and those things. I knew a lot of Barbadians and I hope it is changing now. We were not convinced that we our culture was as strong or we were as innovated as some of our neighbours. I hope that is changing now and I certainly hope that as we rekindle this pride and industry, we will see more Barbadians stepping out to create, whether in culture or in science and technology, and solve some of our problems. We do have the education system and, as I said, we have Barbadians who have helped us to shape Barbados today. Barbados has been a leader in many regards. Barbados has the Social Partnership that is world-renowned. This is Barbados that is well known for charting its own course. When the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said otherwise, we charted our own course in terms of our structural adjustment programme; so we do have Barbadians who have been innovative and have stepped out there, and we want to encourage millennials especially to step out there and take responsibility when you see problems. Do not just sit back and say the Government should solve these problems; but when you identify problems, realise that you have been endowed with everything that it takes to be able to set about solving this problem. We have the education, we have resources, and we are creating more systems for you to do it. Set about to actually start to solve some of the problems that we face, whether it be our waste, sewage, the environment issues, our beaches, our finances, whatever it is; whether it is traffic, whatever, we have the ability to solve our problems. We have done it before and we can do it again, and that is what our Independence Project has been about.

This year, we have celebrated. As I have gone around with the Trident, I have reminded Barbadians of things that we have had to celebrate. For example, when I say to Barbadians that in Barbados we must celebrate our stable democracy, our political stability and the fact that in this country we changed four Prime Ministers in two years, and it went so smoothly and unnoticed that just about every time I mention that in a meeting, I see folks scratching their heads trying to reckon, “When in Barbados did we actually change four Prime Ministers in two years?” It happened so seamlessly that persons who were around then did not even notice. It barely registered on our “Richter scale”, and I am speaking about the period between the death of the late Prime Minister Adams, Prime Minister St. John and then Prime Minister Barrow, and when Prime Minister Sandiford took office. All of that happened between 1985 and 1987. We changed four Prime Ministers. Not many countries can do that; change four Prime Ministers in two years and continue to be stable. These are the kinds of these that we must celebrate.

In terms of our human development, we must celebrate that. I mention our education system time and

time again because, as I travel, meet people and compare education systems in other places, we have an education system that we must be proud of, and we have to continue to laud and preserve that. Our contributions which we have made globally -- not just here in Barbados -- whether they were by members of our Diaspora; we have had some very impressive persons in our Diaspora in all spheres of activity. You name it, we have done it and we are there. Also, at the United Nations (UN) when Barbados engages the international community, this country has been described by a former UN Secretary General as "punching above its weight" because when you hear Barbados talk, people look up and listen, and they cannot believe that this is a 166-square-mile country which you cannot even find on a map. Here they are making a contribution; Barbados leading the discourse on climate change and Small Island Developing States, Barbados leading the discourse in so many other areas, and you would not believe that this a country which you cannot even find on a map. We have to be proud of that. When I travel to these meetings, I am always so proud of how we are respected across the world. We really are an incredible people. We have not been a follower, we have not let naysayers tell us that we could not do it, but we have gone out there, and in 50 years we have accomplished so much that we really must celebrate.

As we are winding up our celebrations, we are reminded that our Prime Minister put three questions to us in January this year, when he asked us to consider what those features of Barbadian life are which we have lost but need to retain. What are those features of Barbadian life that we have not lost but we need to get rid of? What are those features of Barbadian life that we do not have but we actually need to acquire at this point? A number of activities have been going on, and those have formed the basis of activities in schools, at the University of the West Indies and in business places, and members of civil society have been using those questions also. The University has also launched a value survey, and they will be going out to Barbadians to hear from them, because it is our hope that we can get from Barbadians what it is they want to see us get rid of and what it is they want to see us retain, so that we can ensure that our programmes and policies reflect that and help us to create the Barbados that we want for ourselves. The University has launched that, and I do not want to pre-empt that survey but we have been getting feedback from others. Pride and industry, of course, feature very highly among those values which we want to see Barbadians retain.

This year Barbadians have reminded us, as they have reminded themselves, that we must always sing the second verse of the National Anthem. You are hearing more and more people insisting that we sing the second verse. Yes, I see Sir Henry looking in my direction. Sir Henry is always adamant that we sing not just the first verse but the second verse, because it reminds us that the Lord has been our

guide and if we are to progress, we need to do so with Him on our side. With Him on our side, we can have no doubts or fears and we can continue. I am sure that will feature in our values survey as well, because as Barbadians there is no denying that as a people we are Christian and we uphold Christian values for the most part. I think that is one of the things that a lot of Barbadians have signalled to me that they want to see us retain -- our Christian values -- because they have served us well this far. We cannot continue to say "with God on our side" but still throw our Christian values and principles by the wayside. We will get the outcome of that in a few months and we will continue.

Madam PRESIDENT: You have two more minutes.

Senator Dr. the Hon. E.R. BYER-SUCKOO: Thank you very much, Madam President. I mentioned the Hands Around Barbados which I want to see persons participate in. Madam President, as we are winding up our celebrations I want to urge everyone to come out and be involved. We have seen all Barbadians come out, Barbadians of all walks of life. Even in our activities we have had a lot of young people being involved. We have had people from every section of this country come out and take part, whether they have done so with the Trident in their community or wherever they have been. As we celebrate Pride and Industry, we urge Barbadians that after November 30, after we have rekindled that, and with the projects that are ongoing and the values survey, let us continue now as we have reflected, as we have looked inward and as we have looked upward. Let us now look forward to the next 50 years and beyond. Let us look to continuing that Pride and Industry. Let us remind ourselves that this is who we are, that is how we have got here, that is how we have made our mark on the world. Out of that Pride and Industry, we have creativity, culture, innovation in everything that we do; let us celebrate that. Let that be who we are. This is the Barbados we celebrate, this is the Barbados that we pledge allegiance to, to do credit to our nation wherever we go. This is the Barbados that we have made, the Barbados that we have high hopes for, and together -- I urge all Barbadians -- let us remember that this is the Barbados for all of us. Let us bring all of our skills to bear to make this the best, the most prosperous, the cleanest, the most competitive, the most peaceful 166 square miles of real estate anywhere on this globe, and by our living to do credit to this our nation every day here on this Rock and wherever we go. Madam President, I am pleased to wish my country Barbados a Happy Independence and to congratulate Barbados on achieving this milestone, hailing all the efforts that we Barbadians have made in making this possible. Thank you, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator V. I. Sandiford, you have the Floor.

Senator V. I. SANDIFORD-GARNER: Thank you, very much, Madam President. Before I begin my presentation, Madam President, I would just like to compliment my colleagues in the Chamber who have contributed to day for an excellent and sterling presentations over the past week. We were taken back to a Barbados which some of us in this Chamber are not familiar with and I wanted to say that I, myself, would wish to identify with many of the experiences which would have been explained or described when some of our members spoke previously unlike my colleague who just took her seat I have passed that mark and I celebrated it and I am not ashamed to say so. In fact, I am very proud to say that I a five years older that independent Barbados so I would have met Barbados as a child.

I met Barbados actually when I was five years old. I came to Barbados on an airline called BOAC and I do not know if any of you remember BOAC some may not even know of BOAC but I want to give you a context within which I am going to speak. I would have been born of Barbadian parents who would have left these shores to go to the United Kingdom to work because they were employment opportunities in United Kingdom for skilled Barbadians and that is why I would have had my first years or my early life in that country so I would have spent the first eight years of my life in a city called Hackney, London. I was an urbanised Cockney who was then transplanted at eight years old.

I met Barbados in 1966 in December when I came here for a wedding. I was the flower girl at my uncle's wedding and I had to experience Barbados' medical care at that age, and all I can remember of it back then is that I met Santa Claus because I spent Christmas in the Hospital. I was an asthmatic and the excitement of flying to Barbados and all the excitement of the wedding and everything else sent me to the old Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) and I remember it being an exceedingly hospitable place and as I said, I met Santa Claus. That was the first and the last time I had ever met Santa Claus.

Moving forward now to eight years old, I came here because my dad decided that Britain was not the place he wanted to raise his two daughters and he felt, at that time, in 1970 that Barbados would have provided a better educational system for his children who were born in the mother country. Of course, he did not get much support from mummy but that was ironed out because most Barbadians felt even after independence that Barbados still had a long way to go and they felt that the industrialised cities were the places where you should go and where you should find your fortune. I came into an upgraded community and that is why I said earlier that I am very familiar with the old Barbados.

I remember a Barbados where we washed clothes with a "jucking board" and where clothes were bleached on the grass across the road. We had them on the grass and they would be sprinkled every now and again and we had the whitest school blouses and socks. Starch was made on a stove, seasoning was made in something called a mortar and pestle and we were given the dubious pleasure of cutting up onions, seasoning and tasting it and having a go at it. My grandad made butter by sitting in a rocking chair and shaking the curd from the cow's milk. It is only since I became an adult that I realised the immense physical strength and fortitude that that old man would have had because to sit in a rocking chair and churn butter by hand took patience and it also took endurance and a considerable amount of strength.

Those old people, because I had two sets of grandparents, I am fortunate and blessed to have known all four of them, two were in an area called St. Simon's, St. Andrew and the other two were at Walker's Bay and the two at Walker's Bay were the cattle and animal farmers and the two in St. Simon's, one was a school teacher but both of them were agricultural people. My grandad in St. Simon's would get up at 5 a.m. in the morning to go into his garden before he went to teach in school and these are valuable principles and examples which I would have lived and watched to understand, and understood more as I got older because you take a lot for granted as child. I went to school with children who were still coming to school barefooted, who would wash their feet at the tap after lunch and before they left to go home. I could never understand why you would wash your feet to walk home barefooted but those were the little things you would notice and understand.

At school, we scrubbed out own desks so therefore we were reluctant to mark them because we knew at the end of term, we would have that task of scrubbing our wooden desks. We had something called brown soap and a brush and we all had clean our own school desks for the classes who came after us in the next school term so we had a sense of ownership of our school property. People still cooked on the fire and people still did their schoolwork by lamp light and they excelled. They did well because we all expected that we were supposed to achieve.

Imagine now being transplanted from a city, an urbanised environment to a country Barbados where when a car came down the road you knew whose car it was because there were so few vehicles that you could tell from the engine whose vehicle was coming. I think then we only had up to A 25 or something like that because one of my grandparents was A 20. You could hear the "chugga chugga", you could hear the Toyota, Mr. Surrey, you knew whose car was coming down the road just by listening to the engine. Your senses were tuned, you could smell when cashews were in, you could smell when "fat porks" were

in, it was a sensory experience as well as a very practical learning curve for me growing up in an agrarian community, a small community where somebody like Erma Rock, a woman, to me, whom we have not paid tribute to as a country, we have not recognised. The first female to own a best company in the 1960s when women at the time were not even, as we would say, emancipated. Not only that, she provided lumber, she had her own informal hardware where she provided lumber for the building of houses in that community and out-sold and you could buy what you could and trust what you could not. She was one of the first so-called hardware store owners in the country and a female entrepreneur who we need to recognise for her valuable contribution to Barbados. Erma Rock owned the Rocklin Best Company, a woman and entrepreneur.

We raised animals. We had to carry them out, we had to water them and we had to bring them back in. If we were at school, they we would do it when we came home from school so there was not lingering. There was not time to get up to mischief because you had a structured life and you knew you had to do your homework so you came home from school and you went and did your work. That was one of our recreational periods. You would come home and go with cousins up, what we used to call the bay, which was Walker's Bay, and talked all kinds of stuff that adults could not hear because we were up in the wilderness, as you would call it, by ourselves, sea breeze blowing, sheep in front you and you are talking anything that happened at school and what was not supposed to happen at school, bring in your animals and then get down to your school work and every single one of us excelled at school and we had a packed programme to meet.

I fast forward to Barbados today and I am not the mother of two adults who do not know what a ladder is, who can go to a tap and turn the water on, who can flick a switch and the electricity comes on, who know nothing about the pre-independent Barbados which we would have heard about last week and very little about the immediate post-independent Barbados. I am the parent of a generation of Barbadians who are impatient with Barbados now, I am going to explain in detail because I straddled both generations. As I listened to my colleagues last week I said to myself you know what and I turned to my colleague on my right and said there is a definite generational disconnect in this country which does not augurs well for our future advancement.

I am not saying that we should live in the past but I am saying that probably we as parents, and I am saying we collectively because I think I did what I could with mine to bring them to an awareness, of the post and pre-independent generations of the Over 50s dropped the ball because we felt as our grandparents did that our children's lives should be much better than the lives which we had so that they look back on that period and see it as a period of

hardship where I see it as a period where Barbados paid its dues colonially because we would have moved then from the sugar cane. Those people before would have been farmers who assured, I think it is Senator Hunte who mentioned it, the export potential we had in our food industry. We then moved away from sugar and agriculture to tourism and the service-based economy which meant that people did not work as hard but in my opinion they lived better, they lived longer because it was a healthier lifestyle.

We have children now who come along who could switch on a television. At the time when I was growing up there were two televisions, my grandparents had one and somebody else down the road in Shorey Village had one and people used to gather at the window of the house to watch television, and now we have children who have televisions in every bedroom and they cannot conceive of a Barbados where probably they would have been one television in a whole district or none at all. They can flush toilets. They cannot conceive of a pit toilet in Barbados. Only a minority understand or still know or recognise what a pit toilet is. I do agree as was said in the Other Place by an Opposition Member of Parliament that the time for us to decide that this country no longer needs pit toilets has come but there are still Barbadians who know what that is, but I know that I have children and their friends who do not know what that is. They eat English apples every day and we could only eat them at Christmas. We knew what they were at Christmastime and there were very special. They eat them every day and when the washing machine does not work we cannot tell them they need to go and wash those clothes by hand, they want to know when will it be fixed. We have neglected to connect our children with the Barbados which we and our grandparents would have built and with the Barbados that they have come to know.

We have a situation where Barbados was a robust welfare system. It has produced some healthy and very well-educated Barbadians but their self-knowledge and understanding of what would have brought them to that point and who they really are as Barbadians is missing. There can be no governmental blame for this. This is firmly on our shoulders, those of us as I said who would have grown up prior to independent Barbados and immediately after Barbados became independent.

We had a thriving offshore sector up until recently and we would have had a thriving the economy because the tourists who came from the countries where we would have marketed then would have been doing well, but then everything changed in 2008 with the global financial meltdown and these same post-independence citizens who we have raised are expected to adapt miraculously to the changes which they are now seeing. We do not know that we are being fair to them because the country that they know or as they know it has changed drastically before

their very eyes. We have to understand that when they have no water, we know why they have no water, it has been explained why sometimes they do not have any water. The infrastructural challenges and the challenges have been explained, but commensurate with the advancement there was a lack of maintenance.

I am fully convinced that within the past decade and a half Barbados' economy would have overheated. I think that we moved a bit too quickly without taking stock of what we needed to do to bring our country along with us, I mean infrastructural and economically, because the land that we would have bought in 1994 at \$5 and \$6 a square foot within a decade and a half is now at \$30 a square foot which means that the generation that we have brought forth will not be able to do the things we did when we were their age, and these are things that we seem not to recognise. Our economy definitely did overheat and there are under 30-year-olds Barbadians who cannot do what we did when we were 27 years old. They cannot even think about it so understand why they do cry out because as the young people would say the struggle is real but we have ourselves to blame because the type of independent Barbados that we should have been fashioning was somehow lost in the mad rush to see how we could become as wealthy a Barbados as possible, and the implications for that are immense. The disconnect with the ageing infrastructure, the lack of understanding, an ageing hospital, unsustainable tertiary education and the other many, many issues which now face us as a nation are here with us and we find ourselves now at a turning point because we now have to solve these problems not only as a Government but as a country together.

We also have to look at the changing geopolitical landscape where the former godfathers and godmothers country no longer see Barbados as a valuable asset. Barbados as a geopolitical space is of no concern to them, it is of no value to them. Those countries which we would have originally and previously depended on for that little economic fillip are no longer there for us, so I believe that this is a time for each and every Barbadian to step back and take stock. I remember being in an area, and I will be very frank, in White Hill, a couple months ago sitting with a gentleman who is a Rastafarian and he said: Sis, I really feel that we got to check we own economy before we check the Prime Minister but I understood what he meant. He meant that we have to take responsibility for our own personal economic circumstance, and his way of putting it is that Bajans got to check for their own economy first. I repeated it at home and of course it was rubbished with the younger ones because the younger ones do feel, because we have been responsible for making them feel so, that everybody else is responsible for them except themselves. Madam President, it is difficult to say this, but it is true. I say 'we' collectively but the reality of the situation is that things will never be the same in this country. Madam

President, with that I said that we need to take of who we are and I would wish to ask us here today, do we really know who we are as Barbadians and how we are perceived. I wish to now quote from a philosopher and educator who was born in Canada but was raised by Jamaican parentage, a man called John Hearne, to whom I was introduced by the late David Thompson. Madam President, here is what he said about us as Barbadians, and I quote:

"For me as a Jamaican, he [Barbadians] has always been the most enigmatic complex, I almost write complicated and challenging member of the Caribbean community. He throws me back on my mind. This is not to say that a Barbadian is the man to whom he feels closest, the Port of Spain, Trinidadian arouses in me a sense of exhilaration, a sympathy of spirit, if you like, that I do not think I could ever feel in Bridgetown. And the Guyanese of whatever race, I find the most surely likeable, the most open representative of West Indian people. There is a gentleness, a seemingly instinctively warmth of heart about him that I often pray will not vanish in the anguish of his present history [meaning the present-day history of Guyana] but the Barbadian is a problem, every other West Indian who knows him at all has searched hard for words at some point that would pin him down. His illusiveness has aroused as much irritation amongst his fellow West Indians, as it has clear-headed speculation."

Madam President, he goes on to say:

"But I don't think that it is entirely accidental that our greatest cricket captains, Worrell and Sobers, two of the most subtle strategists the game has yet seen, both came out of Barbados."

Madam President, he goes on to say:

"What we have is a source of real physic strength. It is one of the inheritances that give us the extraordinary self-confidence and self-discipline that immediately impress every visitor to Barbados. There is a wholeness to the Barbadian that I have not found in any other Caribbean territory and an awareness of himself as a person that is remarkable, enviable and in every sense of the word, good. There are no other children in West Indian fiction like George Lamming's grown-up boys in "The Castle of my Skin." Whatever problem of poverty, race, prejudice, lack of social structure, the thirst, they operate out from a powerful individuality and they have a cultural reference point that is truly original."

Madam President, this is not Barbadians speaking about themselves, this is an outsider who is describing who we are. Madam President, I will conclude his description of us by saying:

"It is better for a country to have an ordered abundance of qualities that can spoil or go sour than to have none at all and one of the most fascinating studies over the next generation would be what the Barbadian makes of himself as a man responsible for this own destiny."

Madam President, this was written immediately after our Independence, 1966. I think that this now is my launching pad for my conclusion, because more and more as a people as we face these challenges every day, I am saying that we will be called upon to rely on ourselves as a people and on our innate capacity to be resilient. We know what a resilient Barbadian is because we have lived through the recession of the 1990s, some of our Barbadian foreparents would have lived through the Depression, as well as the War, as well as Hurricane Janet, Tropical Storm Tomas and Hurricane Andrew. Barbadians are a resilient people, we have that innate capacity and we need to be purposeful in fashioning a Barbados of which we would continue to be proud of, not only for ourselves but for our children and our grandchildren.

Madam President, this afternoon I take great pleasure in being a Barbadian who chose Barbados, for whom Barbados was chosen and for whom by virtue of my sitting and standing in this Honourable Senate chose. I chose and Barbados was chosen for me and I will be forever grateful and thankful that this is the lot in the Caribbean Sea which the Creator and all the variables within the universe would have made possible for me to be here today. Barbados, I thank you. To this Honourable Chamber and to you, Madam President, I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Crichlow, you have the Floor.

Senator the Very Rev. H. E. CRICHLLOW: Madam President, I wish I could surrender my time for speaking to the last speaker, so that I could continue to think very deeply and to learn something more about myself. Madam President, I would like to congratulate all others who have spoken on this Motion last week and this morning. I think we have had a number of very fine speeches and I would hate to spoil that and therefore I will be very brief so that we can continue that feast that we are having here today.

Madam President, I too am a proud Barbadian and I congratulate the various Governments of Barbados for all that they have done to produce this very fine country that we have. My field over the last 70 or 80 years has been in education and religion, the church and school, and so you would forgive any lack of reference to scientific and technological education. Our present position is that we need to produce more scientists and technicians, that is how the world is going. I think we also need, as most of my colleagues have said, that spiritual and psychic, ethical

support really to make us a happy people. I think that education has produced the kind of Barbados that we have, and I hope that we will continue to put a premium on education. We have inherited a lot. As we all know, Barbados was spoken of as 'Little England' but I do not think that we need to be ashamed of that, because England has given us a lot really. I would say that most of our values have come out of England, especially our educational ones. There are three collegiate universities in England - Oxford, Cambridge and Durham -- among the many universities, and Barbados has been fortunate to have been adopted by one of these universities, Durham. Codrington College was affiliated to Durham since 1875 and some of you would know of others who did their first degrees at Codrington College, and these were Durham degrees.

Aside.

Senator Very Reverend H.E. CRICHLLOW: People like Sir Harley Moseley and a number of them did Classics and Mathematics at Codrington College and received the same Durham degrees as if they had been at Durham itself. I was fortunate to have started my theological training at Codrington College and then I was among just a handful -- four actually -- of people who were sent to Durham itself to complete the degree. We joined the second year people at Durham and went on to finals. Codrington College has done a lot of very good work, especially for the Barbadian part of the West Indies. It is now a purely theological college where priests are trained but, as I said, it had wider scope in those days. Our first Bishop, William Hart Coleridge, did a tremendous amount of work here. Every person in Barbados is in some church parish as he or she is in a singular parish. That is to say, anywhere you go in Barbados you can be sure that a priest is accessible to you because you are in some church or ecclesiastical parish or other. The Anglican Church covers the whole of Barbados. Of course, we have other churches: Methodists, Moravian, Roman Catholic and the various free churches and so on.

I think that religion has helped to develop the kind of persons that we Barbadians are. That does not mean that we are perfect. No one is perfect. Only one perfect person walked this earth: Jesus of Nazareth. All others have been and are imperfect. I am not trying to compare our Christian religion with, for example, the Muslim religion, but I am just saying that we have been exposed to the highest form of living that there is because of our belief in Jesus. Just as the whole of Barbados is divided into church or ecclesiastical parishes, so in every parish there is an Anglican school; a school set up by the Anglican Church. Most of our people, if you ask them where they received their primary education, would have to say at "saint so and so" boys' school or "saint so and so" girls' school, but if you lived in Christ Church, you could say Christ Church Boys' or Girls' schools. Not only has the church been busy

with primary education. A lot of our secondary schools have also been set up by the church or have had church influence, and they have had as their principals or headmasters or headmistresses men and women who have been brought up in the church and have been able to pass on that church influence. I do not think we need to be ashamed of saying that we are a Christian foundation.

I forgot to mention, when I talked about the collegiate universities in England and their influence in Barbados, that we are the only West Indian island that was influenced directly by those ancient universities, and that is through Codrington College, and many of the old graduates of Codrington College went through the West Indies and were teachers in secondary schools and so on, and so carried with them that influence.

I am wearing a Combermerian tie, ...

Asides.

Senator the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLLOW: Yes, and I am proud of him but this is also the national tie.

Asides.

Senator the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLLOW: Almost? What is the difference?

Asides.

Senator the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLLOW: Oh! I would have to change that.

Asides.

Senator the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLLOW: I am sorry. I thought as we were in the independence week and so on, I would wear an independence tie. Thank you very much.

I was very impressed by much that was said by other colleagues and the conditions that they worked under. I did all of my work up to advance level in sixth form. I did all of that with a kerosene oil lamp, you called them "Home Sweet Home". Yes, I did all of my secondary education work with that kind of light, I did not know. I could not just switch on the electricity. It was not much in my district in those days but I am in a completely different age group from all of you in here. Are any of you older than 80 years?

Asides.

Senator the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLLOW: Well, I have passed 80 years and I think that entitles me to end my speech at this point.

I congratulate Barbados on reaching 50 years and I am sure that the next 50 years will produce as much as the first 50 years of independence have done and may even produce more so I wish all of those young people who are coming up now and who have a lot of talent in many, many fields, I wish you well and I hope that you, as some other speakers has said, put service before self. I have always been impressed by the 45th verse of the 10th Chapter of St. Mark's Gospel, Mark 10:45 and I think it says: "The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give his life as a ransom for many." That minister there is service. The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Todd, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise to support this Resolution which seeks to congratulate Barbados on the occasion of 50 years as an independent sovereign State.

I feel privilege, Madam President, to stand here before you as a, by-and-large, product of independent Barbados because I was born as the song by Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons said, on a night late December back in '63, 30th December to be exact. I was a little more than a toddler when Barbados became independent on 30th November, 1966. In fact, Madam President, I was born a little more than stone's throw away from that Garrison historic area where the Union Jack was lowered on that wet 30th November. I was born in Chelston, a stone's throw away from Culloden Farm, the official residence of the then Prime Minister of Barbados, the Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, now Right Excellent and I would have grown up on Dalkeith Road so that early part of my life my consciousness would have been fully appeased of the realities of independence because you would have the Independence Day Parade and living at Dalkeith Road the entire family would attend these early Independence Day celebrations. It was commonplace to see the Governor-General going to and from the Garrison Savannah and horse-racing on Saturdays and of course the Independence Day Parade with the motorcycle police outriders or the mounted police escorts.

Madam President, Senator Lady Carol Haynes mentioned that in the early period there was not Crop Over. I am fully aware of this because the modern version of Crop Over was revised in the late 1970s so in the early 1970s as a young man living on Dalkeith Road, there was no official Crop Over or Kadooment and the next best thing was the young people in the area and indeed, throughout Barbados accompanying the bands of the regiment and the

Royal Barbados Police Force and the Cadet Corp and, of course, the Pathfinders of the Seventh Adventist Church.

Asides.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Thank you very much, Madam President. My apologies, Madam President

As I was saying earlier, the early part of my life would have been spent in that Garrison history area living on Dalkeith Road and I was just saying, Madam President, that I can identify with Senator Lady Carol Haynes when she mentioned that in the early days, up to the mid-70s there was no official Crop Over Festival so the young people of Barbados, including myself, would have looked forward to the Independence Day Celebrations, the Independence Day Parade when the ...

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Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: ...young people of Barbados including myself would have looked forward to the Independence Day Parade when persons taking part in the Parade would be accompanied by the marching bands of the Royal Barbados Police Force, the Cadet Corp, the Pathfinders of the Seventh day Adventist Church, which of course would have been and is still headquartered in the Dalkeith Road area, and so we would march with these bands from the Garrison right down to Bay Street. The Prime Minister would take the salute at Government Headquarters of course. In fact, we who live in the Dalkeith area had added bonus because as the others would have completed the march at Bridgetown, we would actually accompanied the Pathfinders who would have marched back up Bay Street and up Beckles Road to their Headquarters at Dalketih. We live in that area would have gotten an additional opportunity to celebrate independence with that very professional performance of the Pathfinders of the Seventh Day Adventist Church who is celebrating over 125 years of ministry in Barbados.

Madam President, I am very happy to be here to join in congratulating Barbados on the attainment of 50 years of independence. As I understand it - because as I said I am a little more than 50 years of age - the historians and others have made the point that one reason why Barbados would have sought independence was that as a colony of an imperial power many people argued that the pace of development of the country was not as fast as the political leaders at the time, like the then Premier Errol Walton Barrow, would have believed was necessary because we could not control our own destiny, we did not have full internal self-Government and the ability to chart our own

destiny as a sovereign state was not possible because we were subject to the dictates of the colonial power back in England. In fact, Madam President, to substantiate this claim, I draw reference to the fact that if you go back to the 1937 Disturbances which occurred throughout the region including Barbados when a number of persons lost their lives, there was a Royal Commission headed by the Moyne's Commission and in that Commission I understand there were trade union leaders from Britain to sort of illustrate the point that the root of the Riots and Disturbances would have been the abject poverty in which the masses in Barbados would have had to exist.

In fact, Madam President, just before that in recent months we would have been focussing on the building of the Panama Canal and the role of tens of thousands of Barbadians in the construction of that Canal. We would have seen a documentary on this matter the first time it was shown in Barbados within the last year or so, and I was able to view that, where Barbadians who were still living at that time when this documentary was prepared a few years ago, people in their 80s and 90s, talked about the hardship in Barbados at the time of the construction of the Panama Canal in the early 1900s and where although the wages paid to West Indians of colour including Barbadians to construct the Canal was minimal, they were called Silvermen, as opposed to the gold that was paid to the Europeans and American workers on the Canal, yet these tens of thousands of Barbadians risked their lives... Even the voyage from Bridgetown through the United States of America to Panama was treacherous, the boats were overcrowded and a number of workers never even made it to Panama, they perished on that journey and then in Panama itself the conditions were deplorable in terms of the wet clothing. They were not given enough clothing so the next day they often had to wear the wet clothing that they would have worn to work the previous day so many of them died from illnesses as a result. Of course, you had the dangerous situation where dynamite was being used and there were many accidents where the dynamite exploded prematurely killing a number of these workers and workers also fell from high levels as they risked their lives to construct the massive gates that were utilised in the Canal process. Many Barbadians would have been aware of the dangers involved in going to Panama but the conditions in Barbados were so much worst that they were willing to risk life and limb to get away from the abject poverty in Barbados. Madam President, I am painting the picture of the realities in Barbados under colonial rule.

Independence, Madam President, I submit, was an attempt by the Barbadian people of the day to take their destinies in their hands to chart a better future for themselves and their families and future generations of Barbadians. Madam President, in other countries people may have had to fight wars with the United States of America, there was a war of independence and in other

parts of the world and people would have died fighting for independence so because perhaps this was not the case in Barbados sometimes we may take it for granted. I am trying to suggest, Madam President, that the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow and his team would have fought and insisted that we go into independence to ensure that the living conditions, the quality of life of Barbadians was much improved at a faster rate than the colonial masters were willing to guarantee.

Madam President, even as I said in the 1930s we had the 1937 Riots and Disturbances but the Central Bank of Barbados within the last year or two actually sponsored and produced a documentary which is aired on Channel 8. I remember one aspect of this documentary where in this pre-colonial period, in the earlier part of the 20th Century, in the 1950s and so on for example, life expectancy in Barbados was no more than 50 years of age and now life expectancy is clearly in the 70s and beyond in Barbados. Of course, what I am saying is that life expectancy was so low because the quality of healthcare and the standard of living in terms of the nutrition, the food being consumed by the masters, was all limited. There was also the quality of housing and poor sanitation as was mentioned with not many people having indoor plumbing facilities and so on. Madam President, that is the reality of the pre-colonial period so when we celebrate the attainment of the 50th Anniversary of Independence we are celebrating the fact that we are the people demanding the independence from the colonial masters and having achieved this independence we have transformed the country Barbados in a very aggressive manner. Having achieved this Independence we have transformed the country Barbados in a very aggressive manner so that after 50 years we can compare and contrast our quality of life today as compared to that of the precolonial period and that we can come to the conclusion that Independence was and is, indeed, a successful undertaking of our country.

Madam President, I am very happy that this Resolution has been worded very carefully to demonstrate that we are looking at this whole process in a non-political manner because I see and I quote the last aspect of the Resolution says:

“Be it resolved that this Parliament congratulate Barbados on the attainment of this significant milestone and hails the efforts of all Barbadians in making accomplishment possible.”

Madam President, I stress all Barbadians and so this Resolution must be supported by all Barbadians. We are not say the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party because Government is a continuum and therefore I am very surprised and disappointed that thus far the Opposition in their contribution to this debate has not really come to terms with this.

Madam President, this Resolution gives the Opposition an opportunity to outline to Barbados and Barbadians the achievements of its Administration because at least 24 years of the 50 years of Independent Barbados was under the Barbados Labour Party Government. Madam President, if they are not taking that opportunity to outline those aspects of their stewardship, I really am surprise, instead rather to try to stir the debate as far as I am concerned by seeking to condemn and criticise the current Administration I think is shortsighted and really demonstrates a sense of immaturity.

Madam President, as Senator Sandiford-Garner mentioned, she would have celebrated 50 years. I was invited to her 50th birthday party, a wonderful occasion, I feel very honoured to have been invited and it would have obviously been out of place for persons attending that 50th birthday party to be openly condemning and criticising persons celebrating their 50th birthday. Madam President, by the same token we as a Barbadian people must frown upon any amongst us who would seek at this critical time to be so critical, instead we should focus and try to accentuate the positives.

Madam President, as I said, the Barbados Labour Party was in office for 24 of these years and therefore they could join and say that they would have made a contribution to this process and let us all rejoice as a people and focus on what we have achieved as a country, rather than accentuating the negatives.

Madam President, since the Barbados Labour Party representative in this Honourable Chamber would have been critical, I am forced therefore to respond in passing to some of these criticism so that we can have some balance in this debate. Madam President, for example, Senator Abrahams in his presentation would have talked about the fact that in his youth the state of the country in terms of the need for the State to have more debushing programmes in place. Madam President, I would simply remind the Honourable Member and this country that it is this Democratic Labour Party Administration that has been able within the last few years to partner with private sector interest in the Adopt-a-Kilometer Initiative which has seen the ABC Highway being transformed into a well-manicured area where there is a symbiotic relationship where the participants in terms of corporate sponsors are able to get millage for their companies in terms of advertising their billboards along the highway but then they would have participated in terms of debushing the areas and other sides of the highway. This has assisted the Government greatly in terms of keeping the highways and byways of our country in aesthetically pleasing manner.

Madam President, I know of this week that this Democratic Labour Party Administration is putting the necessary machinery in gear so that before the end of the

year we will be rolling out a massive State-sponsored debushing programme which will be piloted by the Ministry of Health. This is an exercise which the Ministry of Health has undertaken over the years, especially in the rainy period, to mobilise dozens of workers to clear vacant lots and to play an important role in debushing the areas throughout Barbados in general.

Madam President, the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs in the Other Place would have in his last Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, 2015, made this promise and as we speak, as I said, the necessary funding and proprietary work is being set in motion. The hope is that before the end of this calendar year these personnel would be fully mobilise to assisting to debushing the areas, especially since we have had the showers of blessings which would have given rise to increase vegetation in the island.

Madam President, the Opposition Senator would have also mentioned the issue of the sewerage system in our country but I would wish to remind the Opposition that the West Coast Sewerage System project was being mooted by the Democratic Labour Party Administration when we were in office, prior to losing the Government in 1994. They, the Barbados Labour Party, were in office for 14 long years and were unable to actually execute the construction of the West Coast Sewerage System. Madam President, I can say that this Democratic Labour Party Administration is working assiduously as we speak to ensure that the municipal sewerage systems in Barbados will be upgraded and the West Coast Sewerage System would be constructed. Ma'am, already proposals have been submitted by the relevant Ministry, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management to Cabinet in looking at a comprehensive approach to sewerage systems in our country, including the upgrade of the South Coast Sewerage System, the Bridgetown Sewerage System and the construction of the West Coast Sewerage System. This is a multimillion dollar project and Madam President, I should make the point that over the last few years we would have ensured that we looked at redesigns of the West Coast Sewerage System, so that rather than having, as occurs today, the liquid outflow being pumped out to sea, that by tertiary treatment of this sewerage this then purified outflow can become safe enough to be used for irrigation to recharge the aquifers so that this outflow will permeate the coral rock and we will be able to safely recharge the aquifers.

Madam President, this is nothing new because I remember while being the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown I attended the Annual Board of Governors Meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank in Calvary, Alberta a few years ago where I was able to be taken on tour of a municipal sewerage system in Calvary, where I was able to see this tertiary treatment of the sewage

to such an extent that one final stage was exposure to ultraviolet light to kill harmful bacteria, and then the outflow was actually pumped into the Bow River safely. Further downriver, miles away, that same river water was being utilised in a safe manner because that outflow from the sewage plant was treated to a tertiary level and given rise to safety. Madam President, I can assure the public that this Democratic Labour Party Administration is serious about the upgrades to the municipal sewerage systems in our country. Therefore, this would then increase the amount of potable water -- drinking water -- available, rather than losing millions of gallons of water out to sea as occurs currently by having this water then treated to the tertiary level to recharge the aquifers. Then obviously it would improve the amount of water available in the aquifers for drinking purposes later on, Madam President.

Speaking about water, the Opposition is again focusing on the negative and sought to criticise this Administration in terms of the challenges we have had in recent months as the drought has intensified; an act of God. The Democratic Labour Party did not produce the drought but the Barbados Labour Party, for narrow political mileage, is seeking to criticise this Administration in terms of issues of access to potable water. Madam President, I am old enough to remember

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has four more minutes.

Senator Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Thank you. I am old enough, Madam President, to remember that these water issues did not start in 2008 when the Democratic Labour Party assumed office, but I remember in 1994 in the campaign when the Democratic Labour Party was in office, I was asked to be campaign manager for our candidate in the St. Joseph riding at that time, and St. Joseph had water issues at the time. It was summer 1994, Madam President, and I congratulate Mr. Johnny Tudor. He was the Democratic Labour Party Minister responsible for Water at the time, and we toured the Castle Grant reservoir in 1994 and there were issues in terms of outages and limited potable water in that catchment area, especially those higher elevations like Horse Hill. I congratulate Mr. Tudor, who suffered a heart attack recently and called in the call-in programme a few weeks ago from his hospital bed and made that point. What I am saying, Madam President, is that the Democratic Labour Party left office in summer 1994, and the Barbados Labour Party was in office for 14 long years up until 2008. What did they do to improve the potable water situation in Barbados? Madam President, the Barbados Labour Party has no moral authority to seek now to criticise this Democratic Labour Party Administration.

What have we done? We now have tangible results in terms of the initiatives, in terms of the increased access to potable water in that St. Joseph catchment because the

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resource Management promised this country that we would have this situation addressed, and I congratulate him and this Administration for delivering. Bore holes were dug in the Sweet Vale area to access additional sources of water, and today as we speak, this water now is being pumped to the same Castle Grant reservoir, increasing the reservoir levels and therefore water is flowing through the taps of these affected residents in the St. Joseph area. Of course, we have established a couple of small desalination plants and we know that it will take at least 18 months for larger, more long-term plants to be constructed, and we are committed to doing that. The preparatory work is actually being done as we speak, Madam President. This Democratic Labour Party has nothing to be ashamed of in terms of addressing these issues raised by the Opposition, and so I rest my case in that regard.

I am so sorry that I have enough that I can speak for a few more hours, but you mentioned that time has expired, but I would wish also to congratulate this Democratic Labour Party Administration for moving to ensure that our capital city of Bridgetown is in fact not forgotten as we seek to ensure that, as we look towards 50 further years of Independence, we will have a capital city of which can all be proud as a nation. Therefore, as we speak we see the resurfacing of some of our major roads in the area, such as Coleridge Street and Whitepark Road, as we access funds from agencies such as CAF (Corporacion Andina de Fomento), the Development Bank of Latin America which this Democratic Labour Party Administration has been able to achieve. The Barbados Labour Party promised; they were in office 14 years and were unable to get Barbados signed up as a member of CAF, but we have, this Democratic Labour Party Administration, where now we have hundreds of millions of low-interest development funds available to ensure that massive road resurfacing will continue. You also heard from the Minister of Transport and Works. I was with him at the River Terminus last Friday, when he made it known to the public that we are getting ready to approach CAF in terms of accessing financing for the construction of the Fairchild Street Bus Terminus and Market, as well as the Seaview private sector area, in terms of the minibus and ZR terminus, just west of the Cheapside Market. All of these issues affected not just the residents of Bridgetown but the thousands of working class Barbadians who take public transportation on a daily basis. I was with the Minister last Friday when we officially redesignated that River Terminus as an official terminus, and we have launched the second phase of the multimillion-dollar expansion of the terminus there, which was neglected by the previous Administration.

I can go on and on but I really would wish, in closing, to congratulate this Democratic Labour Party Administration for continuing the vision of the Father of Independence, the late Right Excellent Errol Walton

Barrow, as he defied the critics from the Opposition who were against Barbados going into Independence, but we, the Democratic Labour Party, believed that we could manage the affairs of our country in a very serious manner. We have delivered and I thank the public of Barbados for showing confidence in this Administration to put Barbados into 50 years of Independence and beyond. We look forward to continuing to serve the people of Barbados in our wonderful island paradise. I thank you.

SUSPENSION

Senator Hon. Ms. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended for lunch until 3 p.m.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 3 p.m. for lunch was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MADAM PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

ORDER No. 2 (RESUMED)

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Senator Husbands.

Senator H. A. HUSBANDS: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy President. There is a saying: "you can run but you cannot hide". I attempted since last week to run away from making this contribution because the other contributions of the Honourable Senators were of such a high standard that I felt that I really could not reach that level, but today now I have run out of time and out of space to hide a big person as I am, so it falls on me.

I want to begin by paying tribute to the various speeches that we have heard in this debate. The Senate affords us the opportunity sometimes to be a bit more reflective than the Other Place and to speak sometimes in much broader terms than would be expected in the Other Place and I think we and the country have benefitted tremendously from this level of debate and the quality of speeches that we have heard on this issue.

I also want to say that I agree so much, and we had discussed it, with Senator Sandiford-Garner when she made the point about this divide that we see appearing on this issue between those people who were born before 1966 and those people born not immediately after 1966 but sometime after 1966. I think that several of the speeches, including hers' and Senator Adams, set out clearly the deep significance of this debate and of the independence enterprise, what life was like before 1966, to establish how far we have come in this country in the last 50 years.

I have had the pleasure to visit several schools when the Broken Trident ... I stress "broken" because what is on the Barbados flag is not a trident, it is a broken trident and it is meant to symbolise a break with the past. In the last year we have heard all manner of reasons why we should not be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of this country's independence. Whatever that trident represented in the past, whether it represented demons or slavery or colonialism, it is a break from it, so to tell people that you do not go along with this trident thing because it is idolatry and so on is nutty talk. It is a broken trident and it is meant to symbolise a break with the past, and whatever that past was we have broken with the past but maintaining some of the traditions that the ...

The Deputy President occupies a really privileged position, he gets sometimes as he is now to act as President but he also has the ability to speak in his own right and when he spoke, he spoke about some of the important traditions that we have kept from the past so it is in that context. I was saying that I have had the pleasure in the last year of going around from school to school when the Broken Trident visited these schools to talk to the young children about Barbados, and the importance and the significance of independence and it has forced me, just as other Senators spoke about their own upbringing, to tell them about my own upbringing and I tell them this story. I remember that in 1966 when Barbados became independence, I was in Class 3 at Wesley Hall Primary and never ever in my wildest dreams could I imagine that on the Golden Jubilee of our independence I would be standing here in this Honourable Chamber making a speech to congratulate the nation on the country's independence. The point I made to them is, if I can do it, it is also in your future because this great nation in which we live ...

Madam President, I want to pause as other Honourable Senators have done to pay some tribute to my parents, but before I do that, I want to say that I am unapologetically supportive of this activity of the independent movement of republican status. As a matter of fact, I debated with myself for a long while whether I should participate in this debate because I am finished debating with anybody the importance or virtues of independence. I do not have any argument. If you do not that is your business. I know where I stand and I am of the view that if the Democratic Labour Party had done one thing and went out of existence and that one thing was bringing us to independence status that will be would be well with me.

Education has also been an important aspect of our development in last 50 years and when I get the opportunity to speak to these young children I tell them that along with the State providing the opportunities that they provided for people of my generation and later, because our parents, my father and my mother, if they had the

opportunities provided by the educational system that I had the opportunity to take advantage of, they would have gone even much further in life, I believe, than I am at now ... It is only the lack of opportunity that prevented them from advancing any further.

I must tell you the significance that my father placed on education and the significance of education to this Democratic Labour Party. I want to end by going to some of the important things that we are doing in education now to carry on that tradition because in this country at this time there may be a view that we are falling behind in the educational project. I want to bring another perspective to that debate, but I will tell you the story about my father and education. As I have said before, I was a very mischievous child and that is why I say to the young people that if could do it, as mischievous as I was, they can certainly do it.

I remember at this time of the year in November, like the rains are falling now, walking home from school from Kings Street to Eagle Hall and I would walk in every gutter as the water is flowing through. My theory was if I go home with wet shoes this evening I cannot go to school tomorrow. My father had a thing for leather shoes and we all wore leather shoes like him to school. I regret that I am not from the countryside. I did not go to school barefooted. You have my deepest apologies and sympathies and so on, but I wore leather shoes to school, but there was a trick in that. My father took those shoes and put them in the oven and baked them, so come the next day, "he says you are going to school." He was talking to me directly because then my brother went home and said that we walked through the gutter, so that the next morning my father said: You are going to school even if you go out on a stretcher, and I went to school every day. After I walked in all of these gutters, I walked back to Wesley Hall in those shoes that were baked in the oven so that by morning they were dry and you could go to school without any excuses.

My message to all these young people in this country is that whatever your circumstance or whatever challenges you face it is quite possible with some hard work, with respect for your parents teachers and so on and so forth and obviously your trust in God for you to make it in this country of ours which presents us with tremendous opportunities even in these difficult times.

Madam President, I am pretty satisfied with all that we have done and all that we are going to do. I have said repeatedly, I am not an economist, that the Government sets aside and places in the economy some money and says this money is to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Independence, but that is nothing more... The economists could call it a stimulus package because it allows the people who sell T-shirts... This brooch is made by a retired woman. Christmas and Independence time is her bonanza, so when you tell people you are not supporting that because

of the Government, you are not affecting the Government, you are affecting the woman who is selling this brooch. The man I see at the bottom of Swan Street who went and bought some materials and made some independence hats and is selling them at the bottom of Swan Street... When you go and tell people, your party which has 35 to 40 per cent support in the country, about the Government is spending so much money, what you are in effect doing is telling those people not to go to the little man at the corner who is trying to be an entrepreneur, who is selling independence hats and support him.

I saw last week in the newspaper a lady who makes covers for rear view mirrors of cars - it is in the flag and it has the national colours and it has in the middle, not the Broken Trident but the 50th Anniversary logo - and she said that you go down to the office and pay \$50 and get permission to use the logo and you buy the cloth. She said that her and her daughter stitched these things together and they are selling them, so when you go walking around telling people you are not supporting this because the Government did this, you are affecting her because it means that almost half of the country is not going to go and buy her little souvenirs because they are minding you. I also noticed in yesterday newspaper one local city merchant saying what a brisk trade is taking place on the streets of Barbados by ordinary people in making an extra dollar. This is not just about repeating to people what happened in the 1950s or what happened under colonialism. It is creating opportunities right now in difficult times for some ordinary people to make a little bread, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that, that is part of the process.

Madam President, if the Government took the \$7 million and held \$7 million in parties, you have people who sell drinks, people who rent tents and people who cook food, all of these people are getting a cut in the action and they are all Bajans, you are not shipping the money anywhere. When you talk these things you have to be very clear exactly of what you are saying. Government has created the platform. The people who promote shows and everybody based on the programme that has been presented by this Government and the money that has been used to promote the activity can participate. A number of local institutions, non-governmental organisations and civic organisations, have been playing their role.

The University of the West Indies has a brilliant lecture series going on. Honestly I only went to one but with my knowledge and skill of deciphering these things, let me say in all seriousness that Madam President of this Chamber delivered an excellent lecture. Quite a few senators were there to support her. There is activity going on in the church. There is activity going on in the schools. In all of the communities people are out every day attending all of the functions. When you tell people not to

support the independence activities those young people... I had the privilege and honour to go to "Mirror Mirror" and those young people who devised that production... I mean for older folks like me it was a little painful, but my point is that they are creative, they are hooked in to the future and are doing good things and it must be supported.

I did not had the opportunity to attend the NIFCA Gala but reports made available to me said that this production was a tremendous achievement, how highly professional it was. It was not the Government that did it, it is the teachers in the schools. The people who are involved in acting, the arts and so on took all of the work submitted to NIFCA and made a production of international quality at Kensington Oval. I had the privilege of attending the Fine Arts and Photography Exhibition, a tremendous amount of work by sheer volume alone. The reports are that more and more people, maybe because this is the 50th Anniversary of Independence, have participated, but it is a tremendous amount of work. We must come out and support all of this initiative.

I noticed that there is even a competing exhibition at what the young people call nowadays a "prop-up gallery". Again, I have not seen it yet but based on the reports in the media, they have a tremendous amount of work by artists some of whom would have participated in NIFCA and some of whom are working on their own, so there is an abundance of talent. Madam President, there is an abundance of talent that this has brought forth in this country, it has exposed tremendous entrepreneurship and great talent of our people. Therefore if we have achieved that with \$7 million, then we would have done a tremendous thing to this country. Madam President, my only hope is that this does not end on November 30th but that it spins forward. There is CARIFESTA coming. I noticed that the Daphne Joseph Hackett Theatre, Queen's Park...

Madam President, my office is right next to the Park, I spend a lot of time in the Park every day sitting on park benches. I think some of the people there might be thinking that I am going off the rails a little bit or that I am a vagrant in a suit. Madam President, my point is that I noticed that the Daphne Joseph Hackett Theatre is being refurbished and that other work is being done. My only hope is that this out-bases of culture, performance, creativity and entrepreneurship is not allowed to die, so that come next year we would be back to square one, but that it is harnessed and improved upon.

Madam President, I want to pay full respect to all those people who have been participating in all of these activities and to compliment the Government and the Committee that is organising the activities. I know it is a tremendous amount of work and that there must be

tremendous pressure with competing activities, competing aspirations and opinions and so on.

Madam President, before I close let me say a few things about education because the flag ship enterprise of the Democratic Labour Party, outside of the Independence Project, has been the development and success of our educational system. I know that we expect more and we expect better, that is quite natural, I understand that but I am of the view that currently a tremendous amount is going on. I have already said some of these things in this Honourable Chamber but I think it is necessary for us to constantly repeat some of the things that we are doing.

Madam President, I want to divide these things into two specific categories, on one side the academic and on the other side the emotional. I stress emotional for want of a better term because I am not clear exactly what title I should give it but as I speak you will get to understand. I have said here before and I am of the view that we do not do enough in the country to assist the young people and to understand that the young people whom Senator Sandiford-Garner spoke about are living in 2016. How much ever history we know and understand and say that they must understand, they are living in 2016 and have 2016 challenges and we cannot only use the wisdom from 1950 or 1935 to solve these 2016 challenges, we have to bring also some 2016 approaches and we have been attempting this. Madam President, we live in a country that does not yet pay enough attention to the emotional needs. We believe that once we provide for the physical needs that that is all that is required and so there are some parents who still raise their children in that way, the importance of telling people that you love them and giving that emotional support, our system must do that.

Madam President, I always reference the period I served as Chairman of the Board of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and it came home to me that in an institution that size, with the number of students that they have, that there was only one counsellor and that to this day they are still struggling to get a nurse on staff. Madam President, with all those young men and women, there is no professional on staff to whom they can turn to discuss some of their medical and other needs and so we need to do more of that.

Madam President, in the educational system we have we have started that. One of the first things that we have done is the opening of that school the New Horizons Academy. I have to keep mentioning it because we have taken the deliberate position that it will not be exposed to the public in the same way that the other schools are exposed. Maybe that is an experimental approach. What we do not want is for those young people to be on the street or taking the bus where people would be pointing them out as people who attend the New Horizons Academy, because

they know that that school deals with those at-risk students. In that environment we have provided a number of support services, counsellors, psychologists, social workers and specially-trained teachers. Ma'am, not only are they specially trained, one of the things that we have identified is that on many occasions you had specially trained people but that outside of the training they did not love what they were doing. Ma'am, in this case we have specially trained but also people who enjoy that aspect of their work.

Madam President, the school has not been opened long enough for us to give a full accounting of the work that is being done there but there are success stories, failures too, of young people who have gone there, who have gone back into the traditional educational system and are doing successful things. Madam President, that is one major development but by its very nature, as I have said, you are not going to hear too much about it, maybe on the Floor of this Honourable Chamber or in the Other Place where the Minister may give updates and so on, on a daily basis but you are not going to hear much because we have taken that decision.

Madam President, with the assistance of one of the local charities we have begun providing counsellors in primary schools. I have said repeatedly that it is heart-rending to hear some of the challenges that many of our young children in the primary system face. Ma'am, as bad as we may say that they are at an early age, whenever further work is done, it always comes back to the invisible hand of some adult in the background helping to corrupt these individuals.

We only have been able to do extremely limited work on this emotional development but I consider this to be a small start but one nevertheless and we have to pay greater attention, so that we are bringing to the educational system that type of expertise that will help and promote the confidence and well-being of these young people outside of the traditional educational system because many of them would be failing in the traditional educational system, not because of any intellectual deficiencies but because they do not have the emotional and other support that is necessary for children living...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has five minutes left in which to conclude.

Senator H. A. HUSBANDS: Madam President, what I will say is that in the days when I went to school at Wesley Hall Boys' School and walked home through the gutters to Eagle Hall, as Senator Sandiford-Garner said, you could walk home on evenings and encounter only two cars. Today, even if the children are walking home, road safety has to be a very important aspect of their life. In my day, would you have been knocked down by a donkey cart? Today, children must be walking on the street and they

must be very aware of their surroundings. All of this is the kind of support and pressure. We do not even have to go to drugs and violence and sexual predators; we do not even have to go there to talk about the challenges that these young people face. These things are occurring in the system. I have to cut that to run quickly to the academic side. I spoke about the nursery schools which we are opening. As well as we have done in education, one major deficiency we had was that we did not have enough places for students at the nursery school level. With the establishment and building out of these six new nursery schools, we will have met all of the major Millennium Development Goals. We would have enough places at the nursery level. In modern education nowadays, much attention is being placed on the significance of nursery education in academic and emotional development so that this improves performance at higher levels. We have done that. We have opened one, it is functioning, the official opening is early next year, and the next one is going to be opened in January and we are building out the other four. Again, we have to thank the Maria Holder Trust for their initiative in this.

Madam President, I have spoken here about the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQs), and these are important in several regards. The CVQ is a skill-based qualification. It is a Caribbean-wide qualification. It provides the opportunity for employment outside of Barbados. An employer outside of Barbados who is presented with a young man or young woman with a CVQ in masonry knows exactly what skills that person has, and the same is applied to someone coming into Barbados. It helps solve the problem of a lot of our young people leaving school with skills but without any certification. We are solving the certification challenge and providing them with skills at the same time. I think this is an important development. Currently there are 20 standards written in various areas in our schools that the young people can take part in. I have said here before that the most courageous one for me is the area of musical performance. Many of our young people are doing tremendous work in music at the Darryl Jordan Secondary School. From that school's steel orchestra, 18 members entered the Royal School of Music Grade 1. Eighteen entered, 15 passed and 15 passed with distinction, so these young people are leaving school not only with the ability to play the steelpan but with basic qualifications in Music. There is also a CVQ called Musical Performance. Should the school start that CVQ, it means that these young people, many of whom would have left school without any certification whatsoever, now have the opportunity to leave school with a skill and be certified in the area of their choice. A lot of that is going on in the school system.

Way down in the third form level, we have reinstituted what was the old school-leaving certificate; a certificate that says you have competently completed

secondary education. You can take it as low as third form. It comprises a core area made up of maths, science, English and Social Studies. Students have to do an internship at some workplace, and they also have to produce evidence of having been a member of and having worked in some organisation, such as the cadets, cubs, Pathfinders, or volunteer work at the Barbados Cancer Society. It must be some kind of volunteer work. All of that is a package that would help these students and help them significantly in the future. There are these major changes which are taking place in the educational system and are aimed at equipping our students for the challenges they will meet in this time. We are building on the solid foundation. The future is that students will leave school with a profile that is made up of a foreign language, maths and science, a skill which would include internship and volunteer work, and so on. That profile would be wide enough to allow them to fit into the world of work and produce work in their own small businesses and enterprises. Currently we are building on the work started by this great party in the advancement of education in this country.

Mr. Deputy President, with those few words I want to give my wholehearted support to this discussion, and to express my full support for the entire Independence Project. I look forward also to the day when we fully return the Constitution to this great country of ours. I thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser.

Senator Sir HENRY F.S. FRASER: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to express my passionate support for this Resolution congratulating Barbados on this our Golden Anniversary of Independence and hailing the efforts, in the words of the Resolution, "of all who made this possible, including our many ancestors". First I congratulate Senator Byer-Suckoo and Senator Sandiford-Garner on their splendid remarks. I am a passionate Barbadian, and with some of Senator Sandiford-Garner's remarks today, the words of the famous Jamaican folk song, Come Back Liza, come to mind because "Waata come ah mi y'eye".

When I won the Barbados Scholarship in 1962, some time before Senator Todd was even born but was perhaps a twinkle in his father's eye, and Senator Sandiford-Garner was herself still in diapers, I think, my headmaster Mr. Newsam pressured me very strongly to go to Cambridge.

Asides.

Madam PRESIDENT: Continue, Senator.

Senator Sir H.F.S. FRASER: Thank you, Madam President. As I saying on your entry, when I won the Barbados Scholarship in 1962, some time before Senator Todd was born but was perhaps a twinkle in his father's eye, and I believe when Senator Sandiford-Garner would

have been still in diapers, my headmaster Mr. Newsam pressured me very hard to go to Cambridge and I refused. I said, "I am a West Indian and I am going to Jamaica", which consolidated my life's goal of wishing to build Barbados and the West Indies. Our reputation in Barbados and our achievements have been built on seven things: A sober, sound and stable Government with the finest collection of Prime Ministers in the Caribbean. Secondly a stable economy, saved in 1993 by the courage of the then Prime Minister Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford by declining the persuasion that we should have the disaster of devaluation and by mildly docking Government employees' salaries and then later by the Social Partnership which has been a global model for collaboration across societies with governance, Madam President.

Thirdly, our low crime rate compared to the rest of the Caribbean and the Third World, again largely because of our very strong social capital, both horizontal and vertical capital, although we tend to be losing the horizontal capital as people move into the heights and terraces and do not know their neighbours and the vertical capital because of the absence of grandmothers raising children according to the Church, society and Christianity.

Fourthly, our characteristics as a people, Madam President, a strong work ethic, literacy, thanks to Bishops Coleridge and Mitchinson, spirituality and Christianity, honesty and integrity, and discipline and reserve. Is it still so, Madam President, or has Trinidad and Tobago carnivalisation and the United States of America materialisation altered our society irrevocably?

Fifthly, a warm and welcoming people constantly praised as the key to our successful tourism. Sixthly, our cultural heritage, our built heritage, our food and rum as displayed in our Food and Wine Festival and the explosion of fine art. To sample this explosion of fine art, which I talked about frequently, just visit the splendid art exhibition to which Senator Husbands referred, that exhibition at Manor Lodge courtesy of Mr. Adrian Elcock. It is an absolutely wonderful exhibition. This heritage of ours has been capped on my birthday, June 25, 2011, with the inscription of Historic Bridgetown and Its Garrison as a world heritage site, a golden gift for the rebranding of Barbados as the perfect paradise with everything.

Seventhly, and finally, our healthcare, Madam President, because of the vision and the shoulders on which we have built of those great Barbadian physicians like Dr. Harry Bailey and the famous Sir Maurice Byer, has become the most comprehensive healthcare delivery system in the entire Caribbean and the envy of many of our neighbours. Similarly, the research instituted under the Faculty of Medical Sciences approximately 30 years ago has built the Chronic Disease Research Centre into the star of the university.

My second theme, Madam President, relates to the famous saying of the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan that Barbados punches above its weight in several areas but particularly the outstanding areas of climate change and the recognition of the issues of chronic diseases which were taken by our Honourable Prime Minister to the United Nations. There are many brilliant Bajans around the world who have been carrying the name of Barbados abroad building our brand and assisting therefore in the ultimate well-being of our country. We can think of Sir Frank Worrell who was mentioned already, we can think of Dame Nita Barrow, the Chairman of the Reconciliation Committee of South Africa who had been Chairman of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and of the still living, most famous Barbadian of all, I suspect, after Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir George Alleyne, the Director of PAHO, the Administrator of public health to the entire western hemisphere and who almost became the WHO Director had it not been for an affluent European country which was able to change the way things were going, but Sir George Alleyne then subsequently became the UN Special Envoy to Kofi Annan on HIV/AIDS and there are hundreds of others, Madam President. Here I would like to comment that I have been fortunate to have Sir George Alleyne as my mentor for many, many years, and it was he who declared the Chronic Disease Centre opened. We have built our successful research on his shoulders and inspiration.

On the diaspora, in 2011 a wonderful book "Some Canadian Barbadians" was launched, men and women making a name in Canada over 100 years or more and next month, thanks to the inspiration, the initiative and the continuous determination of our former High Commissioner to Canada, Mr. Evelyn Greaves a splendid sister tome is about to be launched in Barbados about some American Barbadians. More than 300 brilliant Bajans haven't complied for us to recognise and appreciate those people whose work in North America has enhanced our reputation and has helped us indirectly to build the Barbados that we have built today.

Madam President, my third theme is giving back. In celebrating the past, we must be strict guardians of our heritage and firm craftsmen of our fate. We are privileged to live here in the most wonderful country in the world, in one of the safest, the most civilised and the most beautiful country in the world and our almost perfect paradise, therefore, we must all ask ourselves, whether as President or Speaker of Senate or House, whether as Members of Parliament or Senators or private citizens, whether sanitation workers, attorneys-at-law or whatever, not what our country can do for us but what we can do for our country especially now at a critical time, a time of celebration, a time of reflection and a time for going forward positively.

First, people in the diaspora. I just come back from a week in Jamaica at the University of the West Indies Medical Alumni Reunion. Now, the Alumni's goal is "Giving Back" and our Medical Alumni funds students who are desperately in need of financial support and so we would like to think that every doctor who has graduated from the University of the West Indies Medical Faculties would make a contribution either once or consistently as some generous people do in order to assist those whose career is about to be interrupted because of financial failure being available to them in order to continue and finish their studies, that is the purpose of an Alumni.

The point I am making is that in Jamaica the remittances from Jamaicans in the diaspora, particularly in North America, is precisely what keeps that country going. Jamaica is a miraculous country. It is repeatedly seen, as we say in Barbados, as going through the eddoes because the debt has reached way past the tipping point and yet somehow they keep going, and the major decisive factor is the huge amount of remittances which Jamaicans in the diaspora send for them. I know that Barbadians do not respond in quite that way in the diaspora but there are many who wish to help and often they may be rejected for one reason or another or they do not know how to help, therefore it is important that we work with our diaspora.

Secondly, parliamentarians. We have a duty to lead the country not just the party and so this celebration is not supposed to be about political parties as some sometimes seemed to make it. For 20 years Jamaica, for example, has used and misused the word tribalism, the development of party politics into what has been repeatedly over 20 years been described as a tribal warfare or political warfare. Today, as a result of recent months of activities in the United States of America 'Trumpism' is now triumphant, it is on the ascendency in the United States of America and it has become in the words of many a throwback to fascism and the Mussolini period of 90 years ago. We must not go that route. Independence should be time for unity and not political party tribalism.

Thirdly, the individual and organisations. Senator Byer-Suckoo mentioned our Anthem and my ongoing mission is for all of us to sing our magnificent Anthem because of the inspirational words of that my favour song of all times and that we should sing it every single time. It impossible to sing the words of our Anthem without feeling supremely patriotic.

My other personal mission, Madam President, to celebrate our Golden Jubilee is twofold. Let me share my new radio programme "Losings" on Capital Media HD 99.3 just under the CBC tuning position which is broadcast at 4.50 p.m. and 7.10 a.m. celebrating in the words of our Resolution the efforts, the efforts of all who have made this possible.

My other effort is this book "Barbados Heritage", the brainchild of my friend, fellow Barbadian Errol McCollin. This book "Barbados Heritage" in pictures was developed -- and I will boast a little over many... - in the period of four months as a celebration of our independence, a visual and permanent memento in celebration of our celebrations.

Fourthly, the private sector. It is my humble opinion, but shared by many with whom I speak and with many who speak with me who have come to suggest that I use this forum in the Senate to make the point, that Government cannot do everything and that the private sector must do much, much more to bring Barbados back to the apex which we have occupied in the past and which we are all working as positively as we can to restore. I dare say, this may be just a personal opinion, that I think that a flag is not enough. The 50 flags at CBC look very nice but if \$100 000 went with each flag we would then repair with \$5 million the Carnegie Library which the Preservation Trust has been struggling to make the permanent memento of our celebrations.

Finally, Madam President, we can celebrate but we must also be strict guardians of our heritage and plan how we will become firm craftsmen of our fate. We have not guarded much of our great rich heritage. Unlike this magnificent Chamber in which we stand and sit on Wednesdays, the roofs of the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow birthplace in the parish of St. Lucy, the roofs of the first official residence of the Honourable Prime Minister from which independence was planned and declared, are quite frankly a national disgrace, but it is not too late. Let us take action, let us make the restoration of these two famous sites associated with the Father of Independence and let us make them permanent tributes to his greatness and let us restore them.

The Honourable Prime Minister's dictum must be acted on: To regain our lost values and to discard the new attributes which are negative. Let us emphasize the positives as we go forward, and therefore I suggest three more dicta to add to the Honourable Prime Minister's. We must commit and teach our young people that love is service, that service is fulfilment and that our privilege and good fortunes, our belonging to Barbados, require that we all work together and that we all as much as we can give back to our society. Secondly, we must work together not as political partisans or tribes but in partnership. Thirdly, we must build our infrastructure regardless of the fact that there may very well be potholes, these can be fixed, and regardless of the fact that we are lacking water in many places. Madam President, we have been lacking water in many places for 35 years. When I came home to Barbados and moved into Upton I spoke to Mr. Mickey Sealy and he told me about the many miles of rusted pipes which were leaking all over Barbados. This is not a political issue, this

is not the fault of the Democratic Labour Party, it is the fault of multiple administrations over nearly 40 years which we have neglected. As a physician I call on our country always to remember the value of preventive medicine: Prevent our amputations and prevent our water crisis because water is associated with poor health. This includes gastroenteritis, cleanliness, hygiene, and leptospirosis, and I could go on, not like Senator Todd said for two hours, but I could give you a long list of the health related aspects related to water conditions that go back to the 19th Century for some people in the eastern part of our country.

Madam President, I appeal to us all, this Parliament, this Senate Chamber and to all the people of Barbados, to work together in unity to be strict guardians of our heritage and firm craftsmen of our fate.

Thank you, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Durant, you have the Floor.

Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. DURANT: Thank you very much, Madam President. I too want to join with my fellow colleagues and congratulate Barbados on the attainment of this very blessed and significant milestone, our 50th Anniversary of Independence, which in a spiritual context we are calling as our jubilee year of celebration. I want to hail the efforts of all our fellow Barbadians in making this accomplishment possible as we are saying.

I first of all give thanks to Almighty God for his faithfulness in bringing us to this outstanding landmark. What a wonderful achievement of reaching 50 years as a small island developing state without much natural resources. As the scripture says: Hitherto hath the Lord brought us and except the Lord builds or guards the city, the watchman waiteth but in vain, so all we have achieved today we want to really give God thanks for bringing us to this point.

There are also many outstanding blessings we have to give God thanks for because we are still enjoying them as a nation including a stable political environment, a sound accessible educational system for all, good healthcare, and a caring, compassionate, responsible social care service, just to mention a few.

I want to thank both the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party for their outstanding visionary leadership over the past 50 years in helping us to get to this point: The Barbados Labour Party for 24 years and the Democratic Labour Party 26 years and counting. I commend the work done also by our seven Prime Ministers because accumulatively they have given us a lot to be proud of as Barbadians, so we need to count our blessings.

I give Almighty God thanks as well for reaching this milestone because as you know on November 30, 1966 - I happened to be a youngster and I remember that occasion at the Garrison Savannah - Barbados gained its independence from Great Britain ending the British colonial rule. In the process we gained several rights with one of them being the right to call this little 166 square miles lot our own nation, something we are proud of especially in light of the fact that many tourists come here year after year and also identified with really loving our beloved island.

The symbol of the Trident as we see it, the broken one that is on our flag, was taken from the Barbados Colonial Badge where the Trident is being held out by Britannia. It is said that the lower part has been broken off, which as was said before was very symbolic of us breaking away from our status of a colony. I do not want to demonise any national symbol that we have. I think it is important that we honour and recognise our national symbols. The three points, as we have heard before, are very representative as well of the three principles of democracy that we heard of before, the Government of the people, Government for the Parliament and Government by the people, so I want us to be cognisant of the symbolism of the Broken Trident, its being emblazoned on our Flag and the meaning behind it. I want that as a people we will continue to pray for our land and that we will continue to pray and cover this blessed nation. Ma'am, we all know that Scripture quite well, if my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and seek my face... Ma'am, as a church within this nation that is the stand, the position or the posture that we will continue to maintain in praying for our island and seeing our island coming to a place of greater freedom and prosperity.

Madam President, only a few of you here are fortunate to be born in an Independent Barbados, most of us were born before Independence, but history will reveal how our ancestors and forefathers suffered under the savage and brutal work of our slave masters, but we need to remember that we did not achieve this Independence easily and that it was not like a walk in the park gaining our Independence from Great Britain. As a matter of fact, a lot of sweat, hard work and sacrifices and even to the extent of blood had to be shed to bring us to this point and so we must applaud our freedom fighters like Bussa and a few others who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy today.

Madam President, over the last 50 years as an Independent nation, Barbados has progressed exponentially in the area of education. I would also say in agriculture but mostly in the earlier years. It is not so much now and we really need to revisit agriculture and really reinvent and put some emphasis again in that area but tourism over the past 50 years has grown and continues to grow. Our human resource capita, our social services, healthcare and even in

the area of sports and other areas of development prior to Independence but within the last 50 years have grown exponentially.

Barbados has the privilege of producing some of the greatest cricketers on the West Indies Team over the last many years, as a matter of fact, including our only living National Hero, the Right Excellent Sir Garfield St. Alban Sobers who at 21 years old played against Pakistan in Jamaica in 1958. He broke the record for the highest score set in 1938 by Len Hutton of Great Britain, that being 364 runs. Sir Garfield Sobers, then 21 years old, played a very, very, very good innings of 365 runs not-out in 614 minutes with 38 fours but amazingly, no sixes. Madam President, you would think that an inning of that magnitude and of such class would have had a few sixes. Nevertheless, he still holds the record for six sixes in one over in an economy match when Malcolm Marshall did not know where to put the ball but where every ball went for six runs. I thought it would have been broken recently by another Barbadian, Carlos Brathwaite, who had I think 21 or 22 runs to make in a final over and struck four sixes. I believe if there were a few more runs he might have hit six sixes in that over at the rate he was going, but we really applaud Sir Garry.

Madam President, we also had other Barbadian cricketers but Sir Garfield Sobers' record stood fit from 1958 to 1994 when Brian Lara in the 5th Test Match against England in Antigua broke that record by 375 runs. Madam President, we had other Barbadians who excelled in the area of sports, men like the powerful duo of Charlie Griffith and Wes Hall. We have the triumphant batting duo opening partnership of Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes. We had the three famous W's: Weekes, Worrell and Walcott. Madam President, Barbadians have really played a very significant role in West Indies cricket. We cannot forget people of the likes of Malcolm Marshall and Joel "Big Bird" Garner operating from different ends and causing batsmen all kind of trouble in the 1980s. Madam President, we really are thankful to God that this little rock can produce sportsmen and sportswomen of such class and caliber. Even today in the ladies cricket, Barbadian women cricketers are doing well in the West Indies Team as well.

Madam President, as a nation we have a lot to give God thanks for, let us count our blessings as a people. Let us shift from the complaint centre and let us relocate ourselves at the altar of thanksgiving and give thanks for the blessings we see. As the song says:

"Count your blessings, name them one by one;

Count your blessings, see what God has done;

Count your blessings, name them one by one;

And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

Madam President, when we think and we begin to put them altogether, we will see the goodness of God, we will see all that God has done for us.

Madam President, I was driving though one of our islands yesterday with a pastor who was carrying me to a conference as a speaker and I saw the amount of potholes that we went though. At one time my head almost went forward to hit the dashboard in front but when he began to apologise profusely, I told him that it was alright. Madam President, while sitting I said to myself that we in Barbados complain about bad roads but I have not seen roads to the extent of where I was. Madam President, I said we have a lot to give God thanks for because we are not that bad after all. Let us count ourselves as a nation and let us recommit ourselves to the consistent devotion to God, to our faith and to family. These three have played important roles in making us a great nation and a very strong people and we do not want to remove the old landmarks.

Madam President, I am convinced that God has geographically positioned this island just outside the chain of islands, making Barbados the most easterly, the specific mandate, I believe, to be a spiritual base for a mighty move within the Caribbean region that will really bring our people into a level of greater freedom, spiritual freedom and also help them to maximise their potential and to see this region become a place where others will prefer to come to spend holidays or to vacation or even to live and to raise their children. Madam President, our worship is very strong in this island. We see it also in the area of singing in the secular, our teaching ability and our leadership ability is very strong in our deoxyribonucleic acid. I think those are three strengths that we have as a nation that we need to strengthen and to continue to build upon as the island that was looked upon by every other Caribbean island in times past. We must continue to so do as well.

Madam President, Barbadians continue to enjoy freedom of religion and freedom to worship, thank God for that. During the past 50 years the church has always had a very good relationship with the State playing a vital role in education, in shaping our moral and spiritual values and our spiritual development as citizens. The church has made a sterling contribution as well to the national development, especially in the area of education. Madam President, we continue to see this happening as churches involve in community projects and in educational programmes within the Community Centres. The church has also partnered with Government to see how it can further assist in the lives of the citizens of our community. In this religious environment, the country's political stability is evidenced by the very fact that there have been at least ten General Elections in the last 50 years without any or pre- or post-election violence. I really think that is something we should

be thankful to God for. Madam President, this is another blessing that we have as a nation. Some other nations were not that fortunate, and they had election violence and so many problems. Barbados has enjoyed a peaceful transition of Governments in the past. Barbados stands out like a beacon in this regard, becoming a model of a true democratic island or nation. As a nation, we are also thankful to God for sparing us from the ravages of serious weather systems that pass this way, and many of them passed since September 22, 1955, which was Janet that hit us the hardest. Many passed since then in this region. We had hurricane systems like Hugo, Gilbert, Marilyn, Ivan which devastated Grenada, Matthew the recent one, just to mention a few, but the Lord has spared us from them. For this we are eternally thankful and we need to also count our blessings. If we put these things down one by one, we will realise that as we count there are so many things we can give God thanks for. In the past 50 years since we became an independent nation, Jamaica has been hit a few times by devastating hurricanes. Also Dominica has been hit several times in the past 50 years since we became an independent nation. St. Lucia has been hit a few times as well in the past 50 years since we Barbados have been an independent nation. Grenada has been hit, Antigua, the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands and others; all of them have been hit several times within the past 50 years since we became an independent nation. Yet we have been spared. God is faithful, and it is not that God is a Bajan. He is not. It is just the faithfulness of God.

We do not rejoice in other islands being hit because we are in sympathy with our brothers and sisters. We are all Caribbean people together. Look at Haiti as well. Haiti has been hit several times, with devastating consequences. Barbados has been spared. Even this last one, Matthew, that passed right here, seemed to stop, paused, looked at us, changed its mind, changed course and went up the line and did a lot of damage. We are not proud of this, but I am just saying that to say, "Look how God has spared us again." There is so much we can thank God for within the past 50 years. He has brought us to this point. As we pause to give thanks for the many blessings, let us be tempered by the spirit of humility and also the spirit of compassion for those in need. Let us reaffirm our commitment through prayer, through action, through concerted effort to make sure we help those who are less fortunate and those, especially, who have been affected by these systems that just passed us and maybe released some water and that was all we had. A few skirmishes here and there but nothing to really talk about in relation to what they have experienced.

However, I must say that in the absence of any major natural disaster since September 22, 1955, Janet by name, God has allowed the unimpeded development of our infrastructure. We have been able to see quite a number of things happen. Quite a number of developments took place because we have not been ravaged, we have not been

flattened, and we did not have to go into major national repairs over the past 50 years because of severe damage and loss of life like some of our neighbouring islands have experienced. We should not take things like that for granted. I think every day we ought to just be thankful, be thankful to God. We are now out of one hurricane season and we have to wait for another one next year. We do not know what next year, 2017, holds but again we have to hold tight and pray and continue lifting our nation before God. The absence of these major natural disasters in our island has helped us to really get a lot of things done; for example Barbados has the densest network of roads in the world, and of course this allows easy movement of cargo and people, especially our tourists who come in from time to time. There is also a very good communication system which we have in place, a consistent electricity supply as well, and we are not burdened with compulsory outages like some islands or nations around us. I have been in situations like that where there are compulsory outages. Some areas may be out of electricity from 4 p.m. until 8 a.m. the next day, and that is how the low shedding is done in places where I lived. I have experienced that. We have never had that in Barbados. As a matter of fact, we have a blackout here and we fret and call but in about four hours the maximum and lights are back on. Thanks be to God. Those are things we have to be thankful for. I have been in situation where people were told, "You will be without electricity from four this evening to eight the next morning." For example, we in Brittons Hill would have light the next night and maybe the Pine or Rendezvous would be without light. That is how the low shedding was done in a country where I lived, so I have seen that. We do not have that here. Thank God for that undisrupted service apart from when a breaker burns or something happens and it is quickly repaired.

Also, we do not have to wake up our children at 4 a.m. and send them to line up for hours to buy flour, rice, cooking oil, toilet paper, dry peas or other basic food items like some countries I have gone to. I also experienced that in my time. You had to get up early, line up for split peas, for rice, flour and so on when things were very difficult in Guyana during those years. It was very difficult. You had to be in long lines for hours. Venezuela right now is experiencing quite a bit of that. As Barbadians, we are not experiencing that. Thank God again. That is another blessing which we ought to give God thanks for, and not to take for granted. When we consider all of these things, we will realise that instead of complaining, I ought to be thankful. I ought to be saying, "Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness." We do not have to wake our children up, rob them of school time and put them in long lines to wait for these basic things. We can go to the supermarkets and we find most of what we want, or even at a little store in the village, whatever. We can even go to the gas stations where the marts are located and find items. Again, we are thankful.

Our educational system also has really been transformed in the past 50 years, and we heard a lot about that just now from our Senator Harry. Barbados, of course, boasted about a 96 per cent literacy rate at one time; I do not know if it is still there at that level. From pre-school to tertiary level, Barbadians enjoy a high level of education, as we heard. There is the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, the Barbados Community College, Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, Erdiston Teachers' Training College, Codrington as well which was mentioned earlier, as well as the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity (BIMAP); all of these have contributed to education of people not only in Barbados but people coming from across the region and benefiting from our educational system. A major focus in Barbados has always been on the development of our people, which is our greatest resource, and for this we are thankful. Barbados' healthcare system is one of the best as well. Of course, there is room for much improvement. We would like to see a lot improved in that area, but by and large we have a fairly good health system when compared with other islands around us in the Caribbean.

Many houses or housing solutions were achieved over the years as well especially within the last 10 years or so we have seen quite a number of housing solutions in Barbados and we hope that that area will continue to be sorted out and will continue to grow out.

Tourism arrivals were up last year and this year promises to be a very good year especially with the jubilee celebrations we have and with the promised work to soon upgrade our airport with a new facility that will include jet bridges and the implementing of all that is needed to bring us to a Category 1 status internationally. I think with all of that on stream to come in line soon we will have exponential growth, I believe, in our tourism area, so we can look forward to better days ahead when it comes to our tourists product. I must give thumbs up to the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. and those responsible for seeing our airlifts improved and also our cruise liners increased in the Port.

When it comes to the area of the social services, as I said, we have a very caring and compassionate social service in Barbados.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senator has four minutes more.

Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. DURANT: Thank you. Barbados stands tall in the Caribbean in respect of its caring and its compassionate approach to the care of the three vulnerable groups in this island, our elderly, our children and also our differently-abled citizens. No other island in this western hemisphere has such a dedicated, comprehensive social care programme for the vulnerable

groups I just mentioned like Barbados. We have the National Assistance Board with the purview of the elderly and the care of the elderly across the nation. We have the Child Care Board with their mandate for the protection of the children of our island and we have the National Disabilities Unit caring for the differently-abled in our society. Of course, their mandate is to facilitate, advocate, promote, advance and empower persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal opportunities for integration and participation in all aspects of community living. I think it is commendable when a nation can take time and also implement and set a system in place to look after the differently-abled in our society, the children and the elderly; the vulnerable groups.

Madam President, it is important that we focus on that and have a very strong social care net to protect the elderly because we are an ageing population at the moment. It is said that the average life expectancy in Barbados at present is 77 years with 13.7 per cent of the people currently 65 years and over in Barbados as of now. It is said that by 2025 older persons will make up 20.4 per cent of the population, so we have an ageing population on our hands. It is also said that the provisional old age dependency ratio of 20.7 per 100 in 2010 is expected to reach 33.3 per 100 by 2025, presenting a serious problem that is just waiting and just looming upon us, steadily it is growing. It is good that we have had such a strong social care service because of the ageing population that we have.

We also have the highest percentage of centenarians in this hemisphere. Presently, we have 115 centenarians in Barbados alive. Two to three weeks ago we had a centenarian luncheon for them in this jubilee year to celebrate those precious people that have reached that golden milestone. It was a privilege and a pleasure being in that hotel room for that luncheon with so many centenarians present. It was a privilege and a blessing. Having 115 centenarians alive, I think it is a blessing to this island as well. No other island can boast of that. I think in one of the islands where I was they told me that they only had about three centenarians and I said okay we have over 100 and they were shocked, so something has been done right in Barbados and there something we have been doing right. I hope that we will continue and that we will be able to showcase this country as a place where you can come, convalesce, recuperate and those who are sickly and so forth, can come and be taken care of because something good is happening here, and we need to make sure that we keep it that way. We need to make sure we keep our nation clean from litter, garbage and things of that nature.

Lastly, and most of all, I want us to make sure we maintain our biblical foundation. Let us not remove the old landmark as Proverbs 23:10 says. May we continue to build strong family bonds, may the hearts of fathers return to their children and may the hearts of the children return to

their fathers, as it is said in the Old Testament. May we strengthen our spiritual values and commit to obeying the word of God. We cannot do this on our own. It is not by might nor by power but by spirit saith the Lord. Let us continue to say no to guns, no to drugs and no to crime and violence in our society and every other form of perversion, and let us continue to uphold the banner of righteousness in this land for righteousness still exalts a nation, sin is a reproach to any people.

I congratulate Barbados on its 50th year as an independent nation, a powerful jubilee year and I really commend the team working headed by our leader of the Senate as Chairman of that team. I commend you, Ma'am, and all those who worked with you in putting all of the various projects together. I think they were all lovely and we look forward to the next few days with the climaxing of those powerful programmes planned for this wonderful nation. God bless Barbados.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Thank you Madam President.

I rise to wrap up the debate on this Resolution to congratulate Barbados on the attainment of 50 years of independence and I would want to thank all Honourable Senators for their very important contributions. Consistent with the charge given to us, as I said in my opening comments, by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Freundel Stuart to not only celebrate but to reflect and resolve to make Barbados better, I was very pleased to hear the many contributions speak to those things.

Madam President, in wrapping up, I do not propose to spend a very long time but as I sat, listened and thought about what I should focus on, I thought I would select something that was said by Senator Husbands who pointed out that he hoped that when this process is finished that we would not simply end at November 30 and go away saying we had a good year of celebrations. To that end, I would want to remind colleague Senators and Barbadians and anybody who listens, because it is important to recognise that many people do in fact follow our debates, the Clerk can give you some statistics because you can identify the number of people who follow us on the Internet. Part of the focus and one of the themes of the year's celebrations was "From Legends to Legacy" and I want to assure my colleagues that there is intended to be an ongoing legacy. In fact, even before we talk about celebrations, I was reflecting on examples of legacy and I would go back and start.

Our National Anthem was written by the child of a Barbadian who would have migrated to the United States

of America, everybody knows the name, Irving Burgie. I believe, if I am correct, that it was his mother who was a Barbadian. Irving Burgie, because of his love for this country, would have felt a close connection to this country.

I therefore want to assure you that as we look at the contributions of person like himself, that a lot of what we have done in the area of celebrations was to ensure that we capture and utilise much that has been developed for and much that has been shaped out of our focus on celebrations, and I would want to speak to a couple of those things. At the base of all of this would have been three questions posed by the Honourable Prime Minister. I think those bear repeating because they have also informed a number of activities and initiatives going forward. Those questions were: What are those features of Barbadian life that we have lost and need to reclaim, what are those features of Barbadian life that we have not lost and need to retain and, of course, what are those things that have not been lost but must be discarded.

An important exercise coming out of our reflecting on how we should go forward is an assignment so to speak given to the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, normally referred to in the abbreviated form as SALISES, is to undertake an empirical assessment using households and online surveys to examine essentially what are the areas that can reform policy. It is really a study that is titled "The National Value Survey" because if we are doing some introspection and some assessment of ourselves as individuals and an assessment of ourselves as part of this country, this society and this economy we would want to undertake that national value assessment. The research is being conducted, and in essence it will help us to answer some of those questions to get the real perspective of Barbadians across several demographic indicators, age, sex, income status, et cetera, which will help us to address matters which can be looked at in terms of policy formulation and implementation.

Another output of this would be publications. We would have heard Sir Henry referred to one of those that I would have referred to that would have been conceptualised by our Consul-General in Miami, Mr. Colin Mayers based on the work done by our former High Commissioner. He has also been working very closely, now that he is retired and spending a lot of time in Florida, with the Consul-General in putting together that book. I spoke about that fairly extensively but there have been several other publications by individuals who felt that they had to capture some important elements of this moment. For example, our High Commissioner in London has put together and republished many of the speeches of our first Prime Minister in a publication called "Fathering a Nation: Barbados and the Legacy of Errol Walton Barrow". He would have extended it beyond the speeches of our national hero and would have included a foreword by the Prime

Minister and an introduction by the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers. I know that he has reached out to what some people may say as former members of the other party because, as is clear in his mind, partisanship did not play a major role in how he put together that.

I can tell you that having seen the production... In fact, I would want to flag two articles, one is the transcript of an interview done by a former primary school student at the time who later became a Barbados Scholar, the daughter of my former Permanent Secretary in Ministry of Foreign Trade, Mr. Bentley Gibbs now Ambassador to Geneva. She is now a psychiatrist living in London and so she was able to produce that interesting interview done with the then Prime Minister Errol Barrow and later she has written an article now as a young professional on her whole analysis of that exercise and in her interpretation now of what would have been said. It is an interesting publication which helps us to not only reflect on the words of Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow himself but also on the thoughts of others who would have been reflecting on their exchanges with him, their engagement with him, and their understanding of him as a public figure, et cetera.

Madam President, I want to spend a little bit of time talking about something else which really produces another clear example of legacy because we are talking about building on the achievements of Barbadians, documenting the work and the thoughts of people. Of course, mention was made of the many lectures that would have been organised by the University of the West Indies. Those things are captured for posterity in publications et cetera.

There is one sector, if we had to think of the first Prime Minister in terms of his personal interest, which translates into commercial opportunities, that is, the area of yachting. We have heard a lot about it but in the last few weeks it has not been as much in the public domain I guess because of a number of things that have been happening around us, but thanks to our former colleague, the then Senator Peter Gilkes, we would have seen between 2008 and now what I would call the revival, the resuscitation and the expansion in a substantial way of the yachting sector. This year he worked with his usual partners in the yachting sector to organise a special transatlantic rally. The plan was to have 50 yachts, and from the reports I heard from both Mr. Gilkes and the media, they have actually attracted more than 50 yachts coming to Barbados.

One of the things I want to flag because I mentioned the issue of the commercial impact of this, I cannot buy a yacht, I do not know if anybody in here owns one and I certainly would not be able to afford a yacht that could make a transatlantic run, but what I am suggesting is that the typical demographic profile of these would be persons of significant wealth or high net-worth individuals as we use the term and persons who not only look at Barbados

once they rediscover this beautiful island as a place of relaxation but as a place of investment, and that is something that has taken place. I can tell you that my understanding is that many of these people arriving here within the next couple of days would probably be here until the end of January or so, and if we think in terms of the impact of that... We would have had these races taking place but this was a special one attracting more yachts, et cetera. I want to say that in looking at that special transatlantic rally, there is a new route which links London to the Caribbean - I suppose it was a symbolic start given our historical connection - and it called at various ports between Spain and Portugal on route to the Canary Islands. The legacy element of that is not only the immediate economic benefit but the potential for business persons to identify Barbados as a place to do business. If I had the time I would give you some examples of people who came on previous events organised by our former Senate colleague Mr. Gilkes and the Barbados Tourism Authority and now the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc., but a very important element was introduced.

Yachting is associated with wealth. The average young Barbadian child would probably see vessels on the water and not necessarily get involved. A special programme developed out of the several yacht races and so on was an effort to get young Barbadian children of average means and low-income groups and so on to become involved, so there is a Barbados 50 Education and Outreach Programme which is a continuation of an earlier outreach programme. Madam President, this outreach programme will link Barbadian school children with other classes in the countries that are on route of the Transatlantic Rally. Ma'am, I think my colleague, Senator Husbands, would like this, the first school involved in that of the Eagle Hall Primary. I believe that there is some association with the Eagle Hall Primary School, as we would have heard from him before.

Madam President, the question may be asked, what are these children going to be linking. They are using Information Technology to track the yachts and so they are learning something about shipping and sailing routes, et cetera. They are following the daily logs to get feedback and so they are learning something about oceanography and about sailing. They will also be learning something about the countries, whether it is those countries' history or their economic activities. Of course, this not only gives the children but also the teachers the opportunity to incorporate that kind of information in very creative ways about teaching their students.

Madam President, another element of this, of course, on the other side of the Atlantic was that there was a Museum of London Ducklings which was hosted for a two-day family festival. They, of course, would have been able to learn a lot about Barbados. That, in part, translates into

the marketing of this jurisdiction whether for business, water sports, looking at one's ancestral connections or for holidaying.

Madam President, I mentioned the publication and the survey. I also would want to indicate that as we do this... Ma'am, I also want to say something about the Diaspora. I started on that note and I will say something before I wrap up. I do not know how many persons are familiar with the name Gwen Ifill. If you have followed American election over the years and certainly if I remember correctly as early as this recent campaign, we would have heard the name Gwen Ifill.

Ma'am, I have the distinct pleasure of meeting her brother, Dr. Ifill, a Minister of Religion at the "Barbados Comes to Atlanta" in May. I was talking to him about having his sister come home to Barbados. Madam President, what I found particularly interesting and I would suggest that if you do get the chance that you would read it. At her memorial service as she recently passed away at the age of 61 after a battle with cancer... Some of you would know the name Mr. K.N.R. Husbands who was a Member of Parliament. I was also thinking of her cousin who ran for the Democratic Labour Party at some time, Austin Husbands.

Madam President, what I found particularly pleasing in his tribute when Eric Holder (Jr.) as we know who in the words of President Barack Obama, "he is the Minister of Tourism for Barbados", he suggested that if he wanted to count on somebody to promote Barbados that we had an allied in Eric Holder (Jr.) In his tribute he said that he used to call her "cous" and he talked about that common Barbadian heritage and all that that translated into, also the fact that her family left Barbados via Panama and ended up in New York. It tells us something about the legacy of the values that had been passed on to several generations. Madam President, if you read that, you would see a lot in terms of her family's contribution. Madam President, mention was also made of a sister who went to Vassar. If you know the Ivy League schools in the United States of America, then you would understand the significance of a young black woman, the child of immigrants, being able to go to school there.

Madam President, I believe that one of the things also is that we would be able to highlight this. Another thing is that this weekend we will see the premiering of a docudrama which focuses on the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow. I think that is an important film, it is part of a portfolio of photographs developed by Marcia Weekes and her husband. They have been really taking the lead in terms of film making.

Madam President, I mentioned here before another Barbadian film maker, Claire Ince. I can tell you that she

sent me an email, having launched her first international film Bazodee in the United States of America, she is now looking at another very interesting film, and hopefully she can get this produced. Some years ago, with some assistance from the Barbados Tourism Authority at the time, she was attempting to mobilise some investment in that but I guess the time was not right, but she with her Patagonian husband went to Trinidad and Tobago and was able to get that done.

Madam President, all of those are examples of what I call the legacies of persons who are buoyed by a lot of what we are doing to either continue to do the work that they are doing, to draw attention to their work and so on and so we talk about these things. Madam President, I recently had the distinct honour at the funeral of the sister of an Honorary Counsel General in Atlanta, Dr. Lane, to meet the sister of Shirley Chisholm who lives very quietly in Barbados. She is approximately 90 years, but I heard her giving a eulogy to her very good friend. She is very strong and very capable but that perhaps reflects what Senator Durant has pointed out, that is, that we have been blessed by many centenarians.

Madam President, I do not know how many of you who would have ever had a chance to dance with a 100-year old but I do have one on video dancing with me at one of the recent events. She is a very lovely lady, she has lots of energy, and does she look like 100 years. In fact, I think I promised her daughter that I would try to help her to establish whether the centenarian's father did have 108 children and so we are trying to establish the record. She is one of the 108 children and so she has lived almost one year for each of her siblings, but this is a wonderful story that has to be told.

Madam President, I seek to wrap up this debate, I am really happy to say that we have accomplished a lot in this year of celebrations. I started by signaling the distinct pride and honour that I had to have been asked to chair the Coordinating Committee but I really must, for the record again, put to Barbadians that in doing this we have relied on a very small team of personnel at the Secretariat, headed by Permanent Secretary Gabriel Springer and they have worked very hard. We have drawn on the talents, the energies, the ideas and the determination of a cross-section of Barbadians to make this happen. That cross-section of Barbadians would have constituted the Coordinating Committee. That Coordinating Committee was then broken down into several Subcommittees, whether they were focusing on publications, et cetera.

Madam President, there are several books that are in the work or have been published. We have celebrated what we call iconic events that are organised by Government. We have facilitated the inclusion of a number of private events so that they were publicised. We have incorporated

our schools, because as I said when I led off the debate that the Right Honourable Prime Minister was very certain and clear in his instructions that we include our youth and that there be a heavy focus on education in its several facets. Ma'am, we have really done ourselves proud.

Madam President, up to a few days ago I had a chance to communicate with some of our diplomatic representatives and I was speaking to one of our former Senator, Haynesley Benn, who is now Counsel General in Toronto. I think I mentioned one of those events last week, as I think that might have already passed, where there was a church service and there were over 650 people attending; also, that a Barbadian in the Diaspora, Bishop Peter Fenty, would have been presiding at that service. He also reported to me that they had a weekend event, a gala, and that they had to cut off the numbers. He said there were 800 persons and that they could not accommodate any more. In fact, they had to get special permission to expand to that number, and that was in Toronto. Madam President, that situation was replicated in London, in New York and in Miami. I believe I have used those to illustrate. I have a niece who came home from Edmonton for one week and she was telling me about the celebrations of Barbadians there. Wherever you go, there is this feeling of happiness and joy about being part of this celebration, and more importantly being part of Barbados, being Barbadian. I would want to say to all Barbadians that this has allowed us to reflect on who we are, but I also want us to resolve to do certain things. Madam President, I would have mentioned this to you informally but I want to throw it out to Barbados. I spoke of one thing and I will repeat the other one, but what I would want us to do as part of this legacy is to have what I call a national giveback day. This was raised with me one day. I was talking to a gentleman associated with a very prominent Barbadian, and in the conversation he asked me, "What will your legacy be?" and I was quick to say, as a former academic who taught thousands of people from across the Caribbean and certainly in Barbados, that I thought my legacy is when I look around and I see where they are, especially those who are doing very well. In fact, I would share this. There is a joke which my boss, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, always reminds me of. I call my former students my children, and he said to me one day, "But you do not tell me about the ones at Glendairy." Without having to think a couple of seconds, I say, "Yes, I have one there. He is the Superintendent." He is in charge and he is on the right side.

I really would want us to identify that, and we can use November 30 if we want. I really think that we should all look at giving back something to this country which has given us so much. I also talked about the whole question of investment and so on, but I believe that we have within us and across the Diaspora among our Barbadians overseas the resources, material and otherwise, to make a significant difference to this country. There are a lot of things which

we had, have kept and need to retain, and I think that whole sense of community and family is one that makes us proud. We have seen it, we are seeing it happen; I mentioned the many families who are coming home to be part of this celebration. We welcome everybody, and I trust that it is a point at which we can move to take this country further and build on all that has been positive to make sure that we continue to be that small country and a people who would have been interestingly described in the extract shared with us by Senator Sandiford-Garner. We are a small but powerful nation. In the words of Jamaica, "we are small but tallawah." Did I pronounce it correctly? We have the capacity to maintain that strength and to show the world that natural resources, though limited or almost absent, can be more than matched by the wealth that comes out of the minds of men and women. I put that to Barbadians; that is where our focus should be. With those words, Madam President, I thank again all those who have brought us to where we are in this celebration and all who made a contribution in this Honourable Chamber. I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

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

THE CLERK: Madam President, before you proceed I would ask that we recommit Announcements by Her Honour the President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY HER HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Madam PRESIDENT: Colleagues, I am in receipt of correspondence from the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, from the Chief Education Officer, and it reads as follows:

"The Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in collaboration with the 50th Anniversary of Independence Celebrations Secretariat and two non-governmental organisations, namely The Power of Choice and Trident Ten, is mobilising to create a Human Chain Link around Barbados on Monday, November 28, 2016 between the hours of 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. To this end, the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation is inviting Members of Parliament and the Senate to participate in this Human Chain Link. If this invitation is accepted, Members are expected to join the Link opposite the Parliament Buildings. The Ministry awaits communication from your Office on a decision taken. Yours faithfully, Karen Best, Chief Education officer."

Therefore, colleagues, I extend to you this invitation on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. I encourage all of you to participate on Monday, November 28. Please communicate

your willingness to participate to the Office at the earliest opportunity, so that we can inform the Ministry of how many persons will be participating. As we prepare to celebrate 50 years of Independence, I am sure that all of us are indeed extremely proud of our country, and over the coming days we will continue to join in the many celebrations. As all Barbadians from all walks of life, in every condition, regardless of race, age, ability, circumstance, we are indeed proud of our country and we will continue to live up to our motto and continue to ensure that the name Barbados is recognised worldwide as a powerful, loving family nation.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Hon. Ms. M.P.O McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that this Sitting be now adjourned sine die.

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

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Resolution on 50 years of Independence, take-slip Senate C 34 Seq 12, 1.09 p.m.. The source carries two reporters' versions of the same passage, from the end of Senator the Very Rev. H. E. Crichlow's speech (his remarks on Codrington College and his Combermerian tie) to the opening of Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd's speech, each ending with the take-slip 'Senate C 34 Seq 12 1.09 p.m.'. The first, slightly fuller, version is printed and the second (about 940 words) has been left out. Please confirm.

Q3. Resolution on 50 years of Independence. After the Barbados Jubilee Honour Bill the debate moves straight to the Resolution congratulating Barbados on 50 years of Independence, which appears to be resumed from an earlier sitting; the source gives no heading or Order number for it. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Senator the Very Rev. H. E. Crichlow's speech. A stray line reading '16' and the take-slip 'Senate C 34 Seq 12 1.09 p.m.' appear as ordinary paragraphs at the end of the passage. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 3, third reading. The third reading is recorded 'On the separate motions of SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN' with no seconder named, and no seconder is recorded for the second reading. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 23rd November, 2016, with Madam President in the Chair; prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah. The Leader of Government Business, Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean, laid the National Cultural Foundation Annual Report for 2009 to 2012 and the Barbados Deposit Insurance Corporation Annual Report 2015, had Standing Orders 22(1) and 45(2) suspended, and introduced the Barbados Jubilee Honour Bill, 2016.

Moving the second reading, Senator McClean explained that the Bill would establish the Barbados Jubilee Honour, to be conferred on 50 persons who had contributed

to Barbados' development since Independence, carrying the post-nominal BJH, and she read the criteria for categories such as education and the cultural arts. Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir Henry Fraser supported it, recalling that he had presented 100 awardees of the Barbados Centennial Honour as public orator in 2000, and distinguished recognition from appreciation of service. The Bill passed through Committee, clauses 1 to 7 and the Schedule, and was read a third time as the Barbados Jubilee Honour Act, 2016.

The Senate then continued the debate on the Resolution congratulating Barbados on 50 years of Independence. Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. Byer-Suckoo described the year of celebrations as a time for taking stock and urged participation in Hands Around Barbados. Senator V. I. Sandiford-Garner recalled first meeting Barbados as a five-year-old flower girl in December 1966, born to Barbadian parents who had emigrated to the United Kingdom. Senator the Very Rev. H. E. Crichlow, who said he had passed 80 years, spoke of Codrington College's link with the ancient English universities and the part religion had played in forming Barbadians. Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd recalled growing up in the Garrison area and the Independence Day Parade, and said water problems had not started in 2008.

After the luncheon suspension, with Mr. Deputy President in the Chair, Senator H. A. Husbands said the Senate allowed more reflective debate than the Other Place and hoped the effort would not end on 30th November. Senator Sir Henry Fraser recalled winning the Barbados Scholarship in 1962 and declining to go to Cambridge, and Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. Durant spoke of the jubilee year in a spiritual context and of Barbados' compassionate approach to care.

Senator McClean replied, citing the charge of the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Freundel Stuart, to reflect as well as celebrate; she mentioned Irving Burgie, writer of the National Anthem, the opportunities in yachting, and the resources of the Barbadian diaspora, and urged everyone to give something back to the country. The Resolution was agreed to without division.

On recommittal, Madam President read a letter from the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation inviting Senators to join a Human Chain Link around Barbados on Monday, 28th November, 2016, organised with the 50th Anniversary of Independence Celebrations Secretariat, The Power of Choice and Trident Ten. On Senator McClean's motion the Senate was adjourned sine die.



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