
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

THE SENATE

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Building on Wednesday, the February 22, 2017 at 11.00 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER, M.B., B.S. (Minister of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development) (Minister of Commerce and Trade)

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

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

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

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

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

Senator R. A. HUNTE, J.P.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir Henry FRASER, K.A., G.C.M., C.M., B.Sc. MBBS., Ph.D., FACP, FRCP.

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

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

Senator J. A. WATSON

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

Prayers were led by Reverend Cannon Errington Massiah.

MADAM PRESIDENT: This Senate is in Session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. Invest Barbados Report 2015; and
2. The Health Services Smoking (Regulations) 2017.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move the First Reading of the Barbados Revenue Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER No. 1

NOTARIES PUBLIC BILL, 2017

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Thank you very much, Madam President. The Notaries Public Bill, 2017 is a piece of legislation intended to expand the number of persons who are authorised to function as Notaries Public. Currently, I believe that there may be about 13 persons so designated, and the intention is to increase that number by eight, I think, to 21. Persons holding that post are senior public officers generally who will be assuming this responsibility along with their other responsibilities. Madam President, I think it would be useful to me to just indicate the categories of persons who will eventually be functioning in this capacity. They are the Solicitor-General, the Deputy Solicitor-General, Permanent Secretaries in a number of ministries, for example, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Permanent Secretary in Home Affairs, the Permanent Secretary in International Business, the Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Attorney-General and the Deputy Permanent Secretaries in those ministries and the Supervisor of Insolvency. Clearly what that does is to indicate that a number of Permanent Secretaries, the public officers in charge of their respective ministries, will be asked to function in that capacity.

Madam President, when I get in to looking at the role and function of a Notaries Public you would see that in their day-to-day activities their functions will bring them in contact with a number of issues which would pretty much touch on the matters that they would want to do.

Madam President, I am going contextualise or present my thoughts on this legislation within the context of two things: The work of my distinguished colleague, the Minister of International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development, and as such the nature of that portfolio being very large and covers all essential aspects of business development in Barbados therefore touching on business activities in several of its facets. I also will also link this to another aspect of business which is what I will call the international element of it, the whole question of international regulations because as we function as a jurisdiction engaging in business and seeking to attract Barbadians and others to Barbados to do business and as we engage the world, we do so within the context of a global regime which seeks to regulate international trade, and that is the World Trade Organisation.

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Senator the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Madam President, as we engage the world we do so within the context of a global regime which seeks to regulate international trade, that is the World Trade Organisation

which, of course, among its several responsibilities and concerns is focusing on trade facilitation, but trade facilitation is only an element, I would say very quickly, of business facilitation. Madam President, to my mind business facilitation is the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development, Minister Inniss, while in some respects I am responsible for focusing on our engagement of the word in terms of how it addresses the rules of the game in relation to international or global trade.

Madam President, from the perspective of our domestic efforts, as a background to the amendment I would want to say very quickly that anyone who has been following the work of the Ministry of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development and his several contributions in public discussions, et cetera, would be aware that there has been and that there continues to be an ongoing effort to enhance the ease of doing business in Barbados. If I could site one practical and relatively recent example, I recall I believe it was somewhere in early March, 2015, that would have started a process of consultation but I recall in that year and in that month the Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development would have met with stakeholders of the International and Financial Services Sectors. Let me quickly say that given his portfolio that is a major element of his portfolio in terms of revenue generation and creation of employment of certain categories. Ma'am, the Minister would have met with a number of stakeholders who do business that touch the International and Financial Services Sectors. Ma'am, for example, the Honourable Member would have met with members of the Barbados Bar Association, the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Barbados International Business Association. They would have been meeting along with key officials of his Ministry, for example, the International Business Unit which serves as a regulatory body facilitating a range of services to the International Business Sector and representatives of the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office. Whether small, micro, large, domestic or international business wants to register they would have to go there. Also a multiplicity of services are undertaken and delivered by that unit.

Madam President, the idea in that meeting was to engage stakeholders at the level of service providers to business persons directly, for example, attorneys-at-law or accountants and having them engaged the public officials who deliver a range of services offered by the public sector. Ma'am, all of this was intended to ensure that concerns were aired, recommendations were given, explanations offered as to what are some of the challenges that we might be facing, updates on what Government has been doing, et cetera. Ma'am, I introduced that because that exercise of consultation and discussion ties in very closely with the rationale or *raison d'être* for this amendment.

Madam President, at that meeting and at other meetings concerns were raised about the access to notaries public. I mentioned before that there were 13 or so notaries public and so the concern was that there needed to be an increase in the numbers and so making more readily available access to those notary public services. In addition, I would also share that in those discussion that the Minister, his team and the stakeholders were also able to flag a number of other issues that are critical to the whole business of trade and business facilitation, as well as the ease of doing business and so they looked at the whole question of practices and procedures at the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office, they looked at the functions of notaries public, and at the issue of legislation and identified a number of areas in which additional amendments or new legislation would have been required.

Ma'am, the question of marketing the sector was also put on the table, along with banking issues. Ma'am, if I could just expand on one element of banking issues, we know that for the last year or two we have been challenged in the region with the issue of the impact of certain rules and procedures as they relate to correspondent banks. Madam President, I have listed all of those because at the end of the day it is important to recognise that as we discuss this amendment -- and I might have said it before -- it is not a piece of legislation that has been amended in isolation or on the whim of the Minister or the staff of his Ministry recommending it but that it has been identified as one of the many areas in which new policies, new programmes, amendments to legislation, et cetera, will help to enhance our ability to do business. Ma'am, ultimately if we are able to enhance the ease with which we do business they will serve to contribute to our competitiveness as a trading nation or as a country or jurisdiction doing business.

Madam President, I would want very quickly to say, therefore, as we recognised that this has been an area of concern and for some decisions and adjustments in this case to the legislation to provide larger numbers of persons, we can recall, Madam President, that we have had the task over the last several years of debating and contributing to the passing of legislation to enhance the very sectors that I spoke about that fall under the Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development and so there has been a suite of legislative amendments, new legislation, et cetera, that have come to this Honourable Chamber and have been implemented. Of course, we are looking today at the expansion of notaries public, while at the same time there has been a number of what I would describe as administrative and operational changes taking place, for example, within Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office, to improve the quality of services, the turnaround time, et cetera, for companies or persons seeking to do business with that office.

Madam President, this piece of legislation essentially is part of an ongoing strategy and rollout of programmes to ensure that we are able to improve the quality of work that is undertaken and to improve the quality of Barbadians and others doing business in Barbados for them to realise a greater level of efficiency and ultimately effectiveness on their way to improving their competitiveness.

Madam President, I want just quickly to say a little bit about the whole question of a notary public. I believe that we are talking about an officer who is constituted by law to serve the public in what I would describe as on non-contentious matters. In many cases and in some jurisdictions, and if you read about notaries public in the context of Ireland and when we look at our operations, laws, et cetera, they often look very similar to what obtains in those jurisdictions which traditionally have been part of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth, et cetera, but they deal with a number of matters typically relating to foreign or international business.

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Senator Hon. Ms. M.P.O. McCLEAN: ... They often look very similar to what obtains in those jurisdictions which traditionally have been part of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, but they deal with a number of matters typically relating to foreign or international business. That is why you would see that it would fall under the portfolio of my colleague of whom I spoke earlier. Basically, if you had to think in terms of what the Notary Public does, he or she functions to administer an oath, for example, to attest signatures, to authenticate documents, to witness the execution of documents, and so on. They also deal with the question of the receiving and entering protests in matters relating to mercantile transactions. That is the kind of activity -- witnessing the execution of documents relating to property situated outside of Barbados where you may be focusing on conveyances, transfers, et cetera -- so you can see the mix of activities which the Notaries Public are required to do. Therefore, in the selection of offices to serve as Notaries Public, what we have are persons who, as I said before - and reiteration is useful -- in their day-to-day activity will come into contact with a number of those matters which constitute matters that come before a Notary Public. That, I think, is very important in relation to what is happening.

Madam President, I mentioned that when we talk about this we may want to again put it within the context of the whole business of competitiveness. It is one category of service or services offered, but it is part of ensuring that when we look at our efforts to be competitive, we need to

have services readily available. We are talking not only about competitiveness at the domestic level, but we are also part of CARICOM, CARIFORUM (Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States), and a hemispheric group of nations, and we engage in trade across those nations. We engage in sourcing of investment and all of these things. Really and truly, the point I am making is that as we take each step to enhance what happens on a day-to-day basis in terms of business facilitation -- in this case the provision of services of a Notary Public -- we are doing so in a way to build what I would describe as a business environment that is increasingly responsive and nimble. Again, we can link that thought to what I said before in relation to the consultation exercises which a Minister such as my colleague undertakes. We are aware, we recognise and pursue a strategy of ongoing review and improvement of various legislative policy and administrative arrangements; so that is the context within we locate this legislative Amendment. If we are to continue to be competitive as a country, if our businesses which constitute our business sectors are to be continuously competitive, then we need on an ongoing basis to monitor and improve our legislative policy and administrative arrangements.

As I said earlier, Madam President, we can cite -- I certainly can and all of us around here if we do recall the things we have done, certainly since I have been here in 2008 -- several examples where such serious efforts have been made to ensure that we have a comprehensive sweep of reforms undertaken so far or to be undertaken. Recently we would have heard, and I know that in relation to small business development, not all of our business is international in focus or falls under the international business or financial services sector but we also have the responsibility to support the backbone of this economy and many others; and that is the small business sector. I do not need to spend a lot of time restating that, like many other countries, that is the area in which jobs are created and where individuals are afforded the opportunity to be innovative; but in order to be innovative and to take advantage of business opportunities as they crop up, business facilitation is necessary. Thus, this kind of Amendment becomes very important.

I would also want to suggest, of course, that while the work of the Ministry of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development is taking place, that is not the only Ministry which has an interest in and a responsibility for, or which is active in ensuring that, the role which any one of those Ministries play in relation to business facilitation is being forgotten or is being left behind. I can suggest that we look at other Ministries. For example, we recently had the launch of the new electronic single window which talks about making easier the whole process of shipping goods, importing and exporting and so on. Our business community also relies heavily on the issuing of work permits in some sectors, et

cetera, and I can tell you that if we cast our minds back, again, to previous Debates in Parliament, we would know of the work done by the Immigration Department. To my right is my dear colleague, Senator Boyce, who has responsibility for immigration, and we know that certain protocols were put in place to ensure that work permits were processed in a much more efficient and effective manner. I would suggest, therefore, that we see this Amendment as part of not only a wider ministerial initiative, but also an even wider cross-ministerial effort to do what is necessary to facilitate business development.

Madam President, if I could perhaps share a little bit of information for what it is worth; the role of a Notary Public and the importance of it is perhaps reflected in how some countries have been dealing with this matter. I was looking to see what happens in other places, and my research has shown me two things. I referred to Ireland earlier, and there is a world organisation of notaries, which I found interesting. It was founded in 2009 and Ireland would have been one of the founding members. In Ireland, there is what they call a faculty of Notaries Public, and that is really a company incorporated and limited by guarantee. It is intended not to make money or whatever but, as it said in my reading of an article about it, it was established to promote, advance and regulate the profession of Notary Public in Ireland. Of course, let me hasten to say right away that, given the size of Ireland relative to Barbados and the diversity and size of Ireland's business sectors, you would recognise that it would have substantially more persons identified in this capacity, so I was happy to say that it exists, both of them, and clearly they provide together information to various stakeholders, such as persons in the public sector, solicitors and the public, and for the Notaries Public themselves.

I found that interesting because I believe that anybody who is taking on this responsibility should not be averse to familiarising themselves with what happens in other jurisdictions in an area of responsibility. Of course, in the context of Barbados, we do this because the assignment of that responsibility is only one of the things which a number of people do.

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SENATOR M.O.P McCLEAN: Assignment of that responsibility is only one of the things that a number of people do. I hasten to say

I also found this interesting because elsewhere I have heard some people suggest that we can have a whole cross section of persons being assigned the role of Notaries Public, but I do not necessarily agree based on what has been identified as the role and responsibility of a notary

public. Some references are made to other jurisdictions where I have heard people say you can go to New York City or some other large city in some North American country, where you might find them scattered around the place. I believe within the context of how we do things in Barbados and the size of Barbados as an important consideration, what we have structured is something that would allow us to maintain the integrity. I am not challenging the integrity of anybody else. I am simply saying that given how these things are described and the importance we assign to the role and purpose that this is an area in which significant improvement can be realized by the simple act of increasing the numbers of persons. I think that is also very important.

I did mention, Madam President, that in looking at this we can also look at it from the perspective of what happens as we engage globally. I presume in that sense to some extent I am putting on my hat as the person responsible for foreign trade. I would want quickly to say when we talk about business facilitation of which I said facilitation is a part, we are doing all that we are doing and I believe I might have touched on this before, but I will expand on it a little bit. We are doing all of this as part of a domestic economy, as part of a member of a regional body in which we have as part of CARICOM, certain State rules by which we operate, and we are doing so as part of a global family of nations which engage in global trade. As such as we function in a globalized market, Madam President, we need to continue to appreciate that there is growing or increasing competition, and as we function, not only does Government have to play its part, but we also have to recognise, well not me anymore, I am not in the private sector anymore, but those persons operating businesses working in corporations, et cetera, need to understand they too have to play their part to ensure competitiveness as we put these things in place. I would want to say we have been asked, or we are expected as part of the World Trade Organisation membership, to commit to what we see as free trade and trade liberalization. All of that adds to competitiveness. It help us or forces us to recognise that we are competing globally. Therefore, as we look to domestic policies we are doing so against the background of being required to operate according to certain kinds of standards.

I would just want to flag one area in which the WTO has been working to bring members together to agree to certain conventions as it relates to facilitation. There is a facilitation agreement to which member countries are ask to become signatories.

I was informed only this month that two-thirds of the members have to ratify so that it comes into force. Only this month it has been ratified because they have gotten those two-third members. I can also say Barbados is actually in the process of getting a final sign off. I know the

Foreign Trade Department has provided the necessary documentation which would go to Cabinet and which is being considered that the level of the Ministry of International Business as well as the Solicitor General. So I anticipate that very soon Barbados would be a signatory to that trade facilitation agreement.

Madam, what that means is, if we -- I want to link it now, Madam President -- again with this amendment. It means that if we are signatory to that agreement we need to be able to deliver and being able to deliver is about finding ways to ensure we minimise any stumbling blocks, any constraints to effective business activity. So this is one area in which that would become important.

I believe, Madam President, that in looking at the whole question of the increase as the amendment clause and the number of notaries, it is one area out of many, one element out of many elements of a total package of reform and improvement in areas controlled by Government or falling under the purview of Government that has been put in place to ensure we improve the ease of doing business.

I do not think however, Madam President that any discussion of anything to improve the needs of doing business would be complete unless we focus on what I would call the other side of the equation, and that is the business community. It is often very easy and very popular to be critical of Government's limitation, the legislation can go further, we need more staff at Corporate Affairs, we need to bring our systems into the new age of ITC, et cetera. As we try to do that we also have to say to the business community that they themselves have to bring themselves into that age as well and ensure they are able to utilise the services. Beyond technology and systems there is also the need to pay attention, in my mind, to the whole question of the contribution of the people. By that I am talking about productivity and things of that nature.

We in Barbados have to spend some time focusing on how we as individuals providing services do so. The quality of customer services for example, whether it is at the retail level, whether it is in the provision of services at the legal level for example financial services. I am not going to pick on lawyers, but we know how that goes in terms of waiting and so on.

The point I am making is, all the systems can be put in place. The legislation can be put in place, but in the absence of the right attitude, proper training -- I do not believe I could allow owners of business, Managers of business to get away because it is critical that there is investment in training, et cetera. All of these things have to work hand in glove to ensure what we have is a society in which, and a business environment in which all the stakeholders recognise that all the elements must work together to ensure that we are able to realise the benefits of

business facilitation efforts of trade facilitation efforts, depending on where you are located and what you are required. All of these things will come to naught if at the level, what I would call the micro level, at the business operations level, things are not done to enhance the quality of the service or product that you provide to your customer base.

Before I close I would just recognise that while many people argue that international trade is the engine of the global economy, that is true, there is a lot of activity that does not directly -- I say directly because we do not live in a vacuum isolated from the rest of the world -- there is a lot that happens here that needs improvement if we are really to be able to properly participate in the whole question of being competitive in terms of global trade and even domestic performance.

There is much written, and I believe it would be useful for an individual in business to spend some time understanding how these things are evaluated and so on. We often hear of reports, et cetera, and I wonder how...

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SENATOR M.O.P. McCLEAN: ...to spend some time understanding how these things are evaluated and so on. We often hear of reports, et cetera, and I wonder how many people spend some time to read reports on doing business, the trade facilitation reports that we see coming out of the organisations such as the WTO, or organisations such as the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation. All of these things we have. We hear of the OECD in the context of international business operations and best practice, but we also have the OECD trade facilitation indicators, and often times, Madam, President, when there are assessments of how we do business in Barbados it has to do not only with Government but also with the performance of the private sector as well. So I would suggest that people spend time individually, certainly collectively in their business associations for example to really review what are some of the issues outside of the control of Government that impact on our ability to do business in an easy, efficient and effective way, because at the end of the day, as I said, clearly it is about Government's contribution, Government's responsibility, Government's role, but it equally about the private sector taking advantage of those things that are put in place, but also recognising that beyond those things there are also elements of critical importance to the way they do business that falls squarely within their control.

I was recently reading a report coming out of one of these organisations in which there would have been doing between 2012 and 2015 what they called the Average

Trade Facilitation Performance and it ranges from zero to two. I just took a random set of countries so we could see where Barbados falls. The United States was 1.7, Canada 1.7, Brazil 1.5. Mexico 1.5, the Dominican Republic was 1.2, Antigua and Barbuda was 0.7, Barbados was 1, Trinidad and Tobago was 1.1. Some of our other CARICOM members were not listed. They probably did not provide the information.

I want to suggest therefore, Madam President, that as I close, what I have attempted to do in speaking to the amendment of this legislation to expand the numbers of notaries public to include a number of categories at the level of Permanent Secretary and Deputy Permanent Secretary, Solicitor General, et cetera, this is one of several elements of efforts to ensure we are able to enhance our ability to do business in a positive and nimble a way as possible, but at the end of the day the role of Government is but only one element of such efforts. Therefore, I believe it is a critical piece of legislative reform but it is also something that has been accompanied by many other pieces of legislation policy implementation, but also there is required ongoing work which is very much part of what is being done by the Minister and his ministry responsible in this case for the oversight of Notaries Public. With that I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Abraham you have the Floor.

Senator W.A. Abrahams: Madam President, I rise to make my comments on the Bill. We are going in the right direction in terms of the decision to have more Notaries Public in Barbados. That is a fact. There were too few. Although I do not think we are entirely going in the right direction in who we appoint to be Notaries Public. I listened to the Leader of Government Business in the Senate as she spoke that this would expand the category of persons who can be Notaries Public and provide for more Notaries Public. What is interesting, Madam President, is, those who were formally Notaries Public are no longer Notaries Public under this Bill. The Notaries Public in Barbados previously, Madam President, were the Registrars, the Deputy Registrars and the Assistant Registrars of the Supreme Court, Register of Corporate Affairs and the Land Registry. So there were nine in total. The list of persons who qualified or who are now Ex Officio Notaries in Barbados are the Solicitor General, the Deputy Solicitor General, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of International Business, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Deputy Permanent Secretaries in the same ministries, the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Solicitor General and the Supervisor of Insolvency. So we have not taken away the function of Notary Public from the Registrars, Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars of the assorted

Registries. That is a major mistake. The persons who use Notaries most of all, Madam President, are lawyers for legal documents and legal processes. Whereas it was previously inconvenient that only the Registrars, Deputy Registrars and Assistants were Notaries, it is not catastrophic that you have now appointing people in the ministries but have taken away the function of Notaries from the Registrars and those functionaries in the court.

Madam President, I listened to the Leader of Government Business as she as well spoke about the need to maintain integrity in the office of the Notary Public and the importance of the office. We in Barbados have a bit of an anomaly. We have in Barbados something called the Justice of the Peace. The Justice of the Peace would administer oath. They can witness documents and I believe they can perform weddings and issue warrants to the police. Now a lot of what the Justices of the Peace do in Barbados are functions of the Notaries Public in other parts of the world. So all Justices of the Peace in Barbados operate in the same way as a Notary Public in England, New York, the United States, and Australia. There is no mystery to the office of the Notary Public. The Office of the Notary Public is simply a functionary office. Normally it is done by application. So people who want to be Notaries Public will make the application to the relevant authority, if they qualify, they pay a fee and they are appointed.

Asides.

Senator W.A. Abrahams: Madam President, it is my understanding that it is under Section 6 in the Registration Act, the Sui Generis Principle -- you have something speaking specifically to Notaries Public.

Madam President, if it is there are still Notaries, I am happy.

SENATOR M.O.P. McCLEAN: Madam President, I rise on a point of order. I believe the Honorable Senator is misleading the Chamber. The proposal is to expand the list. There is nothing removing anybody from the list, but it expands.

Asides.

SENATOR M.O.P. McCLEAN: On s point of order. Just to add some clarity. The long title of the Bill under consideration, this Bill would authorise certain public officers to be Notaries Public so as to give...

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Senator Miss V. A. G. De PEIZA: On a point of order. The Honourable Senator is misleading the Senate, and I do wish to just add some clarity. The long title of the Bill under consideration says this Bill will authorise certain public officers to be notaries public so as to give the public wider access to notarial services. The intention is not to narrow but to expand. Also, the Bill under consideration does not in any way repeal any existing legislation, so what already is in place will remain in place. Registrars and their deputies receive their powers under a completely different piece of legislation, the Registration Office Act Cap. 33 and will continue to act as Notaries Public under that Act. Thank you.

Senator W. A. ABRAHAM: Madam President, I am glad for that clarification, and if that is the case, then I am happy, but I continue further with my point.

We have attached a mystery to the office of the Notary Public in Barbados. It is believed that only certain people can hold this office. Ma'am, this is an office that should be decentralised, and I will tell you why. Whereas we can witness documents in Barbados for local use by using a Justice of the Peace, the world has become an exceedingly small place, in many countries lawyers are allowed to perform functions that the Notaries performed in Barbados, so lawyers have the authority to witness certain documents, to certify copies, and to do a number of things.

The aim is to expand the category to facilitate commerce, to facilitate business and to facilitate the ease of doing business, so if we have expanded the list of Notaries from those in the Registry now to Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries in certain ministries, then why those ministries and not others? If we believe a Permanent Secretary is eminently qualified to be a Notaries Public, why not the Permanent Secretaries in all of the ministries and why not the Deputy Permanent Secretaries in all of the ministries. The point here is to facilitate the ease of doing business and the ease of having access to a Notary Public.

Madam President, in most countries a senior lawyer or a lawyer can apply to be a Notary Public and once they meet certain qualifications they can become a Notary Public. Let us not limit it to lawyers - because every time I speak about lawyers and the functions of lawyers - I am surprised that my good friend Senator Husbands has not jumped up already - let us have a set criteria for the appointment of Notaries Public in Barbados and if somebody fulfils that criteria then they can be a Notary Public. Now, the criteria would be self-selecting. By virtue of the stated criteria you can weed out people that you do not want to be Notaries, you could weed out undesirables, but it should not be a case that this important cog in the facilitation of business wheel lies strictly within the hands of the Government.

Madam President, a couple years ago we had an exceedingly urgent matter that needed to be certified by a Notary Public and to send to, I think it was Venezuela or Belize or something, and we could not find one Notary Public. It was a Friday afternoon, the documents had to be sent and we could not find one Notary Public, not anybody in the Land Registry, not anybody in the Registry of Corporate Affairs and not anybody in the Supreme Court. It is even worse, Madam President. We eventually tracked down the Deputy Registrar of Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property but because the document was a document relating to court proceedings the Corporate Affairs Registry did not want to certify the document and said that it was better certified by a Notary Public in the Supreme Court. You are either a Notary or you are not. Madam President, we eventually had to track down the Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court by calling her cell phone and getting her to come in from leave - and I am glad she accommodated us, I am not going to call her name - to do the document for us. With a critical matter, for six hours we could not find one Notary Public in the public service. We may have added 11 to the list but the point still remains we put it all in the hands of Government. This is not a prize to be awarded. This is not a treasure to be held jealously. If we are looking to facilitate business, then we have to look at expanding the categories that make it sensible in the facilitation of business.

Madam President, the Leader of Government Business spoke about business efficacy and the private sector, and I agree with her, there is frustration all around in how business is done in Barbados and the facilitation of business. We have many built-in hurdles that crippled the ability to do things quickly. If I use an example: Why is it that we still cannot renew licences online? Technology has now advanced to the point where you can do everything online. Madam President, I went on Amazon yesterday to order some things, three different items, and literally it was done in one minute and paid for and within another two minutes after that I got a confirmation by email from Amazon that my thing had been processed, that the shipping date was going to be X with a guaranteed arrival time of Y. Within three minutes, I went for a blank computer screen, I got a confirmation that my stuff is on the way.

Madam President, we can do a lot of things online but yet people lose good work time in Barbados doing things they do not need to be doing during working hours. To pay anything in Barbados still we are at the position where the cashiers open at 9 o'clock and close at 3 o'clock, so you have to scramble to get there during working hours. Madam President, Father forbid you go into the Licensing Authority, your whole day is gone. These are built-in inefficiencies. I went recently to pay for my driver's licence and where I paid the machine was not working to take the photograph to print it so I said I will come back

again and I called again to find out when it can be done and I ended up paying across there by the Treasury and then for the last couple of months I was walking around with an expired licence and a receipt just in case the police stop me because the machine still was not working. We need to get serious.

I am not pointing a finger at this Government. I am saying that time has now passed by. Technology has progressed to the point where for us not to fall in line with the pace of technology is to create an anomaly. Barbados will become an anomalous country. If we are talking about business facilitation, let us do all of the things that facilitate it. Why is it that you can sit down in the comfort of your office or your house and fill out your VAT returns and file it online but you still have to pick yourself up and go and deposit a cheque in the drop box at the VAT Office or go and stand up in line at the Treasury or at one of the VAT Offices to pay by credit card or by cheque? Why is it that we can file online but we cannot just complete the payment online? It is a logical next step and it has been too long for us to implement it. Why can we not file documents for court online? There is provision in the new Rules of the Supreme Court but we still cannot do electronic filing of documents in Barbados. If there is an urgent matter that needs to be heard, and there are some matters, Ma'am, that are critically urgent, some occurred after hours as we learned recently with the case of the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados, why can the filing not be done online and the process started?

When we know we have an urgent matter coming up, and Senator De Peiza can back me on this, and you know your documents cannot be ready before 3 o'clock, you have to call and beg somebody at the Registry to hold on that you are coming. Oftentimes we send somebody to sit down in the Registry so that they cannot close the Registry with the person in it...

Senate D4 Sequence 6

12.15 p.m.

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Senator W. A. ABRAHAM: Madam President, if you know that your documents cannot be ready before 3.00 p.m. you have to call and beg somebody at the Registry to hold on, that you are coming, then we have to rush across and file our documents. Ma'am, oftentimes we send somebody down to the Registry for that person to sit down so that they cannot close the Registry with the person sitting there. Madam President, we are better than that, we have gone way, way passed that. Madam President, we talk about business facilitation, business facilitation is online transactions, the whole world has gotten there. We are getting there in baby steps but we are not getting there fast

enough and I urge this Government to look at what needs to be done and to facilitate it.

Madam President, some people have said that you do not want people to file things online by credit card because of the cost and the charges to the credit card but having said that I can pick myself up with my credit card and go down to the VAT Office and can pay by credit card. Therefore, if I can pay by credit card at the VAT Office, then why can I not simply complete the transaction and save myself the stress of the trip? Ma'am, all of these are usable man hours. All of these are billable hours. All of these, as Sir Roy will tell you, are working hours, they mean something, they have a value attached to them. Madam President, we are going in the right direction with increasing the number of notaries. We are going in the right direction with expanding the category of persons who can be notaries public. The Government may not yet be ready to decentralise fully and allow private citizens the privilege and dignity of becoming a notary public but if Government is not yet there, then Government should at least remove the distinction within the ministries. Government should at least remove the limit that is limited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of International Business and the Attorney-General Office, Government should give all the Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries the responsibility and the office. This would actually make for a lot easier reading. Schedule II would simply have "The Solicitor-General, the Deputy Solicitor-General, Supervisor of Insolvency, all Permanent Secretaries and all Deputy Permanent Secretaries." Madam President, it would be a much shorter and easier to understand Schedule.

Madam President, the Government may not yet be there where it is prepared for an application process and to decide but even within the framework which this Bill contains it can be a little bit wider and so I am asking the Leader of Government Business that that would be an easy amendment and that it would not be controversial as you have given that office to a couple of Permanent Secretaries. If I were the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management, I would wonder if I am a lesser Permanent Secretary than that of the Ministry of Home affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Attorney-General Office. Madam President, it is a move in the right direction. I welcome the fact that there are more notaries public from which to choose but I ask that the powers-that-be would look at the existing categories and expand it even further. They can do it within the framework that they have set for themselves but I am suggesting that they can do it even further than that, into private Barbados or business Barbados. Madam President, with those few words, I am obliged to you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Trotman, you have the Floor.

Senator Sir ROY TROTMAN: Madam President, I rise to indicate that I do support the Bill that is before us and I am particularly interested in the opportunity that it gives by the path taken by the Leader of Government Business in this Senate, the opportunity it provides for us to be able to spread our wings a little bit beyond merely saying that we support the legislation. I think that we should be particularly interested in part of one of the comments made by the Leader of Government Business and that has to do with the implications that this has or is likely to have regarding the World Trade Organisation's efforts which are being made now to look at the signing of the appropriate protocol to ensure that the Doha Round of discussions and agreements are complete.

Madam President, this becomes particularly important since in today's world and in today's world trade arrangements there are several countries which appear to be inward-looking in their expressions of their trade agreements and trade interests. Let me put it that way because I do not think that one has to go too far to recognise that there is an increasing attempt being made to marginalise small economies, small countries or countries which may be considered to be unfriendly. Ma'am, though I do not think that Barbados falls into the category of unfriendly nations yet sometimes you may be perceived to be unfriendly if you take a stance that says you are the friends of all and satellites of none.

Madam President, given the way that the various groupings in trade are lining up with Britain and Brexit and with the new pronouncements that we are hearing out of Washington, it would seem to me to be very important for us to recognise the importance of having improved trade facilitation. I wish therefore to applaud any attempt that is being made in this direction, although I supposed that when the Trade Union Movement speaks to anything that has to do with trade, we are likely to draw unto ourselves some really unkind, unfriendly and sometimes immature comments from sources that we would not wish to deal with.

We are sufficiently concerned about this in the Labour Movement that I would want to repeat what I have said elsewhere more than once, that the Trade Union Movement, at least the Barbados Workers Union for whom I can properly speak, believes that if we are going to become truly competitive and if we are going to facilitate trade and business in a way that we have to, especially in these times of inward-looking Government, then look at ongoing discussions regarding the 24/7 work week has to be speeded up and there have to be the recognition by all and sundry that there is plenty of work that has to be done in terms of addressing this particular issue.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that anyone would find that the Labour Movement is opposed to this, although one would find that the Labour Movement has underlined and continues to underline its concerns for the establishment of certain basic needs and certain logistical arrangements that would have to be put in place to streamline and to ensure that we are properly moving towards growing the economy. I do not think that anybody in the Labour Movement or anybody in Barbados would want to oppose the growing of the economy, but I think that Labour Movement, in parallel with that agenda has to express, despite whatever attacks it may receive, its concerns to improve social development at the same time.

No.D4 (7)12.35 p.m.

Wednesday, FEBRUARY 22, 2017

Seq. 8

Senator SIR ROY A. TROTMAN: ... I do not think I have to spend a long time going into discussion on improving social development nor in saying that when it comes to dealing with the competitiveness and therefore going the route of 24/7 for the work week, we would have to be sure that we recognise there are in the community certain problems which will have to be addressed, especially given the spikes from time to time in violence against the person and the increase in the number of reports of persons being assaulted in one way or the other, either going to work or going home from work. Beyond that, we are very pleased that every effort is being made to make Barbados more competitive.

Madam President, regarding this effort to make the country more competitive you have to express certain other concerns, because in our effort to make the country more competitive sometimes we include that in the work permit area -- another area which was kindly expanded on by the Leader of Government Business - to allow for discussions of this item. In such an area, the question of the work permit often arises, and I think that as a country we will have to be able to understand that, in many workplaces which are becoming either regionalised or globalised, Barbadians are being given the opportunity to transfer to other locales, other jurisdictions and other regions. With that nobody should have a quarrel, and therefore we must be equally able to recognise that there must be allowance made by us to understand and respect that we would have equally to receive persons from other jurisdictions when they come to our own. At the same time when we say that, we would have to express alarm at the recent report we are hearing of some persons wanting to have work permits to have tree trimmers or tree climbers or whatever other term we would want to use in a country such as Barbados. If that becomes something which makes it necessary for someone to go to seek a work permit, it might easily be addressed

and dealt with. The problem comes when the issue is not as obvious and not as "laugh-at-able" as that arrangement obviously is. If the Minister uses that word again, she has to give credit and may have to pay a fee, Madam President.

That one may be easy, but there are several other areas where the work permit is asked for under areas which are we not always happy about in the labour movement. I daresay that several of my colleagues here in the Senate may also have concerns regarding those arrangements. It is our understanding that the Ministry of Labour has just brought together a draft proposal to address this issue following discussions which were led by the labour movement and persons like myself. Where we have sought to address the issue, we are told that Cabinet is looking at the matter and we would like to see what the outcome is. We want to be satisfied that there is a clear, fair work permit protocol or policy if you would have it, and we have particularly made the point that in areas where projects may require significant numbers in the region of hiring that labour, there ought to be a clear indication put by the labour movement to that labour. Those who are offering assistance financially or sending any assistance must recognise that we are a developing country and that one of our first requirements is the level of employment of our nationals. You may give us all the funding you want, and we appreciate it, but if the funding you give us denies us the opportunity to have our people employed meaningfully, then the money may very well be lost.

Therefore, our policy should be, as we have put out before, that 70 per cent of the labour involved should be local; and that of the rest of the labour, half should be in areas where there are labour attachments for the passing-on of either technology or skills or any other work which may be required after the original construction, development or introduction of machinery is over and there is the need for maintenance. What we are saying in essence is that we do not want a repeat of some practices which we have seen among persons in the labour market where, once a plant is put down or a project is developed and there has to be any repair or expansion of that original work, then that can only be done if the person comes back from "you name the place", and I would not wish to name any particular place. Very often, if it is machinery, the parts are filed off from the machinery and the result is that you have to send back to the original planter of that plant to be able to have whatever the problem is fixed. We have to be able to have a very clear indication, and those of our friends who want to give us technical assistance in cooperation of fraternity have to understand that if you really wish to be fraternal in your cooperation, you have to realise that a condition where everybody who is in the project is foreign is not one that will assist in growing our economy or growing and developing our social welfare.

There is one other comment I wish to make, because I do not wish to be too long. It has to do with how this piece of legislation is going to be able to assist the Barbados business community which, again, was touched on by the Leader of Government Business. The point was being made, I think, that much of what is being done through this legislation is in an effort to make business more competitive. I indicated before that I do not think that anyone can disagree with that. The comment was made that in this regard we have to spend more time and put more attention to the questions of productivity and of customer service. At the risk of repeating myself, I wish to say that the labour movement supports it, agrees with it and was then and is now in the vanguard, is up front, before anybody else said it, in saying that these are two very important elements. Way back in the 1980s, this speaker was in the vanguard of asking for systems which would allow for payments by results. Nobody else was talking about it in this region, but the Barbados Workers' Union and this speaker were up there saying that there should be such an arrangement. When we dealt with the 1992-1993 accord that led to our Social Partnership, we had been up there with the Prime Minister of the day and with my colleague and friend, now passed, Sir John Stanley Goddard, in advocating that productivity improvement had to be at the very centre of the competitive effort which we were making to bring Barbados back from the brink.

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Senator Sir Roy TROTMAN: We have been up there with the Prime Minister of the day and with my colleague and friend, now passed, Sir John Stanley Goddard in advocating that productivity improvement had to be at the very centre of the competitive effort that we were making to bring Barbados back from the brink. We were on the brink of a collapse and we had to come back from it and we thought that productivity enhancement programmes were necessary. We did not use the word, Madam President, that says that productivity had to be engaged, we said productivity enhancement programmes and we deliberately used the word productivity enhancement programmes because we thought the programme should enhance the efficiency and the level of output and the timing of output and the quality of output but that the productivity programmes should also enhance the producer, meaning the owner, the manager and the worker, and we still believe that there is a requirement for productivity enhancement programmes.

We also believe that there is a need for customer service improvements. I am not going to pretend that I do not get the stress very often at what I see passing as customer service. I get annoyed and concerned when I see it on the part of the non-management worker and I get

equally annoyed when I see that the management worker sees it and takes it as a given and to my mind is not doing sufficient, not to get rid of the person but to improve the person, and to ensure that at his or her workplace there is a level of customer service that makes the worker proud, that makes the manager proud and that causes the till to turn over or to tinkle more frequently.

I think, Madam President, that what we have in Barbados is a community which, when it looks at the subject of labour and labour improvement, is tunnel-vision or very often is possessed of that kind of eyesight that the good Lord spoke about in the holy text, so righteous that they can see the mote in the neighbour's but cannot see the beam in their own eyes. We can see weaknesses in how other people perform but very often when we point at those persons we do not recognise that fingers are pointing back at ourselves. We see where others are going wrong, we see where the world needs to go to make things right and we do not understand that we are among those at whom the finger is being pointed and that we have to do our bit.

We have to be looking at issues like the level of training. The worker should train himself or herself, the worker should train his or her children but the worker at the place of work needs to be given training. Just recently I talked about what I understand to be some of the training in Barbados which is four hours for an entire year which is recognised as being the training of the workforce for that year. When we first set up NISE, by NISE I mean the National Initiative for Services Excellence, we had some employers and some officials who had the benefit of travelling overseas to companies which were known for the level of their service and we had some of those people come to Barbados as well to speak to us and in many instances they spoke to training programmes which in fact exceeded eight weeks in a year and when it came down to training for managerial or supervisory staff it went down to as many as 15 weeks in a year because it was understood and clearly understood that training had to be repeated. It is like a language which you go and study and you think you understand it well and you come back to your country, in this case to Barbados, and you do not exchange hello or good morning with anybody in it but you believe four or five years later on that you can converse in the language. If you do not use it, Madam President, you lose it. If you do not practise at service excellence, you lose it. If you do not practice at productivity enhancement programmes, then it is lost on you especially when all around you, you may see attempts at a I could not care less attitude, and so I argue that there must be further training.

There must be the creation of a climate of inclusiveness at the workplace and that has to include in whatever form we can in the public sector because we cannot hide from reality the fact that we have to include the public sector in this exercise for improved excellence in the

entire country. We have to go beyond wages. I am not putting that in proximity to the public sector to argue about wage increases, I was not referring to that but it would be a good thing to bear in mind that it is a subject that has to be dealt with sooner rather than later but that is outside the scope of this discussion so I am not arguing for the wage increases now in this debate but I am arguing for wages increases. It goes beyond wage increases. It has to do with including the worker into a sense of belonging to the establishment for which he is or she is working. If we give the impression that the worker is to be seen and not heard, that the worker's views are not to be taken into consideration, that the worker's concerns are of no value so that where the worker has a problem that has to do with his family you do not need to hear and you do not need to have anybody to express concern about it, then I believe that the problem of creating the climate for productivity and for improved customer service is going to be lost.

What about employees' share ownership programmes. Why is it that in Barbados we still today have only a few companies that have recognised that the unions' calls over many years for such programmes ought to be a call that is taken up in one form or the other because the employer cannot lose where a worker recognises that his future is tied up in more than one way in how well the company does.

What about a share in the profits of the establishment? It is not necessarily that the share has to be cash up front each time but a share in the profits could be in shares in the business, but the inclusiveness of the exercise has to be such that we are able to get a commitment to the level of competitiveness that is required if Barbados is to turn the corner and if we are going to be able to rise above the current malaise which appears to exist right now and to rise above the challenges that seemed to beset us at this moment and to re-establish our effort to become a first world country in the foreseeable future.

I thank you, Ma'am.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator De Peiza, you have the Floor.

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12.43 p.m.

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MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator DePeiza, you have the Floor. SENATOR Miss V. A. G. DePEIZA: Madam President, there is not a whole lot that I would wish to add in support of this Bill. I think there is consensus that the provision under discussion will facilitate the ease of doing

business. Ma'am, we are all aware that via the World Bank there is an indices that is created designed to give some guidance to persons looking to do business in countries as to how easy it is to do business there - can you get credit, how long does it take to set up a company, are there facilities in place for doing business if there is dispute, can you get what you wish to do done in a reasonable period of time. Ma'am, therefore, I do not think that anyone who is looking to move Barbados forward would have a difficulty in supporting this piece of legislation.

Madam President, I do have some responses, though, to the queries made on the other side by the Opposition Member in terms of why we do not widen the categories and why is it that the private sector is not involved. Ma'am, when I look at the Second Schedule to the Bill I see cost for the work done by notaries public and each category is under \$100. I also see within the body of the legislation that all of the moneys collected are paid into the Consolidated Fund. Ma'am, I do not know how it is that the other side would have us guaranteed either of those two things, if it were not for the control of Government. It is a fallacy and a mistake to continue to compare Barbados with economies that are not on par with ours, the fact that in larger countries that are more diverse, that they can have the private sector involved does not mean that we have to do that as well.

Madam President, there is also a significant financial cost attached overseas in using notaries public. How does a small country like Barbados that claims to be looking to improve doing business indices when we create an environment within which there could well be runaway cost? Ma'am, it has to be micromanaged, it is not every that has to be managed by Government but certainly in terms of setting a framework and a platform upon which businesses can operate that is the function of Government in an economy that is as small as ours. Ma'am, not everything can be put out to market forces.

Ma'am, it is similar to an argument that I heard earlier about how other countries are trying to avoid monopolies and that Barbados should too. Ma'am, the first reality is that the number of players that can operate in any particular band in Barbados is going to be necessarily small, simply by pure basic economic principles: supply and demand, who can supply it to meet the demands, demand has a limit as to some persons in Barbados. Ma'am, in some instances monopolies would develop naturally even if they do not start out that way. Ma'am, it is the same way in terms of the ease of doing business, there are certain things that Government simply has to have a finger in and a hand on in order to ensure that it runs smoothly. You have to be able to keep these costs below \$100 for doing these matters and that it is not going into a private pocket. This is the thing that could not be

guaranteed if we had the private sector involved in the business of notarizing documents.

Madam President, I also wish to make a comment, and I believe that this is going to be the shortest presentation that I have ever made in this Honourable Chamber, about the ease of doing business generally. Ma'am, this present Administration has embarked on a project called the Barbados Revenue Authority, intending to create a situation where business can be facilitated in a one-stop shop. It has been buffeted and blocked from several fronts but the harsh reality, whether you wish to accept it or not, is that the very thing that the other side was calling for in terms of being able to conduct transactions online requires that one-door shop, so that with one side of your mouth you cannot claim that you have a problem with the Barbados Revenue Authority and its set up -- and I know that is not what we are discussing today -- then with the other side of your mouth complain that we do not have the very thing that the Barbados Revenue Authority is designed to facilitate. Ma'am, we have to be sensible and reasonable and put aside our political affiliations at some point in time for the good of the country and we are at that point right now. What is best for the country is what needs to be backed by all persons who consider themselves to be of some standing in their wishing to promote this country.

Madam President, I therefore have no difficulty in supporting the expansion of persons who have those notarial duties to perform, it was way too narrow before and in too small an area, we have Registrars at the Supreme Court, the Land Registry and Corporate Affairs, we needed to have the categories widened and this is what this Bill intends to do. Ma'am, whether or not it goes wide enough is to be tested. I cannot imagine that the Ministry of Transport and Works will have the same volume of documents to be notarized as the Ministry of International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development. I cannot imagine that the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development will have the same volume of documents as any of the other ministries that are noted here. Ma'am, the Ministry of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade are the target areas in terms of the ease of doing business, that is not to say that the average Barbadian does not benefit because after all most Barbadians head to the court to do their official business in any event and there they will find the majority of registrars and deputy registrars. They are not in any way disadvantaged by this legislation.

Madam President, as Barbados looks to position itself and rights the ship as it sails through international waters, we have to deal with other businesses and places and we have to make sure that what we provide is not the same that others provide but that it is a service that works for us. We cannot have our notaries public charging in an

indiscriminate manner, it has to be monitored. We cannot have our notaries public being persons who are not under the direct guidance of Government. We have not reached that point as yet, maybe some time in the future. Madam President, by widening the scope by these 12 categories is more than doubling the numbers of notaries public that we already had in the island. Madam President, I lend my wholehearted support to this legislation and I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser, you have the Floor. Senator Prof. Sir Henry S. FRASER: Madam President, I shall not long delay this Honourable Chamber from lunch because I have just two quick points to make. Ma'am, it seems to me as we have often discussed in this Senate the need for rationalisation, for bringing things together, for sorting things out, without appearing to duplicate or to be contradictory and if I understand the clarification given earlier we now have two Bills which are the Notaries Public Act and so I cannot help wondering and expressing the view, Madam President, as to why this did not come to us as a Notaries Public (Amendment) Act in which the list of the present Notaries Public and the new Notaries Public would all be amalgamated as it were.

No.D4 (10)1.04 p.m.

Wednesday, FEBRUARY 22, 2017

Seq. 11

Senator SIR HENRY F.S. FRASER: ... If I understand the clarification given earlier, we now have two Bills which are the Notaries Public Act, so I cannot help wondering and expressing the view as to why this did not come to us as the Notaries Public (Amendment) Bill, in which the list of the present Notaries Public and the new Notaries Public would all be amalgamated, as it were, Madam President.

POINT OF ORDER

Senator V.A.G. DePEIZA: On a Point of Order, Madam President. I speak under correction but, as far as I am aware, there is no Notaries Public Act.

Asides.

Senator V.A.G. DePEIZA: Ma'am, the Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber. We have no Notaries Public Act. We have two Acts that deal with Registrars; they create Registrars and give the Registrars power to act as Notaries Public. The Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office Act and the Registration Office Act; that is where you find our Registrars outside of the Land Registry. Their Deputies by their very position, ex-officio, also bear the title of Notaries Public. This has widened the scope but this is not an old piece of legislation that we are amending.

Aside.

Senator SIR HENRY F.S. FRASER: Thank you, Madam President, and thanks to the Honourable Senator for that clarification. My point simply is that it is unclear to someone reading this Act that we have got all those other nine members. I would have thought that it would have been useful to have put it together and to use the simple word. Just as the one word, “wider”, indicates the point so well clarified by Senator DePeiza, if the word “additional” Notaries Public was indicated it would have been a little more clear to the layperson where we are going.

Madam President, my second point is I hope this will be suitably made public so that people can find these Notaries and these expanded numbers of Notaries readily when they are needed, because that is often something which is very difficult to obtain information about. Thank you, Madam.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Todd, you have the Floor.

Senator Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise to give full support to the passage of this Notaries Public Bill, 2017, and to congratulate this Democratic Labour Party Administration and in particular the Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development, who sits in the Other Place, and who has really pushed to ensure that this proposed legislation has reached thus far. Madam President, we see this as a first step in terms of addressing the accessibility by the public to Notaries Public to facilitate the necessary matters related to the ease of doing business. Therefore, I do not believe the Opposition should be unduly concerned in terms of the numbers of Notaries Public being added to the current list, because we creep before we walk, Madam President. Senator DePeiza made some points in this regard, and I would add to that by asking, for example, if we would as a country need all of the Permanent Secretaries in all of the Government departments to be Notaries Public in view of the simple logistical issues. A number of the Ministries do not have the infrastructure in terms of expansive waiting facilities. Do we have sufficient security? I am sure there is security in each Ministry, but I am saying that when members of the public en masse would have to be visiting these various Ministries where these Notaries Public as Permanent Secretaries are housed, then you have to look at the logistics in terms of necessary security and screening, security personnel and waiting areas so that there would be a seamless transition to such an arrangement. One may argue that you may limit the number of Permanent Secretaries or Deputy Permanent Secretaries who are considered Notaries Public so that the members of the public would not be going here, there and everywhere seeking out Notaries Public, but would know specific

agencies and Ministries would be the designated areas for them to go. I am not saying that we would not decide in the future that for various reasons it should be expanded to all Permanent Secretaries, but we are doing it in phases so that we do not just allow any and every person to be a Notary Public just because other jurisdictions adopt such an approach.

We are a sovereign nation, and the cultural and other realities in Barbados may be different from other jurisdictions. Madam President, you just have to note the similarities, and members of the public would be quite familiar with the role played by Justices of the Peace in terms of signing passport photographs or passport application forms. In fact, Members of Parliament are often called upon to address these as well. We know that in the selection of Justices of the Peace, there is a very detailed vetting process. The prospects have to be subjected to the necessary police security background checks. You do not just appoint any and every person to be a Justice of the Peace, because of the element of trust and the serious responsibility which they undertake. For example, Madam President, Justices of the Peace are required to sign search warrants before members of the Royal Barbados Police Force execute such warrants to search the premises of members of the public, and Justices of the Peace are not allowed to charge fees for these services rendered.

I am just giving the similarities. For example, I remember as a student applying for scholarships and so on, one would have to go to the Ministry of Education, the tertiary section which was situated back then in the 1980s at Jemmotts Lane, where only senior members of the Ministry of Education, heads of that department, Permanent Secretaries and so on, would be allowed to certify documents in terms of copies of academic certificates such as Ordinary and Advanced Level certificates, Degrees and Associate Degrees, course certificates and so on. Not any and every person was given that authority, so it is a restrictive number of persons who would be authorised to sign these documents to certify that they are true copies of the originals. I do not know all the details of what Notaries Public do but, as I understand it, similar certification and stamp of approval is done; especially if one interfaces with agencies, both Government and private outside of Barbados, the Notaries Public signature is required.

Madam President, there is nothing irresponsible in this Government taking its time in terms of ensuring that we go in phases rather than just adopt wholesale what occurs in other jurisdictions. I also would wish to congratulate this Administration for taking yet another step in terms of facilitating the ease of doing business so that Barbados would remain and become even more competitive in terms of the international business sector

and business in general, because in this global village it is very highly competitive.

1.02 p.m.

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Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: ...the international business sector and business in general because in this global village it is very, very highly competitive. For example, I served briefly in the Ministry of Trade under Minister Dr. the Honourable David Estwick and I know that the competitiveness programme which this Administration has undertaken is a step in that direction. I remember that the Barbados Chambers of Commerce, Mr. Armstrong was the Head at the time, was very, very vocal in terms of agitating for the introduction of this competitiveness programme and Government bought into that and we entered into a multimillion dollar loan programme funded by the Inter-American Development Bank which gave rise to this competitiveness programme spearheaded by a Special Unit headed by a colleague of mine, a very, very dedicated and highly qualified public servant, Mr Terry Bascombe.

Mr. Bascombe and I were one of less than a dozen students at the University of the West Indies reading for the joint Bachelor in Economics and Mathematics where we read Mathematics courses including complex variable theory in Natural Sciences and then the Social Science courses including macro-economics taught by the brother of the Leader of Government Business in this Chamber, the late Wendell McClean. You could not pass his course. People failed that course on many occasions but I passed it on my first go because you had to be willing to be rigorous in terms of the application of the Calculus, the Mathematics to Economics, so I know Mr. Bascombe is very well qualified.

Madam President, that Competitiveness Unit is working across ministries. We talked about the electronic single window which was recently launched publicly by the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs with the emphasis on improving business facilitation and the competitiveness of Barbados as a jurisdiction.

Senator Sir Roy Trotman talked about the role of the National Initiative for Services Excellence (NISE) of which I am honoured to serve as Government's principal Director on that Board. I remember the competitiveness Unit addressing the full Social Partnership and the Subcommittee of the Social Partnership looking at the whole issue of the role of the Social Partnership in improving competitiveness. Consultants were brought in, retired senior lecturers in management at the University of the West Indies, looking at the reduction of duplication and the whole issue of synergies to be created between agencies

such as NISE and the National Productivity Council so that we optimise the work of these very important agencies in terms of improving productivity and competitiveness.

Madam President, I would not wish to stay in the way of ourselves and lunch, so I will be brief but I would really wish to congratulate the National Initiative for Services Excellence in terms of improving the engagement of workers at all levels from management down to line staff and the whole issue of improving customer service and service excellence within both the private sector and the public sector.

The National Initiative for Services Excellence is renowned for its work. For example, Sir Roy talked about what is called a study tour where members of the public and private sector visit, for example, cities of the United States of America and observed best practices in those jurisdictions interfacing with management and workers in those areas. Senator Husbands would have participated in such a study tour in recent years as well as the Minister of International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development who led the last study tour undertaken by the National Initiative for Services Excellence, and it is very heavily subscribed. Of course, NISE has also been engaging with big private sector companies, I will not call any in particular, in the country where they expose the entire staff from management down to line staff in terms of being trained in service excellence. I myself would have attended some of these seminars which were highly interactive and the staff left highly motivated in terms of buying into the concept of service excellence as a best practice.

In recent years public sector agencies such as the Barbados Revenue Authority and regional agencies such as LIAT have all engaged the services of NISE to improve customer service and service excellence, and this must be congratulated.

Madam President, on another occasion I will go into more detail about the whole issue of innovation where, for example, at a recent held oversubscribed breakfast meeting at the Hilton Hotel the main ballroom was completely filled, we had to turn back people, with participants from the public and private sector where we brought in a senior executive from Samsung who previously worked with Blackberry and we learned that, for example, Harris Paints having won the 100 improvements in 100 days initiative of NISE a few years ago where throughout the company areas of improved service excellence were addressed and coming out of that exercise a new innovation in terms of a type of paint was introduced by the company earning that company millions of dollars in the process.

In Government, the BADMC, the Barbados Agricultural Development Management Corporation, has

been able within a few months to create innovations which are commercially viable in terms of very tasty cassava-based sorbet, a sort of ice-cream, as well as cassava mash which is now being used by Purity Bakeries on a large commercial scale in terms of the production of their junior sandwich loaf which is very, very tasty thereby propelling the cassava sector in terms of where there is actually a greater demand for the cassava than currently exists thereby making the cassava production a viable cash crop. The BADMC has been able to create, for example, a Bajan Black Lamb Ham which is very, very tasty. We have all of these innovations within a few months with the assistance and guidance of the National Initiative for Services Excellence.

Madam President, as I conclude, I therefore will fully support the passage of this Notaries Public Bill as we seek as a nation to improve our competitiveness as we seek to ensure that we are not left behind by competitors in the region and around the globe.

I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Carmichael, you have the Floor.

Senator Dr. Sir TREVOR CARMICHAEL: Thank you, Madam President. Thank you for allowing me these brief preprandial remarks and giving me the opportunity to support this Bill which is welcomed and which will add significantly to the ease and efficiency with which we do business and with which we strive to do business. My remarks, Madam President, are going to be rather generic but maybe a little specific as well...

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1.15 p.m.

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Senator Dr. Sir Trevor Carmichael: Madam President, my remarks are going to be rather generic but maybe a little specific as well. In terms of being generic let me remind us that the notaries public is possibly one of the oldest professions, having started before the 13th century in Europe. Anyone who wants to read about them can look up the authority "Brooks Notaries" which would be, I supposed what doctors would call Grey's Anatomy but "Brooks Notaries" will tell us all about it.

Madam President, we are very fortunate that today the notary public does not need to be officially authorised by the Archbishop of Canterbury, England, or as in the case of Ireland up to the time of the reformation by the Archbishop of Armagh. Here in Barbados we give special recognition in addition to what we have in statute which was so ably

stated by Senator DePeiza and so ably now presented in this new legislation by the Leader of Government Business in this Senate but if I may say we have consolidated the former by virtue of the Apostille Convention, 1966, because what it did was to make documents certified by notaries more capable of being more easily used internationally. In other words, when these documents are certified they carry an immediate international and global acceptance, that was because when we became Independent we signed onto the Apostille Convention. Madam President, the powers and services of the notaries are very well spelled out in the amendment.

Madam President, I just want to make one simple point which is that I think in the future you will see notaries playing a greater role with assisting international internet domain named transfers. This is something that when you read paperwork, even if you read in terms of the fees charged, you do not see that mentioned but that is a trend which has started and it is a trend which notaries will increasingly be called upon to act and to assist. Obviously, the way that Schedules are generally written in terms of the charging of fees, even if a notary was called upon to do that, I am sure that one of these nice areas could be somehow used so that the notaries can still get a fee but even so there will be a certain imprimatur by virtue of the notary providing this function, as it is a function which notaries are doing more and more in other jurisdictions.

Madam President, some mention was also made about the Justice of the Peace. We know that our Justices of the Peace, essentially, I would say are the same but that they perform two types of functions. I see one more as what I call the community Justice of the Peace who is in the community and someone needs something certified or a signature witnessed where they have to take that certified document to a Government office and that Justice of the Peace is there in the community. They perform an amazingly good job. I do not think that sometimes we recognised how important a role that they play in terms of the social stability and the ease of doing business of another kind within the country. Madam President, I say let us not forget that.

Madam President, however, I also would want to mention the Justice of the Peace at the business level, who is involved in helping in terms of the incorporation of companies, witnessing of legal documents, et cetera, as some persons prefer to have a Justice of the Peace witnessing the legal document rather than the lawyer. The lawyer is capable of doing that, there is provision for that and there is also provision for notary and there is also permission for the old Commissioner, as we still have a few, maybe two whom still are alive, but sometimes lawyers specifically need a Justice of the Peace.

Ma'am, I would only make one suggestion, that is, that we increase our numbers of Justices of the Peace. Madam President, this is not special pleading, even though I would not say I would not be a beneficiary or that I would not be a happy one but I would like to think that our Justices of the Peace, not to lawyers necessarily but to persons within lawyers offices could be increased because that too will be facilitating business and it will facilitate significantly. Madam President, I seldom get this much of applaud but let me say I feel very much loved. Ma'am, I would say that that is something to which we should give serious consideration.

Madam President, let me also say that I was particularly heartened by Senator Sir Roy. I am always heartened by his comments but I was particularly heartened by his comments because this morning they resonated with something which I had been thinking about only last night. I must confess, I do not do this often but I fell asleep reading on the subject. This was on the whole matter of the doing business in Barbados because the report had come out yesterday and I wanted to have a quick look at it. Ma'am, I wholeheartedly support Senator Sir Roy's comments about the need for customer service and productivity as those two key element. I know the Leader of Government Business has also raised it. Madam President, we have to pay a lot more attention to that.

Madam President, I say that because when I looked at the report I saw that we had slipped, we are now at No. 117. Ma'am, I did not like some of the names that came before us, I saw Uganda, Antigua and Bermuda, Swaziland, Antigua, Vanuatu, Malta, Botswana and Jamaica. Ma'am, believe it or not I also saw Rwanda. I am not saying this to be critical but to be inspirational because I think that all of us have some knowledge of those jurisdictions, some of us have actually done business in them. I have done quite a few business in those places and I do know that it does not take a lot for us to get back up into that percentile where we were around 35 to 50 per cent, or even less than 35 per cent. We can do it. I think we know what needs to be done. I am not going to stand here and say we need to do this or that, we do know what needs to be done. The one thing we have here in Barbados, which is never an oversupply, but we have a supply knowledge and I would like to think too that we have a good supply to our sensitivity.

Madam President, I would end this brief peroration by urging only urge all of us collectively, because in many respects doing business and reaching that level is not only a matter of the processes with which we work but it is also a matter of the people.

No.D4 (13)1.32 p.m.

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Senator SIR TREVOR A. CARMICHAEL: ... In many respects, doing business and reaching that level is not only a matter of the processes with which we work, but it also a matter of the people. We ourselves -- I say "we" meaning not just those here in this Chamber, but we who conduct business in terms of "we" as Government servants and "we" as the private sector -- have to also sit back and reassess our own mores, our own attitudes and indeed our own processes which we adopt and which we follow. Madam President, I said I would be brief before lunch, as I always try to be; even after lunch I try to be brief. I thank you for indulging me and I just would reiterate my full support of this Bill, and I look forward also to the enhancing of the numbers of Justices of the Peace in certain quarters. Madam President, I am grateful to you. Thank you very much.

SUSPENSION

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

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

1.25 p.m.

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RESUMPTION

ORDER No. 1 (RESUMED)

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

Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I also wish to support this Notaries Public Bill, 2017 and to applaud the effort to expand the number of Notaries Public and thereby send a signal of the Government's willingness to try to make it easier to do business wherever we can.

Madam President, the issue of doing business better must clearly be at the top of our mind. There are some comments from time to time about the methodology that is used to measure how well business is being done from country to country and there are differences often in the way in which some of our public officers see these things and the way in which these rating agencies see these matters, but we cannot concern ourselves with that. What we have to concern ourselves with is that the indices

produced by the international agencies are the ones that the rest of the world uses. If we wish to compete in the world we have to be cognisant of the measures by which the world will judge us and we have to be able to show that we measure up against those indices that the rest of the world uses, so therefore, Madam President, it is critical that all of us take on board the challenge to improve the way in which we do business. It makes no sense for us to say that the measure is wrong. We have to ask ourselves how do we compare with the rest of the world when somebody reads our Report where they will come to first if we do not measure up in a certain way and so we have to make the effort to ensure that our performance is always at the level that rates well with international countries.

Our competition cannot be competition between our private sector and our public sector and it cannot be a competition between the public sector in Barbados and the public sector in other parts of the Caribbean because a lot of our business is done not with the rest of the Caribbean but with the rest of the world outside of the Caribbean. Most of our tourism comes from outside of the Caribbean and most of our international business comes from outside the Caribbean and those are the two areas that we earn our foreign exchange in, so we have got to put our heads together and make sure we put the level of effort required into getting our systems to function better.

This is a bit of work that the Social Partnership commissioned a couple of years ago. A number of us, including Sir Roy and myself, have spoken to this with the Honourable Prime Minister at a Social Partnership meeting a couple of years ago when we established what we call the Barbados Action Team and tried to set up three committees which made those recommendations. Some of those recommendations were implemented, some were not and so we are going to make another attempt to get those recommendations that were acceptable implemented and to get some new recommendations by way of what we call Competitiveness Action Teams. One team could then deal with each areas of the public sector where we need to have those improvements indicated in the Doing Business Index.

Madam President, we are looking as a team to deal with the issues at the Airport, the issues at the seaport and the issues with the physical planning authorities. We are also looking as a team to deal with matters to do with the Barbados Revenue Authority, with the court system, the registrar system and so on. We are looking to get this done not just as Government people doing it by themselves but having teams that consist of Government, the private sector and unions working together to figure out how do we change the way we do things, what are the things that are important for us to do to ensure that Government continues to make the right considerations and continues to give the right level of emphasis to the matters to which they must give emphasis so that we do not short-changed the system

and to ensure that the integrity of the system remains and that we are able to operate them faster and do those things that make value and look at the things that we are doing that do not add any value to our processes, not adding any knowledge, not adding any information, and see if we could stop doing them and to look at how we could do things in parallel rather than do things sequentially and to look at how we could use technology to speed up the way we do things to make information more available to the various departments which have to participate in any decision that has to be taken, always doing that in the context that Government has to be responsible to make sure that it takes into account all of the varying views of the society as it comes to a decision. We will resume that work very shortly and we will try to change the way we structure the effort such that those people who are responsible for the various departments are the ones who are charged with the responsibility for the improvements but having oversight from the Social Partnership Committees that would be there to help to drive the process forward.

Madam President, we cannot do all of the things all at once, that will be a recipe for complete confusion and for the breakdown of all of the systems and of our bottlenecking of all of the systems so we will look to find the systems that are perhaps most critical and get them done. If we have six or seven teams working on six or seven items within six or seven departments we can make a little progress quarter by quarter, but it is not a mission that is going to get done in one year or two years, it is going to be a mission that has to continue for several years as we work through all of the various systems within the Government sector. I speak now about the Government sector but we will come back and also talk later about what the business sector has to do and what the employees' representatives have got to do to help to push this process forward.

Earlier on Sir Roy Spoke on the matter of productivity of people

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3.16 p.m.

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Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Madam President, earlier on Sir Roy spoke to the matter of the productivity of people and the engagement of people in what they do, if they are to perform their task well and if they are to perform them to the best of their ability. Ma'am, I cannot but endorse the sentiments that the Honourable Member expressed in terms of the engagement of workers, that for workers to be engaged managers and supervisors have got to create the right conditions and the right environments for people to be productive. I also feel that we have got to put

into people's minds that regardless of the circumstance that they have a duty to themselves to deliver the very best that they can. We cannot just wait for people to guide us, we cannot only be followers but that each of us has to say at some point that we will take charge of whatever it is that we are doing and that we will do it in such a way that we can be proud of it and that others can also be proud of it. Ma'am, that is the philosophy that I think we have to try to inculcate in our people, be they workers, supervisors or managers. Madam President, in doing that we have to move away from this notion of following the master, we also have to be prepared to speak firmly, if not harshly, to each other, either to our workers, a peer or a subordinate to say what we think that person is not doing well or is not helping us to deliver the goal that we would want to deliver for the organisation. Ma'am, productivity while driven by technology or by systems is above all driven by the attitudes of the people involved at all levels in the organisation and we have to encourage our people to believe that and to work accordingly. Madam President, the matter of worker's involvement is critical, what we are now trying to do with the Competitive Action Teams is to get the people who themselves are accountable for the delivery of services to be the ones to guide the whole process of improvement.

Madam President, while that is going on there is an areas for which I have some responsibility that we are trying to do some improvements in, that is the area of the Immigration Department. We are taking consulting advice to prepare a policy or procedural manual, we are looking at streamlining some operations all with a view to making sure that we can make decisions faster, that there is more clarity about how decisions are made, why they are made and when they ought to be made and that there can be more consistency from one decision to the other. We want to make sure that our Immigration policy not only continues to protect the borders well but that it also contributes to the improvement of productivity and to improving the ways in which we do business in the country and so that work is ongoing.

Madam President, even while we try to improve the physical conditions of the Immigration Department and moving them to a new space, we are also looking to make sure that they have got better technology and that we put in place training for them in customer service, in procedures, in the formulation of policies and in the consistency of decision-making. We are doing that because we feel that we have to do that so that we can use immigration policies as a way of helping to improve the economic development of the country without compromising the security of our borders.

Madam President, this Notaries Public Bill is fully driven in a great deal by the need in the International Business Sector for more of these notaries public in order

to make sure that we get through the load that we have, particularly at year end in the International Business Sector. Madam President, this bears a little looking at the International Business Sector. We have tended to forget very often the severe pressures that sector has been placed under over the last seven or eight years. It started in 2007 with the crash in the financial markets where management companies and private banks used to make lots of profits and used to contribute well to our Treasury by way of taxes paid but now find themselves, because of the financial markets, in serious loss positions and of course therefore in 2008-2009 the level of tax revenue that came into the Treasury from the International Business Sector fell. Further, they had to carry forward these losses for a number of years and so for a number of years thereafter, even though they had returned to some level of profitability, they carried those losses for tax purposes meant that we did not earn the same tax revenue in the country.

Madam President, as soon as that was sorted out we then had the change in the way the Canadians treated exempt tax surplus. Exempt tax surplus is an arrangement whereby Canadian companies could return to Canada, the profits that they made outside of Canada, for instance, through a place such as Barbados, without paying taxes on it when they go back to Canada, because it was subject to taxation while in Barbados and with a Double Taxation Treaty arrangement between Barbados and Canada that income could not be taxed twice and so that company would be taxed in Barbados and would go back to Canada without taxation and Canada only used to allow countries with Double Taxation Treaties to enjoy that tax exempt position. Ma'am, Canada changed that and said that in order to make sure that other people would disclose their information Canada has decided that once a country has a Double Taxation Treaties agreement with them, which we thought to be a much inferior position, domiciles in your jurisdiction could return that profit to Canada without paying any taxes, so that all of a sudden the advantage that we had disappeared.

Madam President, we had a choice at that time, do we maintain the same level of taxation in that sector, particularly the international offshore banks which paid the most of that offshore tax, when those companies had begun to leave or more were threatening to leave because of this change in the Canadian taxation position? Further, by doing that, should we then put at risk the

3 000-plus jobs in that sector, or should we use the tax rate, take a further cut in our corporation tax revenue and maintain those 3 000-plus jobs and all the families who were associated with those 3 000-plus jobs? Madam President, we took the latter, of course, we decided that we would keep the jobs but that we would reduce the tax rates in that sector and therefore we would lose some revenue.

No.D4 (16)3.28 p.m.

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Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: ... Madam President, economists say there is no free lunch and I happen to have been in and around economics now for about 45 or 46 years. There is no free lunch. We kept the jobs, families continued to eat and to have bread on their tables, but we lost tax revenue, so between what happened with the financial crisis and what happened with our having to reduce tax rates, we may well have lost per year between \$150 million and \$200 million in tax revenue; each and every year. Madam President, then of course we have had the constant pressure from the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development, essentially the European countries with the United States, Canada, Australia and so on, which have constantly sought to treat us all as tax havens. They have sought to say that we were not compliant with the route of transparency about financial flows through our jurisdictions, notwithstanding that the flows through our jurisdiction were miniscule compared to the flows through their own jurisdictions, and notwithstanding that our banks, our international business sector and our insurance companies followed the procedures for anti-money-laundering and so on with far greater consistency and energy than the institutions in the developed world followed theirs. That constant pressure on businesses and companies in the developed world which wished to relocate or set up subsidiaries in the developing countries like Barbados, meant that we saw a slowing in the number of companies which have set up.

We have tried through the years to introduce different aspects of legislation; foundation legislation, private trusts and all those sorts of things. We changed our tax laws to be able to encourage more of those businesses to come to Barbados, stay in Barbados and expand in Barbados, with some success. Madam President, I raise these things just so that people understand the context in which we have to continue to do things to make sure that the sector can manage more positively and more easily, and to make sure we can keep that sector here. That sector contributes, I am told, somewhere close to ten per cent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) now, and that contribution is almost entirely in foreign exchange. The foreign exchange which it earns in the sector stays in the country with very little leakage.

Madam President, when we talk about what we are doing to improve this sector, we need to remember the turmoil which the sector has been through; turmoil not created because of what Barbados has done or what Barbados has been, but turmoil because of how the international community has thought about international

financial centres like Barbados, how they have thought about tax havens, and how they have thought about their own companies not paying what they consider to be sufficient taxes in their own jurisdictions. Madam President, that is another area which we are already focusing on.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has seven more minutes.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Is the Honourable Member wrapping up?

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Yes, I will wrap up as well, Madam President.

CLERK OF PARLIAMENT: Madam President, I just want to be clear that the Minister is actually wrapping up this Debate now.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Yes. The Honourable Member will be wrapping up this Debate at the end of this presentation.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Yes.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Proceed, Senator.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Thank you.

CLERK OF PARLIAMENT: Madam, I am still unclear. He cannot wrap up at the end of this speech. This has to be the wrap-up.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Yes, this is the wrap-up.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Madam President, do I hear the Clerk suggesting I should have another half-hour? I am delighted to accept that if that is the offer.

MADAM PRESIDENT: That is not what the Clerk was suggesting, but this is your concluding wrap-up today.

CLERK OF PARLIAMENT: Ma'am, the reason I am saying that is because no other person can speak after, but I am being told that there are other Senators who want to speak, but no other Senator can speak after.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: We are under the impression that nobody else wants to speak on this Bill. Madam President, I do apologise for not signalling that I was wrapping up at the beginning. Maybe there was this little desire, as somebody would have said, to have two bites at the cherry; one now and one to wrap up.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Alas, no.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Another 12 minutes, Madam President, or is it seven minutes still? Seven minutes still. Madam President, this matter of base erosion and profit-sharing is now a big thing in the international business world. It essentially says that the profit which you allocate to a given country should reflect what we consider to be the actual level of effort expended in that country. To put it in very simple terms: If you have only two per cent of your workforce in Country A, you cannot expect to say that 60 per cent in profit belongs to Country A. That is essentially what they are saying, and there has been a case recently in Europe where the European court ruled on Apple's operations in Ireland, and hit them with a tremendous tax bill. Ireland has been like Barbados in terms of its tax structure and so on. All the pensions have not been accepted yet under the Convention, but the European court has said, "We are applying base erosion and profit-sharing standards, and you cannot have earned all of that income in Ireland, so therefore you have to allocate that income to Europe and pay some taxes in Europe." Apple, I think, has appealed it and the Government of Ireland has been making some noises about it as well. It is interesting, and I hope the Irish will succeed because if they do not succeed, it has implications for all of us in these countries as to how the big countries will decide what taxes corporations established here are paying when they come here. Of course, our salaries are lower than the salaries in the big countries, so they may even want to devalue your salaries, which means that we will not earn the income, profits and the tax revenue which we want to earn.

I raise these things because these are the difficulties faced by this international business sector; and this Notaries Public Bill is an attempt to help to make it easier for them to do business as well as make it easier for the domestic businesses to operate. That is important for the domestic businesses to be able to operate as well. All that we are trying to get going in the Government, working with the private sector and the unions, is to improve the processes within the Government sector and to raise with the private sector processes which they are using that may be impeding business, and to raise with the unions processes and practices that may also be impeding business. They are all designed to make sure not only that the international business sector functions better, but perhaps more importantly to make sure that the whole economy, the rest of the economy, also functions more efficiently and more effectively.

In the final analysis, we have to compete. Even our businesses that do not actually export have to be competitive with the rest of the world, because what they produce is used as inputs into tourism, international business and everything else, so we all have to strive for

that level of efficiency and effectiveness that makes this economy function and function well. Madam President, I am therefore pleased to be associated with trying to expand the number of Notaries Public, and I wish to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

3.35 p.m.

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Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: ...economy functions and functions well, so Madam President, I am pleased to be associated with trying to expand the number of Notaries Public and therefore beg to move that this Bill do now pass.

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

On the motion of Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE, the Senate resolved itself into Committee, His Honour Senator the Very Reverend H. E. Crichlow in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 -- 8 inclusive were called and passed.

The First Schedule was called and passed.

The Second Schedule was called and passed.

The Third Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Her Honour the PRESIDENT the passing of one Bill in Committee and MADAM PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Notaries Public Act, 2017.

ORDER No. 2

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE
WITH
SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING
AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP.225, THE VESTING
IN THE BARBADOS JEWISH COMMUNITY INC.
OF A PARCEL OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF
THE CROWN SITUATE AT PINFOLD
STREET AND MAGAZINE LANE IN THE
PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL IN THIS
ISLAND TO FACILITATE THE
COMPLETION OF THE SYNAGOGUE
RESTORATION PROJECT

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, about ten years ago, I think it is now, the Jewish Community did a marvellous restoration of the Synagogue over at the corner of Magazine Lane and brought a start to the redevelopment of that area. More recently when you pass there you now see this expanse of open space, well laid out, well-articulated and lovely colour scene, and it begins to make you wonder what Bridgetown would look like if we could do so many more areas just like that. I know that our goodly Senator, Sir Trevor is hearing, in my most unmusical voice, music when I say something like that and if Sir Henry were here he would like, as I believe all of us in this Honourable Chamber would, to see Bridgetown look like that.

Madam President, back in the late 90s some work was commissioned on the redevelopment of Bridgetown. That work was commissioned by the Ministry of Tourism when the now Dame Billie Millar was Minister of Tourism and the work on that was led by Brian Begg of Design Collaborative. At the time I was a consulting partner of KPMG and they work in a joint project with the then Design Collaborative to look at the redevelopment of Bridgetown. We felt then that there was a lot of physical work to be done, road layouts to be improved, traffic movements to be improved, heritage sites to be restored...

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3.46 p.m.

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Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: We will sort of look at ways in which we would use old heritage buildings in a creative adaptive profitable reuse of this space. Ma'am, out of that exercise came the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. The work of the Bridgetown Redevelopment Project was handed to the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., which came out of an early reorganisation study that was done. The Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. began work on the Old Town Hall Building which became the offices

of the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. They did work in St. Lawrence Gap to have that Gap fixed. They did work in Speightstown and then they moved over to Independence Square. They also did work on the Old Spirit Bond. They did that work to help to begin to restore some of those older properties in ways that they could become useful. Of course, the Old Town Hall Building became offices for the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., as well as for other offices for some commercial entities where it is now paying its way. The Spirit Bond is also a joint venture with private sector persons.

Madam President, with that work already started, at the same time there was work led by Sir Paul Altman on the restoration of the Jewish Synagogue. It took us a few years but at the end of it, it was a lovely restoration process. Ma'am, that was only the first phase of that restoration because it did not have a big car park, neither was the space opened as it is now. We always knew that we would have had to come back and do phase two and to open up that up. This is what they did and this Resolution therefore is about vesting in that non-governmental organisation the 534 square metres of land so that they can open up the space, extend the graveyard and so on in that area.

Ma'am, I am sorry to say, even though Senator Fraser is not here, but I would have love to see the other side of the road being developed as well, that is the Carnegie Library, the Supreme Court, the Registry and the Police Headquarters and Barracks, so that as one comes down James Street one sees this nice area of opened, very restored and articulated heritage buildings leading up now to the new Supreme Court Complex. Ma'am, we could then turn and do more work on Broad Street, on the Boardwalk, River Road and Bay Street.

Madam President, that work is going to be very possible whether or not, as Sir Henry says, taking the buildings and restoring them or knocking them down and rebuilding them in the vernacular in which they were originally or whatever but it is going to be expensive. I believe the work has already begun by way of a special World Heritage Committee that was set up to look at plans as to how do you get to restore those buildings, what kind of usage do you put them into that makes them either pay for themselves or for the restoration that pays to maintain them once they have been restored. We have to be able to look at the studies to say what fillip would it give to our tourism, what would it mean to the psyche of Barbadians to see this place being restored to its former glory.

Ma'am, that planning work has to be done very carefully, not only in terms of making sure that the costings are done properly but that the right funding is put in place to handle these matters and that also the estimates of what revenue they can generate are realistic. Ma'am, the one

thing that we know about projections and estimates is that they are going to be wrong, do not let anybody fool you, we all know projections are going to be wrong, the issue is going to be how wrong they are going to be, can the actual result be that close to the projected results. Therefore, we have to be very careful that if we have to borrow money for these sorts of things that we have done very careful analyses of these projections. We also have to do what is called serious sensitivity analysis, we ask ourselves the question what happens were the cost 20 per cent higher while the revenue at the same time were 20 per cent lower, would you still be able to handle this particular investment.

Madam President, it may be that it cannot pay for itself on an ongoing cash flow but at least you would know that when you start the effort what your subsidy or outlays are going to have to be to get this thing done and to maintain these buildings in the form in which they should be. Ma'am, to be able to do some of that you also have to be very careful in finding out the purpose for which these buildings can be used. Some of them may not be sturdy enough for certain types of activities, some of them may not have the kind of parking facilities or the kind of accesses for other types of activities, but we have to spend some time in figuring out what activities can these buildings be used and how do you equip them. Madam President, thirdly, that planning has got to look at ways in which you can take the new and modern and blend it into the heritage.

Ma'am, in every city or country that has been redeveloped they have spent time on how do you blend the new into the heritage such that they complement and lift each other up and not that they have replaced each other. That is part of the nuances that has to go on, you have to look and see how other countries have done it. Ma'am, you have to have that discourse. Ma'am, I remember seeing in Vancouver some years ago a lovely old Anglican cathedral with a tall clear glass and steel building, no concrete, right behind it, the Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. When you came around the corner and see this cathedral you would feel that this was a painting of a church set against a frame, it is only when you stop and look carefully would you realise that this is a real church and that it is a real building that is set behind it, but the two things were like hand in glove.

No.D4 (19)3.59 p.m.

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Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: ... It is only what you stop and look closely that you realise this is a real-real church and this is a real-real building set behind it, but the two things were like hand-in-glove. It is what has happened

in our Masonic Lodge just up there by the Cathedral, where you have got the old St. Michael's Cathedral, you have got the new Central Bank building and in between you have got this Masonic Lodge which used to be all old but now part of it looks old and another part looks modern; and the two things have been so fused as to create a beautiful unity inside there. Then you go around and you have the Church Village Green to compliment that. Madam President, this is what I would like to see happen in all of Bridgetown, but it will take time to get there. The race is not for the swift but for those who endure to the end, and my preacher friend Sir Roy will preach a sermon on that at some point in time. Meantime, I will let my good Senator the Dean preach a sermon on waiting when the race is long. Madam President, we have to think of that because you have to have sufficient activity in the City, sufficient institutions and buildings that can generate profit and taxation to be able to cross-subsidise those buildings which you know will need that level of support to keep them going.

Madam President, this brings me to one other area which we have to pay a great deal of attention to when it comes to restoring heritage sites, and indeed when it comes to restoring the vitality of areas. It is that we must find ways to bring crowds, to bring people, pedestrian traffic, into the City and into these heritage areas. You can spend the money on the physical work but if you do not spend some money on the activities within the area, you are not going to get the commercial spinoff which helps to pay for the work that will bring the life which you are looking for back into the area. Madam President, even as one does a plan for the physical restoration of properties, and even as one plans on how to blend the modern with the heritage without destroying either while building up both, you have got to do a plan for what sorts of activities you are going to have in those areas. What activities are compatible with the areas that you are restoring? How much activity are you going to have in those areas? When are you going to have the activities in those areas? Maybe this is a chance, as we work on the plan for the UNESCO World Heritage Site, for us to rope into that plan by way of the Cultural Industries Development Act activities which benefit from incentives that bring a lot more cultural activity into the City. Maybe we can also use the Special Areas Development Act to bring more commercial activities into the City, not only in the daytime but also perhaps especially in the evening times, so that the heritage areas open up for longer periods of time and therefore are able to earn more revenue.

As we talk about bringing activities into these areas, we have to think of how to fund these activities, particularly if you are looking at a number of amateur groups or young people who may be developing cultural products. How do you fund them to make sure that they can put their efforts into developing cultural products to be able to bring people into those areas? Of course, there is also the area of how do you help them to market. How do you

market the activities? Where do you market them? How do you price them to get people to come to the areas which you have restored? I raise this because restoring the heritage areas is not a single act, is not a single function, and is not only about physical construction. It is about adaptive use; what you use them for. It is about how you bring activity into an area. It is from activities that you generate revenue, not just buildings. It is about how you market those areas, where and how you market them.

Madam President, it is also about making sure that we have inscriptions in those areas which teach us our history. It is one thing to do a lovely restoration, but there must also be the history of that particular restoration and of that particular area. How does it fit into the context of Barbados? Where did it come from? What lessons have you learnt from it? What did it symbolise? We have to be able to have those stories told in those restored areas. It must be that when you go there, you learn lessons of your history, you learn what makes the Barbadian character what it is by virtue of reading the stories which those heritage sites tell us about ourselves and about our ancestors.

Madam President, what the Jewish community has done with their restored Synagogue and Cemetery is what I would like to see a lot more groups do with their own heritage buildings and artefacts. How many of our churches have stories to tell and they are not being told because we have not bothered to restore them or to maintain them or to tell the story about them? How much indeed of all our history goes untold and unheralded because we have not bothered to study it, have not bothered to put it into popular verse or popular music, and have not bothered to find ways to tell the story about who we are, where we came from or who we might become? This is part of what heritage restoration does for us. It says to us, "This is where you came from," but when you compare where you came from and where you are today, it shows how much you have moved and it therefore suggests to you how much further you might be able to move in your life, in your community, in your country. How many of the old houses in our communities have gone derelict? There were people who lived there who used to lead the dialogue, lead the conversation, and lead life in those villages which we came from, but nobody knows a single thing about them. Maybe we can all -- not in a great, big, grand way like the Synagogue -- in our small ways in our communities begin to treat with some of those little places where our ancestors and our elders led the communities, and maybe pay a little bit of reverence to them and tell their stories; tell how we have become the people who we have become.

Madam President, I think this is a wonderful Resolution. I am glad that it has come now, and I pray that we will have some more of these kinds of Resolutions coming as we urge more and more people to do things to

restore our heritage and make us proud to be Barbadians and make us dream.

4.05 p.m.

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Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: It has come now and I pray that we will have some more of this kind of Resolution coming as we encourage more and more people to do things to restore our heritage and make us proud as Barbadians and make us dream about where we can go as a people. As they say, the world is our oyster and Barbadians must see themselves as world people, indeed as leaders of some parts of the world.

Madam President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass, and I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Abrahams, you have the Floor.

Senator W. A. ABRAHAMS: Madam President, I rise to contribute on what I call a feel good Resolution. This is a Resolution that I do not think anyone can seriously opposed. Well, it is a fait accompli because the renovations have already been done and all that remains now is the formality of the vesting.

Madam President, like Senator Boyce, I am thoroughly and completely impressed by the finished product that is the Synagogue Restoration Project. Madam President, my office is on Lucas Street and prior to the works that were done in the latter half of last year when I look out of my office or when I came out of my office there was an old car park and next to that car park was a sunken car park at another level maybe about four feet down with some dilapidated shed roofs that were awful, it was an eyesore. If we are talking about historic Barbados that was a part that begged for some vision and for some site.

I stood in this Chamber and spoke about the fact that at the old Fire Station trees were growing through the walls and the walls were about to collapse. I would have called, I think it is Superintendent Bruce Rowe at the time, to complain about that because the Police had control of that car park. I would have called a number of people. I would have spoken to Professor Sir Henry Fraser and say look I keep parking my car in the last parking spot, the tree is growing through the wall where the Weights and Measures Building was, most people did not even know that was the first Fire Station in Bridgetown, and it is about to fall down and that something had to be done. Now, I understood that there was a project for which funding had been obtained by some benefactor and then I saw the car park get close. I got a notice saying that the car park was going to be closed and they were not renewing my tenancy in the car park.

Immediately, I had mixed feeling there, Madam President, because it is hard to find parking in Bridgetown so I was happy that something was happening but I was distressed that I would no longer be able to park in my spot.

Madam President, the works started and when they started nobody could see what was going on there. From the initial works you could not visualise what was going to happen there because there was a lot of hoarding and you could not see through unless you were like me and... Anyway, you could not see through easily but if you were persistent and intent on seeing you could have a glimpse of what was going on. The start of it was delayed over and over because when they excavated the old car park they found graves buried under the car park so when the car park was done apparently what happened is that people just paved over the graves or over time the graves were buried under maybe about four feet of asphalt and cement and everything, so it is a tribute to those who did the renovations that they were able to preserve some of the graves in almost pristine state with the marble tombstones and the grave coverings. I very seldom speak so effusively about something, Madam President, but it really was a labour of love and a very well done project. Madam President, the finished work is fantastic. Very likely you are now going to have people going to take their wedding pictures there. Once the trees mature and everything kicks in you are going to have people taking their wedding pictures there. It is one of the most beautiful places or will be one of the most beautiful places in Bridgetown.

Having said all of that, like Senator Boyce, the contrast now between there and the old Supreme Court and the derelict Carnegie Library is a slap in the face. We stood here in this Chamber and I would have spoken about the state of the Supreme Court, that the balcony was about to drop in and when I spoke about that somebody went and propped back up the balcony and it remains propped with all of the pillars crumbling. I spoke here in this Chamber about the fact that the steel in the building was blowing and cement was dropping by the arch and would damage cars and patchwork was done and that was plastered over, but the fact is the old Supreme Court is a building of some majesty. If we are talking about Historic Bridgetown and preserving Historic Bridgetown the old Supreme Court Building, the Barracks at Central Police Station, some of the buildings at Central Police Station, are buildings that need to be restored as lovingly and with the same care as was done for the Synagogue. There is no good reason why in two, three or four years somebody should not stand in the renovated Synagogue area and look across to the beautiful Carnegie Library open once again with children going in. There is no good reason, Madam President, why they should not stand and look at the Supreme Courts restored to some of this pride.

I started practising in that Supreme Court. Things fall apart with lack of use. I started practising there and Senator De Peiza would have started there. Very likely she would have been called in Court No. 1 in the old Court of Appeal that I was called as well that is above where the cells were below. It hurts my heart, Madam President, because I now park there. I was not lucky enough to get a park back after the Synagogue restoration was done and the new fancy reduced capacity car park was opened. I was one of the casualties of the improvements, so I now park at the old Supreme Court but it then hurts my heart because every time I park I am facing the balcony that is about to fall in, and that needs to be addressed as a matter of some urgency. There is a point at which if you fix now it costs X dollars. If you allow what is falling down to fall down it will cost immeasurably more and probably damage the structure of the building so it is not just simply a cost, it is a matter of maintaining the structural integrity of the building by doing what needs to be done now. It has gone to the point of shameful disrepair. There is no excuse that the Library has not been opened yet. There was talk about what to do with the old Supreme Court. I understand that they were looking at making the old Supreme Court a part of the Carnegie Library which is logical. There are so many things that could be done with that building but it all boils back down to the point that the building needs to be restored. You may talk about the restoration. Madam President, how you configure the inside is one thing but you can start by shoring up and strengthening the outside of the building. If we look at other buildings in Bridgetown, the Old Eye Hospital on Bay Street, the old building across the road from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, there are so many buildings

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4.15 p.m.

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Senator W. A. ABRAHAMS: Madam President, if we would look at other buildings in Bridgetown, the Old Eye Hospital on Bay Street, the Old building that is adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Old Elmore Health Centre, there are so many buildings in Bridgetown that if they were restored properly and some function is found for them it would greatly enhance our heritage tourism status. We got the heritage tourism status, we fought for it but with that status comes a responsibility. Ma'am, if you are trying to build a heritage tourism you cannot simply stick with the buildings that you have, in that there are so many that need to be restored. If we have a programme in place that is aimed at the systematic restoration of heritage buildings, in 10 or 15 years Barbados would be the place to come to, to relive old colonial days, it would be the place to come to look around

and you can actually see, through the buildings, the progression of our country.

Ma'am, our Parliament is a magnificent building, it was well-restored. It was also restored because it was in use. We need to restore and put those buildings back into use. I accept that the Government cannot do it all, but there then must be some incentive for the private sector or benefactors to get involved. Ma'am, tax incentives used to be granted to people who restore old historic buildings, but may I be so bold as to suggest... Ma'am, a building might have been the Old Eye Hospital but there is no good reason the Old Eye Hospital cannot become a law office, a dental practise or some other building, but if you want people to maintain the buildings and to contribute to the Government's and Barbados' idea of Barbados as a heritage tourism site, then you have to provide some incentive because there is no good reason for someone to pull their pockets to restore an old building when they can probably build a new one at half the cost, unless it is an enduring benefit.

Ma'am, the Government of Barbados, I am not necessarily saying this Democratic Labour Party Government but whichever Government is there when we actually seriously start to embark upon rehabilitating buildings needs to look at granting concessions to people with listed buildings. When the Barbados National Trust puts a plaque on or lists an old building that puts restrictions on the owner of the building as to what they can do and as to how they can renovate that building but there is no commensurate benefit in terms of tax relief. If I am playing my part in preserving my property so that all may benefit from the history and grandeur of my property, then there also should be some incentive and some compensation to me for having done so, that is how we keep the ball going.

Ma'am, I am not saying that the Government should pull its pocket and try to restore the Carnegie Building but in the same way that funding was found to do the Synagogue Restoration Project, I am sure if the Government steps up some and says to the private sector that Government cannot fund the whole project but that Government can put up some of that funding while the private sector matches that funding. If Government begins to think of what can actually work then people will buy into the restoration of Bridgetown on a large scale, but I cannot over emphasise that it has to come with some concessions for those who would want to embark upon the projects. Ma'am, there are very few genuine philanthropists in the world, there are very few genuine people who would just give of their funds because they would want to, but some would give of their funds if they can write it off later, if it provides a win-win situation for everyone. Ma'am, we got the UNESCO World Heritage Tourism status but what have we really done with it since?

Madam President, this is where my concern about the Hyatt comes in, I have heard it tossed about that the Hyatt Hotel got planning approval 10 years ago, or that a building got planning approval there. Ma'am, every time I hear it, it changes, 10 floors, 15 floor or how many ever floors but whatever approval that was granted 10 years ago did not contemplate UNSECO World Heritage status which we now have, so that whatever goals where the proposed Hyatt should go should also contemplate, as Senator Boyce said, fitting in the old with the new. Madam President, I wrote Senator Boyce's quote because it is beautiful. Senator Boyce said, how do we take the new and modern and how do we blend it with the heritage so that they complement each other and lift each other up. Ma'am, that is my point about the Hyatt Hotel, I am not opposed to a hotel going there if it meets all of the requirements. I am not opposed to a hotel going there if it does not interfere with the natural environment. I am not opposed to a hotel going there if that hotel complements historic Barbados, but what you do not want is something to patently and obviously modern that clashes with everything and threatens our World Heritage status because with the granting of the World Heritage status comes certain conditions, you then have building codes that follow that, buildings must harmonised and so you cannot take a city that has World Heritage status and then put the world's tallest building in it that shapes like a sphere.

Madam President, as Senator Boyce has said, we have to harmonise the plan, things must tie in with each other. Ma'am, therefore, let us not get ahead of ourselves, let us make sure that in our desire to progress Barbados and to advance Barbados that we do so bearing in mind what we have already achieved and as Senator Boyce has said, what we hope to achieve going forward. Madam President, I would love to hear what actually are the overall and holistic plans for Bridgetown. I am not doing this politically, I am actually quite interested because Bridgetown right now is a dead capital city, nothing happens in Bridgetown after work. Ma'am, by 5.30 p.m. on any afternoon and by 6 o'clock on a Friday you could swing a dead cat in Bridgetown and not hit anybody, actually you could swing the cat and let it go and not hit anybody. Ma'am, nothing happens in Bridgetown, you cannot come into Bridgetown looking for a meal after hours. We need to drive commerce, we need to drive activity back into Bridgetown.

Madam President, at one point in time there were certain clubs, there was a warehouse across the road by Cavans Lane while there were other things going on where some traffic came through. Ma'am, there were other things going on but the fact is that we have nothing now as business have moved out of Bridgetown, Bridgetown has been deserted in favour of the Warrens area. We need to have a plan as to how to bring life back into Bridgetown. Ma'am, it is a plan that should involve all of the

stakeholders, it is one that we should follow. The World Heritage status was great, we got it, we did well, we have it, we now need to improve upon that, to build upon that and to maximise that to the benefit of Barbados and Barbadians. Ma'am, all of us want to see our Bridgetown become alive again.

Madam President, I work in Bridgetown and go there all the time. I would urge some of our goodly Senators and some of the powers-that-be to actually take as stroll into Bridgetown on a Friday evening after six o'clock or to take a stroll into Bridgetown any other afternoon of the week at 5 o'clock, because only when you are confronted with the echoes of the absence of humanity will you then understand what I am talking about. The time for action on Bridgetown is now because if it becomes entirely dead then we are not going to come back from that.

No.D4 (22)4.27 p.m.

Wednesday, FEBRUARY 22, 2017

Seq. 23

Senator W.A. ABRAHAMS: ... The time for action in Bridgetown is now, because if it becomes entirely dead, then we are not going to come back from that. I like the ring of Bridgetown. I like having my address as Bridgetown. I do not want the next capital of Barbados to be Warrens. Warrens is too new, too modern, too everything for me. Bridgetown, with its beauty, with its history, is aesthetically pleasing. Madam President, just to give some anecdotal points about Bridgetown: I ask all of my colleagues here in the Senate that the next time you are driving in Bridgetown, to just look around and count the cannons that you find in Bridgetown. What a lot of people do not realise is that many of the old buildings have as their cornerstone a cannon. These are from the days of the carriages, so that when the carriage cut the corner, the carriage wheel did not break off a part of the building. Instead, the cannon which forms a part of the corner of the building would break off the carriage wheel. What a lot of people do not realise with the amount of red-brick buildings -- you see them when you start to renovate buildings -- is that back in the day the only thing Britain wanted from us was sugar and it sent almost nothing down, so the very big ships to take the sugar came down laden with bricks. The ships were huge and were meant to carry as much sugar in one trip as possible, so unless you had those ships heavily laden, they would be unstable high on the water. A lot of the steamship companies, including Booth and Colne, if you go to Island Inn and look in the courtyard, you would see the red bricks with the stamps of those shipping lines like Geest. The ships would come down filled with those small red bricks to make the ships sit low in the water. When they got to Barbados, the bricks would be offloaded on the Wharf, the ships would be filled

up with sugar and they would go back out. Anybody who wanted the bricks could go and take them in their pancarts and get them off the Wharf, because the bricks had no real value. They were solely there to load down the ships, so that is why a lot of people ended up building their houses with the red bricks. The red bricks formed part of the chimneys on a lot of the old plantation houses. These are things people do not realise, Madam President.

If you go outside of Bridgetown, a lot of cannons are also in other buildings. There are cannons buried under the streets in many parts of Barbados. Madam President, I was passing by the YMCA one night. I had always aspired to have a cannon somewhere in my yard, and one night I was passing by the YMCA and they were about to do some roadworks and had cleared the gutter, and lo and behold, embedded deep in the gutter was a cannon; a perfectly nice eight-foot-long cannon. We tried to lift it just to rescue it from further damage and realised that we could not get a cannon lifted with eight people, so then a plan was made to just rescue the cannon and give it a proper home, Madam President. We came back the next day with all the ingredients necessary for a proper plan, like a truck, and somebody obviously had the same idea as me, and the cannon was gone, so I almost had a cannon. Madam President, there are cannons all about Bridgetown. The Savannah Hotel has a cannon right in the corner of its property sticking out of the wall. If you go down Bay Street heading towards town, on the right-hand side there is a building with about two 12-foot cannons sticking out of the ground. It is beautiful. It is Barbados. It is the rich history of Barbados. We need to maximise that. We need to trade on that. We need to sell that. We need to get people walking down Bay Street and into Bridgetown to see the cannons in Bridgetown.

Madam President, I am excited about Bridgetown as a heritage destination. I am excited about the potential for development of Bridgetown. I am excited about Bridgetown becoming once again what I knew. Madam President, if I could remember Bridgetown back as a child, then I cannot imagine what it would have been like in, say, Senator Hunte's youth.

Asides.

Senator W.A. ABRAHAMS: I would never say the Dean. Madam, the Dean is smiling so obviously he remembers Bridgetown back in his youth. We need to recapture our capital city and make it once again the hub of Barbados. There is too much at stake. I look forward to hearing what the whole plan for Bridgetown is, and I look forward to activities starting on that plan so that we can get it back up and running, and make Bridgetown the gem of Barbados in the same way that Barbados is the gem of the Caribbean. Madam President, I completely and totally support this Resolution, and I only hope that if any of the

powers that be are listening, I would love to get my carpark back. Thank you, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Adams, you have the Floor.

Senator A.A. ADAMS: Madam President, I am really elated to give my support to this Resolution which says in part that it is to approve in accordance with Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, CAP 225, the vesting in the Barbados Jewish Community Incorporated of a parcel of land, the property of the Crown situated at Pinfold Street and Magazine Lane in the parish of St. Michael in this island to facilitate the completion of the Synagogue Restoration Project. Madam President, I want to start by saying that this Resolution is more than about the vesting of these Crown lands. It is really about the rich history of Barbados, its proud traditions and its impressive heritage. I think I ought to indicate as a country boy that growing up in the north, I would not have known anything in particular about the Synagogue at all. In fact, being educated in the good old days, the history which we would have been taught was really British Commonwealth and Empire history, so we were not taught at all throughout my entire period of education in Barbados anything about Barbadian history. I hope Senator Husbands will make note of that.

In fact, my encounter with the Synagogue actually happened in London. I was given permission to do some research on Barbadian history in the Reading Room of the British Museum, where virtually all the documents are, and I came across this information about the Synagogue in Barbados being built in 1654. At that time I had never seen it before, but I found out a number of things at the time to which I will perhaps refer. I found out that the Jews came into Barbados from South America and that they were very instrumental in the Sugar Revolution. Apart from that, which is extremely significant, the contribution which they made to Barbados is extremely impressive. If, as I have done, you pay a visit to the Synagogue and museum, you would find there encapsulated some 350 or more years of Barbadian history. It is extremely impressive. The notion is that this Synagogue was here from 1654, and many Barbadian students up to this day would not know that. I want to make this point very clearly that I certainly am not satisfied that enough is not being done in relation to the teaching of the history of this island to our students.

4.34 p.m.

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Senator A. A. ADAMS: ...not being done in relation to the teaching of the history of this island to our students and I would venture to say perhaps not more than 5 per cent of our students in secondary schools would be writing

CXC History and even then Barbadian history is only a small portion of that history, so I want to say that something ought to be done so that Barbadians in general and our young people in particular should get to know the rich treasure trove that we have here in relation to our history and our heritage.

When I became the Principal of St. Leonard's School I had a discussion with a visiting cricket team coming to Barbados and they wanted to have a match with the St. Leonard's School among other schools. When they got here there were two teachers that came to my office and explained to me that when they were planning to make the cricket trip to Barbados they were looking for sponsorship. This school is called King's School which is in Grantham in the north of England. It is indeed the high school to which Sir Isaac Newton went. Margaret Thatcher actually went to the nearby girls' school. Madam President, that is by the way. However, they were looking for sponsorship and as they say they went through the High Street and came to a Jewish businessman who said to them that he will willingly sponsor the tour if they send some students and a teacher specifically to do a project on the Synagogue in Barbados. I got to know at that time that it was the second oldest Synagogue in the western hemisphere. This is telling you the importance that the Jews paid to their history and their heritage whichever part of the world it is. Those students came and I contacted now Sir Paul Altman, I think at the time in the mid-90s or early 90s some work was being done there or about to be done, but nonetheless he was on top of the world and he welcomed them and greeted them and the rest is history. He gave them the tours and the keys to the Synagogue and so the project was done. I am saying all of this to say that it is important to be conservators, that is what we should be doing here, of the rich history and the tradition of this country and that we ought to fight to preserve it and to make sure that it is passed on to our younger generations.

Now, a few historical points as I think might be important to note is that the Synagogue was destroyed in 1831 by a major hurricane. It was rebuilt but later on Robert Thunberg who wrote the history of Barbados, I think in 1884, said that in his opinion the building, meaning the Synagogue, was one of the most handsomest, in his words, most imposing and substantial building in the whole of the Caribbean. That is the kind of thing that a visitor said about the Synagogue here and we ought to open our eyes about that.

It was said, I think by Senator Boyce, that the property was actually acquired by the Government in 1884 and then the private efforts were being made from then on to restore the property. More than one attempt was made I presumed but eventually what we have now is virtually the finished product or almost the completion of the project.

There are a number of things which I would like to indicate. One is that the Jewish community in the Commonwealth and in Barbados must be commended. I want to seek permission if possible to have some stamps to be made the property of the Senate. I am saying this in particular because our students ought to get to know something about stamp collection. They ought to be philatelists, that is the fancy word for it. It is not only a wholesome hobby but it can also be an investment and therefore now that I am saying this it will give them an idea as to what they could do in their spare time and also make some money from it.

There have been several minted stamps. The Barbados Government in conjunction with the Jewish community have felt that it was very important to do so. What we have Madam President, I made a note here, a \$1 stamp which is depicting a marble lava, a 75 cent stamps the Ten Commandments, a \$250 stamp the stained glasses in the Synagogue, a \$140 stamp the Hanukkah and a 10 cent stamp the museum itself, a 5 cent stamp showing the interior of the Synagogue and a 50 cent stamp the restoration of the Synagogue and I think the restoration of the Museum as well, so there are about eight stamps in all and that is not all.

As a result of collaboration with the Jewish community we have minted coins as well. I made a note about these coins which is in commemoration of the 350th Anniversary which would have taken place in 2004. One has the Coat of Arms of Barbados, that is the first one. The other one is a \$50 minted coin and it has the house shed which has to do with the shipping of our sugar in Barbados in which the Jews were involved in. We have one with a Jewish patriot Moses Philanto/Filanto and we have a coin about freedom without slavery.

Madam President, that is important because the Jews having been instrumental in bringing the sugar cane to Barbados also brought this bittersweet situation whereby slavery was also the result of that. Although I do not want to go into that now it is a situation which is part of our history and we ought not to forget that.

We have with us a situation where the Jewish Synagogue and its environs are extremely important in relation to the heritage and the history and I dare say even the traditions of this great country.

Madam President, I just want to refer at this stage to the importance of the Jews in relation to the sugar industry which I mentioned before. It was around 1640 that the sugar industry was brought here via Guyana from Brazil with the Jews fleeing from persecution...

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Senator Alwin A. ADAMS: Madam President, it was around 1640 that the sugar industry was brought here via Guyana from Brazil with the Jews fleeing from persecution there and within 20 years we has what was virtually called a revolution in Barbados whereby the island moved from a nondescript island to the jewel in the crown of the British empire. Ma'am, this came about not by chance but because (1), they brought the plant and the method of cultivation, (2), they also brought with them the engineering knowhow or knowledge in relation to how we will produce sugar from the juice of the sugar cane. That had to do with the erection over time of something like 300 or so windmills all across Barbados, so that the level of technology used is what we now call alternative energy, the wind was used to actually power the factories and that went on for well over 200 years, almost 300 years before steam was actually brought into Barbados. Ma'am, that is extremely significant.

Madam President, that was not all they did, sugar required a lot of financing and what they were able to do because of their contacts with the financial centres in Antwerp and Amsterdam and to some extent London they were able to source the financing to set up the factories to produce the sugar, then to market it because of the Dutch connection, even more so than the British they were in the trading business, so they brought out things like dairy farming products, clothing, et cetera and they took back the sugar and so we were able to have a very thriving sugar industry here in Barbados, so they also took care of the marketing and that was extremely significant. Madam President, therefore as a result the social and economic history of Barbados is bound up in and around the Synagogue and the input of the Jews in that relation.

Ma'am, in relation to some of the things that have also been said before, we have a situation where in the geographical location where the Synagogue is located is a tremendous amount of the history of Barbados. It has been mentioned before coming across Coleridge Street where you have the Law Courts, the Main Guard, into the area of the Carnegie Library and -- I am speaking now as a man from town, though I am from the country, we have the Montefiore Fountain next to that and of course the Synagogue, so that in relation to relating the history of Barbados one of the areas in the Bridgetown area that you cannot or must not leave out would be that particular geographical area around which the Synagogue has been built. We therefore owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Jewish community for the tremendous work that they have done. Ma'am, I am saying here and now that it is not only that it is there but that it should be appreciated. I would like to see a situation where, (1), that Barbadian

history is given its rightful place in our schools and (2), certainly for the schools in the area such as Wesley Hall Boys' School, St. Leonard's Boys' School, Hindsbury, Harrison College -- I do not know if they do history there -- but it should be mandatory for the students to know the history of their locality and of course because it is so important, the rest of the school children in Barbados should know about theirs as well.

Madam President, I just want to make the point that when I was doing teaching practice and was teaching in the United Kingdom and so on that the first thing that happened and in the primary schools was that you had to make a tour of the locality, with a visit to the museum and so on. Ma'am, not only that but that you look at the roofs of the buildings, what are the material and so on and it tells you the date of which the building was constructed. We would go into graveyards, if you go in the graveyard at the Synagogue it would blow your mind when you see what is there, so that the history and the culture of the country is bound up in there. Ma'am, it is something that our children ought to know and they get to understand that things in this country did not happen, as the calypsonian "Chalk Dust" said, just so, but that tremendous amounts of efforts and planning would have gone into what is being done. Now that the Synagogue has been restored and the area has been renovated that it should now be one of the major centres of attraction in this country. Ma'am, we need to look at it not only from the point of view of the buildings but we want to look at it from the point of view of the impact that it is going to have on the social and economic development of the country. we are a tourist destination country and as I started by saying how a gentleman in the high street in Grantham would have made sure that he sent his scouts out to do a project on the Synagogue that there are thousands of Jews across the world and in Israel itself who would have and who do have an interest in the Synagogue. We need to market it, we need to get maximum benefit from it and make sure that it becomes part and parcel of our marketing strategy in relation to our tourism product.

Madam President, I mentioned before that we therefore should have our adults, children and so on being fully aware of the importance of the Synagogue in Barbados. We should not see it on its own but that it should also tie into the further development of the entire City of Bridgetown so that our designation as Heritage City is not one that we can just become complacent and sit back but that we also use it to spur the redevelopment of other areas of Bridgetown. I know that Sir Trevor has a project going on at the Roebuck Street area and that over in Bay Street there is work to go on out there but I think that especially our young architects, those studying at the Barbados Community College and those who go off to Jamaica and so on, should be encouraged to look to see how they can come up with plans and ideas to redevelop the Bridgetown, not to knock the buildings down but to be specialists in

redesigning the old buildings but keeping the facades, even if the building is modernised from the inside. Therefore they can make a virtual living out of that aspect of the building industry.

Madam President, I am really elated to give my support to this project because it tells us that this country Barbados is a small country but that in relation to its place in history it is really a giant country.

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Senator A.A. ADAMS: ... It is a small country but in relation to its place in history, it is really a giant country, a great country. In this part of the world, we should be able, by redeveloping these treasure troves which we have here, to stand out in the region as a place of great historic heritage. With those few words, Madam, I just want to say that I do support this Resolution.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Ince, you have the Floor.

Senator J. INCE: Madam President, I rise to support this Resolution before this Honourable Chamber. Madam President, it is a Resolution that seeks the vesting in the Barbados Jewish Community Incorporated of a parcel of land, the property of the Crown situated at Pinfold Street and Magazine Lane in the parish of St. Michael, and to facilitate the completion of the Synagogue Restoration Project. Madam President, I have said on many occasions that one of the challenges within Barbados is the management and maintenance of our resources. I have said before that if we can get our management and maintenance of our resources, let us say, 98 per cent correct, then there would be added beauty to the infrastructure of Barbados, especially if we look at our road network. I have always said we do not need additional roads. What we need is to maintain the existing road network.

Bridgetown is special, and it is special when we look at it from a tourism standpoint. There have been studies done, and if we are going to keep Bridgetown alive then what we need to do, in addition to what we have now, is to have a level of residential housing with a mixture of added tourism product. The reason I say that is because of what happened to Lower Manhattan back in the early 1990s when Lower Manhattan was similar to Bridgetown. At 4:30 to five o' clock in the evening, it was nothing more than a ghost town. People complained that there was no activity whatsoever in Lower Manhattan, and that all of the activity happened up in Fifth Avenue or anywhere in the vicinity of Chinatown. (President) Trump took an initiative where he

redeveloped the waterfront near the Hudson River, and also redeveloped Upper Manhattan. At the time there were nothing more than rundown buildings and a lot of metal. What Trump did - at that time he was Donald but he is now President and I would address him as President Trump -- was to take that initiative and brought back tremendous life into Lower Manhattan by building out condominiums and, as I said, adding the hotel to the Manhattan area. At the time I was a student there at 101 Murray Street, and it became a hive of activity.

I can envisage Bridgetown back when I was a little lad coming to Bridgetown, because normally I would take the trip to town to pay the Housing Authority for the loan which my parents had at the time. The Housing Authority made loans available to persons living in the countryside, so when that payment was to be made I came down to Bridgetown on the old Elite bus, got off at the Globe Cinema and walked, because I had to know Bridgetown. To me, it was a learning experience. It was a lot of excitement because once I got off there at the Globe, I would walk through Country Road. You followed strict rules with your parents but I disobeyed the rules; so once I made that payment to Housing Authority I walked my way down Whitepark Road because the Sugar Bond was a hive of activity. Then, if you had some extra five cents or pennies, you could have walked right into Wibisco. The biscuit factory had an entrance where you walked in there and, as Bajans would say, you bought what we called "break-up biscuits" along with a pack of Shirleys, so that would keep me until I got down Whitepark. Right past the Police Station, there was a place which used to sell some soup -- a little place like an outlet -- and sometimes I would make the little trip and pick up some nuts. Suttle Street was around for a long time, and you would get your baked nuts. Bridgetown was a hive of activity, and you could make your way up to Broad Street. Right on the Wharf were the mangoes. You would get the hawkers selling the mangoes and plantains from St. Lucia and St. Vincent, as well as coconuts. You walked then right into the market and there was a lady named Miss Bascombe. I do not know if she is alive today but she would give you a glass of mauby with hard ice and a bread-and-two. Sometimes you had a little extra money but you could not spend your busfare, or you would know how you were going to get back to country. If you wanted a nice little rice-and-stew, you could go over to the Plum Tree which used to be owned by a guy called "Big Pot" Wilson who used to walk around in a short pants and barefooted with his shirt open and wearing a big afro. That was Bridgetown.

For me, as a country boy coming to town you also looked forward to the corn season when you would pick the corn, husk it and bring it down to Hill Milling right there on Roebuck Street. There was also a shop. I remember these things because in those days you could not afford to buy the fancy food. There was Lowe's Laundry, and right

up where the Transport Board is there was an upstairs-and-downstairs shop that used to sell ham-cutters and cheese-cutters, and late sometimes you would get your chicken leg. That was Bridgetown; a hive of activity. Madam President, as time changed and as the society and the way of doing business changed, Bridgetown also had those changes. What I am saying is that it is still the capital of Barbados. I have said more than once that we have an attitude in Barbados -- a building attitude, if you want to call it that -- where we knock down and build again. I think we need to look at the whole idea of restoring. Once a building is closed, we decide, "Push it down. Build something new. It is better to do it." That is how we look at it sometimes.

Aside.

Senator J. INCE: As Li'l Rick in his calypso said, "Mash up and buy back." Madam President, within the City we need to revitalise Bridgetown not only from a commercial perspective but let us add to the existing housing stock. I envisage a Bridgetown where we should have a boardwalk from Fairchild Street, with beautiful terminals at Fairchild Street and the River, and we should have a boardwalk that goes right to the Globe Cinema with some nice shops where you can have ice-cream and clothes on sale. These things generate employment. Right where the Globe Cinema is should be a hotel. You can call it the Globe Hotel, and that hotel would complement the redevelopment of Roebuck Street. It would complement the Barbados Workers' Union and all the other activities and tie right into the redevelopment of Roebuck Street. We can call it the Globe Hotel. As you go further into Bridgetown, as I said before, it makes no sense having an abandoned abattoir going down the Princess Alice Highway. That abattoir can be converted maybe into commercial space. It can be looked at as far as even town houses or condominiums, and let that complement Pelican Village.

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Senator J. INCE: ...as even town houses or condominiums and let that complement Pelican Village where we have all of the industrial activity where persons sell. That Pelican Village should be state-of-the-art, I call it a special development area, similar to what I would term a Limegrove, where you can go in there and purchase quality paintings and quality furniture. Pelican Village should be able to complement that development coming right up to Bay Street where the Hyatt Hotel is going to be. I could remember when the Canadian Government, and I may be speaking under correction, gave the Barbados Government a grant for that old Eye Clinic, the building that is right across there from the lights. It is sad, from my history, that when you pass there you see that building in a terrible state

of disrepair. I think those are areas that we need to develop to bring Bridgetown back. We have persons who can recreate what those buildings were like in the past and we can do some refurbishing around how they were so that we would not have Bridgetown just as it is.

Madam President, we are going in the right direction. I have always said that when we look at the economic impact it is going to be positive when we look at additional jobs and at housings for individuals. We have a lot of open space that can be used, for example, the area where the old Ice Factory used to be. We have choices where we can put in additional housing similar to Country Park Towers that would complement those persons living in that area. When we finish the refurbishing of the Cathedral at St. Michael Row and all of the other works that need to be done we can look St. Mary's Row which would bring Barbados back into, as I said, the limelight of tourism. We must have a blend of residential along with commercial buildings, we cannot have all commercial building, and then we can have the whole idea of having businesses in Bridgetown open outside normal hours.

People speak about New York and North America but sometimes you cannot always compare because of resources. What I love about New York even in the Manhattan area is that you can get up at any time and find a laundry mat open, I did that, and you can get up and go grocery shopping or if you need medication or anything like that. At 2 o'clock in the morning you can get up and go to the post office which is opened 24 hours a day. That is the type of activity.

I am not saying that may be feasible for Bridgetown, but for example we can have steel pan concerts in Bridgetown and things like night racing at the Garrison Savannah. We can restore the Empire Theatre. As I said, when you have the Boardwalk you should be able to leave the Boardwalk and go into Queen's Park and have a nice dinner at night. This is the whole thing about revitalising Bridgetown.

Madam President, I think this Resolution not only looks at the whole idea of the vesting to the Synagogue but it now gives us the opportunity to create the type of environment that we want in Bridgetown because as I said before Bridgetown is our capital and it is still a major tourist attraction despite the challenges that confront us in Bridgetown. I know that we always say that at 5:30/6.00 p.m. Bridgetown is like a ghost town but I always look for solutions. We will always have challenges but what are the solutions, so this is the perfect opportunity where we can divest our resources and this is an opportunity where labour and capital can come together for the interest of Barbados. This is an opportunity where we can demonstrate what it is to have another level of entrepreneurship, innovation. We can bring new ideas, new things to happen, and with the

example of the Synagogue and the project that was completed there, we could use this then as a benchmark or as a stepping stone to do other things around Bridgetown.

Madam President, as I said, I support the Resolution that is before this Honourable Chamber. We can use this to carry Barbados forward to bring together as I said labour and capital. Madam President, thank you very much and I am obliged.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser, you have the Floor.

Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir Henry FRASER: Thank you Madam President. I rise to support this resignation, sorry this Resolution. The Freudian slip is because after five years of dedicating my post retirement from the University of the West Indies to the preservation of historic Bridgetown I was forced to hand in my resignation as Chair and Member of the Preservation Trust in July because I have had nothing but five years of frustration, so it is a happy moment and yet a moment on which I can only reflect with enormous sadness.

Madam President, let me first comment on one or two of the comments that have been made by other Honourable Senators. First of all, I do not know whether Senator Abrahams wishes to copyright his wonderful phrase about the echoes of absent people in Bridgetown. It is a magnificent bit of purple prose and I intend to use it in my columns if he has not copyrighted it. It is really wonderful when it rolls off of your tongue. It was really a unique creative phrase, but I must take Senator Abrahams to task for swinging dead cats around. It really is not something we should do either in Bridgetown or anywhere else because the RSPCA would be very upset.

Let me comment too on my friend Senator Adams who referred to Thunberg's famous history of Barbados 1848 and not 1884. In 1848, the Synagogue was only 15 years old so it was an interesting new building of that period. I am thrilled to hear Senator Ince commenting on the adaptive reuse of the Globe Cinema. The Globe Cinema is an important building. It is not a significant colonial building, it is not a building of the ancient period, it is really a relatively modern construction and it is the only surviving example of Art Nouveau architecture in Barbados and if the Globe Cinema was in Miami or anywhere in Florida which was developed in the same era of the first 20 years of the 20th Century the Globe Cinema would be magnificently refurbished and preserved. It has enormous potential, but we do not appreciate anything it seems to be me prior to 1966, that is the simple reality.

I would like to say, Madam President, that many other buildings in Bridgetown have been alluded to in the course of the debate so far and I have repeatedly referred to

the dirty derelict dozen of Bridgetown buildings because we have had the Empire Theatre which was given out as a contract after a tender process five years ago and nothing has happened since, the Queen's Park House which we understand will be magically restored in five months' time for CARIFESTA and the Old Eye Hospital was referred to in which we had a town hall meeting about 12 years ago when proposals were made for that building. I was the person who photographed the late Executive Director of the Barbados National Trust Mr. Paul Foster because he and I had arranged with the ODA through the then Canadian High Commissioner, the late Mr. Novelle Power for the funding to restore that building and it is not only a tragedy and a shame and scandal but it could well be a diplomatic incident to have allowed it to go to ruins and to be vandalised.

Madam President, let me go on. We have the Carnegie Library to which I have devoted four years intermittently because the taskforce was appointed for one year ever so often with long periods in between and we did not raise the money and I will come back to that, we also have the old Supreme Court, St. Mary's Boys' School, which was finally burnt down by the vagrants, the Culloden Farm which was abandoned, the first official Honourable Prime Minister residence personally...

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Senator Prof. Sir Henry S. FRASER: The Old Supreme Court; the St. Mary's Boys' School which was finally burnt down by the vagrants; the Culloden Farm the first official home personally selected by Mr. Errol Barrow where he lived for 15 years is now abandoned; the Pine Plantation House, the Marshal Hall, and I can go on. The only one not owned by Government is the Marshal Hall, so this is not a political statement, Madam President, this is merely a catharsis of a dozen buildings that have been abandoned by successive Administration ever since the Empire Theatre closed its doors in 1975 and that I believe if my arithmetic is correct, is some 41 years ago. It is Government administrations, multiple Prime Ministers, multiple Ministers of Culture, multiple Ministers of Finance and multiple Government which have successively ignored the commonsense of restoration. Madam President, at this point let me refer to what Senator Abraham said as well, let me praise him for the comments about concessions but to comment on his inaccurate assessment that you can knock down an old building and replace it for half the cost.

Madam President, the Barbados National Trust led by the work that I have done has researched and have written up and presented all over the hemisphere and the

Caribbean with data. I have shown it multiple times. I have written about it. I have presented it in Barbados multiple times but restoration of almost all of the historic buildings, with one exception in Barbados, comes in at two-thirds of the cost of a standard middle income, middle-class three-bedroomed home with standard fittings and no luxury devices. In other words, most builders would tell you that if you want to build a 200- square-foot house with two bathrooms, three bedrooms, a veranda, nothing special, no Italian cars, no Scandinavian kitchens, just a standard house of 200-square feet would cost you \$300 000 per square foot, and all of the buildings except one, the Masonic Lodge, all of the places that we have studied, including Verona House which has been magnificently restored by Government, with the Minister of Public Works and Transport and the Government Electrical department restoring the Verona House, which was the old Maternity Hospital for over 35 years, that building had trees growing out of it, most of the roof had collapsed and they costed the cost of their workers and integrated everything else and it came in at \$190 a square foot and not at \$300. When they put in the specialised things like backup generators, security devices and all the extra tanks they boosted it over the \$200 per square foot where if I remember correctly it came up to about \$206 per square foot, according to the gentleman who spelled out that work, supervised it and did the costings for me.

Madam President, the point I have to make and I am sorry that Senator Abrahams is not here but I will share that paper with him, the cost of restoration with very few exceptions is far cheaper than the cost of knocking down the building this, Madam President, is commonsense. If you have got a building up from the foundation up to the six steps the walls are... even if you have to modernise the electricity, 'replumb' it and improve it, even if you have to put in a roof it comes in cheaper than a new building. Madam President, Barbadians unfortunately I supposed since the 2nd World War whenever thing and people did not have to think of paying for the termite invading since they could not treat it, since the 2nd World War we have been a new society and knock down and built back "let's have it new" society and this is the problem we do not conserve anything and this is a big, big part of our current economic crisis Madam President.

Madam President, I just want to add points about the concessions to which Senator Abrahams referred because we finally, after the Barbados National Trust proposed to the late "Tom" Adams that concessions were essential for people to maintain the historic preservation of Bridgetown and other sites and we gave him all kinds of examples that were popular with concessions in Scotland, England, United States of America and in circumstances were some States were more generous in relation to concessions, we did all of that and Prime Minister Adams suddenly became converted and then he died. What happened after his death

was that he had committed a sum of money which he said he would work out the administrative details for providing concessionary assistance to people who have buildings that were identified as being historic and they were to get financial assistance. Madam President, in 1983 \$1 million would have seen to be a lot of money but subsequently what happened was that money stayed in the bank and accrued a considerable amount of interest and about one-third of it was provided to the Barbados National Trust many years later to build chattel house heritage village at Tyrol Cot. Now I took some American visitors who are familiar with outdoor museums and architecture to that village and they were blown away, they thought this is magnificent but unfortunately it was 30 years before its time in Barbados and it has not become the financial success that it should have been.

Madam President, the point I am making is that we have spent a long time at the Barbados National Trust trying to persuade Government to create suitable concessions to enable people, many of whom are old, many are pensioners and people with limited finances who would come into the possession of a beautiful historic house and they cannot afford to do anything about it. and sadly having finally got to the point where there were concessions for historical houses and tax concessions for charitable donations from the philanthropists both have been abolished, so there is no longer any incentive for someone to attempt to restore a house when they have not got the money; there is no longer any tax incentives for philanthropists to give the money and to get the tax concession for it, so that we are in a double bang situation where we have had the golden gift of World Heritage Inscription and we are unable to invoke the people who own historic properties but who simply cannot afford. Madam President, in the past they would have been able to borrow some money, get a tax concession, save some money and for two-thirds the cost of replacing a building they could have restored these historic buildings and that is no longer very easy for people to do.

Madam President, I would like to explain why, I suppose I come to this Honourable Chamber repeatedly and issues related to the environment, our national history, our built heritage, tourism or the economy and often allude to the fact that we ignore the things that some people would like to call 'low hanging fruits.' I did not have the misfortune of going to Harrison College or Combermere where apparently West Indian history was not taught, Madam President, I was taught West Indian and Barbados' history from the 1950s.

Asides.

Senator Prof. Sir Henry S. FRASER: Madam President, I wanted to be sure that Senator Boyce was with us.

Asides.

Senator Dr. Sir Trevor Carmichael: Madam President, on a point of elucidation, I just wish to assure the Honourable Senator that history was taught at Harrison College and was taught my many men of imminence, including Captain Morris-Hutt. Students at Harrison College were exposed to all of the leading historian, Professor O.J., Rockford Gordon, Smith, I can name them all. I do not think I need to say anymore on the subject.

Senator Prof. Sir Henry S. FRASER: Madam President, thank you, it is often essential that laughter is the best medicine to bring a little laughter into the Chamber when we are talking about the benefit of our schooling. We could use the opportunity to talk about the magnificent Alumni of the Combermere School because in spite of Senator Carmichael's intervention we all admire and wish that our schools had the strength of character and passion that the Combermere alumni have for their school.

Madam President, having said that I was aware when I was at school at Harrison College reading the famous book *West Indian History* by Daniel we also used but we had a book that was very relevant to Barbadian schoolboys and schoolgirls.

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Senator SIR HENRY F.S. FRASER: ... Having said that, Madam President, I was aware when I was at school that Harrison College used the famous book by Edward W. Daniel called *West Indian Histories*, which we also used; but we had a book which was very relevant to Barbadian schoolboys and schoolgirls. We were taught from a book called 'Our Common Heritage'. This was 1955 before, I am sure, the Leader of Government Business was born, Madam President. This was 1955 and therefore we learnt about our National Hero Charles Duncan O'Neal, about the life of Samuel Jackman Prescod, et cetera. Madam President, I have been saying for years that it was a terrible mistake to name Trafalgar Square National Heroes Square when the Heritage Committee, appointed by Sir Lloyd Sandiford when he was Minister of Education and Culture and when I was on the National Cultural Foundation's Board, recommended that Queen's Park should be National Heroes Park where it could accommodate as many National Heroes as we chose to name. If that is not done, then one other alternative I have suggested repeatedly is that Trafalgar Square, now National Heroes Square inappropriately named, should perhaps be named Samuel Jackman Prescod Square and his statue should be there. Mind you, we cannot afford to do either at the moment so I

will rest that case for now, but I will come back to that issue of our heroes whom we were taught about when I was 14 years old.

Madam President, my point about that story is that I was inspired by the teaching of my history teacher, not to become a historian -- although I became passionate about it -- but because of the example of Christopher Codrington's will to become what he set up his institution for through the SPG (Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) for the training of Christian doctors. I hope that I have not been an embarrassment to his will in following that career as a Christian doctor, or should I say a doctor with a Christian orientation. That has been a very important part of my background, but I have always loved history, and when my boss, Sir George Alleyne, the Director Emeritus of the Pan American Health Organisation and Chairman of the University Campus Council, knew I was definitely returning to Barbados, he warned me that there was research to be done and that I must not get involved in things historical.

However, Madam President, my Damascus moment came in 1981 when I got on a plane at Grantley Adams Airport to fly to San Diego to give a medical Paper, and I opened the Advocate newspaper, then the only newspaper which published on Sundays -- you will recall that The Nation went from once a week to twice a week -- and read that the Government of the day under the Tom Adams Administration had purchased the Jewish Synagogue and was going to demolish the synagogue, demolish Codd's House where the Emancipation Bill was proclaimed, and build a new Supreme Court over the cemetery and these two amazing demolished buildings. I went off to San Diego and I was doing a busman's lecture tour from San Diego through San Francisco to Vancouver right across Canada and coming back, and in every city I visited in North America and Canada in 1981 there was a passionate explosion of interest in heritage. Everything I read, including the TIME Magazine, the Newsweek, the Maclean's Magazine and the airline magazines, were all reporting on these restoration projects which were going on all over North America, and here was I leaving Barbados where we were going to demolish a synagogue of 1654 and rebuilt in 1833 on the same footprint, and Codd's House where the Bill for Emancipation had been proclaimed. I nearly had a stroke on the plane, but I was so influenced by what happened then - that was my Damascus moment on that plane that morning -- that I came back and started my own personal, passionate support for the Barbados National Trust. The restoration of the Synagogue was actually the result of a meeting between Mr. Paul Altman and Prime Minister Adams, who agreed to let the Jewish community take it over. I have to give credit and recognise the amazing work of Mr. Paul Altman's passion and leadership for leading this entire project, and for being able to persuade an extremely generous benefactor, the likes of which we

have only known in the Maria Holder Memorial Trust group, to restore the Synagogue, then to restore the old school room which is now the Nidhe Israel Museum, and now to restore the Synagogue Block. Madam President, I am not just being picky but the Bill and the Resolution relate to, it says, the completion of the Synagogue Restoration Project. It is really the Synagogue Block Restoration Project, because the Synagogue's restoration was completed while I was President of the National Trust back in 1992.

Madam President, the other points I would like to make relate to the issue of donation and the fact that we have now suddenly, in the last few weeks, said how wonderful it is and will be to restore Historic Bridgetown. Madam President, many years ago a Committee was established and was called a task force to create the documentation for the nomination of Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison as a World Heritage Site. The inscription took place by the most amazing coincidence on my birthday, June 25, 2011, almost six years ago. Madam President, I am sorry to say that we have demonstrated our love for long talk rather than action, because after six years we really have not achieved anything significant. This has been a golden gift, and it is sad that the Synagogue story is only now coming about. The work done has been done almost miraculously in a matter of months, when other things often take many years just to get approval, but sadly, had the approval been given soon after the donor agreed to provide his many millions of dollars, it would have been in sync with the Cabinet's appointment of the preservation task force on the first occasion. Then we would have had the cumulative impact and the domino effect, if you like, of things happening all at the same time.

What happens in central Bridgetown is that although the town began to grow from the location of the old Indian Bridge and went out through what is currently near the Parliament Buildings and Parliament Square, the real historic surviving core of 17th Century Bridgetown is right there at the Synagogue Block. It is the intersection of Lucas Street where it meets James Street and continues as Coleridge Street. It has the Synagogue Block on the northeast side, it has the old cemetery which is now a carpark on the southeast, and it has the old buildings which survived the fire. One of the only two blocks that survived the many fires of Bridgetown is along the western side of Lucas Street where the old Carrington & Sealy Chambers are, and ends at the corner of the deflowered Nicholls Building, whose beautiful Dutch gable has been damaged but where we have not yet had the ability, somehow, through our Town and Country Planning, to have it restored correctly. Then on the final corner is the building with the beautiful balconies next to the building in which the Moravian priest, James Young Edghill, operated 'The West Indian' newspaper -- not the 'Liberty' which was Samuel Jackman Prescod's -- which he sold to my great-

grandfather after becoming a priest. It is that centre; and just 100 yards further on, past the Police Station, is a beautifully expanded building in a harmonious way.

We heard about the Hyatt and the issue of whether the Hyatt should be harmonious with Bridgetown, and I am going to come back to that, but just 100 yards further on we have the old Supreme Court with its balcony rotting away and falling off and all of the plaster scaling because the building has been shut up and cannot breathe. We have the Carnegie Library, one of the most beautiful neo-classical Italianate buildings in Barbados, built of coral stone with two-foot thick walls, and it does not really require a lot to be done to it. We have all of these things, and if the Library were restored like a modern library....

Madam President, I must share this with you because our attempts to raise the money for the restoration of the Carnegie Library and the Supreme Court have been -- I am not quite sure how to say this -- awash with multiple disasters, mishaps, non-communication and barricades of different kinds. I have to tell you that from most of the private sector of Bridgetown, I was able to raise \$1 million to restore Codrington College in 1988 and 1989, \$1.3 million for the Chronic Disease Research Centre to be established, and \$1 million to purchase and restore Tyrol Cot -- almost \$3.5 million which my various committees have raised over the years -- but the response to the preservation of Historic Bridgetown has been expressed in three ways: There are Philistines who say, "We do not need a library; I can get all the information I want on my phone."

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Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir Henry FRASER: The response to the preservation of historic Bridgetown has been expressed in three ways: There are Philistines who say we do not need a library, I can get all of the information I want on my phone. Well, that may be all of the information that that individual wants but the perception that the world's knowledge is all on hand phones is really quite a Philistine perfection. The second statement that people make why they would not give money is that we are not restoring the Carnegie Library to let Government make it decay again and fall down and in 10 years' time we would have to raise more money, that has been the most common perception. Almost as common, I will say about 40 per cent, is that Government needs to lead the way.

Madam President, in the role I had as Chair of the Preservation Trust I have said to scores of businessmen across Bridgetown and to other potential philanthropists who have given us money for the Chronic Disease

Research Centre, for Codrington College and so on... They have all said the same thing, if Government will demonstrate its seriousness about this project and put something in we would match it, and I have communicated that at all levels of Government over four years and it is the perception of the private sector of Barbados that Government is not really serious about this.

Madam President, this is really much sad because Historic Bridgetown and Its Garrison as a world heritage site is a golden gift for tourism. It is the only thing that in the short and medium term can make a difference to our economy's productivity and our earnings of foreign exchange. I made the point a few years ago when the economic and cultural forum of Latin America and the Caribbean was hosted by Barbados, I think it was three or four years ago, and Mrs. Avril Gollop was the coordinator of that wonderful conference with about 1 500 people, that we have an opportunity to do what many world heritage sites have done, that is, to capitalise on it and to exploit the golden rebranding of our site to make it an artistic and cultural centre.

Reference has been made about bringing life back into Bridgetown, it can be brought in in so many ways. Haiti is famous for its primitive art. The Barbados Arts Council's senior members, Kathleen Yearwood and Corey Scott, have produced an electronic catalogue of Barbados art and in that electronic book there are 350 paintings by 250 artists of Barbados. We have a thriving huge, enormous art community. You do not see it on our tourism websites. It is not promoted in any way by tourism. People come here and they say but I never knew Barbados had all of this when I take them to some of these places. The tourism correspondent said some 20 years ago that after she had taken her visitors to Harrison's Cave she did not know what else to show them when we have 22 museums and a tentative nomination of the Scotland District for its natural history and four public gardens and I can go on.

Madam President, the point I am making is that we have perhaps not been sufficiently aware in spite of passionate evangelical people like me, and I could add Senator Jepter Ince for some of the moving things he said about the need to restore these important historic buildings, that we have not as a nation recognise the value of what we are sitting on, what we are walking by and what we are knocking down. It is a tragedy, Madam President. I have been warned and I have been advised when I had spoken strongly about the failure of successive Governments not just this Democratic Labour Party nor that Barbados Labour Party but successive Government, successive Prime Ministers, Ministers of Finance and Economic Affairs, Ministers of Culture, and Ministers of Education... There are only a few who have taken the advantage of restoring buildings like the old Combermere School that became Queen's College that became the Ministry of Education,

Science, Technology and Innovation. These are glowing examples and I can give you many examples. Once again I will share, as I believe I have done, my paper about the comparative cost of restoration. We as a nation have been totally delinquent. It is a tragedy and it is a shame for our Prime Minister's official residence of 15 years to be derelict.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senator has one more minute.

Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir Henry FRASER: Thank you Madam President, I will not take more than one minute. The point is that we have enormous potential if we can only take seriously what the experts say about our heritage. I have written eight books about it and I have spoken about it. There are many people who speak about it. The Barbados National Trust fights an uphill battle with limited support to present Barbados in a way that will attract more and more visitors. Our potential is huge, our opportunities are legend but unfortunately, Madam President, where there is no vision the people perish and we are in grave danger in the present economic crisis of perishing.

Thank you, Madam President.

SUSPENSION

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 6.00 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 6.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MADAM PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

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5: 39 p.m.

Wednesday, February 22, 2017 RESUMPTION

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

Senator A. R. WORRELL: Madam President, I rise to support this Resolution with regards to the vesting of the property into the Barbados Jewish Community Inc. This is a fitting Resolution to support and I did have the opportunity to pass the area and to see the development and I was quite amazed with the work that was done, as it has really changed the ambiance of that area. I am glad to see that persons are paying such keen interest.

Madam President, we really do have a capital city that has a very rich history. Also every years after the Cropover period we have the Bridgetown walk-in tours. This is something that I would love to see happening in Bridgetown more often because during the tourist season you would have a number of visitors who basically walk up and down Bridgetown. We have a number of places of interest that are now available, with the completion of the Jewish Synagogue and that area, that we can create a full package of a walk-in tour throughout Bridgetown. We have the Museum here at Parliament. We have the exchange which was done by the Central Bank of Barbados. There are also the graveyards in terms of St. Michael Cathedral and St. Mary's Church, along with a number of other places of interest throughout Bridgetown which will make a very rich heritage tour.

Ma'am, when the Barbados Tourism Authority was restructured one of the major parts of that restructuring was to form an arm, the Barbados Tourism Product Authority because it was recognised that the tourism product development in Barbados had suffered over the years and when the Barbados Tourism Authority was functioning as a total marketing engine marketing Barbados throughout our source markets we did not pay sufficient attention to developing the product here in Barbados so that when the visitors came there was not much in terms of attractions that they could do. We were not necessarily getting the spend out of those visitors and a lot of our visitors spent the majority of their time enjoying the sea and sun which we do not charge for and so we need to develop different products or attractions that we would be able to leverage a higher spend from our visitors while they are here and also give them more to do. Within the Bridgetown area particularly for the cruise passengers there is a lot that you can do for those visitors in the eight to 12 hours that they are here in Barbados, because sometimes many of them do not really venture too far beyond Bridgetown, you will see them walking from the Port up to Browne's Beach, one of the most beautiful beaches in Barbados. I go there as often as I can. You will then see them taking a trip back down Browne's Beach down to the Port in the afternoon. You may occasionally see one or two persons walking around Bridgetown. Madam President, if we have all of these places of interest within Bridgetown, then we would need to find ways to properly market them, so that this would also form part of the tours that are done on a daily basis.

Madam President, I must say that some persons have already started to do this and I must give credit to the historians who have already taken tours out consisting of four or ten persons walking through Bridgetown while doing those tours. I have also been recently inform that there is a "Licorish Bajan" tour in Bridgetown where they actually take you to places of interest but they also throw into that the dining experience which I think is a very good heritage product because what a tourist wants more than

anything else is to be able to sit in a rum shop like a local. Why can you not give them corn beef and biscuits which is all part of the Bajan Licorish tour. You can take them to any of the shops around this building where they can have corn beef and biscuits with a shot of rum or you can also get a 'bread and two'. That would be a perfect tour and many visitors would enjoy that experience and give them the opportunity to hear the regular conversations that take place within our rum shops or any shops, because more politics is talked in those places than in this place. That is the learning ground for most trained economists and politicians in Barbados, everything that they have learned they have learned that in the rum shops. That is the breeding ground, that is the watering hole, that is where they are educated. I am certain that it will share a rich experience that any visitor who takes part in that activity will go back home and will speak about it and it will sell itself because they will speak about it and other persons will want to come to Barbados and experience it as well.

Madam President, this debate also give you the opportunity to speak about bringing back life to the Bridgetown which I think is very important. I like to walk through Bridgetown at nights, especially during the Christmas period and when there are the trees decorated in Independence Square, Jubilee Gardens and all over Bridgetown it is a very beautiful place to walk. Over the years it is true that we have seen a number of business moving out of Bridgetown but we need to get to that stage where we recognise that we need to do a good mix in terms of bringing back life to some of these buildings that have been left empty such as the National Insurance Building, the Old National Bank Building. That is a building which I think could be restored. It could also be a multiuse complex in terms of finding ways mixing business activity with residential activity. You can have upscale lofts in those buildings and at the bottom you can possibly have stores and restaurants. In Bridgetown there is no real fine dining restaurant that one can go to for a business lunch in the heart of Bridgetown or that you can say come back to Bridgetown in the evening to go to a fine dining restaurant and you could have a beautiful ambience. There are many places in Bridgetown that one can sit and watch the sun sets, that you can watch the boats going through the Carlisle Bay. It is a beautiful sight and I think that we should make good use of that. It is a good opportunity for that kind of development, so we have all of these buildings across Bridgetown which have been vacated, we can bring them back to life.

Madam President, I agree with Senator Fraser that we do not need to knock them down and build back anything new but that you simply need to restore them and to keep some of their historical architectural features and restore those buildings but you can change the use of them in terms of they earning more and if we can do developments so that you can have a mix of residential and

commercial as Bridgetown was before, because in many of the shops in Swan Street and in many other areas the residents lived at the top while the shops were at the bottom and so we can go back to that, that it itself will bring back....

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Senator A.R. WORRELL: ... If we do developments, you can have a mix of residential and commercial buildings as Bridgetown was before. Many of the shops in Swan Street and other areas had residents at the top and the shops at the bottom, so we can go back to that. That in itself would bring back economic activity to the area. At the same time, however, I need to send a caution to the conservationists and those persons who are so stuck in terms of maintaining their heritage: When plans come for additional development, you have to just ease off the throttle a little bit and give them an opportunity to have the development. We all know of what we speak.

In terms of the Hyatt Hotel, I would say that a couple decades ago we were speaking about building out the Bridgetown area into a marina and hotels, but now all of a sudden when you have an investor who is willing to put a high-rise hotel in the area, this may be a problem. You are hearing everybody telling you why it cannot happen and so forth, but at the same time these people would want to tell you that you need to do something to bring back life to Bridgetown. No investor will spend money in a property which he cannot in his right mind see some return from; so if you do not have enough commercial activity going on in Bridgetown for you to make a good return on your dollar, you cannot rent out the spaces in any properties which you may restore or develop. You therefore have to recognise that you have to "play ball". You cannot have it both ways. You cannot have your cake and eat it too. Yes, there are ways in which you can blend modern development and still maintain the heritage and architectural features which were there before. I think that we need to compromise on that, and sit at the table together and have that discussion on how best we can have modern development within Bridgetown but maintain some of the historical and architectural features which have made Bridgetown what it has become over the years. We have to find a way of mixing that. We cannot just have this hardline stance that says, "No, because it looks too modern, it is going to ruin the characteristics of the area," yet at the same time you want to bring economic activity to Bridgetown.

We need to do both, and I think that this project is a good example. I am hoping that space will be utilised and that the Barbados Tourism Product Authority would work

with young entrepreneurs who may have ideas in terms of bringing tourists into Bridgetown and utilising that space. We also have the Cultural Industries Development Act which was passed, and I think that venues such as that one create a good environment for art displays. I do know of a hotel in Bathsheba which, every now and then, allows young artists to stage displays on the walls of the hotel. The hotel provides the opportunity for people to go to the exhibition, and I do not think you have to necessarily pay to enter but you obviously would buy drinks and the cocktails there while the artists would have the opportunity to display their works of art and tell you stories about the pictures and paintings. We can find buildings around Bridgetown. Perhaps, once we get around to restoring the Carnegie Library, it can be used for that as well. Perhaps it can be used for an elegant ball around the Old Year's Night period. It opens up new avenues, because you cannot just have it there for persons to tour during the day but you have to look at the commercial potential and other opportunities for you to earn revenue. It could be a good place for outdoor lectures.

We also have a lot of outdoor spaces, including the work done by the Central Bank, which has an ideal garden where I think we should have some storytelling for children on Saturdays so that parents can bring their children into town and you would have someone doing storytelling on the lawns of the Central Bank. We need to find new usage for the spaces and make good use of all that we have done in terms of beautifying Bridgetown and our heritage area, because they would only serve a purpose if people are actually using them. We cannot just have them there as a trophy, but people need to utilise the spaces and make commercial use of them.

With those few words, I support this Resolution, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Crichlow, you have the Floor.

Senator the Very Rev. H.E. CRICHLLOW: Thank you, Madam President. I rise to support the Resolution to approve the vesting in the Barbados Jewish Community Incorporated of the parcel of land, the property of the Crown, situate at Pinfold Street and Magazine Lane in the parish of St. Michael. I will be very brief as usual. I would like to compliment all those who are involved in the restoration of the Synagogue. I think it is very beautiful, and adds to the beauty of Bridgetown. I speak from a theological standpoint when I say that I have a vested interest in the Synagogue, because just as we would not be able to understand the New Testament if we did not have the Old Testament, when I see the Synagogue I think it is a very good thing for Barbados to have a Jewish community in our midst and with such fine and lovely surroundings.

The first Book of the Bible we know as Genesis. In the Hebrew Bible it is called Bree'shyt (בְּרֵאשִׁית) because בְּרֵאשִׁית is the first word in the Hebrew Bible.

בְּרֵאשִׁית, בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ or "Bree'shiyt baaraa' Elohiym 'eet hashaaamayim w'et haa'aarets", which translates: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." That is why the first Book of the Bible is called Bree'shyt (בְּרֵאשִׁית) or Genesis. The Christian Church owes so much to the Jewish Temple and their synagogue that I think that every Christian should be happy to have a Jewish community in our midst, particularly now with such lovely surroundings. I am happy indeed to see this in Barbados, and wish and hope that all of us -- we are mainly Christians -- will welcome the Jewish presence and be happy about their new and lovely surroundings. Thank you very much, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Hunte, you have the Floor.

6.25 p.m.

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Hunte, you have the Floor.

Senator R. A. HUNTE: Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise to give my support to this Resolution which of course asked the Senate to approve the vesting of a parcel of land of the Crown situated at Pinfold Street and Magazine Lane in the parish of St. Michael in this island to facilitate the completion of the Synagogue Restoration Project.

Madam President, we are all part of history no matter the class or colour, race or creed. The history of this country makes it so unique in terms of those who have settled and occupied this country at one stage first by the Dutch, we heard Senator Adams gave a historical background of their contribution to Barbados, the Jews, the Arawak, the Caribs who did not spend a long time in Barbados, they have moved out and went elsewhere, the British and my ancestors who came here as slaves. All of these people formed part of the history and development of this country.

Madam President, I do remember that since the British were always referred to as those who had discovered Barbados, it remind me of a statement the late revered leader Mr. Barrow had made when he said that you cannot discover a place where people have already been living or inhabiting so to say that the British discovered Barbados when of course you had the Arawaks here and

the pre-settlers which were the Dutch, I do not know if they really discovered Barbados based on the historical data.

Madam President, the Jewish community, although it forms a very small part of Barbados' population, have of course made a significant contribution in the country. Those who own businesses, a lot of them, we do not know who they really are. One person who stands out of course is a very big developer in Barbados. Of course, they had money and those who had money have invested it in our country. The Jews, of course, were harassed, vilified and executed, et cetera but they do have a settlement or community all over Europe.

When the Jewish state which is called Israel was established in 1947, somebody said 1948, a year give or take, thousands of them were moved out of Russia and were taken to Israel. History is a very interesting exercise because you can win friends or gain friends based on how you interpret history. I am not too sure despite the harassment of the Jews and so on that today I approve of their behaviour because if it is said - and that is the reason why the United Nations came into being - that no one country should show dominance over another, well I like what is happening with the people of Palestine and the big stick being wielded down there or out in the Middle East, one nation over the other, I do not know if I can actually support that. Of course, the United Nations is the league of nations. Today there are about 200 sovereign nations and it started off with about 48 or so when the league was formed just after World War II.

Madam President, be that as it may, in a small country like Barbados any development of historical sites, buildings, whatever is a work-in-progress. This is a small country. I know Senator Fraser gets very worked up and he feels passionate about it and he usually reserve his blasting for the Government, which is not party now but for Government whether B or D. This is a small country and maybe in another 50/60 years when a lot of us are not around or maybe all of us here are not around the kind of development for which Senator Fraser speaks might well be in operation. We might well get what he thinks that we should get.

I think that when a Government in a small country like Barbados... Look at where we came from. The development of our people in education and in housing, the development by our people in their living styles and their development health-wise and everything had to be developed by none other than the politicians. I keep saying that they shoot themselves in the feet because of how they behave when in truth and in fact this country developed and reached the stage as it is now because of the politicians not the plantocracy. We all know the history of that, but it took the politicians regardless of whatever their shortcomings are or were, to develop Barbados, so this constant attack

even by politicians themselves on themselves as yesterday and also today, I think, is unfortunate.

We look at every corner of development in Barbados. People cannot come into Barbados and set up unless they get the necessary permission. A road cannot be built in Barbados unless you get the approval to do such and that has to come down from Government, we are not talking party. I think that sometimes we have to just step back a bit. Criticism is very easy, do this, do that. I always try sometimes to look at richer nations and see what they have even though they might be going through certain difficulties and then look at us. Look at Britain. Britain went through all kinds of problems and is still going through them but they got war planes and war ships and they are still giving away millions of Pounds in grants and so on to India, I do not think that has stopped yet.

The United States of America is in debt to the tune of 20 trillion dollars. Under Obama was reduced by at least \$1 trillion and they bailed out the car industry, with a similar figure for the banks. That is a country that owes away \$20 trillion. Look at Barbados. We do not...

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6.35 p.m.

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Senator R. A. HUNTE: Madam President, let us look at Barbados, we do not have those resources and I do not know when we will ever get them, probably not in my lifetime. I do not know if we can find a hole in the middle of the earth with something coming out of it that can give Barbados this richness, but we must take these things into consideration, this is a small and still developing country and our survival sometimes is extremely interesting how we are able to survive in a small country like Barbados with little or no resources. Yes there are resources because water is a resource, people are resources but we know it is not at the level where we can say that we are getting this lot of revenue coming in from any commodity that we may have or may not have to sell. Those are the basics, you do not have to go to the London School of Economics to understand that and that is where my sticking point is all the time. This is Barbados 166 square miles, people want you to tear down every building and put up one or restore it. It is alright to say that it is only cost but the money still has to come from somewhere, so I am not one of those persons who would jump up and say that we should do this and that we should do that, I have been around to see how this country has developed for over 50 years of my life and I have to sound a bit egotistical but I have to be factual as well.

Madam President, this thing about they promising people this and that, I think that we need to look at things differently. We have to. All of these things are a work in progress. I do not need to go back and say all of the hardship that people had going to the standpipe had no water in their place, people going down by the Wharf looking for rotten mangoes to eat because they were starving. We have passed that, have seen all of that in my lifetime and we have made tremendous progress in this country and even with this development which I support because I see this as part of what Barbados will be in another 30, 40, 50 or 60 years but Government cannot do it alone. I have seen a proposal regarding a development programme laid out looking at what kind of development that can take place in Barbados but I would say about that when the right time comes and would probably make it a document of this Honourable House but the point is that there are people out there who are waiting to get their hands on this little piece of real estate here in the middle of the sea, or the Atlantic but it seems as though some of those people feel that they can only do it under a certain regime. That is it but we will learn more about that.

Madam President, I support this Resolution based on what it intends to do and the part it can play in our tourism programme. All of this is good but we must clearly understand that we cannot find this money down Broad Street or in any street but that it has to come from somewhere and we the people of Barbados must stop complaining when Government asks them to do what is necessary.

Madam President, I have spoken to the reason the Government has been advised to go the direction of the Barbados Revenue Authority is that there are too many avenues of revenue that is going down and not necessarily coming in, that is our basic problem. Our basic problem is that Government is not collecting what is due to them. And these are the experts or observers who came into this country and told the Barbados Government where its problems really lie.

Madam President, I remember --I am now seeing the headline in the Nation Newspaper -- "Arthur: \$300 million outstanding in land taxes." Ma'am, that was about eight to ten years ago, so that Government is always complaining about outstanding moneys but now we are doing something about it. We know a lot of what goes on around this place, we do not live in coo-coo land, we live in the real land and know what is going on in this country. In some cases the country might be poor but a lot of people are rich.

Madam President, there is no need for me to spend a lot of time on this Resolution, I think it has been ventilated quite well in this Honourable Chamber today. I think everybody who spoke said exactly what should happen and what they know about Barbados, which is all good because

people understand and should understand the country in which they live. Professor Kuama reminds us that you could get a difference between patriotism and nationalism, patriotism as he outlines comes first, nationalism can be developed so that everybody who is in this dear land is not necessarily a patriot. I am a patriot I can say that because this is where I was born, where mother, father and grandparents were all born here. I feel committed to this country but some people might only be committed to what they can get out of it.

Madam President, I have no difficulty in supporting this Resolution. I think it is well-intended, that it is a part of our development. Madam President, with those few words, I am obliged to you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Carmichael, you have the Floor.

Senator Dr. Sir Trevor CARMICHAEL: Madam President, thank you for again indulging me. I rise to give heartfelt support to this Resolution which is before us. Ma'am, in the context of what has been said today it would not be remiss if I reminded you Madam President, an R. T. Smith and these are of the 1960s vintage but the two Smiths wrote in terms of the key in the Caribbean and I think it was M. G. Smith who invented the term 'plural society.

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Senator SIR TREVOR A. CARMICHAEL: ... The two Smiths wrote in terms of this in the Caribbean, and I think it was M.G. Smith who actually invented the term "plural society". Madam President, their focus essentially was in respect of places such as Trinidad and Guyana, but also indeed of the Caribbean as a whole. What they did was to focus, in my view, primarily on race and on class. That might have been a good pedagogical tool at the time, but I tend to see plurality in a wider and conceptually richer sense, and in that regard I have always found it comfortable to place Barbados in the context of being a plural society. I say that because, notwithstanding all of the complexities and challenges as well as the opportunities and advantages, Barbados remains a society which benefits from its inherent strength but has throughout the years received additional benefits from significant input into what one might call the quintessential Barbados or Barbadian.

That might all sound a bit "hocus pocus" but trust me, you will recognise that I say that as a tribute to Barbadian life and culture, Madam President. It is in my view part and parcel of the beautiful plurality which I

consider to be Barbados. Some of the Honourable Members have alluded to this and have spoken eloquently on the subject, but I will just say it in brief context. When we go back to 1660, we have to recognise that the number of Jews who came here at that time was a mere 300. It might have been 301 or 302 but they were a mere 300. They came from Recife, Brazil, and they came under circumstances of persecution. We in Barbados, irrespective of what composition Barbados was at the time, held our hands out and we embraced them. We embraced the Jewish settlement of the 1660s and they embraced us, but they not only embraced us, they also enhanced this country and, in particular, this country's sugar production at the time. Madam President, this is the kind of plurality that I speak of, and this is the way in which I see the term "plurality" in a conceptual sense as it relates to Barbados.

Those Jews who came here at that time were skilled in the sugar industry, and in fact they introduced it to Barbados. They passed on special skills which they had acquired in cultivation and production, but what they did -- this is what again makes it of significance in my view -- is that they did not come and execute the act and leave. What they did was that they came and they trained Barbadians in cultivation and production so that we became, in a short period of time, a country which fast outstripped its size in terms of our production levels. We know what that went on to indicate and to produce; levels of production which made us appear more prominent than the oil lobby of the 1980s.

Madam President, Bridgetown, where that Synagogue sits and where it was started in 1654, benefited significantly by the presence of that Jewish immigration to Barbados. It benefited with the integration of the ingénue, as I said in the previous Debate, in the sugar cane production, and we had wood supplies at a time when it was not readily available. The Jewish presence was able to make up for that imbalance and that absence, if you will. They produced an interesting, may we say, archaeological experience for us following later, because all the archaeologists have found huge "butchers' shop Shambles" around the area of Cheapside, which were unbeatable and unmatched in global terms at that time. A lot of that was as a result of the Jewish presence combining with what was here. Madam President, that is the plurality of which I speak, and it is not sexy so you do not see a lot written about it, but the Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society from time to time, when such authors care to write on the subject, has documented this civilisation in very accurate, interesting and exciting terms.

There was sugar production, the presence in Bridgetown and the Synagogue. In fact, the presence of the Synagogue was so significant that the first Jewish cantors in New York came from Barbados, so once again Barbados is way ahead of the game; way ahead of its own game. We

come to this restoration which has taken place. I am not going to speak much about it. I cannot say too much about myself in these places, but I am lucky to have been asked to be a part of this restoration from the start. I am intimately familiar with the discussions which Mr. Paul Altman, now Sir Paul, had with the Prime Minister at the time, and we collaborated at one point as a team of two which then became a larger team. I am glad and I am honoured to have been a part of it, and I am humbled.

This restoration does not stand by itself. It has been an impetus to the work which is being done at the 1786 St. Michael's Cathedral. It has been an impetus to the Masonic Lodge restoration which Senator Boyce has spoken about, and the museum which is now there. It has also been an impetus to the Roebuck Street rejuvenation, which is going ahead full-steam. Possibly the most iconic building on Roebuck Street, just as you come out of Harrison College and turn to the right, has been acquired by a Barbadian who has lived overseas for quite some time. He has purchased that property and he is now in the process of getting plans done so as to bring it back to its original condition.

Asides.

6.54 p.m.

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Senator Dr. Sir TREVOR CARMICHAEL: ...And that property in another year's time will house a very upscale coffee shop on the ground floor and then the top floor will have offices which he will use as his, should we say, itinerant office so that when he is in Barbados he has a little pad that he can hang out and do a little work, and just to make measures right and so as to be sure that he does not offend the Town Planner he has bought the property across the street so that there will be parking.

Restoration and rejuvenation, and they are different things, do not happen in a hurry and sometimes they have to be guided and sometimes you have to hope that the demonstration effect works. We are hoping that the demonstration effect works in Roebuck Street. We are hoping that once Dr. Lambert has completed his work and as people see it going up that people will start to do their own work on properties they own and people would want to acquire properties. These are snowballing things and they do not happen in a hurry, so we are delighted, Madam President, that this Synagogue Restoration Project is part of that demonstration effect.

I said I would not be long, Madam President. I would say that I can only hope that we harness all of this energy. I have said on another occasion that a nation which passionately protects and preserves its heritage is one that will dutifully respect and revere not only the businesses but

the persons who come within its care and control. These things happen. Bridgetown and Its Historic Garrison, which we have heard about both, seeks to synthesize, if you will, this symphony of thought and action.

I suggest, Madam President, that future international activities and national activities within Barbados will continue to survive and strive against this ambience and this bedrock of guided protection and an ethos of robust commercialism similar to what we saw in the 17th Century in Cheapside with the Butcher's Shambles which we have excavated and of which we now know quite a bit.

Madam President, I am grateful.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Husbands, you have the Floor.

Senator H. A. HUSBANDS: Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise, like all other Honourable Senators, to give my support to this Resolution to vest these lands in the body identified. I also want to give my full support to the project. There is a Trinidadian Calypsonian, one Senator referred to him earlier, Chalkdust who had a calypso and in part of it he said, if I am to paraphrase him, I was in town too long. Well, I was in town long. I was in town when you could come up Broad Street and swing right at the Swing Bridge. I was in town when Lorenzo Best taught swimming lessons at the Harbour Police Pier. I was in town when Foggerty was at the top of Broad Street. I attended Westbury Infants and Wesley Hall Junior School. I have said in this Chamber already that the St. Leonard's Church where I was confirmed... At the time I lived at Eagle Hall just at the top of President Kennedy Drive really and my father had me on a route from school and I had to walk that particular route every evening otherwise at the bottom of Kings Street I would swing left and head down Baxters Road and spend the evening exploring town and when my brother reported to my father my activities he put me on a route that I had to travel every single evening, so I am quite familiar with Bridgetown and therefore I am extremely pleased to consider myself a son of The City and to rise in support of this Resolution and particularly so that area of The City in which we are discussing the Library. I remember I have said in the Chambers before that I remember that a Saturday morning my father took me by hand and we walked down to join the Library. He had spent a lot of time working at Central Police Station so I am quite familiar with those areas around there, and since coming back to Bridgetown where my office is located at the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation I have spent a lot of my lunch time walking Bridgetown and re-exploring some of the areas that I knew very well as a boy.

Madam President, I think I understand the issue very well of the restoration of Bridgetown and the preservation

of historic buildings and so on. There is this debate that Bridgetown is dying and so on but I do not share that view because as I said my office is located in Bridgetown and I walk these streets regularly and I do not fear that. When some people say that Bridgetown is dying, what they really mean is that their business is dying. There is a very active and vibrant set of small micro business entities which are taking over Bridgetown and doing a significant amount of business. There are many little malls which were opened in recent times in The City and are catering to particularly young people. You only have to be in Bridgetown any Saturday morning to see this developing trend, so I understand, I think, full well.

I believe that for Bridgetown to grow and for us to understand the changes that are occurring in Bridgetown there are a number of things I want to focus on, a number of developments that I think make the point that the Government of Barbados has made significant investments in The City and that far from dying there is a vibrancy about it, but before I get to that I want to correct Senator Worrell who spoke about the absence of an upscale restaurant in Bridgetown because note that as I said I was in town long.

I know Senator Worrell is from St. John so he may not be familiar with the Waterfront Café, which I consider to be one of the leading restaurants in Barbados and I will invite him to join me there for some 'melts', as my guest, for the Latin American dish, I may be pronouncing it incorrectly, Ceviche and rounding it off with a carrot cake which I have done regularly and in recent times. Once you go there and you have that it is like you are in Heaven and many businessmen make use of it, but let me get back to the main point I was making.

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7.10 p.m.

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Senator A. R. WORRELL: Madam President, on a point of elucidation, I would just wish to let the Honourable Member knows that there is an opening on March 5th which is my birthday.

Senator H. A. HUSBANDS: Madam President, Senator Worrell can be my guest at the Waterfront Café. Madam President, I believe that in order for us to redevelop and reposition Bridgetown some major things have to happen and they have started, for example, the Government of Barbados, and I understand that a Resolution is on its way here which deals with the \$50 million that the Government has spent in the Bridgetown Port to accommodate some of the largest cruise ships in the world to visit this country. Madam President, that expenditure

first is part of the general restructuring and rebuilding of the economy. Secondly, it is also aimed at revitalizing and expanding economic activity in Bridgetown.

Madam President, I must tell you that some of the responses I have seen from business people in Bridgetown to that development have been extremely disappointing. Ma'am, the Government has laid out \$50 million. I have already said here that on the days when those ships are in Barbados what it exposes is how small the Barbadian economy really is because on the last cruise season when those two cruise ships which brokered at the same time -- and I went and saw it for myself -- this season they have apparently staggered their arrival. The last cruise season when they were here at the same time there were not enough vehicles in Barbados -- tour buses, trucks, mini buses -- to transport the people to and from the airport, to conduct the tours around Bridgetown and so on and so forth. Madam President, as a matter of fact, on some days it was pretty embarrassing. Madam President, therefore that is a key investment that the Government of Barbados has made to assist with the revitalisation of Bridgetown.

Madam President, while it is true and we all support that concession should be given to businesses, there is a cost concessions and so when you give concession to businesses you are really taking money from somewhere else or from somebody else to give to someone else, that is the reality and therefore the project cannot really be done on the basis of concessions, it must be done on the basis of expansion of economic activity not only in Bridgetown but throughout the entire country. It is on that basic that we will be able to find the money to do what is necessary in Bridgetown because the concessions will only take us so far.

Madam President, when we talk about concessions and restoration there is a historical sociological reality that we have to confront. There are still people in this country who do not believe, with all sincerity, that plantation houses should be restored, that is a historical fact and reality that we have to confront. Ma'am, when we understand what a concession is, when you put a concession in its correct context it helps to explain that reality.

Madam President, the other major development that is occurring in Bridgetown is the Hyatt Hotel. The importance about that development is that it is not Government this time but a private sector development. We talk about expanding activities in Bridgetown, about bringing it to life and so on and so forth. There is no major city, whether it is an old world city or one that was built in 2000 that does not have a major hotel. Ma'am, Bridgetown is probably the only major city anywhere that does not have a hotel. We cannot do it, how much ever we would like to restore and so on, there must be economic activity in

Bridgetown to help to underwrite that and that is the whole philosophy behind all of this. Madam President, sometimes our politics gets in the way because the Barbados Labour Party understands this very well, that is why they designated that entire area to tourism development, that is the basic on which we had a Pierhead Development Project. All this has to be underwritten by economic activity.

Madam President, there is another activity that has taken place that has gone largely unnoticed. Ma'am, last Christmas in this Bridgetown many people have not noticed that the Atlantic Race for yachts has returned to Bridgetown as the Government has signed a three-year contract with the people who own the race and our former colleague, Senator Peter Gilkes, has worked hard in order to achieve that.

Asides.

Senator H. A. HUSBANDS: Let me put it this way, I owe him a debt of gratitude. Ma'am, when we talk about restoration, about rebuilding of this and that building and so on, it has to be underwritten by solid firm economic activity. Last Christmas 73 yachts came, there were about 500-odd people who came. Next year we are expecting to be able to expand that. In May and June this year Bridgetown will be the centre of two of the largest sailing events coming across the Atlantic. Ma'am, I am sad to think that some people... Maybe the weakness is ours, if we do things and people do not understand them, we cannot blame the people, we must look see if we are explaining to the people in the country what we are doing and why it is being done. If people are not understanding, that comes from my days as a teacher, if the children did not learn it meant that you have not taught them, it is not the fault of the children, so that if we are not explaining properly then we have to deal with that, but these activities take place and they are taking place in Bridgetown.

Madam President, along with that there is a whole lot of activity going on. We talked about the millions that were spent on Berth 5; Hyatt Hotel which is private sector development; Atlantic Yacht Race which is public-private-partnerships where the yacht owners are private sector, with the Barbados Tourism Authority has been promoting and enticing them back to Barbados. Ma'am, there are yet a number of things, for example, the restoration of Queen's Park House. Again every day I take a peek at it because I too have doubts as to whether or not it could be done in time for what they are planning for it. I am also amazed at the way in which that work is proceeding.

Ma'am, from Queen's Park you then come to the Church Village Green which has already been spoken about; the restoration of the River Terminal where fish and birds are returning there.

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Senator H.A HUSBANDS: ... When you walk over the bridge, there are fish, and birds are returning to that area. When you cross over there is the restoration of the Cathedral.... I hope that when the Opposition gets back its ten per cent, they will make a donation to the restoration of St. Michael's Cathedral. I go there every now and then and sit in the Cathedral and watch the stained glass windows and the quality of work that is being done there. I also drop a little something in the box. Remember I said I was confirmed at St. Leonard's. Remember that. In the area in front of the Central Bank, there is the old Masonic Lodge; tremendous work. If you walk along the banks of the River -- you can call it a river -- from the Ministry of Education along the banks of the river right into Bridgetown, again, there is tremendous work. The weakness we have with all these things is maintenance. From the amount of garbage along the river bank, it is clear that people who use minibuses throw their things out through the windows, but it equally clear that some people use the garbage receptacles which are provided. The weakness is that these garbage receptacles are not removed, and then the garbage is scattered all over the place. We are destroying, or rather, not maintaining properly what is a tremendous development along the bank of the Constitution River. There are all of these things occurring in Bridgetown.

The restoration at the Police Barracks in Tudor Street, again, is a part of my childhood. My father was a policeman and I would have spent some time running up and down the stairs of those barracks. The work is continuing there. Actually, on Tudor Street there is greater economic activity, and I notice that some of the people who occupy those stores along there have been taking care of the storefronts and restoring some of the balconies and so on along there. These are people who would need help and guidance and so on, and that is what we ought to be providing for them. There are challenges, there are difficulties, but there are these things which are working well. This, I notice, has led to the increase in the Walking Tours of Bridgetown which Senator Worrell referred to. Only today when we left here at lunchtime, a local historian had a group walking. I notice that has become a business in Bridgetown, especially during the tourist season. There are also motorcycle tours of Bridgetown, and only last week I noticed that there was a running tour of Bridgetown; one Bajan man in his gym outfit with about ten tourists running behind him as he went through the Park and stopped and resumed. There is all of this activity occurring.

There is one thing I want to mention. I want to pay special attention to the local Chapter of the Royal Commonwealth Society. There are a lot of organisations in recent times which I have developed a lot of respect for, because I have become acquainted with the work they do, and the work they do for young people. At Christmas, the trees which were in the Square here were provided by the Royal Commonwealth Society, which invited schools to decorate those trees using recyclable material and labelling them with the names of various Commonwealth countries. The students and their teachers had to spend time researching various Commonwealth countries. I was familiar with students who did South Africa, and I spent some time going to each tree and I saw tremendous work and tremendous imagination which the young people and their teachers used to decorate those trees using recyclable material. I thought that was a spectacular achievement. I had the good fortune to be standing looking at the tree that was decorated in the name of South Africa, when two people who were on one of the yachts in the Careenage from South Africa turned up next to me and told me how proud they were and how good they felt. They were amazed at how the children interpreted various aspects of South African culture. It was tremendous, but do you know what? Early in January I happened to be listening to one of the radio call-in programmes one day, and those people called in and bashed those students. It all was because they thought it was something organised by the Government, and they abused the students and the trees. It was sickening. Somebody with a foreign accent had to explain, "Stop. This is not right."

There was one which I was particularly struck by, and I must say in all fairness and in full disclosure that I am partial to that school for reasons which you would know. The teacher and the children went to the extent to use the ancient Japanese art of Origami to depict the animals of South Africa, and these were children in the Infants Department and Class 1; small children. They did tremendous work, and to have big people who did not even know what they were talking about saying, "I pass but I did not look but they did look so...." I think that we need to slow down. When we talk about increasing activity in Bridgetown, we are not only talking about bars and restaurants and so on, but we have to compliment those organisations like the Royal Commonwealth Society, which use their imagination to bring a variety of activities into the City.

Madam President, I want to close by making two quick points. The first one is that I would really like to see one of my pet projects being worked on. As much as we discuss this one and the significance of it and how delightful it really is, the project of this Resolution really brings back memories. I remember my days walking along to go into the Police Station or the Library and seeing those walls there which people referred to as "the Old Fire

Station". I thought those were tremendous. However, in terms of the slave burial ground at Newton, I think that we as country should pay greater attention to restoring that. I know that throughout the United States, slaves' burial grounds have become areas of important conservation, and I feel that we ought to also pay some attention to this aspect of life here in Barbados. I want to close.

7.23 p.m.

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Senator H. A. HUSBANDS: Madam President, I am a member of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society and I notice, when I got the last issue of their Journal, that the Editor, Dr. Carl Watson, is retiring and giving up that post and I want to congratulate and thank him for the work that he has done. When I travel overseas I visit museums and so on and I do not know of any museum anywhere with a Journal that is as regular and is as a high quality of the Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society certainly not in the Caribbean, maybe in some other countries there is one but I would risk to say that certainly in our region there is none like this, and I sincerely hope that whoever follows on from Dr. Watson is able to maintain the high standard to which this Journal has now become.

These are things in our society that we take for granted. You are a member or whatever and you take for granted that every couple of months the Journal would arrive and you do not even think about the amount of work it takes to produce such. Just as I spoke about the local chapter of the Royal Commonwealth Society, the work that had to go in to having those trees here in the centre of Bridgetown, we ought to be grateful and thankful to these people, so in that spirit, Madam President, I want to thank you and this Resolution has my full support.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Watson, you have the Floor.

Senator J. A. WATSON: Thank you, Madam President. I rise to make a contribution to this Resolution which is to vest land at Pinfold Street and Magazine Lane in the Barbados Jewish Community Incorporated. Madam President, I want to commend the Jewish community for its contribution to the development of Barbados over the years. As was said before, and I also will say, the Jewish community really and truly was quite responsible for our success in sugar having come here in those days as refugees from Brazil, and I think they would have contributed significantly to Barbados' success with the development and cultivation of sugar cane and ultimately sugar.

The Jewish community, even though small, have made a lot of contributions to Barbados. I personally had some contact with some of them. I think the best known family in Barbados would be the Altman family. It is quite understandable that Sir Paul Altman would be the leader in getting this project started and continued. Madam President, Sir Paul Altman is a very well-recognised Jewish Barbadian or Barbadian Jew however you want to describe him but he has done much in Barbados. I think he is best known for his real estate business especially the upmarket sector of the real estate business. His contribution was significant enough that he was knighted last year. His contribution to the University of the West Indies is also noted. He has been made an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of the West Indies, and in fact if I am not mistaken, he still is the Chairman of the Campus Council of the University of the West Indies so his contribution and by extension the Jewish contribution to Barbados is significant.

This vesting of the land in the Jewish community for the restoration of the Synagogue is certainly an important project for the further development of our attractions in Barbados, and it is against this background, Madam President, that I have absolutely no difficulty in supporting this Resolution.

Madam President, every race, no matter where they are in the world, always ensure and maintain their heritage. They create events and symbols to inculcate their history into the heads of the young ones to ensure that their culture lives on. For this reason, Madam President, without that knowledge your past will be not well known, and it is important, Madam President, for any race to be sure and to have a good foundation as far as their heritage is concerned. What that does, Madam President, is ensure that generations to come are well aware of their heritage. It also gives a race deep roots. As you know, Madam President, a tree without deep roots or a structure without a good foundation will fall at the weakest blow of the winds, and therefore it is important that any race would ensure that their heritage is well grounded.

Sir Paul and his family and the Jewish community in Barbados are right to maintain their heritage and we should not only applaud and admire them, but in fact we are actually supporting their effort to ensure that their heritage stands firm by having this Resolution this evening.

Madam President, when the Jews inculcated in the minds of generations past, present and future never again, that was an important aspect of their heritage and it must be commended because no one should ever forget their past. All of us should be well aware of the effects of our past, but while they have said to themselves never again we are telling our children to forget slavery.

Madam President, I want to declare, I want to say this in a particular way because it is important to me, that I John Anthony Watson son of Kenneth Christopher Watson and Annie Elizabeth Watson nee Oldtrum will never forget what I know of my heritage and I will always be open-minded to learn as much as I can about it.

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7.33 p.m.

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Senator Dr. Sir Trevor CARMICHAEL: Madam President, that is not going to stop me from moving forward or from looking forward; it is not going to make me into a racist; it is not going to make me hold grudges against any race; it is not going to make me vindictive, nor jealous, nor lazy. All those things we have been told from time to time about ourselves but believing and understanding my heritage, the deep roots that will stand me in good times when that wind blows. Madam President, that is my position, I will never ever stop trying to understand my past.

Madam President, every time you raise this issue of slavery or of our African heritage we are always given this story of forget the past, it is holding you back, you should not listen to that. That, Madam President, is probably what we are falling prey to, we have to understand our past, that is why Sir Paul Altman is going out of his way to make sure that the Jewish Synagogue is refurbished, it is part of their heritage and that should be commended and so I have no problem at all with this project.

Madam President, the Jews were very right when they said never again, that was about the death of some six million Jews. In our case Madam President, I wonder about the 600 million of us that lost our lives in various ways. We lost our lives when we were captured in the interior of Africa and brought to the ships; we lost lives on the ships; between Africa and the western world we lost millions of lives; we were put into slavery both here and the Caribbean, the United States of America and South America; we lost millions of lives through execution in some cases; we died from hard work in other cases, and we were lynched in some cases. Madam President, we should never forget our heritage because with remembering that heritage we have to be proud to see where we came from and where we are today.

Madam President, sometimes I get emotional about these things because too many of us try to forget our important heritage. Ma'am, some people may say that we were queens and kings before we got here, the fact that we were taken here and were made into chattels, in other words, we were not human beings, we were bought and

sold like any piece of material or fabric. Madam President, when you consider that only about 300 or so years ago and can look at the successes that we have in ourselves today, we are a great people and we have to continue to believe that we are great people and that even now where we are faced with probably one of the worst economic situations that we are experiencing, we are bright enough, we have enough tenacity to deal with what is in front of us now. That is how far we have come, Madam President. Madam President, can you imagine our women being used as production lines so that we could get more slave labour? Madam President, we went through 300 years of that kind of treatment and we came out of it.

Madam President, the preservation of any heritage just like the Jews are doing in Barbados now, you need symbols, you need monuments, you need something to remind you of your heritage and your success, you need to remember where you came from, the suffering you went through and the achievements that you have made. We need to celebrate the success of our African heritage. We need to remember all the suffering that our ancestors went through but most of all, Madam President, we need to celebrate the achievements of our people. We need symbols so that our children and our children's children can see what our achievements were. Madam President, I want to suggest that we have to celebrate General Bussa and we have done it, we have a monument even though it is called the Emancipation Monument we know that it really depicts the break with slavery. Bussa was strong enough to fight for the freedom of slaves in Barbados and the fact that we have erected a monument in his honour is very desirable. Madam President, like I said, it is wise for any race or people to remember from where they came.

Madam President, I want to mention a few of the things that I think we need to do. I think the idea of what the Jewish community is doing in Barbados is very good and it is a good example for other people to follow. I believe that other races in Barbados might do likewise. We have a history, albeit not too much, I do not think too much of it is being written. I have heard I think Senator Husbands mentioned Dr. Karl Watson. I have heard him on one or two occasions talked about the entrepreneurship of black people. I think that one of the university lecturers did write a book that was sponsored by Carlton Supermarket that gave us a lot of history about black businesses throughout the Caribbean, but Madam President, the person who I would want to mention is a person named London Bourne. The reason I chose London Bourne, Madam President, is that unfortunately I live on the south coast and so at least twice per day I pass on Bay Street and prior to the building that now houses the London Bourne Towers....

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Senator J.A. WATSON: ... Fortunately, I live on the South Coast so at least twice per day I pass on Bay Street, and prior to reaching the building that now houses the towers, there was an orange-type building on the corner of Wellington Street. That building, to me and from what I understand, was a symbol of black Barbadian entrepreneurship. That is what it was, a symbol, and we demolished it. I cannot believe that we had such a symbol. Here was a man who was born in slavery. In fact, his father, William Bourne, was able to work hard as an artisan and was able to buy his own freedom. Being free and being able to work well and work hard, he was then able to buy his family's freedom. He bought his wife's freedom, he bought London Bourne's freedom and he bought his brother's freedom; so there was a man who was able to get himself out of slavery through the work of his father but made good afterwards. He only got out of slavery at age 23 but he was able to build an empire.

Madam President, he did not only do business in Barbados. He had business in England. Here was a black Barbadian who had done so much in the area of business and entrepreneurship, who owned that building on the corner of Wellington Street, and who, even though the merchants of Bridgetown met on the top floor of that building, he could not go up there. He was never able to go into the top floor of that building because of his colour. That building, Madam President, should have remained as a symbol of black entrepreneurship in Barbados. It is not too late. I would love before I leave this Place, Madam President, to be able to participate in a Resolution of this nature to acquire the land on the other side of Wellington Street and for that land to be vested in the hands of some of our black businesspeople in Barbados. I do not know if I should call names, but there are a lot of prominent people in Barbados who are able to construct a building there and let it be called the London Bourne Centre for Entrepreneurship. Even if it does not get done before I leave in here, which is very unlikely, I hope that I would see it done before I die because I think that London Bourne is a very good example of what black entrepreneurship is all about. I call without calling any names, Madam President, but they would know who they are. There are several prominent and successful black businesspeople in Barbados in the supermarket business, in the trucking business and in the various types of businesses in Barbados, who can put their heads together. Some are in the lumber business as well. They can come up with a company which can put that project in motion, and I look forward to that happening, Madam President.

The third person is Clement Payne, Madam President. Golden Square should be sacred ground for the trade union movement. The trade union movement should take over that square and make it a nice meeting place; just

like the green area we talk about by the Central Bank. I believe that area can be a meeting place for labour discussions by the workers of Barbados. I believe that Clement Payne - people have different thoughts about him -- was a Barbadian, is a National Hero, and has done much for the development of the trade union movement in Barbados, and I believe that Golden Square is a fitting symbol for black development in Barbados, Madam President. I do not believe that the fledgling Clement Payne Centre has the resources to do it. I think they did well in being able to place a bustier. I think that they have done well in commemorating his name every year by having an event in Golden Square, but I think it is time. I look across at our retired top trade unionist in Barbados and I feel sure that he understands the importance of having such a symbol for the workers of Barbados. Therefore, it is something which can be done.

Madam President, I would like to end on that note because I think that the importance of symbols and events to maintain a heritage cannot be underestimated, and I wholeheartedly support the vigour and the tenacity with which Sir Paul Altman has gone about restoring the Synagogue in Barbados and making sure that the legacy and the heritage of Jews in Barbados is always visible. I think that we as a people need to follow that example, even though we should have been leading, but sometimes following is as important as leading. Madam President, with those words I wholeheartedly support this Resolution to vest the land in the Barbados Jewish Community, and I want to reflect that we should not forget our heritage. We should never forget that we are Africans, even though many people want to deny it and want to call themselves Barbadians; but the fact is that our history is rooted in the continent of Africa. I am obliged, Madam President.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Todd.

Senator Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy President. I rise to give full support to the passage of this Resolution to approve the vesting of Crown land in the Barbados Jewish Community Incorporated to facilitate the completion of the Synagogue restoration work at the Magazine Lane-Pinfold Street-Synagogue Lane area. I would wish to salute the outstanding contribution to the development of Barbados made by the Jewish community over the years, and note that there are a few more of the Jewish families who continue to contribute to Barbados' development.

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Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: ... contribution to the development of Barbados made by the Jewish community over the years and note just a few more of the

Jewish families who continue to contribute to the Barbados' development. We heard of Sir Paul Altman and his sterling work in real estate. May I also add families such as the late Leon Bernstein who was a business entrepreneur in the retail textile sector who owned Kathy's Retail Store on Swan Street and had an outlet on Broad Street in Cave Shepherd. The Swan Street location is now the venue for the \$3 Store. Mr. Bernstein was a very close friend of the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, I understand, and his son Paul Bernstein served as an Independent Senator on one occasion representing the business community. The late Leon Bernstein sister, the late Helen Raisman, was a pioneer in the drapery and furniture sector and her sons George, Martin and Dan, certainly Martin and Dan, have made significant investments in the horseracing industry which is a very important entertainment industry for Barbadians and visitors alike, and the list goes on, Mr. Deputy President.

Mr. Deputy President, before I go further, I would wish to just allude quickly to some points made by Senator Abrahams who suggested that Bridgetown is a dead city. I suggest humbly that that must be an indictment on the Barbados Labour Party because may I remind him that ... basically held The City seat on one and a half occasions. We just celebrated 50 years of independence and nearly half of those years the Barbados Labour Party held the reins of Government, so those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Mr. Deputy President, for example, whereas Senator Abrahams is criticising this Administration for neglecting the Central Police Station Compound, may I remind him and this Chamber that as Senator Husbands said this Democratic Labour Party most recently has been able to access tens of millions of dollars as part of our comprehensive citizen security initiative where several police stations across the island will be constructed and rehabilitated including Hastings Police Station, the retrofitting of the western barracks of the Central Police Station as well as the construction of a futuristic state-of-the-art police high command headquarters building in the Pine. I do recall, Mr. Deputy President, visiting Central Police Station on many occasions to patronise their cafeteria there, the food prices were excellent, while the Barbados Labour Party was in office and seeing in the centre of that Central Police Station compound a dilapidated wooden building where members of the public would go to get Police Certificates of Character where all of the fingerprinting ink was all over the walls of the building and it had to be demolished, the neglect of Central Police Station under the Barbados Labour Party, so I ask Senator Abrahams to reflect on that, so I would proceed.

When Senator Professor Sir Henry Fraser suggested that private sector concerns asked the Government to take the lead in terms of the fundraising for the restoration of

historic buildings and they would match the funds, it reminded me that I have heard that term used. As I understand it, the genesis of the National Initiative for Services Excellence is one in which the private sector came to Government and asked Government to match the funds that they would raise to operate the National Initiative for Services Excellence (NISE) on a day-to-day. They raised significant funds in the first year but NISE has been in operation for about a decade now and the private sector has been found wanting in terms of matching the funds provided by Government to ensure that very important agency promoting service excellence is able to pay its staff and remain open. In this current financial year the Government of Barbados has actually pledged and provided the better part of \$1.2 million and I ask the private sector how much of that have they matched, so that the Government clearly does take the lead in many of these national issues, so we encourage the private sector to play their part and step up to the plate and indeed match Government's contribution on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Deputy President, Senator Sir Henry Fraser did refer to Government having ignored the common-sense of restoration but as other Honourable Senators on this side and others have mentioned in this debate thus far we pointed to a number of initiatives that this Democratic Labour Party Administration, notwithstanding the global economic recession that we would have had to endure, was able to do. For example, we have been able to retrofit the Queen's Park Steel Shed under Minister Steve Blackett in the Other Place which has been neglected for years. That is an historic building which is heavily used for calypso tents and other public events. Of course, we are currently engaging in the restoration of Queen's Park House which houses the Daphne Joseph Hackett Theatre upstairs and on the ground floor the headquarters for the National Art Gallery. Again, the Barbados Labour Party was in office for 14 years and they neglected that to the extent that they had to close.

Furthermore, Mr. Deputy President, I recall that Senator Abrahams criticised this Democratic Labour Party Administration for not having restored the Carnegie Free Library. I say, Mr. Deputy President, without fair of contradiction, that the Barbados Labour Party does not have the moral authority to criticise this Democratic Labour Party Administration in terms of the provision of public library services because let me remind this Honourable Chamber that the Democratic Labour Party came in to office in 2008 inheriting a situation in which the same Carnegie Public Library had been closed for years under the Barbados Labour Party Administration where thousands of Barbadian students suffered in terms of not being able to access a place to study and in accessing reference material and so on because it had been closed under the Barbados Labour Party Administration, so Common Entrance students, CXC students, A'Level

students and university students all had to suffer and it is this Democratic Labour Party Administration that again with limited resources under again the Honourable Minister Steve Blackett that searched far and wide throughout Bridgetown and found the current location of the Bridgetown head office branch of the public library across the River at Independence Square where we refurbished that multi-storey building where we now have for a number of years under this Democratic Labour Party a modern air-conditioned public library available for usage by the masses of our country.

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8.03 p.m.

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SENATOR the Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Mr. Deputy President, let me proceed because I know that we have limited time and so I will be brief and would have to leave the rest of presentation, which could go on for hours, for another occasion.

Mr. Deputy President, I would just wish very quickly to point to some of the achievements of this Administration in terms of the revitalisation of our nation's capital Bridgetown, for example, the Constitution River Redevelopment Project. Mr. Deputy President, since assuming office in 2008, with the assistance of funding from the Caribbean Development Bank and executed by the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. we were able to execute the second phase which of course stretches from east of the Old Fairchild Street market up to the eastern end of Queen's Park. That whole stretch has been modernised where persons are now engaging in canoe paddling up and down the river or fishing. Mr. Deputy President, that area has now become a tourist attraction and it also aesthetically pleasing to the masses. There are well-manicured lawns, trees planted and cuscus grass planted. Mr. Deputy President, we were so flexible that in the midst of construction we heard from naturalists such as Dr. Karl Watson about the need to make adjustment in the planning to accommodate small sanctuaries for migrant birds such as cattle egrets where we were able to incorporate that into the final design.

Mr. Deputy President, I am happy to report that this Democratic Labour Party Administration has pledged to execute phase three of the Constitutional River Redevelopment Project which will go from the Queen's Park Gate to the James A. Tudor Roundabout, commonly called the Globe Roundabout. As part of that phase three project we will address the issues of housing conditions, roads, utility and other infrastructural concerns in that closely-knit community of Ellis Village, east of the Constitution River bordering Hall Road.

Mr. Deputy President, the list goes on in terms of the infrastructural work done by this Administration. Sir, just across the River you would have seen the Minister of Transport and Works, the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development and I at the groundbreaking ceremony at the River Van Stand Rehabilitation Project. Again the Barbados Labour Party was in office for 14 long years, they promised the ZR and mini bus operators and of course the thousands of working-class commuters who take those PSVs on a daily basis that they would address concerns such as flooding, lack of proper facilities in terms of waiting areas, parking bays for their vehicles, retail spaces, washroom facilities, lighting, et cetera, and the Barbados Labour Party were in office for 14 years but were unable to deliver on their promises, while this Democratic Labour Party Administration with limited resources has been able to pledge millions of dollars to the execution of that project which is well-underway. As I said the second phase has just been launched and we are seeing the fruits of that labour addressing the concerns of the masses who take PSVs, including tourists.

Mr. Deputy President, in fact, on one occasion a few months ago two young Jewish tourists met me in that area and asked for assistance in locating the Jewish Synagogue. Mr. Deputy President, it was around this time that evening. They were staying at a south coast hotel but they were adamant that they must relocate to a hotel which was within the vicinity of the Synagogue and therefore one can see how closely-knit the Jewish community is. In fact, they assumed that there was a vibrant Jewish community living in the vicinity of the Synagogue, something which is similar to what we see in the Muslim community in the city and other areas where it is commonplace for persons in this community will seek living accommodation within an earshot, as it were, of their mosque be it at Sobers Lane or Kensington New Road where you can hear the call to pray on a daily basis.

Mr. Deputy President, as I begin to wrap up because I know time is limited, this brings me to address the whole issue of the development of hotels in our nation's capital. I would just say that when I served as the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown in the Other Place, if you check Hansard you would see that while being Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown I would have been calling for both Government and private sector investment in terms of the construction of urban hotels. The city goes from the bottom of Beckles Road so that we have the whole Carlisle Bay area that I would have called for then and I reiterate the call for the construction of hotels. I know that the Minister of Tourism is heeding to that call because the Honourable Member would have public indicated that Government has a vision where in this Carlisle Bay area we can accommodate conference facilities, be they at Needhams Point and more hotel rooms along this area, while of course preserving the windows to

the sea. We already have a window to the sea just north of the junction of Beckles Road and Bay Street where there is a National Conservation Commission changing and washroom facility and a public accessible beach, so that along the way certainly we must have windows to the sea but that does not stop us from developing the tourism plant.

Mr. Deputy President, sometimes when we are at ground level we can take our surrounding for granted but we just have to go a few storeys up. I had the privilege on a recent occasion of going to the top floor of the Central Bank of Barbados and when one looks down at Historic Bridgetown it is a beautiful sight to behold, there is the meandering Constitution River, the housing stock, the playing fields, the local shops and the people traversing, all beautiful sights to behold. Mr. Deputy President, I remember on one occasion being on the top floor of the Old National Insurance Building which is to the east of the Fairchild Street Bus Terminal where you can look down at the Carlisle Bay area and see tourists and Barbadians alike traversing the beach. It is a beautiful sight to behold. I am saying that with these high-rise living accommodation and hotel plants it is a very attractive venue to locate a hotel. On one occasion I served as Acting Minister of the Environment when the office was located on Hincks Street and as I looked down at the mouth of the Constitution River it was a beautiful sight to behold. On one occasion the Cabinet under the late Prime Minister David Thompson visited the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., car park on Princess Alice Highway and when you are on the top floor you can see Bridgetown and its suburbs, which are beautiful sights to behold and so this is the sort of panoramic view that tourists occupying these urban hotels would be able to enjoy.

Mr. Deputy President, I therefore fully support Government and private sector investment in terms of hotel development, properly planned of course in our nation's capital because that gives rise and facilitates the rehabilitation of our nation's capital in terms of the provision of jobs, the construction phase be it artisans, masons, steel benders, et cetera, also sustainable jobs as the Minister of Tourism would have mentioned in terms of long-term employment prospects for persons to work in the hotel in the area of housekeeping, bar, laundry, security, front office, administration accounting and so on.

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Senator Hon. P.M.T. TODD: ... Of course, there will be sustainable jobs, as the Minister of Tourism would have mentioned, in terms of long-term employment prospects for persons to run the hotel when we look at housekeeping, the

bar, restaurant staff, laundry staff, security, front office, administration, accounting and so on. Of course, there will be this trickle-down effect as these thousands of tourists will be able to fan out and spread out throughout Bridgetown and patronise the bars, rum shops, restaurants and retail outlets, Baxters Road and Nelson Street, Mr. Deputy President. This would be bringing economic activity and jobs to Barbadians and residents of Bridgetown. This is what the Hyatt or whatever will do. The Barbados Labour Party would have been touting when they were in office the Pierhead Development Project. They had special legislation and they were not able to inspire the private sector to run with that project, so I believe there is a lot of jealousy there. I believe the Barbados Labour Party realised that they dropped the ball but this Democratic Labour Party, through mature and sound leadership, has been able to inspire the private sector to partner in terms of buy-in to invest heavily in tourism development in terms of hotel construction. There is room for many more, Mr. Deputy President, so no apologies need to be made from this end.

Mr. Deputy President, as I said, I could go on and on but I rest my case here and fully support the passage of this Resolution. I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, you have the Floor.

Senator Hon. Ms. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Thank you very much, Madam President. As I rise to wrap up this Debate on the Resolution to approve, in accordance with Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Chapter 225 of the Laws of Barbados, the vesting in the Barbados Jewish Community Incorporated of a parcel of land, the property of the Crown, situate at Pinfold Street and Magazine Lane in the parish of St. Michael, to facilitate the completion of the Synagogue Restoration Project, I want of course to thank all those who spoke, Madam President. I will assure my colleague Senator Boyce, who led off debate, that I actually was hearing him on my return to this Chamber. As you know, I had to leave temporarily but I was able to hear almost the beginning of his contribution on my journey back here, and I believe that in speaking to this, much has been said about the history of the Jewish community in Barbados and the factors which gave rise to the construction of the Synagogue. As we heard, it is one of the oldest in the Western Hemisphere, said to have been built between -- I see two dates -- 1651 in one set of information, and 1654 in another. That would have been as we had the migration or settlement of Jews from Recife in Brazil. We know of their connection with the sugar industry there. We also would have heard of the Synagogue's destruction in 1831 by a hurricane and its reconstruction. I did read somewhere that because of the small population of worshippers, it was deconsecrated in

the early 1900s, but of course with the restoration and so on that has changed.

It is indeed a very historic edifice, and for persons of the Jewish faith there are some very important aspects to that, where it makes it not only one of the oldest in the Hemisphere but it is indeed of significant value, so to speak. However, I would want to focus on the contribution which the restoration and the extension are making. The refurbishing of the Synagogue would have happened some time ago, and what is taking place now is part of a bigger plan. I am happy to say that about three or four years ago one of my ministerial colleagues from Canada came to Barbados because his assistant was being married at the Synagogue. They were particular excited because of its history and so on. It is part of the whole restoration and rejuvenation of Bridgetown. We heard from many Senators. In fact, as I listened to the presentations -- on the one hand the early presentation by Senator Fraser and then the one by Senator Husbands -- I really got to see two sides of the coin. I heard a lot of lamentations. I know the passion which Senator Fraser brings to the issue of heritage, but I also saw the picture of much of what is happening.

The interesting thing is that in a small economy such as this, there is the challenge which the Government has in terms of being able to allocate scarce resources. As you would have heard from Senator Todd, he mentioned the example of the National Initiative for Service Excellence (NISE) and the pledge of the private sector when they brought the idea to Government that they would partner in funding, but that funding has not materialised after the initial funding. I would not go into that much because I think Senator Husbands spoke to the matter of scarce resources. My concern is, in looking at this and in listening to the contributions of others -- because in my input to the Debate I will focus on some of those contributions to make, in turn, a set of recommendations -- we need to also put on the table, as I said, recommendations to accomplish some of what we see happening here in terms of either being able to tap into the excellent resources of philanthropists or, as what I would call an indigenous strategy, mobilising our own resources where possible, even if it is to be matched by those philanthropists. I am happy to say that with this vesting of land, we have seen the work which has taken place. It has transformed a historic corner of Bridgetown, and therefore it compliments a lot of what is happening.

As we talk about that, Senator Sir Trevor Carmichael very quietly said it and I do not know if many people realised what he said, but he did indicate that he was one of a team of two initially in trying to get this work done. I can also tell you that he has been working very hard in relation to what I would call the restoration of Roebuck Street. He did mention a very philanthropic Barbadian in that case, who does not live in Barbados by and large. I must say that

he is a young man. You called his name so perhaps I can repeat it. Again, if you see him he quietly does what he has to do and this is a young man who is younger than I am, so I can afford to call him a young man: Dr. Kurt Lambert, a product of our educational system. He has been doing a lot of work in Barbados and has been investing. This is one of the examples of an initiative which persons like himself have been approached about, because he recognises the significance of our history and therefore he is doing his part. I like the term that Senator Carmichael used: The demonstration effects at work. That is something which we have to work on. As we talk about the benefits of the inscription of Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison, we in Barbados, we in our positions as community leaders and we as seniors in several respects, et cetera -- I am stepping away from Government now because Government is always asked or called on first -- must put solutions on the table.

8.22 p.m.

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Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: We in Barbados, we in our positions as community leaders - I am stepping away from Government now because Government is always asked or called on first -- and we as seniors in several respects must put on the table solutions, and there are solutions.

I want to tap into the concerns expressed by Senator Watson when he called on the need... First of all, before I get to that let me say that I endorse the call to do something about the slave burial ground at Newton. I believe that, as we see in other places, there is scope for converting that into a historic place where it can be complemented by a museum or by whatever it is to create what I would call an experience for locals and others. Who should do it? We need to do it.

Madam President, I took the time just now to look for a number while we were talking. People like to call on the credit unions to do things. I do not call on the credit unions as an institution, I call on the members of the credit unions. In the credit union movement in Barbados, according to a statistics I looked at last year, there were about 34 credits unions with a membership of between 170 000 to 178 000, and to me that is a figure which speaks volume. I say that because I was involved in the early days of the credit union movement in the 80s when the City of Bridgetown, the Barbados Workers' Union Credit Union and a couple other critical credit unions were formed. At that time, in the case of my credit union, the City of Bridgetown, there were about 12 young people who felt that they could not participate in other credit unions given the rules and so on and they started one and it is now the second largest credit union, so I challenge the business

persons to whom Senator Watson referred to put a commercial proposal to Government even if Government acquires the land you speak about.

I remember some years ago, Senator Boyce would have been there at the time in the early days of the Bridgetown Cruise Terminal, when a certain property was being looked at to create a supporting facility for cruise tourism, and the former Chairman now deceased would have discussed with some business people - and I suspect that some of the people now are some of the same people, this is a small country - and they were not quite willing to open up an opportunity to a number of people and it never came off. My point is we can do things rather than talk about them. We can sit and put some concrete plans because I believe that if there is one thing we can do in this decade of people of African descent - and I have thrown this challenge out - I did not get his permission to call his name but I would not then since I did not, he is he chief spokesman on matters of this nature and I heard him speaking about the issue of the situation of black people - is to do something which speaks to economic enfranchisement, we can do it ourselves. That is the challenge I posed. We need to put our resources to work, the ideas are there. I

We talked about Bridgetown. I heard of the \$50 million that Senator Husbands spoke about and I hear the laments of the people in Pelican Village - I am speaking now of something right there at the doorstep of the Port - and my question is: Did anybody individually or collectively in that complex looked at the ship itineraries for the season which ends in April to identify the very ships that overnight in Barbados to which Senator Husbands spoke? We changed legislation in here to allow casinos to open on ships in Port, not for Barbadians to gamble, and that has contributed to the situation where we have a number of ships which are homeporting, and that is a significant opportunity.

Madam President, I leave my office many evenings between 8 and 9 o'clock at night and I drive down Cheapside or along Trevor's Way to my home in St. James and 95 per cent of the time I would pass Pelican Village and there is not a cricket around there. The point I am making is that we are sitting on opportunities and we cannot expect Government to do all. I heard the Minister of Tourism say that quite recently. There has been a lot done, whether it is legislation or whether it is money spent, because at the same time we are hearing that Government needs to reduce its spending, and the spending that we would have heard spoken about in terms of the Port and whatever are the transfers that we spent but those are supposed to facilitate.

We spent this morning talking about business facilitation. Here are opportunities to do exactly what has

been done in relation to this vesting. Madam President, 100 and something thousand people is almost the full workforce of Barbados. Opportunities are there. Commercial banks are now paying you what? They are paying you minus by now, so my argument is: If you are getting very little in terms of interest rates, there is scope for you to take a small percentage of what you have in there and invest it in some kind of venture capital fund to finance these kinds of projects. Of course, you are talking about projects that must have commercial value.

Madam President, on my way here I heard the spokesman for the Opposition talking about the old Supreme Court and the state that it is in, but ironically as a profession taken collectively, the legal profession on average is one of the higher earning categories of persons or professionals in Barbados, and I am very serious. I only see one practising lawyer here and I am sure that he would not disagree with me. Lawyers rent offices. Consultants may rent offices. Madam President, I said to myself, and I did share it with one of my colleagues, why is it not possible for members of that profession approaching other young professionals to say to them let us approach Government to acquire, to lease or whatever that whole Supreme Court space and maintain the historic character and set up a complex of offices and space in there for young professionals who cannot afford the traditional monthly rent so they may actually have access to physical space and services until they are able to do otherwise and so on. In other words, you are creating a revenue-generating space in an area traditionally utilised by people of your profession where you then can in essence do two things: Contribute to the regeneration, the revitalisation and the restoration of some of our history and historic buildings while creating and owning an operation, an edifice, an office complex and other things where you yourselves become the tenants for example, but we sit and say that Government should fix the building and let it stay there and do what. It can be used in ways that are revenue-generating. Those are illustrations that I have grown tired frankly of what I call the mourning and groaning across the country with everybody saying why does the Government not do this rather than say let me use my creative thinking and put on the table a number of solutions.

Madam President, some people say Bridgetown is dying but that is so because we do not spend time in Bridgetown. What do we do in Bridgetown? When I pass, as I said, I tend to work those kinds of hours because it allows me to stay out of the traffic...

Senate D4 Sequence 45

8.31 p.m.

Insert s46 prince

END

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IN THE BARBADOS JEWISH COMMUNITY INC.
OF A PARCEL OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF
THE CROWN SITUATE AT PINFOLD
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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Order No. 2, Senator Sir Trevor Carmichael's speech, take-slip S:D4 (35) 6.54 p.m.. The source carries two reporters' versions of the sentence about the Roebuck Street property housing an upscale coffee shop, either side of take-slip 'S:D4 (35) 6.54 p.m.'. The fuller version after the take-slip is printed and the first (about 50 words) has been left out. Please confirm.

Q3. Order No. 2, Senator Todd's speech, take-slip Senate D4 Sequence 42 (8.03 p.m.). The source carries two versions of the passage beginning 'Mr. Deputy President, let me proceed because ... we have limited time', either side of take-slip 'Senate D4 Sequence 42, 8.03 p.m.'. The fuller version after the take-slip is printed and the first (about 60 words) has been left out. Please confirm.

Q4. End of the record. The source stops part way through Senator McClean's closing speech on the Resolution, after the take-slip 'Senate D4 Sequence 45, 8.31 p.m.' and the note 'Insert s46 prince'. No question on the Resolution and no adjournment are recorded. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 1, Senators DePeiza and Fraser. The speech of Senator Miss V. A. G. DePeiza (about 1,200 words) and the start of Senator Prof. Sir Henry S. Fraser's speech are printed under the heading 'MADAM PRESIDENT', run on from the President's call ('... you have the Floor. SENATOR Miss V. A. G. DePEIZA: ...'). Printed as in the source.

Q6. Order No. 2, Senator J. A. Watson's speech, take-slip Senate D4 Sequence 39 (7.33 p.m.). After the take-slip, about 940 words that continue Senator Watson's speech on his African heritage are printed under the heading 'Senator Dr. Sir Trevor CARMICHAEL'; Senator Watson's heading resumes after the next take-slip. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Orders No. 1 and 2, take-slips. Several reporters' notes are typed as paragraphs ('No.D4 (10)1.04 p.m.', 'Seq. 11', 'No.D4 (40)', 'Seq. 41', 'Seq. 44'), and the President's call 'Senator Hunte, you have the Floor' is given twice, either side of a take-slip. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Order No. 1, wind-up. The Notaries Public Bill was moved by Senator McClean but wound up by Senator the Hon. D. W. Boyce, and the Clerk of Parliament is recorded intervening to confirm that his speech was the wrap-up. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met on Wednesday, 22nd February, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. in the Senate Chamber, with Her Honour Senator Miss Kerryann F. Ifill, President, in the Chair; prayers were led by Reverend Canon Errington Massiah. The Leader of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean, laid the Invest Barbados Report 2015 and the Health Services Smoking (Regulations) 2017, and moved the first reading of the Barbados Revenue Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

Senator McClean moved the second reading of Order No. 1, the Notaries Public Bill, 2017, which would increase the number of persons authorised as Notaries Public from about 13 by eight to 21, adding senior public officers such as the Solicitor-General, the Deputy Solicitor-General, a number of Permanent Secretaries and their deputies and the Supervisor of Insolvency. Senator W. A. Abrahams agreed that more Notaries were needed but argued that the office should be decentralised and opened to the private sector; Senators McClean and Miss V. A. G. DePeiza answered him on points of order, reading the long title.

Senator Sir Roy Trotman supported the Bill in the light of inward-looking trade arrangements. Senator DePeiza said there was consensus that the measure would ease the doing of business. Senator Prof. Sir Henry S. Fraser asked why the Bill had not come as an amendment, and was told on a point of order by Senator DePeiza that Barbados had no Notaries Public Act. Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd and Senator Dr. Sir Trevor Carmichael also supported the Bill. After lunch Senator the Hon. D. W. Boyce wound up, speaking on what he called 'base erosion and profit-sharing' in international business. The Bill passed through Committee, clauses 1 to 8 and the three Schedules being agreed with Senator the Very Reverend H. E. Crichlow in the Chair, and was read a third time and passed as the Notaries Public Act, 2017.

Senator Boyce then moved Order No. 2, the Resolution to approve, under section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225, the vesting in the Barbados Jewish Community Inc. of Crown land at Pinfold Street and Magazine Lane, St. Michael, to facilitate the

completion of the Synagogue Restoration Project. He recalled the restoration of the Synagogue about ten years earlier. Senator Abrahams called it a 'feel good' Resolution but argued that Bridgetown was dying and that historic buildings such as the Old Eye Hospital needed to be restored and used. Senator A. A. Adams described the Jews' arrival from Brazil around 1640 and their part in the sugar industry, and Senators J. Ince and Sir Henry Fraser, who chaired the Preservation Trust, spoke on reviving and preserving Bridgetown.

After a suspension until 6.00 p.m., Senators A. R. Worrell, the Very Rev. H. E. Crichlow, R. A. Hunte, Sir Trevor Carmichael, H. A. Husbands and J. A. Watson supported the Resolution; Senator Watson spoke of his

African heritage and called for symbols of it, saying, of Clement Payne, that Golden Square should be sacred ground for the trade union movement. Senator Todd, under Mr. Deputy President, replied to Senator Abrahams and listed the Government's work on the Constitution River Redevelopment Project, police stations and the Queen's Park Steel Shed.

Senator McClean began her wind-up on the Resolution, endorsing the call for action on the slave burial ground at Newton and urging credit union members and the private sector, rather than the Government alone, to seize opportunities in Bridgetown and at Pelican Village. The record ends during her speech.