
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

THE SENATE

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, the May 17, 2017 at 11 o'clock in the morning.

PRESENT

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

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

Senator REGINALD A. HUNTE, J.P.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ABSENT

Senator JOHN A. WATSON

Senator Dr. CAROL LADY HAYNES, M.B., B.Sc.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Good morning. The Senate is now in Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HER HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

MADAM PRESIDENT: I am in receipt of excuses for absence from Senators Watson and Lady Haynes. They will both be unable to join us for the duration of today's Sitting.

MINUTES

MADAM PRESIDENT: I am further in receipt of the Minutes for May 3. Are there any corrections or omissions? There being none, I ask that these Minutes be confirmed.

PAPERS

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

1. The Audited Financial Statements and Annual Reports on activities of the Board of Management of Ellerslie Secondary School for the periods 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008.

2. The Royal Barbados Police Force Annual Report 2013.
3. The Grantley Adams International Airport (GAIA Incorporated) Annual Report 2015.
4. The National Petroleum Corporation Natural Gas Annual Report 2010.
5. The National Petroleum Corporation Natural Gas Annual Report 2011, 2012 and 2013.
6. The Department of Emergency Management Annual Report January 1-December 31, 2015.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Senator Hon. Ms. M. P. O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Senator Hon. Ms. M. P. O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that the National Petroleum Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2017, be read a first time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER No.2

The Second Reading of the National Petroleum Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, you have the Floor.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Thank you, Madam President. Today we consider the National Petroleum Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2017, and the main purpose of this Amendment is to expand Section 21 of the existing Act to make the purpose of the Regulations for the administration of the Act clearer and more detailed. The current Act provides that the Minister may make Regulations for the administration of the Act. The proposal is that the Minister may make Regulations to proscribe fees and rates as well as Regulations for installation and maintenance inspection and examination of natural gas pipelines, and generally to give effect to the purposes of the Act. The change also provides for a penalty for persons

who offend against the Act, that penalty being \$1 000 or imprisonment for 12 months or both.

Madam President, the rates charged by the National Petroleum Corporation (NPC) are exceedingly low rates. They are at such a level that everyone wants to get natural gas. Every business, if it can get natural gas, wishes it had it as well. Madam President, those rates, in the case of the commercial customers, have not changed since 1994, and the rates for domestic customers have not changed since 2002, so they have been there for a very long time and the rates for natural gas are lower than those for any other fuel in the country. Madam President, at the same time the cost of natural gas which we supply has trebled since 2002, and the amount of natural gas that we have in the country has declined consistently since the early 2000s.

11.41 a.m.

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Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Per customer, and therefore we have had to resort to a situation where where we have a line going to a large commercial entity which can therefore bear the cost of the connections then we are able to add on some domestic customers there, so having the commercial customers help the National Petroleum Corporation in two ways: (1) it gives them the volume on a line so that they can recover the cost of providing the gas and (2) it also then create the opportunity to be able to extend gas to domestic customers who are near that line. That, Madam President, is what we would dearly loved to be able to do in all instances but we are not there yet because it still costs us money to put in those domestic connections and we still do not have the gas as yet, but I will tell you more about the plans to expand that gas in a little while.

Madam President, what the National Petroleum Corporation now does is that when the Ministry of Transport and Works is cutting or repairing a road the General Manager of the National Petroleum Corporation gets to know and he tags along and make sure that he can put in a little line as well or that he can repair a line, or if somebody is doing a housing development and he knows he goes there and tags along behind them or if the Barbados Water Authority is doing a development he tags along and puts in a new line or something like that to be able to expand the number of customers that have access to it, but this is not what it should be. The General Manager should not have to be waiting on any of them to do something so that he can then tag along. Where it is convenient and where it is economical clearly he wants to continue to do that and to be able to plan that so that we do not dig up the roads twice, we will just do it once and make

it more efficient and more convenient for the country but he really should be able to plan what he wants to do so that he can put down the lines and can run the connection to people.

Madam President, putting down new lines is one issue but fixing the old lines is another issue, a safety issue, an issue to which we ought to pay attention. We are very conscious of this, and I have given the Ministry instructions that they cannot have the lines leaking because that then puts liability on all of us who have any connection with the company as directors or as management or as ministers, that we are not carrying out our fiduciary responsibility to the public.

Madam President, when you have a utility whose pipes are in some instances close to 50 years old... The National Petroleum Corporation was set up in 1981 but that was a successor to the Natural Gas Company that we had previously so those lines are old lines, very similar to the situation with the Barbados Water Authority. Well, the Barbados Water Authority lines are much older than them but you have these old lines and sometimes you have them in places which are not too easily accessible anymore. They used to be accessible in the old days when we all walk and trek through the hills and so on, but you have some of these pipes going through gullies and so on and which are covered with bush and whatever else so they have to go out there and continue to maintain and clear things and look and see where they have got leaks and mend them and so on, so they have got to do this kind of work constantly.

Madam President, each year they spend anywhere between \$2 and \$3 million, and that is a minimum spend, on maintenance, but they need to spend more than that, just trying to fix the pipes that are there and stop them from bursting and causing damage both to the atmosphere and also to life and limb and so they got this job that they have to do and then they are trying to do the best they can but really they need to be able to do more than that.

Madam President, we have had to bite the bullet and come and say we need to do our regulations which gives the Minister clear authority to set rates for the Corporation to enable the Corporation to pay its way and to repair and maintain the assets, the pipes, that it has to be able to expand the supply of gas and to maintain that supply of gas and then to expand it. Our hope is that with the new rates that we will set that we will be able to maybe each year get another 500 or 600 or more customers. I think I just indicate that I want about 750 customers per year put on to the line. They are doing now 300 per year. I have sent the instruction that I would dearly loved to see them put on 800 or so a year which would help me to not have to take all of the noise coming from all of the parliamentarians on all sides about natural gas in their constituencies or prospective constituencies. Madam President, that is one of

the things we are going to do. We want to get those funds to do the expansion and the maintenance. That \$300 to \$400 million a year of maintenance should probably be up around \$5 million or \$6 million a year to do the job adequately that we want to do to maintain the safety of those lines.

We want to be able to get more of the gas to the commercial customers who want to use the gas and to the hotels and the restaurants who use it for their operations. As a matter of fact there is large hotelier who uses natural gas for his air-conditioning and that hotel is expanding and they would want to do some natural gas for its air-conditioning as well, and it is a very good hotel.

Madam President, if we are going to maintain the service to the customers, if we are going to repair the lines, if we are going to keep them in good condition, and if we are going to expand the capacity, we are going to have to import gas. We just do not have sufficient gas in Barbados to do it, and we have known that for a long time. I remember, Madam President, that when I was assumed responsibility for energy discussions were going on about a pipeline from Trinidad to Martinique and to Guadeloupe with a spur into Barbados so that we could get natural gas not only for what we have now but for the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited so that the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited could move from using heavy Bunker C Oil which is quite a dirty fuel with high emissions to using natural gas which will be cleaner. We are concerned about the emissions because of the prevalence of the respiratory illnesses that we have around the place so we tried to get the place to be as green as we can to stop some of those illnesses.

Madam President, those discussions were on for a long time and there are a couple of issues that stand out in my mind about those discussions. I will not tell me what my bias was, if you would call it bias, but my experience has thought me certain things about those sorts of projects. Each time you look at the cost of this proposed pipeline it went up because when you look at what you thought you would find on the seabed between here and Tobago it just looked like a very difficult project, so each time you looked at the cost it went up and nobody could tell you when it was going to stop, and that is one issue. Each time we began to

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Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Madam President, that was one issue, another issue was that each time we began to look for gas from the sourced country, you got

sent hither, thither and yon for about four years but you did not get any gas, nobody would offer you either half million or one million cubic feet of gas. It so happened, of course, that that country at the time was selling most of its gas as LNG to the United States of America, Europe, the Far East and so on. Further, that country developed its own problems with the supply of gas where they had problems with their own local supply to their local businesses, so that we had to find a way to be able to get our own gas and we had known that for the longest while. Of course, Martinique and Guadeloupe had decided that they were not pushing ahead with the pipeline and so it would have meant that Barbados would have been alone in carrying the cost of this pipeline, so that the matter took its natural course and so we had to resort to other means of getting gas. Madam President, we therefore tried out a pilot scheme of importing natural gas in Esso containers so that they could then hook that into the system.

Madam President, that small system we are going to expand during the course of this year and the next to make it capable of delivering all that we need for our current customers. We have taken the approach, and if anybody is to be blamed for it, it is the wrong approach, then I am the one to be blamed. Madam President, I have taken the approach that in a year's time if we were not to have any supply of gas from those Woodbourne fields which is where most of the gas is coming from, I would want us still to be able very quickly to get the gas to supply those 21 000 customers because you cannot just change out from those 21 000 customers from using natural gas to something else just in the blink of an eye. Madam President, I said to the personnel at both the National Petroleum Corporation and Barbados National Oil Company Limited to let us have a facility which enables us to supply the current customer base, that is the first order of business going forward. Ma'am, we have therefore got a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank to be able to do that and we expect that we will be signing that loan, as I have indicated to the Permanent Secretary that we should have that loan signed before the end of May, certainly before the end of June so that we can start the procurement going forward to enlarge that plant.

Madam President, I do not like the situation where we do not know how much we would get from the wells of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited because we did not know they were going to drop so precipitously in December, 2014. My view is that if it has dropped once like that, can it happen a second time and therefore I would not want to find out, I want us to be in a position that if it were to happen, that businesses could still run and people could still operate their households.

Madam President, when the discussions were going on about the pipeline out of Trinidad and Tobago the bulk of that gas that was to come along that pipeline was to have

been gas for the electric company to generate electricity, as the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited was to use most of that gas for that purpose. Madam President, because we did not get the gas from there and what gas we thought we would have got would have made it more expensive for the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited, rather than less expensive, we believe that if we can have the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited go back to the plan to use natural gas that the volume at which we would be able to import that natural gas would be sufficiently large that we could bring the cost of the natural gas down more towards what it would be if it was all local. Ma'am, right now what we are buying it is like nothing, it is like a drop in a big hat, not even a bucket and therefore if we could buy a good bucketful we would be able to get the price down to a level where we could then maintain the prices at a reasonably more level to persons.

Ma'am, the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited and the country is proceeding to do a lot more work in the renewable energy sector, solar and wind energy particularly and I will talk a little bit more about that, perhaps not at this time but Madam President when we have more matters coming to this Honourable Chamber, but it will still take the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited, I think their projection is up to 2045, to change out all of their plant that they now have to that of renewable energy. Ma'am, that is still 20 to 25 years away, even if they come forward and do it sooner.... Ma'am, the issue is that they have plant that is there that has not yet been fully depreciated or fully paid for and if they were to change and do all renewable energy, they would have to pay for the new equipment for the renewable energy and also have to pay off what was still outstanding on the existing plant. Ma'am, the idea is that you have is called "stranded" assets, what you do is that you would try to bring in the renewable energy equipment as you phase out the older equipment, but that old equipment can run with some relatively minor modern modifications both on highly fuel oil or diesel or it can run on natural gas. We prefer to use natural gas because it is cleaner and if it helps us to bring the cost of our gas down in the country then we would want to do that.

Madam President, we are therefore pursuing our discussions with the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited about the use of natural gas for power generation, instead of the heavy fuel oil or bunker seed, so that we can get the price of the gas down, so that we can now import gas in much larger quantities. Ma'am, part of that loan from the Inter-American Development Bank is to help us to prepare the project so that hopefully comes next year we would be in a position to go ahead and get that loan for the larger and more commercial LNG plant so that we can supply not only domestic/commercial customers but also the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited which is largest user of that natural gas.

Madam President, we are working on that and hopefully if my efforts to push the staff faster succeeds, we will be able to announce it. I am told it would be before the end of the year but I am hoping that when the year turns that they would put me in a position to be able to announce that loan is on target. Ma'am, you know that I am a fairly impatient patient and I know that you are not surprised at that. Madam President, that is part of what we are going to do for the future supply of gas in the country, using that as a transition fuel for the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited and to get to renewable energy 100 per cent and also to bring the cost of fuel down.

Madam President, we will also look to use natural gas as a transition fuel in respect to the transportation sector in the country. The transportation sector now uses gasoline and diesel but we believe that we can have some additional benefit by having some of them transitioned to using the natural gas which is cleaner and the diesel which give them the same kind of power that they would need in those vehicles.

No.D9 (4)12.16 p.m.

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SEN. D. BOYCE: ..some additional benefit by having some of them transitioned using the natural gas which is cleaner than the diesel and which should have the same kind of the power that they need in ridge box. We are doing some work on that now so we are able to see how feasible transitioning them to natural gas will be over maybe a 15-year period.

Part of the loan we are going to get, Madam President, from the Inter America Development Bank is to repair, renew and realign in some instances our distribution system. There is only so much repairs we can do in some of these lines. Some of them will have to be replaced. That loan will help us to replace some of those lines. We will have to put some new lines down to reach some additional customers both commercial and domestic, which we have made provision for in that loan. We will have to put in the most sophisticated equipment to help us to monitor the efficiency of those lines, so we can work quickly to get to see what is wrong and to repair them early before they become a problem for the country. That equipment will help us to improve the efficiency of operations of National Petroleum Corporation and the BNOCL.

Madam, part of that improvement will be to get the National Petroleum Corporation and the BNOCL the equipment they use, the compressors and so on, working off solar rather than using the natural gas, which we want to distribute to other people. Right now they have to use

their electricity or natural gas in the compressor to get the gas down the line. What we want to do is to use solar for the compressors, so all of the gas we produce or the gas we import can get to the desired destinations, which are the customers we have to serve. Madam, part of the loan from the Inter America Development Bank is to help us to install renewal energy solar photovoltaic systems in order to improve the operations of the National Petroleum Corporation and the BNOCL to reduce their cost down.

Madam, what we are hoping to make decisions on in the next, hopefully 6 to 9 months, we would have taken decisions in order to renew that distribution system called the National Petroleum Corporation and to put more of our businesses in a position where they can reduce their cost by using natural gas. Also to reduce the level of carbon emissions into the atmosphere. The Prime Minister and the late Prime Minister, David Thompson, have gone on record that they want to make sure Barbados is one of the greenest economies in the region. It does not happen overnight or by wishing into position. We have to take some decisions and execute them in order to get those things done, and this expansion of the natural gas, this curing of the natural gas situation and the expansion of the planned generation gas natural gas is part of that effort to make the country achieve some of its greening initiatives. We are part of the Paris Accord that we signed earlier, and we therefore have our own commitments to reduce the amount of the carbon emissions we put into the air.

Madam President, there is another institution of great importance to us that gets its fuel from the natural gas, the Natural Drilling Corporation, that is the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We always make sure they get their natural gas under whatever circumstances they find themselves. Madam, what we are going to do when we make these changes is to keep the cost of the natural gas to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at a consistent level. We feel that since the Queen Elizabeth Hospital represents the social structure of Barbados which helps us to preserve that social fabric that we ought to do whatever we can at the National Petroleum Corporation to make sure we do not increase their cost in operations. So we are going to keep the cost to them at the current price, so they do not have to face that increased cost.

Madam, the National Petroleum Corporation owns part of the Barbados National Oil Corporation and many skills are similar, many areas to share resources in, both in terms of equipment, skills and people. That process of looking at how we could do an amalgamation of the National Petroleum Corporation with the BNOCL is currently in process. I said earlier you know that I am not the most patient of persons, but in this instance of that amalgamation I am being very patient. Madam, you have two companies with some differences that if we are going to bring together, we will have to make sure that we do it in

a way that is fair to all the workers, we do it in a way that the unions and ourselves agree upon, we have to do it in a way that causes no disruption to the supply of fuel to the country. So the work continues. Where it is possible there are some service agreements between the two of them, where one company can do some services for the other company that is one way of starting the process of getting some greater efficiencies out of both companies, so we can reduce their own cost operations. That work will continue and hopefully we will get it all done this year, but as I said we are going to make sure that at all times we work with the employees and the their representatives, and that it becomes a model for these sorts of amalgamations in Government.

Madam, having mentioned the Barbados National Oil Company a number of times, having indicated that the supply of gas and oil the Barbados National Oil Company has been able to get is reducing. Let me say a word on two things, (1) on the drilling programme that Barbados National Oil Company has undertaken with some idea of the results of the drilling programme and one or two in the past and future that the Barbados National Oil Company will go on.

Madam President, between 2003 and 2007 the BNOCL drilled 18 wells for oil, principally, and the associated gas and developing some of those wells into production wells.

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SEN. D. BOYCE: ...principally and the associated gas and developing some of those wells into production wells. There was no drilling in 2006, 2007 or 2008. Madam, you will recall that in 2008 we made certain decisions about the financing of the BNOCL, to bring it from trading in bankruptcy to trading as a proper company. In 2009 drilling resumed and the company has drilled since 2009 to 2015, 25 wells. We drilled 18 wells between 2003 and 2005 and we drilled between 2009 to 2015, 25 wells. So the company has continued its drilling programme searching for what oil reserves we can find here to keep up the supply of oil including the exports, but as importantly to keep up the supply of gas to the country's distribution system. I believe another drilling programme is currently being planned from which we should see results. Most of those wells have yielded some oil and gas. One or two of them have not yielded. I am advised by the geologist that getting seismic data in our geology is very difficult and very tricky work. Despite that, we still have to do some searching for the oil. Therefore one would reasonably expect that every well you drill will not be commercially

successful. You have to do some exploration and some of that exploration will not pan out. Hopefully you will find enough panning out to cover the ones that are not successful. That is what has happened with the BNOCL. Most of these wells have been successful but one or two have not been successful. By and large keep going because they have managed to keep finding little pockets of oil and gas to keep the thing going.

Of course, Madam President, we expect to hit a new field, that is what we were trying to do most recently, you can expect that the old fields are going to yield less and less oil and gas. That is why I go back to what I said. I do not want us to find that we have no oil and gas and then start the plans to import on a large scale, I want to start planning now and put the thing in place. In this case it is better to have the capacity for too much, than to have the capacity for too little.

Madam, they continue to do their part in drilling and looking for new wells and in developing the ones that are successful. Therefore we keep on increasing the reserves.

Madam, this issue of BNOCL drilling and finding small amounts of oil and gas has been going on for 20 years. I remember I had the privilege to do some work when I was in the consulting field with BNOCL back in the mid-nineties. At that time they thought BNOCL would surely shut down because the supply was not yet there, but they kept investing, they kept using the best information they could find, to drill wells and to develop them. For 20 years they have been able to keep on finding some crude and kept on supplying natural gas to the country.

Madam President, I do not wish for them rely solely on finding oil and gas to keep going. Importing gas will help you keep going and paying the bills and so on as well. Madam, because we have embarked as a country on this matter of renewable energy using solar and wind, primarily solar. We have not moved as fast with wind as we would like to, but particularly solar, we have asked the BNOCL to see itself as being more than an oil company, but as an energy company, that is why they have really taken the decision at the Board level to changing the name of the Company, to Barbados National Energy Company Limited. What we want them to do is to negotiate with the land owners from whom they now lease the sites for drilling, to see if they can have appropriate leases to allow them to use those same sites that are discarded, which are not being used for drilling anymore, to put up photovoltaic installations, so as a company and with such installations are able to sell power into the grid and therefore have a steady stream of revenue coming to the company. Where they can use wind, where the locations are good for wind to look at some wind turbines so that between the wind, solar, crude and gas, they have a consistent source of revenue, a consistent source of profitability and therefore are in a

position to keep the people whom they employed, and hopefully in time to increase the number of people employed. That, Madam, is what BNOCL's role will be in the offshore oil and gas when that happens.

Currently we are taking advice from the international secretariat and so on about the environmental impact assessment and the environmental management plan that have been supplied to us by the BHT building people. Our waters are very deep waters. We are a tourist economy. The countries around are for the most part tourism economies and there are also fishing economies. Therefore, we are making every effort to ensure that what comes to us as an environmental assessment, what comes to us as an environmental management plan, is done to the highest standards to make sure that we protect the environment. We have an economy which while not at the best stage in the world, we are probably one of the best in the region if not the best in the region, where our unemployment is less than double digits, and therefore we have to make sure we do not go after the lure of the unknown, the high risk unknown, and put in danger what we now have in the country. What do they say about the bird in the hand and the bird in the bush, something like that, that kind of thing?

Asides.

SENATOR D. BOYCE: Madam, BNOCL will become BNECL with a natural gas unit, importation, where the BNOCL will be being the distribution agent with the offshore holding the licences, the Government's part of the offshore oil and gas, but producing onshore oil and gas and producing very importantly electricity from renewable sources solar and wind.

Madam President we have not moved as fast with the wind, because we have had to enter into consultation with the Civil Aviation Department and the airport to look at the location of some of the wind turbines, in places in the country where...

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Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: ... Madam President, we have not moved as fast with the wind because we have had to enter into consultations with the Civil Aviation Department and the airport to look at the location of some of the windmills and wind turbines in the places of the country where the wind profile is best. You have to make sure that the locations of those wind turbines do not interfere with the radar images which the airport gets when it is doing its air traffic control. We are therefore taking our time getting those profiles done properly, and making sure

they fit in with the radar readings in a way that does not cause any trouble. Madam President, when that is done, we will then put it out to the public so they will know where they can go and do the wind turbines. Madam President, until then I am going to hurry slowly. I am not going to make mistakes that we can avoid by doing that; and those mistakes, when you talk about air traffic and about tourism, are not cheap mistakes. Therefore, Madam President, I am taking my time on that.

Madam President, this time last year we did not have a whole lot of renewable energy installed. Now they tell me that we have 115 licences approved and we have 1 500 domestic and non-domestic renewable energy connections to the Barbados Light & Power (BL&P) grid. After we made the decision and the BL&P applied to the Fair Trading Commission for a fixed rate for the solar, we have seen an uptake once more in people wanting to install solar in their businesses and in their houses. We now have 1 500 of those connections, and an actual installed capacity of 13 megawatts. Barbados Light & Power has ten megawatts down in St. Lucy as well, bringing it to 23 megawatts, and that is about ten per cent of the peak load for that side of the country. We expect that before the end of this year that installed capacity will be close to 50 megawatts, given what plans we have seen; and by the middle of this year we will once again allocate an additional 60 megawatts, maybe, so that we would now have allocated 125 megawatts of power. We expect that by the next year we are going to have a significant uptake in renewable energy.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has two more minutes.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Thank you very much. The utility company will be able to have a substantial amount of renewable energy that they own in their grid, such that the Government offices will have substantial renewable energy in its portfolio. Madam President, we are putting solar on 13 buildings and we are looking for funds to put it on more buildings, save Government some money, and also help provide electricity for the country. We will have the Barbados National Oil Company Limited (BNOCL) doing its solar programme, and we will have private companies which are large enough to do ten megawatts and five megawatts and so on; and I know three or four companies which have expressed interest in doing so and there are companies which seem to have the resources, both technical and financial, to make that happen. Madam President, I am very hopeful that by this time next year we will have a considerable amount of renewable energy being put into our grid and Government would have played its part in getting that energy there.

Madam President, I have given a little bit of explanation on the natural gas programme and the plans for natural gas, a little bit on BNOCL as associated with the

NPC, and a little bit on the renewable energy programme. Madam President, I want to thank the staff of the BNOCL and the staff of the NPC for the fine work which they continue to do. They work under very tough circumstances, particularly now that the NPC has been actually seeking to find those burst mains, wherever they are and at whatever time. I think we need to give them the support that they deserve and to congratulate them for the work they continue to do. Madam President, I therefore wish to commend this Amendment to this Honourable Chamber and move that this Bill be read a second time.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Adams, you have the Floor.

Senator A.A. ADAMS: Madam President, I rise to make a contribution to this reading of the National Petroleum Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2017. Madam President, the main thing I want to say is that Senator Boyce, who has been tasked with moving this Bill, has made a pretty compelling case as I listened for the fact that natural gas, which we understand is the cheapest form of fuel in the island at the moment, will have to be increased. I think that he has made a good case. The real question or the real proof of the pudding is to convince the general population that it is so. My view is that the situation is one of making a sacrifice now for gain in the future, and I believe that so long as you make a reasonable case, the general public in Barbados will tend to come around. Even if they do not immediately come around, they will tend to come around to seeing that the increases may be worthwhile. I say that because the general public has become accustomed to low rates, and I think the word "entitlement" might be a bit strong but certainly it would appear as though we have come to the conclusion that we are entitled to low rates indefinitely. However, the question is: Can the low rates be sustained?

From what we have heard, it does appear that the question of sustainability is the important one. We have a situation where the production is down. Senator Boyce went way back to the 1970s and 1980s; and certainly by the turn of the century, from 2006, the production of natural gas has been going down. The demand, however, has been going up. In other words, the population of Barbados -- every single household, I believe, in this country -- believes that it should and probably even must have natural gas. However, you have to look at whether, one, you can produce that natural gas locally, and two, whether we can do it at an economical rate in the sense that the rate which is presently being paid would be maintained. The economics of the situation is going in the opposite direction, and therefore it means that continuing along a path that is not sustainable and that in fact in the end will adversely affect the consumers, while they are calling for a situation where the price is not to be increased, will cause

the whole company to collapse under the weight of the debt.

12.40 p.m.

Insert s8 juliette

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Senator A. A. ADAMS: I believe that under the circumstances we will not be able to perhaps make a great leap forward in relation to what we are going to charge but persons, individuals and businesses, in Barbados... We understand, I think, from what Senator Boyce has said that the commercial companies in Barbados did not have a price increase since 1994, this is now 2017, and that domestic users have not had an increase since 2002.

Madam President, given the fact that we are moving away from fossil fuels, that steps are made to shift the burden to renewables and that the renewables will bring the price down eventually, I believe that the sacrifice that is being asked now for better conditions in the future is worthwhile, and so, I think, my contribution is that a reasonable case has been made for the expected modest increase in the rates, and with those few words, Madam President, I thank you.

SUSPENSION

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended for lunch until 2.15 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MADAM PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

Senate D9 Sequence 9

: p.m.

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RESUMPTION

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

Senator J. INCE: Madam President, I rise to support the amendment to the National Petroleum Corporation Bill, 2017, which is before this Honourable Chamber. Madam President, it is an amendment which seeks to make the better provision, as outlined, for the rates charged for the supply of natural gas and for related matters. Madam President, it also falls within the initiatives of this

Democratic Labour Party Administration when we outlined to the people of Barbados that we were going to restructure, which we did start that programme, and diversify the economy. Ma'am, if we were going to restructure and diversify this economy it could not be done just on the basis of economics or on finance, we also had to look at the relevant legislation because we all know that without amendments to legislation, especially legislation that is critical to the future development of Barbados, we could find ourselves, as people would say, "back at square one", where you would have started out but would not have achieved anything.

Madam President, in looking at this National Petroleum Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2017, this Democratic Labour Party Administration -- and I will say from the outset to all Barbadians - has nothing to be ashamed about, this is what this institution has set out to do. We said that we were going to let us look at those critical areas and let us look at it for what it is, let us look at it for the management of the country.

Ma'am, when this Amendment Bill was in the Other Place, and I call that Opposition politics, I have heard criticisms about how difficult the economy is, about how people are being challenged, about why at this time are we seeking to increase rates, and that it is another initiative of hardship on the people of Barbados. Madam President, the reality is, just like the Barbados Water Authority where we made bold decisions... As I said, if we are going to look at the financial viability of Barbados, that managing an economy, a Government or an agency is not about what I call photographic moments or moments of theatrics but sometimes you have to make decisions that some people would see as unpopular but those decisions are for the good of the country. Ma'am, that is why I said that in making such a decision this Administration would have examined all of the initiatives if Barbados is to remain financially and economically viable in the short, medium and long term. As I said before, you would have heard the criticisms about the increase in rates and I made reference to the Barbados Water Authority when we had to make the bold decision in the mains replacement programme, when we had to make those decisions after we heard cries of not having water, cries of victimisation, cries of political interference, but at the end of the day the direction of the Barbados Water Authority is now heading in a positive way.

Madam President, we have the National Petroleum Corporation, as we said for 15 years on the domestic side there has been no increase in rates, while 23 years on the commercial side, yet you have what I would call a capital intensive company, because people may not look at the National Petroleum Corporation as that, but it is capital intensive in that you have to maintain your capital infrastructure if you are going to deliver that service to the people of Barbados. Madam President, if we have not

increased rates over those years, let us picture in our minds of having no increase in rates for 15 years on one side and 23 years on another, yet you had to deliver a service to the people and we can picture in our minds having our own houses.

Ma'am, the Democratic Labour Party was not in office at the time in 1994, the Barbados Labour Party came to office in 1994. Madam President, the Barbados Labour Party sat in the front of a money train from 1994 and allowed agencies... Madam President, decisions should have been made about best we were going to manage the resources of the National Petroleum Corporation, that is a reality, that is why I said from the outset that this

Democratic Labour Party has nothing to be ashamed of when we are looking at adjusting the rates for the betterment of Barbados, for the betterment of delivering that service. Ma'am, if we are going to be looking at diversity the energy sector, then those decisions must be made, but things should have happened, we should have looked at the capital infrastructure of the National Petroleum Corporation, that is why I said that the Barbados Labour Party sat at the front of a money train from 1994. Ma'am, this Democratic Labour Party gave the Barbados Labour Party a young budding company and you would expect that it would make losses, that is expected of a young company, but if the administration of that resource and the administration of that entity is taken over by a party-in-waiting and absolutely nothing was done to the National Petroleum Corporation... Ma'am, that is why this Democratic Labour Party Administration in 2017, under the Minister of the Energy, Senator Boyce, is now looking at the whole idea of how best, and it is going to be costly.

Madam President, when you are dealing with a utility company, managing oil and gas companies worldwide is a costly operation and if you do not take early initiatives with these types of entities, then you are going to pay a price further road. Ma'am, that is why it is important that the public of Barbados understands why it is that the Democratic Labour Party is now making such tough decisions in challenging economic times, so that when I hear criticisms about applying more hardship to the people of Barbados, that is why I said let us examine this carefully, you do it now or we pay a harder and bigger price further down the road, that is why this Democratic Labour Party is not afraid nor shall we be ashamed of making decisions that are important for the people of Barbados.

No.D9 (10)2.52 p.m.

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Seq. 11

Senator J.INCE: ... That is why this Democratic Labour Party is not afraid, nor shall we be ashamed, of making decisions that are important for the people of Barbados, and this is one of those decisions. We are going to look at how best we are going to create an environment for delivering an effective and efficient service; and not only an effective and efficient service but having the type of infrastructure necessary, so that we can go beyond the whole idea of the importation of natural gas. You cannot import without a quality infrastructure. Do not even think about it. You cannot import without a quality plant and equipment. You cannot import without having quality lines in place, and we all know that over the years many of the lines have deteriorated and needed to be replaced. We know that, and that is why I say that the Barbados Labour Party sat on the money train.

Madam President, they had what I term the professional chairmen -- Mr. Ronald Toppin and Dr. William Duguid -- to look after the affairs of this agency. I am going to give you and this Senate some numbers, Madam President. In 1997 the figure was \$1.5 million; a surplus. In 1998 there was a decline and the figure was \$92 348 000. In 1999 it was \$1.4 million, in 2000 there was a deficit and it was \$997 000, in 2001 there was a surplus and it was \$3.72 million, in 2002 it was \$2.4 million, in 2003 there was a deficit and it was \$1.8 million, in 2004 there was a deficit and it was \$1.6 million, in 2005 it was \$4.3 million, in 2006 it was \$2.3 million, in 2007 it was \$166 050, and by 2008 when we came to office you were looking at \$15.8 million accumulated deficit. Fifteen point eight million dollars, not fifteen dollars and eight cents. Madam President, that is what you would call a 40-foot container truck going down a highway without brakes, waiting to slam or to go into a lane of traffic. Think about the devastation. If this Administration is now faced with that challenge, it means that the decision must be challenging and must be tough, so we are going to make it.

When we look at the overall expansion of the natural gas to Barbadians and we look at the cost of getting it to Barbadians, that decision must also be looked at. I am confident that this Administration, as always, is going to find a solution. We know it is a pressing need. All of us who are involved in the political arena want natural gas to our constituents, and in the parishes which do not have the natural gas -- St. John, St. Joseph and St. Lucy -- there must be a solution to getting natural gas. I am of the opinion that there is always an answer to every challenge, and I am confident -- I am speaking now to the constituents of St. John, St. Joseph and St. Lucy -- that this Democratic Labour Party is going to find a solution. We are going to find a way and a method of getting natural gas to those households. That is what we are going to do, because you are taxpayers of this country, you are Barbadians, you have worked and developed this country into what it is and, as we said before, we want to manage a country that is

environmentally sound, economically viable and socially balanced. If we say that we are going to manage a country that is socially balanced, then we must find a solution to supplying natural gas to the parishes of St. John, St. Joseph and St. Lucy.

Madam President, in addition, St. Andrew is a very interesting parish; and as I looked at this Amendment I asked myself whether a study was ever done on St. Andrew as far as mining and quarrying is concerned, or if we ever did a study on the resources. Madam President, the reason for that is that the possibility exists that we in Barbados could have a potential of foreign exchange earnings; a potential where we can use some of the resources within that area. The reason why I say that is this: St. Andrew has what you would call brown sand, white sand and grey sand. I took some time off to go to look at the grey sand area in St. Andrew, and it looks like cement dust. I was told that some of that same sand was used to build the Central Bank of Barbados. In addition to the sand, St. Andrew also has clay. I am puzzled that they talk to me about the problem of making clay bricks, but in Trinidad the brick industry is clay; what we call red bricks. I am still puzzled to this day as to why it is that we have such a resource sitting right there in St. Andrew. When you look at the red bricks, I am confident that we can build bricks out of that clay. It was started before, and for some reason was discontinued.

Madam President, in addition to the clay, I am referring to the resources in St. Andrew of which I do not think we ever took the time out to examine the potential. That is why I said if you go to Trinidad, you would see they build houses, sidewalks and everything like that with the clay bricks. We should also examine why it is that we have not developed a clay factory. If there was one there, I am speaking under correction, those historians would be able to tell me. Madam President, in addition to that there is also the whole idea of gas, and the reason why I say that is because I can remember, as a little boy in Drax Hall, I used to see an old man by the name of Sonny Miller. He has passed away now. Sonny Miller would drive his Bedford truck all over Barbados, and as people would say, he would go and draw canes. As Bajans would say, "Draw cane at the factory". I can remember Mr. Miller saying that if you go to Turner's Hall Woods and you scratch the surface with a match, you could start a fire; he said there was gas. I did a little reading, and I saw in a National Petroleum Corporation report that there is a gas well -- I do not know if it is still in operation -- at Turner's Hall; a No. 9 gas well. It produced 435 cubic metres of gas. That could be a possibility of further exploration within St. Andrew, and that is why I am saying that we could have a parish like St. Andrew with all of these resources but yet untapped, as we look into the future of developing the energy sector of Barbados.

2.48 p.m.

Insert s12 juliette

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Senator J. INCE: When you are looking at upgrading plant and equipment in a time when you are challenged, and the challenge is not one of a short term or happened since 2008, because when I listen to the voices there are persons who want us to believe that the challenges the National Petroleum Corporation is facing happened since 2008 and that is why I went back to the financial reports to show that at the time of profitability when the decisions should have been made no decisions were made.

Madam President, I want to support this Amendment and say to Barbadians that the decision by this Democratic Labour Party to bring some level of stability to restructure and to look at the whole capital infrastructure of the National Petroleum Corporation is a viable and strategic decision if we are going to maintain those critical links to all of the sectors in Barbados over the short, medium and long term.

With those words, Madam President, I am obliged.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser, you have the Floor.

Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir Henry FRASER: Thank you, Madam President. It is really an honour and a privilege to address this Bill which, as Senator Boyce and Senator Ince have said, is really so long overdue, and I congratulate the Government on bringing this forward.

My understanding is that one of the opportunities that will arise from this Amendment is that it would allow the price of the natural gas delivered to some 20 000 households and 800 commercial entities to be increased beyond the giveaway price according to Senator Boyce, that it is so cheap it is almost like the freeness of our gorgeous blue Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean and the lovely sand, I am not sure I should say the beautiful fields and hills beyond recall because so many of those fields are now overwhelmed by the River Tamarind and other bush. Madam President, the gist of Senator Boyce's presentation is that the price of natural gas to the 20 000 householders who have the opportunity and access of using this for their cooking is so cheap it is almost free and so one might almost say that this is discriminatory, that those who have access to it are being given a privilege and a cheapness that those of my compatriots, friends, brothers and sisters in my birthplace of St. John and in the most gorgeous parishes of St. Joseph or St. Andrew or was it St. Lucy do not have and therefore that is a form of geographical discrimination to which that no Government should accede.

Before I make my most important remark, Madam President, I would like to just add for those who are not old enough - and I did not realise that there was such an age discrepancy between the young Senator Ince and myself but he was not aware - that there has been a brick factory in the parish of St. Andrew, but I know that the Honourable Senator Irene Sandiford-Garner would be very much aware of that and has probably been exploring the possibilities already of resuscitating that brick factory which was still there when I came home in 1977. Madam President, that brick factory was close to what I call the soup bowl of St. Andrew, that is to say the controversial aborted Greenland Landfill. It was almost within spitting distance. If we were Arabs we would be spitting.

The Greenland Brick Factory was there and I suspect that it was there although Barbadians had clearly indicated their preference for building with modern concrete blocks and not either bricks or wood. There is a taste in construction which goes like an epidemic across Barbados in the same way that in the 1970s there was an epidemic of arches and you could not build a house without arches on your veranda and similarly the prairie style of split levels and split roofs came into being and so fashions in business are like fashions in hair and fashions in clothes. I think the problem with the brick factory was that people simply did not want to use those bricks, but I would be very interested if someone among us or other historians or other St. Andrew acolytes would find out and would tell us exactly why the Brick Factory failed.

Madam President, I was brought up in the parish of St. John and my parents were dedicated public servants, the post mistress and treasurer for the parish, and they dealt with many, many challenges. They were not politicians but people came to them for solutions, and I remember that my father who liked to give quotations and homilies and so on would always say that for every cloud there is a silver lining. Madam President, I had been speculating while hearing Senator Boyce speaking about the problem of increasing the price of domestic natural gas and this might seem as a major problem for some householders who are struggling with the economy, but I can suggest that if there is a problem with increasing natural gas well then why not eat more food, raw vegetables, salads and fruits, that do not require processing with natural gas so you can save on the natural gas and keep your cost down. You can eat more vegetables and think about all of the consequences of eating more vegetables. First of all, you have a much healthier diet, you can buy local and by buying local you would help to reduce that vast \$750 million food import bill which is an absolute scandal for a country like Barbados which does have fertile fields all across the former agricultural sectors but still fertile in St. George and bits of St. Philip and little bits of St. Thomas and St. James. We have fertile soil and we can be food sustainable and we can have food security, and so I see the silver lining in this

cloud of an increased natural gas price that we might be able on the economic level to persuade people to eat more vegetables, to become healthier, to lose weight, to live longer, happier and healthier lives, to reduce the cost of our food importation bill, to improve the economy and to boost our agriculture which all Government Administrations have given far less priority than it has deserved. There can be no contradicting with that. Every single Administration since Mr. Barrow's famous cane blade speech has given agriculture too little attention and so I see the silver lining of the cloud as this being a possible boost to agriculture, more vegetables and fruits coming out of the beautiful parish of St. Joseph where vegetables grow without any effort at all and where fruit grow hanging on the trees. To borrow the cliché, these are the low hanging fruits that can result from an increased natural gas bill and the whole thing will result in a healthier Barbados reducing our food import bill for which I would think that we really should be saying let us within the next 12 months half that food import bill from \$750 million down to \$300 or \$400 million. It is a scandal that we import so much food. Of course, that is not a single effort to do that.

We have been talking about the increased tax on sugar drinks and if I read the consensus from the suggestions of 50 per cent tax on sugar drinks at this point to another 10 per cent to bring it to the original recommended 20 per cent that was ignored when they put the 10 per cent to the recommendation to ban it all completely from the schools, these are a variety of suggestions and the mean of all these suggestions goes right back to the original World Health Organisation recommendation of a 20 per cent tax, so we now need to put 20 per cent on sugary drinks and I think we should ensure that the differential VAT that is applied in some countries like India could well be applied in Barbados so that we could increase the VAT on all imported luxury foods and drinks and have no VAT at all on anything produced locally. These are some of the obvious no-brainer stimuli to agriculture and that is what we need. Food security in Barbados, reduced food import bill, improved economy.

Thank you, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Todd, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise to support the National Petroleum Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2017, and I wish to support this Administration since we take the energy sector very seriously. In this particular matter before us...

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3.06 p.m.

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SENATOR the Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Madam President, in this particular matter that is before us, we are looking at the issue of natural gas and like many other Barbadians I can recall being reliant on the bottled gas. I remember when we first got our first gas stove in the early 1970s, where prior to that we used kerosene oil, I know that many Barbadians who currently use the 20-lb. and 25-lb. gas cylinders can have a challenge in terms of accessing this gas, especially if they do not have transportation because it is very difficult to maneuver with these bottles on a ZR van, for example, so that if you have an old pensioner or in fact for most females it is very difficult to lift that heavy bottle of gas from the gas station and using the public transportation to get to your home. Sometimes residents have to rely on the kind male or female individual in the neighbourhood who could put the gas bottle on their bicycle bar and go collect that gas but for a small fee.

Ma'am, the provision of natural gas would alleviate those logistical challenges in terms of accessing gas for cooking purposes in terms of household uses.

Madam President, I remember residents who relied on this bottled gas sometimes they are faced with the challenge where their particular provider, for example, Shellane, Esso and Texaco, had their separate bottle coming with a separate head and connecting rubber tube and so often the gas station nearest to that particular individual may be out of stock temporarily perhaps at the time that gas ran out and not everybody could have afforded an extra bottle as a backup because they may have had financial challenges, so that if the gas were to run out in the middle of preparing that Sunday lunch then you would have had a challenge because if the gas station closest to you did not have your type of gas, then you would have had to search all over the island to be able to find a new bottle of gas. Some residents would have had to stock a head for each type of gas so that if Shellane was out of stock they could use a Texaco head. Of course, we now have Rubis and SOL.

Madam President, those are the logistical challenges that many households in Barbados faced who do not have access to natural gas, that convenience would demonstrate one reason we would have this tremendous demand by householders for Government to provide natural gas lines in their particular districts. Ma'am, not everybody could afford the 100-lb. cylinder that would last a few months because you would have to pay that additional cost upfront. Ma'am, these are the realities, that is why I congratulate this Democratic Labour Party Administration for taking the tough political decisions necessary to ensure that the necessary capital is injected into the National Petroleum

Corporation so that we would have the funding necessary to provide at a more rapid rate greater access to natural gas by householders throughout our island. Ma'am, I cry shame on the Barbados Labour Party that for mere political expediency they were more concerned about retaining the Government while they were in office between 1994 and 2008, than doing what was in the national interest, that is, providing greater access to natural gas to the residents of Barbados. Ma'am, what I am talking about is the fact that the Barbados Labour Party knew that there was a need to increase the rates of natural gas so that more funding would be provided to the National Petroleum Corporation to ensure that more Barbadians would be able to access natural gas but they were afraid, they did not have the political fortitude or maturity to take those tough decisions.

Madam President, this Democratic Labour Party Administration looked at the greater good for the country and we know that once we explain in a clear way to the public that we can have their buy-in because we know that any sacrifices made in terms of the increases in natural gas rates would be for the greater good so that more Barbadians would be able to access natural gas. Madam President, I also cry shame on the Barbados Labour Party for not again doing what is necessary in terms of the increase in rates so that the National Petroleum Corporation, the oil sector in general would be sufficiently capitalised so that they would be able to expand and accelerate the exploration at best of the oil and gas industry because as Senator Boyce in leading this debate this morning made the point that there was no drilling in the oil sector of Barbados, that is the drilling of new wells, et cetera, between 2006 and 2008 and that the Barbados Labour Party was in office until 2007.

Madam President, as a result of that, that is why we would have the challenges in terms of the decline in the amount of natural gas that is available. As Senator Boyce mentioned, natural gas is only acceptable as we drill for oil because coming from the wells would be liquid crude, as well as natural gas in some instances, so that it is necessary in looking at the long-term sustainability of the sector to have exploration or drilling for new oil.

Madam President, having attended the Lodge School between 1974 and 1980, I remember in the late 1970s as I took the bus from the Lodge School it went down the hill from the District "C" Police Station, then across Bushy Park area going towards Six Roads. As I young lad I remember passing and seeing during that period explorations being undertaken, we had these massive grey-coloured 10-wheeler trucks that would be parked along the roadside, these specialised seismic testing vehicles that would vibrate very rapidly, so that when you pass your whole body would vibrate. These specialised vehicles were used to conduct seismic tests to determine the likelihood of hydrocarbon in the subsurface below. I know that coming out of tht we had prospects for possible hydrocarbons in

Society and the surrounding areas. Madam President, I am thinking that had the Barbados Labour Party sufficiently capitalised the oil sector, then we would have had more drilling and would have therefore had a more likelihood of finding new oil and gas for usage by Barbadian household.

Madam President, this is very important in terms of energy security. Ma'am, it was in the 1973 period when Barbados would have had to grapple with the world energy crisis, when the geopolitical realities of the day were such that the...

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Senator Hon. P.M.T. TODD: ... I was just in the pre-teen age range in the 1973 period when Barbados would have had to grapple with the world energy crisis; when the geopolitical realities of the day were such that the Arab OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) members such as Iran and Iraq and so on had suddenly increased the price of oil significantly. Younger Barbadians who were not around at that time may not be aware, but during that oil crisis of the early 1970s I can remember living at Dalkeith Road. The Birch gas station there at the corner of Culloden Road and Beckles Hill was where we would access our bottled gas and so on, and there were long lines of people waiting for bottled gas and kerosene, and motorists waiting for gasoline and diesel. There were cars parked for long stretches, and motorists would actually take containers to collect gasoline. There were cars stalled along the road because there was a shortage of hydrocarbon fuel; kerosene, gasoline, liquefied petroleum gas and diesel. In those days, we had a challenge because people then were inconvenienced. Some people actually had to revert to cooking on wood stoves because you had no choice. That is why when I talk about energy security, it is very important then that we treat this sector as a very important one in terms of seeking self-sufficiency, Madam President.

I remember when we used to be able to access around 1 000 barrels of crude per day, and of course that did not fulfil our demands, but certainly as we increased exploration then that would go a long way in terms of saving the valuable foreign exchange that it takes to import these hydrocarbon fuels from abroad, Madam President. There is a certain pride. We have just celebrated our 50th Anniversary of Independence, we saw the national pride emanating from people of all walks of life in our society, and when we pass through the Woodbourne area we see those oil installations. There is a well that has been tapped into which is painted in the national colours of aquamarine and gold, and it is moving up and down, pumping that oil

or that “black gold” as people call it, and we feel proud that here it is that Barbados is seeking to be self-sufficient in terms of the demand for hydrocarbon fuels. Madam President, that is why I am very happy that this Administration is taking this very seriously. It is important in view of the vulnerability of countries in terms of the world price of crude.

As I said, we import these fuels using hard foreign exchange, so we should not be complacent given the prevailing relatively low price of crude on the world market, Madam President. We know just a few years ago we had crude oil prices close to US\$100 per barrel. Of course, that would probably give rise to tremendous pressure on our foreign reserves in terms of sending up the amount of money we would have to pay in foreign exchange to import hydrocarbon fuel, so the more that we can produce locally, we are in a better position in terms of resisting those shocks from any sudden increase in the world price of oil. Madam President, I am not going into too much detail but the world price of oil is susceptible to many factors. For example, I understand that what may have given rise to the low price of oil in recent years -- remember early last year the world price of oil had dipped to just under US\$30 per barrel -- was the deliberate decision taken by OPEC countries to actually increase their daily output of crude production; Saudi Arabia in particular. They were seeking to put pressure on the emerging shale oil fracking industry, which is more expensive. This shale oil is more difficult to access than the traditional crude, and it is more costly, and it is argued that the shale oil sector is only sustainable when the world market price of oil is no less than US\$50 per barrel.

People argue that the OPEC countries deliberately increased production of oil to bring down the world price of oil, thereby causing it to be not financially viable for the shale industry. There was pressure on the OPEC countries. You had Saudi Arabia for the first time engaging in austerity measures as the various subsidies and entitlements provided to the masses of the country had to be reduced, because the earnings from the oil sector would have decreased in those Arab countries as the world market price of oil went down. There was success in terms of a number of the shale oil producers actually having to cut production, and this is reflected in what we call the daily rig count: the number of oil rigs in production in the United States of America as produced by Baker Hughes Incorporated. We saw the weekly rig count go down as more shale oil producers had financial challenges with banks not lending them money to finance exploration and so on. Madam President, what has happened recently is that the reverse has occurred, where OPEC along with some non-OPEC countries such as Russia, have agreed over a six-month period which will expire very shortly to....

Aside.

Senator Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Madam President, it is relevant because I am talking about the vulnerabilities to the world oil market price and therefore the importance of Barbados not being complacent and thinking that because the world market price of oil is fairly low, we do not have to worry about exploration in oil and ensuring that we expand our local domestic production of oil. I do not know if the Member of the Opposition is suggesting that the Barbados Labour Party is not interested in these matters, because I am saying that energy security is very important. Madam President, as I was saying, what has happened then in the last few months is that OPEC along with Russia have now agreed -- the critics did not think they could manage it because they had not been able to do so easily in the past -- to cut their production to increase the price of oil. That is why we have had the oil prices going up from the 30s right up to around US\$50 per barrel now for the Brent North Sea oil and West Texas Intermediate. The United States' benchmark is just below that.

Madam President, we are watching very carefully because, again, it is not impossible that within the medium term we could actually have oil prices trending upward in what one would call a more bullish market that is conducive to the increase in world oil prices. Madam President, it is a very delicate situation, because what some analysts have argued is that with all of these countervailing issues which I mentioned earlier, what could have happened is that in the medium to long term there has not been sufficient interest in exploration globally. What could happen in the medium term is that because not enough investment has been done in terms of exploring future drilling prospects, world demand for crude could increase.

3.27 p.m.

Insert s16 juliette

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Senator A. R. WORRELL: We are in an environment today where we are asking State-operated enterprises particularly those agencies which earn revenue to be more efficient and actually to operate in an environment where they could be more sustainable and operate outside of coming to central Government for assistance, so I do not think that anyone could have an argument or can actually challenge the nature of this piece of legislation in terms of empowering the Minister with responsibility for energy with the authority to regulate prices offered by the National Petroleum Corporation.

The second aspect of it that we need to look at is that we are giving the country an opportunity to use a cleaner fuel. We speak of Barbados becoming a green economy and natural gas is by far a cleaner fuel, and if we enable the organisation to have the financial resources that they can

expand their clientele, I think that in essence we would also be helping the country as well in terms of being able to use a cleaner fuel for energy production to do the cooking and to provide generally a cleaner and cheaper fuel to households and commercial enterprises within Barbados.

Madam President, on those two bases, I will wholeheartedly support the Bill because I do think that the people from St. John, St. Lucy and St. Joseph should have the opportunity to benefit from being able to use a cleaner and cheaper fuel as well. I think that for far too long we have been deprived and I think it is about time that we enjoy the same benefits as the 22 000 other customers that the National Petroleum Corporation have who benefit from this thing called natural gas, which as I said I know nothing about, so I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

Madam President, I think we really do need to look at how we treat our State enterprises. To some extent I know that the Senator on the other side, Senator Abrahams, would not want to hear this but you must take your lashes when they are due to you. I think it was an unfortunate and reckless situation that between 1994... nothing was done in terms of even attempting to look at the price because it means that you did not really look down the road to see how you could help this organisation to expand so what we are doing now is basically trying to play catch up because we recognised that yes this is a critical structure within our strategy to create a green economy for Barbados to allow Barbadians to benefit from cheaper fuel and also greener fuel because we speak about global warming and those things, and if we can transition to use cleaner and cheaper sources of energy, it would be better for us.

Madam President, we have to be strategic in the way how we function as a Government and I think we are showing that by bringing this simple legislation here. I am wondering why someone who had the opportunity to make these changes over the years in a number of different ministries, the last ministry, I believe, was the ministry responsible for economic affairs and the ministry before that the Attorney-General, did not think about this either. You had a number of opportunities where you could have initiated such changes.

This is a simple piece of legislation which would just allow the Minister responsible for energy to fix the rates and make regulations with regard to the pricing. With a stroke of the pen with this simple piece of legislation we can see a possible transformation in the Barbadian economy and society over the next few years because like Minister Boyce would have said in his presentation with the increase in rates which would come which would give the National Petroleum Corporation a little bit of financial capital to do some expansion sometime in the not too distance future, maybe by 2030 possibly, there would be natural gas running within St. John. All it takes is a stroke

of a pen and with us agreeing to this simple legislation here today.

Madam President, it just goes to show the timeline between taking the decisions and having the impact of that decision within households in Barbados. We are going through the process of actually taking that decision here and I am certain that a few years down the line persons would begin to feel the impact and the benefit of that decision within households within Barbados, so we really need to consider what is being done here and think about it in the context of governance and helping to bring some order to Government agencies and statutory corporations within Barbados.

Madam President, I would want to commend too the Ministry of Energy for the work which they have done over the years in that from 2008 up until now you have seen transformative work being done by the Ministry of Energy in terms of bringing a renewable energy programme to Barbados. Before that there was just talk about renewable energy in Barbados and there was a demonstration house in Queen's Park. Now as you drive across Barbados because of the proactive work of the Ministry of Energy from 2008 and onwards we can actually see the reality of transformation in the energy sector in Barbados starting with the renewable energy sector because in almost every parish there is at least a house or a building that you can see the photovoltaic panels on the roof and you know that there is some element of renewable energy there.

Madam President, with this legislation we are debating here today we are taking it a little bit further in terms of making it more accessible to more Barbadians so that the National Petroleum Corporation could have the capacity to move from 22 000 clients to more. I think that the 22 000 is a very small percentage of the overall market. Unfortunately, the organisation was cash-strapped for many years because of the very low rates and not having the financial resources to expand as they would want to.

Madam President, even though the legislation might seem as a miniscule piece of legislation we are actually doing quite a bit here today in terms of enabling growth within the Barbadian economy because we often speak about opportunities and ways in which to reduce the cost of living, and we need to share the pie equally among all Barbadians and all constituents. Every single person should have that opportunity to benefit from that resource.

Madam President, not only that, we went to Paris and signed the Agreement in terms of reducing global warming and we spoke about actually making Barbados the frontrunner for the Caribbean in terms of utilising cleaner energy, and here we are demonstrating that we are willing to take that initiative on board and we are willing to do what it takes to make sure that that is spread across all of

Barbados and everyone would have that opportunity as well.

Madam President, I want to commend the Minister of Energy and also the staff from the Ministry of Energy and the National Petroleum Corporation for actually doing the work to bring this legislation to this Chamber so that we could approve it and that we can gladly give this benefit across Barbados so that eventually, it may not happen until 2030, all of us might be able to benefit from having natural gas running directly to our house or at least close enough to our house so that we can say well look I would like to be connected to the National Petroleum Corporation line because the whole nature of it is that it would be far more convenient for us to have the connection done with the National Petroleum Corporation if it was made more accessible across Barbados than for us to actually struggle to do the bottled gas or any other supply. It is actually much easier.

Senate D9 Sequence 17

3.45 p.m.

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Senator A. R. WORRELL: Madam President, it would be far more convenient for you to have the connections done with the National Petroleum Corporation if it was made more accessible across Barbados than for you to have to struggle to get to a supplier of that bottled gas, it is actually much easier. Also, businesses could benefit from having this cheaper and cleaner source of energy available. Madam President, in looking at this, we also need to look across the country to see what other areas where we can do these pieces of legislation so that we can see some quick improvements and quick changes. Ma'am, this is what this Administration has been doing over the last nine years, particularly over the last four years, in trying to bring some order to some State enterprises.

Madam President, even though we are speaking about a restructuring or changing the business model, to some extent, of the National Petroleum Corporation, we did it in tourism as well when we did the study and created the two entities within tourism, the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc., and the Barbados Tourism Product Authority because we wanted to make sure that we can more effectively govern and also have entities that would work in terms of a changing landscape and would be able to better managed and deliver in terms of changing economic situations so that we can get more bang for the buck, because we have put a lot of money into these entities and we need to make sure that they can deliver. We are also doing some restructuring in other agencies as well, so that we have to look at ways in which we can help to empower our State agencies, especially those who do earn

revenue so that some of that revenue can pay dividends which can then go to supporting other State agencies which may not necessarily be revenue-earning or revenue-generating State agencies.

Madam President, even within agriculture there is a lot that we can do within that area in terms of looking at ways in which we can change the business model that these agencies can function more effectively and efficiently. Ma'am, a lot of that work has been done through agencies such as the Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation and the Barbados Agriculture Management Company in terms of revisiting their business model and their focus. When we speak about structural adjustments or structural changes in Barbados it is not just terms we are using but we are actually doing the work to make sure that our agencies have an opportunity to function more efficiently and effectively in terms of utilising the scarce Government resources.

Madam President, we are recognising that we are no longer in a situation where you have large amounts of money at your disposal, you have to be very prudent in the way you spend your resources, you have limited resources there to utilise, yet you still have constituents and citizens who are asking for roads to be fixed in a timely manner, they are asking for the hospitals to be supplied with medication and the appropriate working equipment, they are asking for the schools to be properly outfitted and supplied as well, yet the resources that we are calling upon to do these things are limited in that if you tell them about increasing taxes or VAT to pay for these things they do not expect to have to pay these additional increases, so that we have to find ways of making it work. Ma'am, one way is by this restructuring process that we are going through with the National Petroleum Corporation by giving them the opportunity so that through the service they provide, they can charge a fee which they determined is adequate that will help them to recover some of that cost and expense that they would incur on a daily basis to provide that service and thereby be put in a position where they can also expand that service to other persons within Barbados, so that eventually more people would be able to benefit, so that these are the things that we need to do.

Madam President, I am quite happy to give support to this piece of legislation and to commend the work of this Government and this Administration in terms of looking to identify where the challenges are, where the bottlenecks are within the economy, within the society and within the Government structure and putting the appropriate fixes in place and not being ashamed to put these fixes in place and not looking at an election timeline in terms of when you would put these fixes in place. Madam President, I am quite pleased to say that up to this morning on my way here I heard people calling the call-in programmes and saying that they do understand why the increase is necessary, that

they do not see it as any unnecessary hardship and that they are willing to support that increase because quite frankly, the National Petroleum Corporation has been giving away its service for umpteen years, so that persons can understand why it is necessary to increase the cost to them and also be able to put other persons in the service pool so that the National Petroleum Corporation could service more customers.

Madam President, with regard to this, Senator Boyce spoke to hopefully and very soon we in Barbados would be in a position where a lot of the gas that we utilise, hopefully would come from wells which we dig, but we also need money in order to finance that. I do know and do support the position given by the Senator this morning in terms of the caution that we are taking in terms of our exploration offshore because Barbados' mainstay is tourism and that of many of the countries around us and we have to make sure that when we do that exploration offshore, that it is done in a very safe manner and that we do not jeopardize our environment. I love to go to the beach and I would not want to be in a situation where that is threatened at any point in time, so I give full support to that very cautious approach being taken by the Ministry of Energy and making sure that the appropriate information is there in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study, in terms that when we do go forward and when companies do take the plunge in terms of exploration for oil offshore Barbados and the possibility of natural gas as well, that that it is done in a controlled environment and that the risks to any damage to our environment is minimised.

Madam President, yes, we would want to get the financial benefits but we do not want to do it at the detriment to our very fragile economy and environment as well. Ma'am, I do support that process and I am hoping that someday soon we will hear of productive wells being found offshore with gas or oil, particularly natural gas and oil that would be able to benefit the National Petroleum Corporation so that you would have a source of natural gas that would be able to supply the country.

Madam President, I would also want to urge, because I did hear the call by the Minister, I do think it is an appropriate step for the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited to move towards changing out their system so that they would utilise natural gas for their turbines. This would be a good step for Barbados, I think it would eventually see a reduction in the energy prices in Barbados as well. Ma'am, not only that, we cannot always look at the cost, we also have to look at the impact on the environment as well and anything that would help us to have a cleaner environment I think would redound to the benefit of the country and to the people overall. Madam President, I am hoping that something would be worked out so that the Barbados Light and Power Company

Limited would be able to move quickly to that stage where they would utilise natural gas in terms of the majority of the production of electricity....

No.D9 (18)4.03 p.m.

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Seq. 19

Senator A.R. WORRELL: ... I am hoping that something is worked out that the Barbados Light & Power (BL&P) would be able to move quickly to that stage where they could utilise natural gas for the majority of the production of electricity, because it would be a cheaper and cleaner base load. Then we could also incorporate the renewables like the photovoltaic which we are already doing, and the wind energy, and hopefully some day maybe we can also look at ocean thermal energy as well as other forms of electricity production in Barbados. We need to really tap into all of these sources of renewable energy so that we can find not necessarily the cheapest but the cleanest. I think we need to focus on environmental sustainability and the benefit to our environment, because as a Small Island Developing State which is vulnerable as well, we just have the coral reefs out there and we need to do whatever we can to protect those coral reefs and our environment because it impacts heavily on what we do here in Barbados. We depend on those for tourism and we know we are prone to disasters such as hurricanes and so forth; so whatever we can do to help to maintain our environment, the better for us.

There is fishing as well. I am hoping that through exploration of ocean thermal energy perhaps we can see some improvement of the fish stock within our nearshore environment as well. All of these things I am hoping that the Ministry of Environment would look at, and look at ways of getting into these projects; as well as the Light & Power and the various companies, because we did change the Act that other players could get involved in terms of electricity production in Barbados. I am hoping that entities would come out which would be willing to look at alternative sources of producing power in Barbados. Madam President, with those few words, and again with my 'bribe', I am hoping that we do get some natural gas within those three abandoned parishes. Bring us into the fold, and once you promise to do that, I will support this Bill. Thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Hunte, you have the Floor.

Senator R.A. HUNTE: Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise to support the matter before us, and that is the Amendment to the National Petroleum Corporation Bill, 2017. I want to borrow the opening

remarks from Senator Fraser, and to ask why it took us so long to bring a matter like this before Parliament. Madam President, I am not worried or concerned about the rates of increase because I am sure that whenever it is done, it will be done within reason and deservedly so. I knew I was going to speak on this matter today and I forgot to bring my natural gas bill here -- I remembered it when I was on the road -- to show the small fee which I pay every month. Some people may say you are probably not doing a lot of cooking. That is not quite true. I think it has been a matter for years that people have been enjoying the uses of natural gas and paying very little. I do not believe that the NPC works any less hard than the "Water Works" - Barbados Water Authority -- or the Barbados Light & Power, or any of the utility companies in Barbados. I just believe we got stuck in a rut as far as developing this entity was concerned somewhere along the line; and it seems to have been forgotten. The NPC was established in 1981 under the Barbados Labour Party, and that came out of the Natural Gas which was then based on Bay Street where the "window" or the carpark, whichever we choose to call it, is now. Whatever seems to have happened is that the progress and development of this entity just did not take place. If there were challenges financially between 1981 and 1986 -- and I remember that period very well -- at least things could have happened since that time, and more so in 1994 and forward with the kind of monies which another Barbados Labour Party Administration was able to earn from revenue.

Madam President, it is clear that the NPC of course has a 25 per cent share in the Barbados National Oil Company Limited (BNOCL), and of course it has outstanding to that entity some \$11 million in arrears. If things do not change, it will be a much larger figure in the year 2017-2018. I thought that the mover of this Bill did a very comprehensive analysis of what is before us, so there is no need for me to be repetitive. I am just regretful in a way, not so much as a legislator but as a citizen of Barbados, that we did not have this matter before us with the kind of input which I have heard here today. In fact, there is no other utility company in Barbados that has remained so stagnant and dormant in terms of a rate increase as the NPC. That is why any increase, even if it is 100 per cent, should not be frowned upon. I pay an average of about \$12 a month, and I pay before the time and get back a little something too. I do not pay my bills when they are overdue. I pay them before the time because I am to get back the little percentage. I end up sometimes paying nine dollars and something or whatever the case may be. I know there is a tendency in this country, and I will always -- I would not say I always used to, but at some point one starts -- oppose the attitude of a lot of our people in Barbados. I will continue to say, "A lot of them want something for nothing, but when you look at how they are spending their monies on other matters, other things and other materials, they always feel that once the State is providing...." It is a

mindset that we have in Barbados and I would like to see it changed. I do not know if it will in my lifetime, but we always expect that once the State is involved or once the Government is involved, we must pay less or nothing at all. It is unfortunate that this corporation, being a subsidiary of BNOCL, has not done a lot more, but it could not do it without the finances.

4.06 p.m.

Insert s20 juliette

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Senator R. A. HUNTE: You cannot drill and explore if the finances are not there particularly if you are doing it on land where, of course, it is more domestic because you already have the production operation set up to do internal and on land operations. When you go into the deep sea now, you have to bring the larger guys into the operation. Obviously, they will spend their moneys but they will get it back somewhere down the road. The chances are always at them. If oil is found they will get their benefits in the long run and if it is not well they lose because that is their business. No matter whether they get a 30, 40 or 50 per cent cut, whatever it is, they will lose but if they succeed the long term benefits are there. British Petroleum and all of those are people who took their chances of exploring oil, gas and other products along those lines and they are rich, rich companies today. When you sue BP for \$10, \$15 or \$20 million they pay that out of their fog pocket, they pay it with ease, because they are very, very, very rich operations, so it is a chance.

Madam President, I have heard some comments elsewhere regarding this matter here that in truth and in fact I does wonder how so-called intelligent people could speak so ignorant and without any base of common-sense in some matters. I have heard comments about the subsidy that the last Government was giving to people within the society in respect of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited that run up to the tune of \$80 million, that is what it costs when the Democratic Labour Party came into office, subsidising people to drive here, there and everywhere, and today people could stand up criticising the Democratic Labour Party when so much nonsense had to be cleaned up in this country. It has to be spoken about. It has to be defended. I tell my colleagues on this side, I do not sit in Cabinet with you but fear nobody from the Barbados Labour Party as far defending this Government is concerned because a lot of things had to be cleaned up and do your research. You got files available to you. I got to do my own research. Do not stand down from anybody on the Barbados Labour Party side when they come challenging this Government about not doing this and they got the people suffering and all kinds of nonsense, and promising all kinds of things and wasted so much money in this country.

I hear people walking about talking about declaring assets. Well, the powers that be whoever they are can implement such, that will be a very good thing. All kinds of land deals and all sorts of things took place about this place and people got a lot of backroom money and all kinds of things. They will suffer. Once you ... poor people you will suffer, whoever you are. Talk about those things. I say already that one of the most corrupt political party they ever had in this country is the Barbados Labour Party. I say that openly.

I said it on platforms and I am going to say it again and anywhere. People think that because they carry the badge of a lawyer that they can say all kinds of things and get away with it. Your all reputation is not moving so well now. I just see one get debarred for 18 months. All of this is news, so when people come along and want their sons to be a doctor or a lawyer or this or that and feel that they were coming straight out of heaven, that is not talked about anymore. They got some good people in Barbados and some good people in the legal profession. I am going to name one right here now, Senator Dr. Carmichael, a decent gentleman who has made a mark in Barbados. He is one of the good people in the profession in Barbados. His father before him made a contribution. I say it already and I say it again, he is one of the people I have great respect for. You hear his name in anything.

Asides.

Senator H. A. HUSBANDS: She is not in the Chamber, she should hear it when she is around.

We get out there and confuse people's heads as though everybody that live a certain time is dead, they do not know nothing, they cannot repeat anything and they do not know what took place in this country.

I say, Madam President, that this Amendment will give the Minister responsible to look at the rates and, of course, to look at persons or anyone for that matter who might be tampering with the equipment, et cetera because these days are strange days. If people could cut through so much steel to steal it that technicians want to know how somebody could cut through thick, thick steel with current running through it, they got to be a professional. I did not hear anybody passed away. We have some professional thieves out there, people who are prepared for the short cuts or the short circuit so that they could gain at their expense which is nothing.

Madam President, a lot of decent people in this country have worked hard, have worked honest and have worked sincere but people want to cast a whole blanket over a country and its people for a few who only see their side, and that is to get rich quick and fast, at the expense, nothing wrong with that, of other people's suffering. I am

terribly against those kinds of deeds, and I follow up that by saying that whatever is for a man or woman they will get.

I was discussing here just now a short while ago with my colleague, who seem to have a good role of history in certain matters in this country, some of the persons who unfaired a lot of people in this country. Some of them are still living but they are going through a lot of sufferation because once you take advantage of people and once you want to treat people badly you will suffer physically, mentally and, sometimes in the end, financially.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senator has four more minutes.

Senator H. A. HUSBANDS: That is quite alright with me, Ma'am, I think I have made my point.

Senate D9 Sequence 21

4.25 p.m.

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Senator R. A. HUNTE: Madam President, I rise today to support the amendments to this National Petroleum Corporation Bill and sincerely hope that the Minister in his capacity will make sure that things will get moving rather quickly, taking all of the other things into consideration. Ma'am, we know that the bottom line is always money, it is a \$30 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank to restructure and look at areas that we can have natural gas online and to all those people, including my colleagues in St. John, St. Andrew, St. Joseph and St. Lucy so that they will see the benefits of this valuable commodity in the not-to-distant future. Madam President, with those few remarks, I am wish to thank you for your indulgence.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Abrahams, you have the Floor.

Senator W. A. ABRAHAMS: Madam President, I rise to lend my voice to this debate on the amendment before us today. I have listened carefully to everything that was said and I will make my comments in response to those things that I believe are worthy of comment and I will leave outside the off-stump, Madam President, some of the things I think were merely inflammatory and political rhetoric, but the ones where the ball was pitched up and was begging for the hit, I shall smack it through cover point to the boundary because I cannot pass up the opportunity to score one, Ma'am, when one is there to be scored.

Madam President, the rates of natural gas in Barbados are low, we know they are low, those who use it

know it is low, those who want it know they are low and perhaps want it because they are so low. The cost of natural gas, as opposed to the cost of buying bottled gas, the disparity is so great that natural gas is the logical and desirable alternative for anybody who has to use gas for cooking or for power in a domestic situation and in many commercial situations as well. Madam President, you will not get many people in Barbados who will not say that the cost is cheap, not reasonable, if you simply look at the inflation the cost of natural gas should have gone up a couple of times over the last 20 years but quite often it is about timing.

Mr. Speaker, we speak about the straw that broke the camel's back and it is perhaps one of the most known metaphors because it practically makes sense, it conjures up a visual, it conjures up the visual of a beast of burden that is built to carry a heavy load and it starts to take that straw by straw. Ma'am, one straw is not going to hurt a camel, just like one expense would not hurt the average citizens of Barbados. Ma'am, the camel bears two, 20 and 100 straws with ease but eventually as burden after burden is piled on the back of that camel or on the citizens of Barbados in this case, there comes a point in time when it is the last one.

Madam President, I do not argue that at some point in time the rates of natural gas have to go up, I do not argue that at all. I do not argue that the company needs to recapitalize and get some money in in order to expand its programme because it has pretty much ground to a halt, that I do not argue either. I do not argue the fact that some of the mains for the natural gas need to be repaired to cut the wastage which was estimated by some known scholar in the subject to be at 25 per cent. Ma'am, I do not argue that all of that has to be done and that the money must come from somewhere, but unlike Senator Hunte who cannot seem to appreciate that people are suffering, I know people are suffering and whereas it may seem like a logical thing to do to raise rates of the natural gas at this stage by the Government, because as Senator Hunte said, the Government has to make its decisions popular or unpopular wherever they lay and in whatever time. Senator Hunte said the Government is elected for five years and that it has to fulfil its mandate throughout that five years and that if an unpopular decision has to be made in the fifth year, then it has to be made, without any consideration to elections.

Madam President, I was very surprised to hear Senator Hunte say that and I commend him for it because that is a mature approach to Government, Government has to be done, Government is an continuum and I agree with him on that too but Madam President, is it necessary at this time? Ma'am, we said down and heard how the Barbados Labour Party did nothing for 14 years with the natural gas, how they did not dig any wells between 2006 and 2008, that there was no exploration, no advancement of the

programme, no expansion of the whole scheme. We heard about that. Senator Worrell had a lot to say about that. Senator Hunte had a lot to say about that. Senator Todd had a lot to say about that. Okay, that takes care of when the country was in the hands of the Barbados Labour Party, the country has been in the hands of this Democratic Labour Party Government for almost 10 years, so using the same argument, explain why it took this Government 10 years to bring these much needed increases.

Madam President, let us talk about playing politics in the Senate. I do not take offence when somebody is political in the Senate because Senators on that side, all 12, were appointed by the as Government Senators, politics will come into the delivery from that side. Let us not pretend that it is not so. I am in the Opposition, politics will come into my presentations from this side.

Madam President, I must say at this point, I noted my friend Senator Todd's presentation today and I tend not to want to go before Senator Todd because he always gives me a lot to think about when he speaks and often something to respond to.

No.D9 (22)4:46b p.m.

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Seq. 23

Senator W.A. ABRAHAMS: ... I noted my friend Senator Todd's presentation today, and I tend to not want to go before Senator Todd because he always gives me a lot to think about when he speaks, and often something to respond to. I really do not like to speak before Senator Todd because I have no idea what he is going to say, and sometimes I kick myself, having finished my time and him giving me juice and fodder for a response when I am unable to respond. I noticed that my friend Senator Todd was subdued today. His voice was not the same. His tone was different, and his political rhetoric, although biased, lacked the usual venom from before. I heard the delivery about the wicked Barbados Labour Party from Senator Hunte and I heard about it from Senator Todd, but Senator Todd's own lacked a little bit of conviction today. I wish to commiserate with him, because there is no more loyal servant of the Democratic Labour Party than Senator Todd. He has fought the good fight in here tooth-and-nail on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party Government. He has been singular in his scathing attacks on the Barbados Labour Party Opposition despite what the topic is, every single time he gets up to speak, which is probably on every single topic that comes before this Senate. Every single time.

Aside.

Senator W.A. ABRAHAMS: I am getting to the relevance. Madam President, every single time he manages to find some avenue to attack the Barbados Labour Party. There is no more loyal servant. Do you want to talk about caring governments? How could such a loyal servant be cast aside? How could he?

Asides.

Senator W.A. ABRAHAMS: What is then to be expected, Madam President? It is the same thought process that would seek to level an increase now on the back of all the other taxes and all the other increases we have had before. A lot has been addressed. Senator Boyce, in his usual manner, put forward his presentation with precision.

Asides.

Senator W.A. ABRAHAMS: Madam President, Senator Boyce put forward his purposes for the Amendment in a reasoned fashion, but he left some gaps. My issue, my fundamental....

Aside.

Senator W.A. ABRAHAMS: Madam President, the truth will out, and I am glad it did not come from this side.

Aside.

Senator W.A. ABRAHAMS: Madam President, there are some fundamental issues I have with the Amendment. One of the issues has to do with the authority of the Minister to make the Regulations that control the cost of the installation and the pricing. Madam President, at the end of the day, this is a utility and I fear a situation where the sole determining authority for the cost of this service is the Minister, where the ability to control and to raise the rates at will lies solely with the Minister. The other issue is this is not going to pass in abstraction. You are not going to put this Amendment forward without having a plan in mind. What actually is the plan? What is the expected rate increase? How much money is the Government looking to collect in the first tranche, in the first go, in the first five years? Madam President, we are not here in a vacuum. For us to come at this point in time, the authorities from the natural gas company would have had to weigh in and advise the Minister. I hope the Government is not acting ill-advisedly or with no advice at all. The Minister must know what is the proposed rate increase we are looking at. A lot of the anxiety, which people might face in hearing this debate and wondering how much it is going to go up by, can perhaps be allayed by Senator Boyce playing one more card. Play the card and tell us what likely rate increases we are looking at in the near future. If there are significant, we need to brace for them. If they are not that significant and are simply to

cover costs and not affect a person horribly, then the people may take some comfort from it, but it is not out of place to put that forward in this debate.

The other thing is we know that we had a shortage of natural gas recently, Madam President. What actually is the estimate and the state of the local reserves? What are the experts telling us? What are we looking at possibly? We have been looking and discussing the terrestrial reserves, but is this increase in rate also meant to facilitate marine exploration? Are we looking off the shores of Barbados for the natural gas, and is it in some way going to be covered or facilitated by the rate increase? This is for Minister Boyce directly: How long after the rate increase are we expected as a people to see some tangible benefit, either in the expansion of access to natural gas or in the delivery of the service in areas that have natural gas and are complaining about the quality or the delivery? These are all things that Senator Boyce, the Minister, must be able to address. I know Senator Boyce does not ever come in here unprepared. He is perhaps the most prepared person in this Chamber on that side, so I am sure these answers are within his bosom. I am not coming here to fundamentally oppose the increase. My opposition is twofold. My opposition is to the powers being vested in the Minister to control the cost of the service, because I am afraid of a situation arising where rising natural gas prices might be a low-hanging fruit to try to get some more money in the coffers of Government. I am afraid of a desperate Government which is in a cash-grab situation, so I am putting that on record. There is too much power vested solely in the hands of Ministers in too many pieces of legislation in Barbados, in particular where this would actually be considered as a utility. Then maybe the ability to raise and lower the rates should lie with the Fair Trading Commission or some other regulatory body as opposed to the singular hands of a Minister, who may not have the interest of the people at heart but moreso the coffers of the Government of the country.

Madam President, my second consideration, as I have said, has to do with the timing. The rates will have to go up eventually, but is now the right time? The people in Barbados have been through a lot. They are hurting. Allowances have been taken away. The reverse tax credits have been cut. Refunds are not coming; income tax refunds and VAT refunds are not coming. If this supposedly caring Government listens to the cries of the people, the people in Barbados are hurting. They are sucking salt. In many cases, they are just holding on, just keeping their heads above water. Is this the right time to talk about rate increases or to implement increases on the one thing which Barbadians say "we have a good deal on"? The one thing everybody in Barbados needs is the gas. The one thing most people in Barbados are looking forward to is the installation of natural gas for those who do not have it. Is this the time to

raise those rates on that precious and reasonable commodity which most people in Barbados benefit from?

4.45 p.m.

Insert s24 juliette

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Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: The information available to me, that is what I heard, suggests that that level of natural gas loss, which in the 20s and high early 30s, occurred in the early 2000s, 2001, 2002, 2003, and that since 2007 the Corporation has brought its loss ratio down to a percentage of gas that is lost of the total production to around 4.5 per cent at this time and that since 2011 and 2012 it has been on a consistent path downwards and it is now down at 4.5 per cent which clearly indicates that the Corporation is working assiduously to make sure that that efficiency metric is properly observed.

Madam President, I like not to go on the hearsay of people saying things to me about things if they are not in the official position, but this is what the officials have indicated to me. I do not blame the Senator Abrahams. I just say that whoever said that to him may have been going on the basis of information which goes back 15 years rather than information that is current.

Madam President, let me address the matter of the Fair Trading Commission and why this continues to have the Minister set the regulations. Of course, the Minister setting the regulations comes out from the old legislation. Madam President, the process for getting rate increases and so on with the Fair Trading Commission is not necessarily a quick or easy or a cheap process. It takes considerable amounts of money to prepare a case properly and it takes considerable time to go through the process with the Fair Trading Commission, but I certainly support the idea of going to the Fair Trading Commission and that is where I expect the National Petroleum Corporation to go, as all utilities will end up, but in the meantime the old saying holds that while the grass is growing you have to feed the horse. In my case, Madam President, a good country boy from St. Andrew, it was not so much the horse you had to feed it was the cow or the sheep or the goat.

Madam President, we have to deal with an immediate situation where this Corporation is likely to face a loss next year of \$4 million because of the cost of the product it has to import and because of the work it has to do on repairing the mains, and if we do not change the rates now it will mean that the Treasury would have to find \$4.5 million more to put into the National Petroleum Corporation. At a time when we are all calling for more fiscal discipline and even more attempts to reduce central Government deficits and for more efficiency and fewer

transfers to the State-owned enterprises, so I could not with conscience not bring this matter to the consideration of the Parliament. Madam President, we are looking to try to remove that \$4.5 million gap that we expect we will have next year and that is really what we are aiming for in the rate collection. We are not aiming to reap any fantastic amount of money. That \$4.5 million will represent just under about 25 per cent of the revenue that the Corporation now collects on an annual basis.

Madam President, for the average households the average National Petroleum Corporation bill is now about \$18 per month, \$4.50 a week. Madam President, I am told that that \$4.50 cannot even buy two beers. I do not buy beers so I would not know, Madam President. Madam President, the rates for domestic customers are not expected to move by more than 15 per cent, in other words, it is not going to cost them much more than a \$1 week.

Madam President, these increases are not designed to make the National Petroleum Corporation earn a profit like the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited or the Telephone Company, they are designed to make sure that the National Petroleum Corporation can pay its way without being a burden on the taxpayers, and those who get the benefit of the National Petroleum Corporation in my view should pay for the National Petroleum Corporation otherwise all of us including those in St. John who would not get the natural gas would have to subsidise it, and therefore that, Madam President, is that.

Madam President, when the National Petroleum Corporation gets itself together, remember the National Petroleum Corporation is going through an amalgamation with the Barbados National Oil Company Limited, and when that has been sorted out and when they get the mains and so on repaired, then we expect that they would want to go under the Fair Trading Commission.

Madam President, as I said earlier on, we expect to have the loan signed with the Inter-American Development Bank this year hopefully within the next month. We are already working on the conditions precedent so that we can begin to draw down the funds to do the repairs and put in the equipment and so on that is required. Madam President, I have said earlier on that what we are looking to do in this initial period of time is to do the repairs to the mains, do the realignments and make sure that we are able to meet the current demand for gas with this loan even if we have to import all of the gas. We do not expect we will have to import it but, Madam President, if you can see all there is to see in the oil and gas industry and what production you would have from each well each year you would be richer than anybody else on earth, so we have to plan for a case where because those wells are old we may not have the gas and therefore that is what we are aiming to do to make sure that we can meet the needs of the existing customer base,

that is our first order of business. In doing that, we are going to be in a better position to help some people who are already near lines to get a little gas but those domestics would actually not use a great deal of gas. Madam President, we are not out there to pull money in to go into the Treasury, we are just here to make sure that we can run the National Petroleum Corporation properly and we can run it safely for everyone in the country.

This notion that was put abroad by Senator Abrahams about wondering whether we were going to use this rate increase to raise funds, I think he said for marine work, Madam President, if that were going to be the case I would have said so. Those of you inside this Chamber who knows me would know that I do not run from hard matters, I do not run from the truth, so if that were so I would have said it.

The facts of the matter are that

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Senator the Hon. D. W. BOYCE: Madam President, if that were so I would have said. Ma'am, the fact of the matter, however, is that under the arrangements for the offshore oil and gas there is something called "carried interest" where the licensed holder carries the cost of the Government and when that well comes into production then the licensed holder recovers that cost, the Government shares that cost before they return the revenue to the Government, so that the National Petroleum Corporation does not have to seek to fund any participation in the offshore oil and gas drilling, that is carried by the licensed holder who then deducts it from the revenue that comes out. Madam President, that is just to clarify that matter.

There are one or two little details. Madam President, the loan that we have to the Inter-American Development Bank is US\$34 million, for 30.5 years, at the rate of 2.14 per cent per annum, so that it is a very good loan, it is on very good terms and therefore that is why we are going for it. Madam President, we hope to get the amalgamation of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited and National Petroleum Corporation done and so to generate some savings maybe in the order of between \$1 million to \$1.5 million a year when that is done. The ultimate thing, Madam President, will be for us in time to have the National Petroleum Corporation and the Barbados National Oil Company Limited into a public company, they are now Government-owned companies, it would be lovely if we could get certainly the utility part of it into a public company since it will a steady stream of income.

Madam President, we are already working on the matter of the ocean thermal energy conversion. There is a study which has been commissioned to look at that so that that study indicates that it looks like a feasible option for Barbados, along with offshore wind, so that Senator Alwin will soon be able to read the results of that study. If it makes good commercial sense then we will proceed with it because, Madam President, this ocean thermal technology will not only give us electricity, it will also give us desalinated water as a byproduct and therefore it is something that I have been very keen to push on because whatever potable water that we can find we would want to find because that helps us to deal with the future expansion of the economy and continued well-being of our water supply.

Ma'am, we have done the preliminary study about the ocean thermal energy conversion technology which was spoken about by Senator Worrell. Indications are that it is something that should do very well in Barbados. We are waiting for the results from a commercial pilot that is being done in Guadeloupe by the French to see what the results would look like since there are fairly similar conditions and then once we see where that is going then we will proceed on that basis. The Barbados Light and Power Company Limited has already been talking to us about it and they are very keen on it and Minister Estwick is also very keen on the desalination water part of it which will add to our reserves services here, as well as it will add to the enrichment of the fish farming/grounds around here.

Madam President, we also having a look at the salt water air-conditioning to see to what extent we can use salt water here to cool hotels on the coast and help them to be able to reduce their cost of operations. We are currently beginning discussions with the Inter-American Development Bank for a Smart Energy Fund (No. 2). We had a Smart Industry Fund (No.1) which has done quite well, we are looking to do a second one with focus particularly on helping the hotels to be able to improve their operating conditions and reduce their energy cost so that they can become more competitive as they go forward, so that the work continues, Madam President.

Madam President, there has been a lot of concern about St. Lucy, St. John and so on not having natural gas. Madam President, my colleagues know that my focus is always on the national issues but I must say that there is a very heavy user of energy in St. Lucy, the Arawak Cement Plant. I know that they are doing some ways to improve efficiency and to get wave energy and so on down there. Madam President, it does seem to me that if we can have the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited on board with using natural gas to power their fossil fuel equipment, if we can persuade them to use natural gas as well, that will create a natural spur on which we can hang the St. Lucy expansion, therefore Madam President, we will be having a

chat with Arawak Cement Plant to see what extent that they will be interested in something like that. Madam President, I am hopeful that we would get another commercial activity in St. John so that we can have a strong commercial spur there, so that Senator Worrell could make sure that the constituents of St. John can get natural gas.

Madam President, I raised those points because when you put in a spur or trunk line to a commercial area you carry sufficient gas on that trunk line so that that trunk line pays the cost of the expansion and so when anything else off that trunk line is done or what the economists call marginal or incremental cost, so that you do not have to charge the same kind of connection fees off that. Madam President, where we see those large commercial opportunities we would want to use them to get the trunk lines expanded and therefore be able to hang on more for domestic customers at a small incremental cost, so we will begin talking to them about sorts of things.

Madam President, we have to do that because I am told the cost of putting down the pipes which used to be, I think they have told me, was \$30 a foot in 2005 is now between \$80 and \$125 per foot, so you need to be able to find commercial opportunities to run the pipes so that you can then... Ma'am, you cannot charge domestic customers money to cover that, it will just be uneconomical for them and for you. Madam President, that is what we are doing.

Madam President, we had looked at this legislation earlier on, a few years ago, we did not get a chance to debate it then. In a sense the old people say that you have to wait until the Lord is ready for when certain things are to happen. Ma'am, since that time we have had a situation with the wells not delivering gas in 2014. We have had to get the loan from the Inter-American Development Bank, we have had to do a lot of repairs, we had to work on the amalgamation. Had we come back then without looking at these things and putting these things in place we might have been looking at a higher rate of increase but what we are doing here factors in the benefits we hope to get from the amalgamation of the two companies.

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Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: ... What we are doing here factors in the benefits we hope to get from the amalgamation of the two companies. It factors in the cost of funds at Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) rates rather than at commercial bank rates, and it factors in the funds being amortised over a longer period of time than it would have been under the commercial banking arrangement. Sometimes hurrying slowly, "festina lente",

becomes the best policy. I think we have seen some benefits of that but at this stage, facing a \$4 million loss next year because we have had to import, we have no choice but to bring this matter for the consideration of Parliament. Some people would call it a poor political move. I think that in all instances country is always first. The country must always be first, and we will have to make sure that the institutions that served this country well continue to serve it well.

Madam President, there is just one other little thing, and that is to say that in terms of the offshore oil and gas we have mentioned BHP Billington with which a licence has been done. This is also just to say that negotiations are ongoing with Repsol, another major international oil company, for another bloc on the offshore sector; and we expect that later this year or early next year we will go out again and invite tenders on another bloc or two early next year. We have two major companies now involved in the offshore oil and gas area. Madam President, when we do the plant for the large-scale importation of oil and gas, we will do it in the knowledge that if we do find commercial oil and gas off Barbados, that same plant will come in useful for being able to get that oil and gas into the Barbados distribution network. It is not that we are going to do it and then all of a sudden its usefulness will disappear. It will have some value in that regard.

Finally, Madam President, let me talk a little bit about the efficiency because sometimes we knock on Government organisations for not being efficient.

Aside.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Madam President, why is he asking me to speak about lawyers? I am not going to hear that aside.

Asides.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Madam President, I hear it said that there are a lot of Government organisations which people do not pay when they are supposed to pay the dues and charges. The NPC is one of those corporations that has managed to avoid the worst of that situation, and so it is fairly good at collecting the money which is owed to it. It is not as good as I would like it to be, but by the time next year comes it will be even better; it will reach the hawkishness that I like, Madam President. Actually, the NPC is one of the few corporations which are able to collect a good chunk of their money.

Asides.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: They have been able to run the place well within the means that they have. They have been able to collect their funds without being dragons

in that process, and I want to congratulate them and the Board which they have, led by Mr. Greenidge. They have done a very good job. I also want to congratulate my staff in the Ministry, in the Division of Energy and Telecommunications, for the work they do with the BNOCL and the NPC, and the general work they are doing in energy around the country. They deserve all of our appreciation.

Madam President, I think I will stop there for now, except to say one last thing. This thing gets wider and bigger. We are talking with the Barbados Light & Power Company, as we have spoken to them over the years, and with a couple of other people, about helping the country to get an electricity generating plant using biomass, using especially grass grown in the country. We want the biomass because it gives us base load, so you have a constant amount of energy all day long. We want the biomass because that enables us, if we get it, to bring back into production several hundred acres of land and begins to change the dynamics of the agricultural sector in the country.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has three more minutes.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Thank you, Madam President. We want to have that biomass-generating plant to generate the power as well as to provide a source of income to farmers who sell the biomass; the feed stock, the cane grass that is cut. Madam President, in the plans by the power company which have been discussed for several years, we had included an amount of power to come from waste-to-energy. Madam President, we should still continue to look for the right opportunity for that waste-to-energy because that is the way we have to deal with the waste that is increasingly being generated by the country and going into the increasingly diminishing land area that we call the landfill. Madam President, the work in energy is continuing apace. It continues to broaden in scope and I wish to thank the staff of the department, and I wish to thank all Honourable Members for their contribution here today in this debate. I wish to move that this Bill be now read a second time, Madam President.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. D.W. BOYCE, the House resolved itself into Committee. His Honour the DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

MR. CHAIRMAN: This House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 -- 3, inclusive, were 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 Her Honour the 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, passed and cited as the National Petroleum Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2017.

5.24 p.m.

Insert s28 juliette

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RESUMPTION

MADAM PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER No. 1

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225, THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF A PARCEL OF LAND THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN SITUATE AT LONDON BOURNE TOWERS, BAY STREET IN THE PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND ROAD IMPROVEMENT

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Todd, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, I rise to move the passing of this Resolution to approve in accordance with Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225, the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of a parcel of land the property of the Crown situate at London Bourne Towers, Bay Street in the parish of St. Michael in this island for housing development and road improvement.

Madam President, this Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act stipulates that the Minister may, with the approval of Parliament, sell, lease, exchange, grant, assign or surrender any such land, and so this process of vesting Crown lands in the National Housing Corporation is an essential part to complete the process of the Government's 20-year programme where we transfer title of ownership to qualifying National Housing Corporation tenants in the terrace units having been good tenants for at least 20 years.

Madam President, I congratulate this Administration because since assuming office in 2008 we have moved assiduously firstly under the Member of Parliament for St. Philip North, the first Minister of Housing and Lands in this new Administration from 2008 up until 2013, and continued by his successor the current Member of Parliament for St. Lucy to systematically vest these Crown lands in the National Housing Corporation on which these various housing estates are situated.

Madam President, you and I would have heard over the years people referring to the Psychiatric Hospital or at first the Mental Hospital as Jenkins. If somebody went down Jenkins they were going to the Psychiatric Hospital. Madam President, that comes from the fact that there was a plantation in that area called Jenkins Plantation which was acquired by Government and that would include the site of the Psychiatric Hospital and the adjoining National Housing Corporation estates in Deacons Farm. I use that just as an example to show that these various lands acquired by Government over time and owned by the Crown have to be vested in the National Housing Corporation.

Madam President, this process takes time and we are now at this stage where the lands at the London Bourne Towers are being vested in the National Housing Corporation. These lands, Madam President, which, of course, are located just to the east of where we are, are bounded by Bay Street on the west, Wellington Street to the north and areas such as Chancery Lane. Yes, there is a Chancery Lane in Christ Church but there is also a Chancery Lane in Bridgetown which is just east of that area of the hardcourts next to London Bourne Towers and Pondside. This Democratic Labour Party Administration actually constructed a two-storey block at Pondside to the east of London Bourne Towers. The record also reflects that the Democratic Labour Party Administration between 1986 and 1994 compulsorily acquired 21 parcels of land, individual small holdings, where the London Bourne Towers were constructed by the successor Government which took office after the 1994 election so it clearly was our intention to provide additional housing solutions to the good people in the urban corridor in particular the residents of The City of Bridgetown because as we know there is a tremendous demand for low-cost housing solutions for the masses of people of our country in the urban corridors in particular because that is the most densely populated part of the country as reflected by the fact that in the parish of St. Michael we have 11 constituencies with each constituency having at least 7 000 voters as compared to rural constituencies where for example the entire parish of St. John makes up one constituency. Along the urban corridor, along the West Coast and the South Coast, we have five constituencies in Christ Church but in the urban town centre, greater Bridgetown, we have the bulk of our population.

Many of the houses in the early days in greater Bridgetown were made of wood with outdoor plumbing facilities which were susceptible to fire and successive Administrations have sought to move assiduously to provide through the National Housing Corporation and other State agencies affordable housing solutions to cater to the needs of these workers.

Madam President, I am happy to report that this Democratic Labour Party Administration having assumed office in 2008 has put the National Housing Corporation back on course because under the Barbados Labour Party Administration from 1994 to 2008 the National Housing Corporation would have lost its way as we would have seen alterations made to the mandate of the National Housing Corporation under the Barbados Labour Party in that 14-year period such that the National Housing Corporation was involved in the construction of the National Housing Corporation headquarters at Country Road and the infamous Barrack Building in Warrens taking away valuable resources and time from the initial mandate of the National Housing Corporation of providing affordable housing for the masses of our country, and therefore this Democratic Labour Party Administration since assuming office in 2008 has moved swiftly to return the focus of the National Housing Corporation to that original mandate.

This Democratic Labour Party Administration, Madam President, would have inherited the National Housing Corporation project at the corner of Country Road, Whitepark Road and Bank Hall which had been left virtually abandoned by the Barbados Labour Party Administration. The site was filled with rotting steel and filled with bush breeding vectors. That project, Madam President, I must make the point, was supposed to be the site under the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme plan of the Barbados Labour Party under where residents in Cats Castle and Greenfield in the City of Bridgetown were to be relocated temporarily in terrace units to be constructed at that Country Park Towers site so as to free up the areas in Cats Castle and Greenfield for improvement in terms of widening of streets and improving the housing stock and so on.

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SENATOR the Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Madam President, I must make the point, that project was supposed to be the site under the Barbados Labour Party under its Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme where residents in Catts Castle and Greenfield in the City of Bridgetown were to be relocated temporarily in terraced units which were to be constructed at that Country Parks

Towers site so as to free up the areas in Catts Castle and Greenfield for improvement in terms of widening the streets, improving the housing stock and so on.

Madam President, what happened was that there was a bottleneck because as I said that project at Country Park Towers had been abandoned by the Barbados Labour Party, so that if the good people had not returned the Democratic Labour Party to office in 2008 and the Barbados Labour Party were still in office perhaps the good people of Catts Castle and Greenfield would still be waiting because there would have not been any housing solutions provided at Country Park Towers to relocate those residents from Greenfield and Catts Castle. Madam President, it is this Democratic Labour Party which is providing hope for these good people of the City of Bridgetown and the working-class community in that we have moved swiftly so that in short order we were able to transform that abandoned site at the corner of Country Road and White Park Road/Bank Hall where we constructed four-storeyed modern state-of-the-art housing solutions in terms of terraced units for the good people of Barbados.

Madam President, that was just one aspect, we did that in short order within our first term in 2008 to 2013 period and with limited resources. In fact, one of those blocks was constructed by artisans who were employed full-time by the National Housing Corporation. We went further in the urban corridor to Stuarts Lodge, to the south-eastern side of Tweedside Road. The Barbados Labour Party was in office 1994 to 2008 promised in elections after elections, they put up billboards promising to provide housing solutions at that location and they did not deliver. Madam President, this Democratic Labour Party Administration, soon after assuming in 2008, within that first term we were able to construct dozens of housing solutions in terms of two-storeyed blocks there which are now fully occupied by thankful Barbadian working-class persons, including policemen, civil servants and so on, who are very grateful to this Administration for delivering what was promised.

Madam President, of course, it does not stop there, this Democratic Labour Party Administration went further east to the Forde's Road area which is familiar to Senator DePeiza in the constituency of Christ Church West. Again, with the utilisation of the artisans of the National Housing Corporation we were able to build a number of state-of-the-art quads, two-storeyed buildings, blocks of four apartments. I was able to visit that site to see for myself and it is really high quality work and they are fully occupied by working-class Barbadians, under this Democratic Labour Party since assuming office in 2008.

Madam President, we went further going eastward on the southern side of Upper Collymore Rock, in joint ventures with developers we constructed the Vallery

Housing Complex, which are two lovely six-storeyed blocks with a wonderful panoramic view of Carlisle Bay and the south coast. These blocks are fully occupied, with balconies for the tenants and with properly functioning elevators. I would have visited the compound, Madam President, I would have seen almost 100 housing solutions there, including bedsitters at the ground level for persons with disabilities.

Madam President, this Democratic Labour Party went further and as part of the Urban High-rise Project we were able to construct similar blocks of nearly 100 housing solutions, two-bedroomed apartment at the area with which I am familiar where I grew up, that is, in Dalkeith Road. I think it is colloquially called Dalkeith Woods, at the junction of Culloden Road and Beckles Hill/Dalkeith Hill, at the Grotto, the Headquarters of the Barbados Agricultural Society. Ma'am, some persons have been able to occupy a number of the units there and we are moving assiduously as a Government to ensure that all of these units will be fully occupied in short order, Madam President.

Madam President, we have been able to utilise the concept of the rent-to-own so that those persons who are interested in purchasing Government housing solutions but are unable because of lack of financing to qualify for mortgages can enter into a rent-to-own agreement where they would pay rent for a few years, then would transition into a full mortgage where that rent initially paid would be part of the consideration for the payment of that property. Madam President, we started with that in the housing solutions at Greens, St. George, at Arlie Heights in St. Michael north and we are looking seriously at utilising this at the Dalkeith Wood site to enable and to empower working-class Barbadians to be able to purchase these housing solutions through a rent-to-own programme so that they are not crowded out and that we just cater to the upper class, but that through the rent-to-own programme we are able to have access given to these state-of-the-art condominiums by the general working-class.

Madam President, I will just backtrack a little just to identify what it is exactly that we have located at Country Park Towers. There are six blocks, with Blocks One and Two occupying just over 3 000 square feet of land. On the ground floor you have a day nursery at Blocks One and Two. You have on the ground floor Block Three with four bedsitters. Blocks Four and Five have four shops each and Block Six has four bedsitters. Ma'am, the first, second and third floors of these five blocks occupy two three-bedroomed apartments each, so that you have about 40 housing solutions there, Madam President.

Madam President, this vesting as I said earlier makes it easier for the National Housing Corporation to transfer title of ownership through the 20-year programme to

qualifying residents. Ma'am, for example, next door at Pondside we improved the initial arrangement so that those persons as time elapses, as it were, and the years go by and they reach the 20-year threshold, then these additional persons would still be considered to have that transfer of title free of cost by the Government to those qualifying tenants.

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Senator the Hon. P.M.T. TODD: ... For example, nextdoor at Pondside what we did was improve the initial arrangement so that those persons, as time elapses as it were, and the years go by and they reach the 20-year threshold, would still be considered to have that transfer of title free of cost by the Government to those qualifying tenants. What happened is that those persons at Pondside initially, when we assumed office and rolled out this programme, had not quite reached the 20-year threshold, but then as a year or two passed quite a number of them have actually qualified for the 20-year programme. Other terrace units are within the urban corridor, and in the City of Bridgetown in particular we have housing terrace units at Passage Road, which also has a number of persons who would be qualified for the 20-year programme. In other housing estates throughout the country, whether it is Deacons, Ferniehurst, Sayers Court in Christ Church, Silver Hill, Gall Hill, Pine, Wildey and all over Barbados, we have many thousands of Barbadians who occupy those terrace units and are thankful to this Administration for providing this 20-year programme; whereas the Barbados Labour Party was trying to sell those residents the units where they had to actually pay additional sums. What we are saying as a caring Administration is that they have been paying rental rates for 20 years, so effectively when you total that, they have more than paid for the property; so we are transferring this free of cost to those qualifying residents who, of course, would have had their rents up-to-date.

Madam President, if you allow me to, in talking about the housing solutions provided by this Administration in the urban corridor, especially the City of Bridgetown, I would also mention that this Administration since assuming office has been able to utilise the parastatal agency, the Urban Development Commission (UDC), to assist the National Housing Corporation (NHC) in providing housing solutions for the people of the City and throughout Barbados. The urban corridor stretches from as far as the Fitts Village area in St. James right along the Bridgetown corridor going along the South Coast right up to Oistins Town, and we have been able to provide solutions. I will just focus on the City due to limited time.

For example, since assuming office in 2008 the Democratic Labour Party Administration has been able, through the UDC, to provide housing solutions in terms of the complete reconstruction of houses that were beyond repair in areas such as Murphy's Pasture. We have been very balanced because, for example, Murphy's Pasture is within the polling district BF1 and they vote at St. Mary's Primary School. We have never won that polling district, but we did not say, "They do not support us so we are not going to provide housing solutions." We realised there was a genuine, legitimate need, and we provided a fully newly-constructed house for senior citizens on Murphy's Pasture in that Chapman Lane-Emmertown district. Similarly, we moved to the Bayville area in Evelyn's Avenue and were able to provide a duplex housing solution, completely rebuilt, for a family made up of a mother and several daughters with nearly eight children. We were able to provide two separate housing solutions for that entire extended family. We went on, for example, to just east of Queen's Park at Ellis Village and provided complete rebuild in those areas. Of course, several major repairs to houses within the City of Bridgetown were provided by the UDC in areas such as New Orleans, Chapman Street, Bayville and several areas of the City, Madam President.

Moreover, the UDC has been working assiduously in terms of the pit toilet eradication programme. I remember while serving as the Member of Parliament for the City of Bridgetown in our first year or so, I served as Minister of State within the Ministry of Social Care, where we had responsibility for the UDC. Senator Boyce, to my left here, at that time was serving as Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office with responsibility for a lot of financial matters within the Ministry of Finance, and I remember going before him chairing the Estimates meeting and arguing very strongly that the UDC should be able to retain its approximately \$1 million allotment in the Estimates for the retention of the pit toilet eradication programme. I must say that Senator Boyce was very understanding and he did not cut that budget, and so the work of the UDC continued. It was not like the Barbados Labour Party in the dying days of their Administration. They were so much in a panic when they saw the writing on the wall and they were about to lose the Government, that they just went all over the place in a sort of disorganised manner, putting toilet-and-bath onto rotting structures, which was not really acceptable. We had to come in and do a lot of remedial work. They constructed what they used to call "fandangle" houses which, when you entered the housing solution provided by the UDC under the Barbados Labour Party, you would actually see the kitchen. They were not properly designed and we had to abandon that approach, Madam President.

The Democratic Labour Party Administration, through the UDC, has also been able in the City of Bridgetown to run sewer lines connecting, for example,

residents in the Church Gap, King's Street area. This is a small gap just to the east of the King's Street Seventh Day Adventist Church. The main sewer line of the Bridgetown Waste Water and Sewerage System runs along King's Street, but those persons in Church Gap were unable to access that system, so what the UDC did was actually run connecting lines up the gap connecting to the main on King's Street so that those residents in Church Gap were able to hook up to the Bridgetown Sewerage System. UDC would then be in a better position to provide modern indoor plumbing facilities for those persons, Madam President. The same thing was done in San Domingo Alley in King William Street; an alley just off King William Street. The sewer mains were on King William Street and households in San Domingo Alley were able to be hooked up because the connecting lines hooked up to the sewerage system, and toilet-and-bath facilities were provided; that is indoor plumbing facilities. This was because UDC was able to run those connecting lines through the alley, Madam President. That is what the Democratic Labour Party Administration is about; these everyday, simple matters, and addressing them so that a wider reach can be made to facilitate more housing solutions to the people in the urban corridor, Madam President.

Madam President, I was so annoyed when I heard Barbados Labour Party operatives during their walkabout the other day in town. I understand they had a hostile reception in Bridgetown. Madam President, they had the audacity, the Barbados Labour Party -- can you imagine this? -- to criticise this Democratic Labour Party Administration, suggesting that we are neglecting the City. I have to remind them and Barbados that the Barbados Labour Party held the seat of the City of Bridgetown in the Other Place for the majority of the last 50 years since the early 1960s, Madam President. The Democratic Labour Party held the City seat in the House of Assembly on just two occasions, and I am happy to say that your humble servant served on one of those occasions between 2008 and 2013, Madam President.

6.28 p.m.

Insert s32 juliette

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Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: ... public transport operators and vendors to be patient as you know slight dislocation occurs. That is the small price for progress because when we see the designs, and it is taking shape now, with that old Queen's College building that is being transformed into a modern concourse, it has modern washroom facilities, areas where commuters will be able to wait for their buses in enclosed comfort and not exposed to the elements, there is proper drainage, flooding will be a thing of the past, modern facilities to accommodate

vendors be they vendors of food and other essentials and facilities for the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Transport Authority personnel. All of this is being done under this Democratic Labour Party Administration so we are not just promising, we are delivering. Madam President, I could go on and on.

Madam President, I would also wish to talk about drainage because this Democratic Labour Party Administration under the visionary leadership of the late David John Howard Thompson who when there was serious flooding in the Bridgetown area of Murphy's Pasture - sometimes person have to be rescued by boat because of the acute flooding there, gross neglect by the Barbados Labour Party - created an entire Ministry of the Environment, Drainage and Water Resource Management and transferred the Drainage Unit from the Ministry of Transport and Works and upgraded it to a Drainage Division within this newly created Ministry of the Environment, Drainage and Water Resource Management and through that Ministry we have been able to launch, since the Democratic Labour Party assumed office in 2008, a massive operation clean city initiative where we were able to clear a lot of these drains in The City of the silt that had been built up over years of neglect by the Barbados Labour Party thereby increasing the risk of flooding.

I remember when we roll out that programme for the first time that those drains along Baxters Road, Tudor Street, Milk Market and going on to the Constitution River had not been cleaned since that road was built under the Barbados Labour Party to the extent, therefore, that personnel of the Drainage Division had to use sledge hammers to break the covers of the drains to be able to pull them up to get to access the drains. Madam President, I congratulate those hardworking men and women of the Drainage Division who went into these drains and cleared that silt to reduce the likelihood of flooding which has been acute in areas such as Baxters Road, Tudor Street, Reed Street and Mason Hall Street, and that work continues. We have cleared the drains along the corner of Nelson Street and Fairchild Street right up to the entrance of the Charles Duncan Oneale Bridge and other areas of The City. Moreover, this Democratic Labour Party Administration would have actually covered the drains in Baxters Road on the first occasion that we held office.

Senator W. A. ABRAHAMS: On a point of order. Madam President, I am wondering at the relevance of the Senator's current trajectory with respect to the debate that is actually before us. He has veered so far off course that had I not known from the Order Paper what we are talking about I would be in no way able to guess it.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Todd.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Thank you very much Madam President. I am not seeking to abuse the opportunity I have here. I was taking the cue from the debate in the Other Place where it ranged far and wide in terms of urban development and Honourable Members were interested in the development of the nation's capital, so forgive me if the Honourable Senator is not interested in being given the opportunity since I have opened up the debate for him to address the views of the Barbados Labour Party in terms of the development of the nation's capital but it seems not to be important to the Barbados Labour Party, so if they wish me to I can focus more narrowly.

Madam President, if I may very quickly then conclude my statement in terms of drainage because we are talking about the development of the infrastructure of the City of Bridgetown the nation's capital. London Bourne Towers is infrastructural development of the nation's capital. It is very relevant, Madam President. We are talking about the same London Bourne Towers. Under the Barbados Labour Party drainage at the London Bourne Towers was atrocious and whenever there was a heavy downpour the residents of London Bourne Towers could not even access their own housing under the Barbados Labour Party. That is relevant, Madam President. Drainage is very important because if you build a housing solution but do not address the drainage that is not proper management. That is neglect under the Barbados Labour Party. We have a holistic view to the development of the people of our country. We will not be confined with blinkers to very specific issues not looking at the holistic development of a community. This is visionary leadership under this Democratic Labour Party Administration. This Democratic Labour Party have a comprehensive vision of the development of our people so we have, as I have outlined earlier, through the establishment of the Drainage Division through the establishment of the Operation Clean City...

When I cite these specific success stories this demonstrates that we have a track record so when we promise the people of London Bourne Towers that their drainage situation will be improved we have credibility because of the example I have cited before me earlier. What has caused that drainage problem to become more acute at the London Bourne Towers is that there are some drains, people would not know this but your humble servant knows it because I go through every single nook and cranny in the City of Bridgetown, which run under Bay Street between London Bourne Towers and the beach at Browne's Beach which were too narrow so the Drainage Division is working assiduously to improve that situation.

Madam President, I remember within months of assuming the office of Member of Parliament for the City of Bridgetown that to the west of Westbury School Pasture in the New Orleans area there was heavy flooding in 8th

Avenue New Orleans and the residents could not get in and out of their houses and we mobilised the Drainage Division and the Environmental Health Division of the Ministry of Health, your humble servant went down there, and we were able to get those personnel to clear the drains of that silt and we were able to alleviate that problem so we do not now get that sort of acute flooding that we used to actually have to endure. There is now a canal connecting 8th Avenue New Orleans just to the west of the police post and community centre linking on to Pickwick Gap because it had been neglected by the Barbados Labour Party for decades but in short order within months of assuming office in 2008 the Democratic Labour Party Administration was able to move assiduously to alleviate that acute flooding.

Madam President, moreover, right next door to London Bourne Towers under your humble servant as Member of Parliament for the City of Bridgetown we were able to address a situation at the eastern corner of King William Street as it leads towards River Road where under the Barbados Labour Party Administration, as I said they were in office from 1994 to 2008, a sidewalk in that south-eastern end of King William Street had actually caved in which would have covered a huge drain leading through Concrete Alley going down to Spruce Street, Vine Street, Wellington Street and out to the sea which are all connected to that same London Bourne Towers area and it was a threat to the life and limb of the good residents of in that Ribbits Land area and your humble...

Senate D9 Sequence 33

6.48 p.m.

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SENATOR the Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Madam President, after a Cabinet meeting, your humble servant was able to take the then Acting Minister of the Environment and Drainage, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and showed him the site and in short order we were able to mobilise the Drainage Unit to completely repair that area which had been abandoned. It was started by the Barbados Labour Party but abandoned up until when they left office. In fact, we have had challenges with indiscriminate dumping where people from the outside of that area would dump old houses and all types of things. Ma'am, what happened was that we had another cave-in further down that same stretch and this Democratic Labour Party Administration as we speak we have mobilised workmen and they have almost completed the rehabilitation of that sidewalk. Ma'am, major work has been done under the Drainage Division under the Democratic Labour Party.

Madam President, I promised not to be too much longer but I must take this opportunity to refer to the proposed Hyatt development and I am happy that the good residents of the London Bourne Towers have been reported in the media to be in full support of this project. Madam President, I say that deep down the Barbados Labour Party welcomes the Hyatt project but that for narrow political reasons they are publicly not saying, Madam President, because anyone who is interested in the development of Barbados and Bridgetown would welcome the Hyatt Hotel project because you are looking at two 12-storeyed blocks, accommodating nearly 200 rooms, so that in the construction phase alone you are looking at creating jobs, that is why the people of London Bourne Towers are so excited because they are right next door.

Madam President, for example, there is a resident of the London Bourne Towers who has been so enterprising that she was able to acquire an old bus that used to transport persons from the airport's tarmac. She is transforming that bus into a very vibrant enterprise, restaurant and bar, so that she can be one of the persons to be able to provide sales of breakfast, lunch and dinner, food and drink, a little libation from time to time for the constructions workers, many of whom would come from the City of Bridgetown. It would also be expected the contractor would ensure that a significant number of these persons -- not all - who would be employed in the construction phase in terms of carpenters, masons, electricians, steel-benders, plumbers, labourers, hundreds of Barbadians will be employed, thus stimulating the economy.

Madam President, it is expected that these persons then spending their earnings in terms of the shops around the area, for example, Glen Workman Shop at the corner of Wellington Street and Beckwith Street, or Jones Bar located at Pondside which is next door. Madam President, I know those persons, they are all my good friends. Madam President, this is the economic activity that will be generated in the nation's capital. Of course, we cannot neglect Baxters Road where it has all started, the street that never sleeps, so that when we have these thousands of additional tourists per annum occupying Hyatt Hotel and then going throughout Bridgetown, including Baxters Road, be it Collins or the Pink Star Restaurant, et cetera. Ma'am, it will be the Baxters Road of the old days, the street that never sleeps, so that we will be able to rival Oistins Town, Madam President, so that the residents of Bridgetown, some of whom own shops in that Baxters Road area, including New Orleans and the surrounding areas will be able to get more business. Of course, the residents of the city will be interested in having permanent jobs, be it reception, back office accounting, housekeeping, the culinary arts in terms of chefs and ancillary staff, security staff, maintenance, taxi operators, retailers and souvenirs. Madam President, Medford Mahogany has now

opened an outlet in Norman Centre so that he will be able to sell more mahogany souvenirs to tourists.

Madam President, why I said that deep down the Barbados Labour Party would be interested in the Hyatt project being executed in short order is that when the Barbados Labour Party was in office, they actually went to the extent of developing special legislation in terms of the Pierhead Development Project, but they did not inspire the confidence of the private sector in terms of investors and were not able to get that off the ground. They developed Special Development Areas legislation, so that Bay Street and Baxters Road are special development areas but again they did not get the traction.

Madam President, the Barbados Labour Party is jealous that this Democratic Labour Party Administration has managed this economy so assiduously that we are now able to attract investors to partner with Government in some instances and to risk their hard-earned money, foreign exchange in some instances to invest in terms of developing the various sectors, including tourism in our country and so the Barbados Labour Party is jealous because they know that when these project roll out that thousands of Barbadians will have jobs. We have this Master Plan in terms of the tourism sector, from Needhams' Point right down to Brandon's where we are looking at tremendous Government and private sector development of more room stock along this corridor. Madam President, Carlisle Bay is one of the best beaches in the Caribbean. Of course, we will have our windows to the sea, we have the window to the sea at Browne's Beach and so we will not be irresponsible but will have windows to the sea.

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

SENATOR the Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Madam President, when these thousands of additional hotel rooms are rolled out one by one, thousands of Barbadians will be getting employment. Ma'am, the employment rate will be in the single digit level. Madam President, it is already there but it will be going further, we are talking about full employment under the Democratic Labour Party Administration, so we are excited and therefore we look forward to the good people of Barbados sticking with the Democratic Labour Party because they see our vision and we will continue this work after the time of reckoning. Madam President, I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Carmichael, you have the Floor.

Senator Dr. Sir Trevor Carmichael: Madam President, I rise to speak in support of this Resolution, doing so at sunset and recognising the need maybe to do it

in a different way than one would do it at sunrise. Madam President, let me say that the sun sets and the sun rises with equal intensity at that beautiful corridor where this land sits, this land which is to be vested into the National Housing Corporation and this land which in my humble opinion, Madam President, is part of an area which will become one of the more dynamic locations as far as further and future urban housing development in Barbados is concerned.

Madam President, my brief remarks in support of this Resolution are buttressed by the great potential which resides in that area of Bridgetown, as I said, bathed as it is not only by the natural and warm beauty of Carlisle Bay but also a potential which includes the hovering historical success which overlooks the whole area. I said the hovering historical financial success because it is the spirit of London Bourne Towers which hovers over that area, which beckons that area for future national development and financial success.

No.D9 (34)7.08 p.m.

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Senator Dr. Sir T.A. CARMICHAEL: ... It is the spirit of London Bourne which hovers over that area, which beckons that area for future national development and financial success. London Bourne, after all, was our first, should we say, element of indigenous success in this country. This is an important area. Madam President, allow me also to remind ourselves that this area has received from UNESCO the World Heritage inscription, an inscription for Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison, and we are all aware and we recognise that this recognition carries a great responsibility, but we also recognise that this recognition by UNESCO carries great possibilities.

One of the recent matters which have come before the public brings into sharp relief this issue of whether a Hyatt Hotel should be sited across from London Bourne Towers and on that prized beach, all close and proximate to the land which is the subject matter of this Resolution. Madam President, as a lawyer who has been around a little while, I am very mindful of matters which are sub judice and I respect that principle. I know my colleague here does as well; I have heard him say it on other occasions. I respect that principle and will therefore not debate or discuss the merits of what is now set to be decided. However, I do have the option and the ability and the right to speak generally about development and about the role of Hyatt or what can be seen as a Hyatt, because Hyatt is now an international word for prime and prized hotel development; an international word for success in that area. One can speak about that. One can speak about it in the

context of urban development within a World Heritage Site, because any such urban development within a World Heritage Site has to deal with two issues: the issue of either adaptive re-use or new build. In the case of this situation, we have a raw beach so we are not talking about adaptive re-use in the strict sense but maybe of rebuild. Let me say that adaptive re-use has become an architect's dream. It has been the mechanism whereby an architect has been able to marry his technical skills with, may I say, his emotional output as well as his academic and knowledge-based leanings. There are those architects who have steered into that area; many local and many international architects, even the I.M. Peis of this world.

Madam President, there was a time, about five to ten years ago, when in Chicago almost every hotel project was a case of adaptive re-use. The old Reliance Building, the new Virgin Hotel, the Dearborn Bank Building; all old buildings adaptively re-used for hotels. There was also the Fulton Market area, the Ice Hotel and the iconic Hard Rock Hotel. All of them are adaptive re-use buildings in the Chicago area. That was the golden era of adaptive re-use, and it continues. Interestingly enough, one of Hyatt's adaptive re-use projects was also in Chicago, and that was one which focused on Chicago's architectural history, and the hotel's branding and marketing which emphasised the 22-storey Frank D. Chase design buildings path. There is a whole emphasis and a whole focus on sensible adaptive re-use and also functioning within the context of a World Heritage Site.

About Hyatt let me say a few things, and I say this because -- I have no shares -- I feel a slight sense of kinship with the hotel. I have visited a Hyatt Hotel twice a year since 1986. I fly in, I go for one night, I attend board meetings in the hotel -- that was up until two years ago but we have moved nextdoor -- then I come back the following day. I do that. We have five hours of meetings. I did say on that night we get in, we also have a board meeting. Actually, it is an American company which is also a Barbadian company; the only one of its kind. It is an insurance company, it is one of the largest and I have mentioned it here, but we meet and we do this at Hyatt, so it is in the DNA now and I cannot get rid of it. Hyatt is also one of the largest hotel brands and if one studies the history of Hyatt, one recognises that this is a hotel brand -- not the only brand, since Four Seasons with which I have a stronger association is similar in that respect -- that understands, if guided, that it can and should adapt itself to the milieu within which it is operating. I give one very important example: The first hotel which Hyatt opened in Africa was in Tanzania, and it was in 2015, and interestingly enough it was in the World Heritage Site of Zanzibar; the old Zanzibar.

Asides.

Senator Dr. Sir T.A. CARMICHAEL: That hotel in Stone Town is in the old city, a historic space. It is a place where spice trading and slave trading took place in East Africa. The architecture is mostly 19th Century and it dates back to when the city was the capital of the Sultanate of Oman; and I think that was in 1840. As you know, Zanzibar became a British protectorate in 1890, and then independence came in 1963. I say that because the Hyatt Hotel in Stone Town is amazingly, should we say, in keeping with the World Heritage inscription of that town, and that was the first Hyatt presence in Africa. I think these are facts that we need to know and we need to recognise, and we then need to use them to our advantage. I mean, in terms of if indeed we are siting a Hyatt Hotel in any area here which has a strong heritage component, we know that we are starting with a brand which recognises the importance and significance of that type of milieu.

7.07 p.m.

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Senator A. A. ADAMS: I believe that Barbadians will also agree with me in supporting the Resolution because they would not begrudge the goodly people of The City who have suffered what I would call intergenerational disadvantages particularly in the area of housing, and therefore now that the time has come for these improvements to be made I think that it is worthy of support and that they will give their support.

The neglect is really historical. The last time I spoke in relation to land acquisition we mentioned how the historians have reminded us that the poor blacks, the working class, in Barbados have inherited what Sir Hilary Beckles calls a landless emancipation and a disenfranchised freedom. Those points are telling us that they had little or no chance at all to own property including housing in Barbados and therefore they were at the mercy of what historian Watson referred to as a country that was owned by oligarchs who had a callous disregard for anyone except those of their families and themselves, and so that disadvantage is really been intergenerational and we are at the stage where this development ought to be supported.

Madam President, because this development is taking place in the urban corridor, I am now satisfied that we ought to be sure that it conforms with the Physical Development Plan of Barbados, that it is also in keeping with the Green Economy Scoping Study and that it should pay heed to the Barbados National Trust who really has had the task of ensuring that the buildings and properties of architectural, historical, commercial and cultural value are preserved and not wantonly destroyed, and so long as those

things are done, again we are very satisfied that the project should go forward.

Madam President, I will not touch on the Hyatt Hotel except to say that if I had any lingering doubts having heard Sir Trevor I think those doubts would be kind of eliminated and I am waiting to hear what Senator Fraser is going to say in that regard.

Madam President, there are aspects that I want to point out. One is that having spoken about the Physical Development Plan and the green economy and so on the development that is to go on there should be in keeping with those areas, and therefore I made some notes that the development should really follow certain guidelines and be clear that various things in relation to the greening of Barbados are being followed, so I would just quickly like to refer to things like the retrofitting of buildings to utilise more natural ventilation. In Bay Street we have a very good example of the ministerial building. I visit there from time to time and what I notice is the way how the air comes through in a natural way which means that you do not even have to have a lot of air-conditioning in that regard, so if you have to use air conditioning we would like to know that in the development that very efficient units are used there.

We want to also point out that in any development that we should desist from using incandescent lighting and go towards the LED lighting which will also bring a lot of savings. The types of toilets in this area where we are having water shortages, we want to ensure that the changing of all toilets should be the low-flushing types of toilets and that the harvesting of water should also be a priority but not only the harvest of the water but the way in which it is reused because we know that sometimes the water is stored and only mosquitoes will breed and so on and it is not properly used, and therefore we want to see those things done.

Madam President, I do not want to leave out the concept of the photovoltaic units and if possible even the wind turbines. Those types of developments in the country generally but particularly in The City will tend to also bring jobs, what we call green jobs. The retrofitting will bring the jobs. The lighting and installation of metres will bring jobs for the electricians and the type of maintenance that will be used will also bring a new type of technology and a new type of worker. We also would expect to see low-energy materials being used and materials that in fact will not lend themselves to catching afire and things of that nature. Madam President, there is one aspect of this which I will just want to mention, that is, that in our tertiary institutions so long as these new technologies are being used it means that the curricular in the secondary and tertiary institutions ought also be adopted and adapted to suit the new technology.

In the Green Economy Scoping Study I found, and I want to repeat it, that there is a call for a green building council which will be to monitor training and offer certification to the new technologies that we are expected to see. We will therefore find that our new technologists will be leaders perhaps in the region and specialised in the use of non-toxic materials and building new building designs and construction. We are talking about using our trade winds and so on rather than a lot of closed up buildings and we will also be looking at a new breed of interior designers and the concept of neighbourhood development which will include those persons who live in the area as well and so we would have certified persons coming out of our institutions who will not only be useful in the new technology in Barbados but also throughout the region given the level of certification, CVQs and so on, that we have, and so I think that those are some aspects that I thought I would want to highlight.

Madam President, I want to pivot to the person to whom we ought to pay this tribute and that is London Bourne, and so I want to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the man after whom the Tower is named.

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7.27 p.m.

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Senator Alwin A. ADAMS: Madam President, I want to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the man after whom the Tower is named. Ma'am, London Bourne was born in the latter part of the 18th Century. He was a slave. My research tells me that he was "jet" black, that you could not make any mistake about him even being a mulatto or anything like that. He grew up in the outskirts of Bridgetown. He was described by people who knew him to be a youngster who did not go to school but who went to work just around the age of 10, so here we have a situation where this young man did not have the opportunity of actually going to school but who had to work as a labourer. We are told that he even dived for pennies off the Wharf in Bridgetown in those days.

Madam President, fortunately for him he was manumitted. I am not sure who did the manumission but it means that his freedom was paid for by someone and this gave him what you might call a second opportunity. After trying his hands at several trades, he was able to read and write. I want to say for the Dean to hear that it was through the St. Mary's Church where later he became a patron of that church. He also became a real estate agent and began to do very well but he did not stop there, he established himself as a merchant in Bridgetown. Ma'am, that a stupendous feat, to be a black merchant in commercial Bridgetown in those days, having heard what Historian

Watson had to say of the first people of that time. He tried his hands at importing household supplies and durables, as well as meat, fish, condiments, spices, tobacco and Madam President, ladies clothing.

Madam President, in the early 1940s he owned three stores and an estate in the Grazettes area. Ma'am, I know that Senator Hunte was speaking about people who were dealing underhand but there is no evidence at all about him in any underhand dealings, just through hard work. He chose as his dwelling place a gabled-roofed structure called "Industry Cot", a four-hipped house. I actually saw a photograph of that house, but next to it or very close to it was a place where he did his business, called "The Exchange."

Ma'am, I want to pause here to find out when Senator Fraser speaks, why it is that that was demolished. Certainly in the photograph that I saw it looked like a very sturdy building. It is my opinion and contention that it ought to have been incorporated into the new development, particularly given that historic aspect of it and the legacy that it carries for the black people in this country.

Madam President, he also owned other properties in Jemmott's Lane, Loader Lodge, I am told, at the corner of Jemmott's Lane and Parquet's Alley. I am sure that Senator Todd would know where that is, as a man from the country I have not a clue, but he preferred to live in Bay Street because it was close to his merchant business and he could run across the road and deal with the captains of those ships with the business with which he was dealing.

Madam President, this man therefore is a classic story of a rags-to-riches man, something that we ought to do a documentary about. Now that we are going into the film industry, we believe that that should be earmarked for a documentary. He became one of the few wealthy blacks in this country at a time when it was a novelty and so he was rubbing shoulders with the Sam Collymores of the day, with the Montifieres of the day, who were Jewish persons, and with the Cumminses and the Belgraves. He was also a contemporary of Samuel Jackman Prescod and actually played a very significant role in getting the first coloured man into the Parliament and we should really commend him for that. Madam President, there was also a man called Adam Straughn "Straw" Waterman who existed in those day, the great-great-grandfather of Sir Frederick Smith. I believe that those kinds of people should be made known to our young people in Barbados.

Madam President, these are some of the things that he did, he was a philanthropist, a man who through selflessness and concern for others went beyond the call of duty to help persons who were less fortunate than he was at that time. One of the things that he did, he was a pillar in St. Mary's Church. I mentioned earlier that he got his

education through the church and so he worked extensively with the extension programme that the church had at the time. We are told that he did considerable work at the two schools attached to the church, we are talking about St. Mary's Schools because those schools were catering to the education of the poor black boys and girls in the city. I had in my notes where they were situated, but I will find that later on.

Madam President, he was also particularly involved with raising money for the building of the General Hospital, he was a major contributor, the hospital was built by charity and London Bourne was one of those persons. He campaigned strenuously for urban renewal and in 1861, which would be about seven years or so after the cholera epidemic that came about, particularly in the Bridgetown area but across Barbados as well, which killed something like 25 000 persons within three months. It startled the gentry and every person because it was not a respecter of persons. These were persons who adopted a *laissez faire* policy and felt that the urban poor should look after themselves.

Madam President, London Bourne was one of the chief persons who were responsible for getting piped water into Bridgetown. It is said that he contributed tremendously and in a big way to the piping of water from St. John into Bridgetown. Ma'am, things like cholera, of course, is a waterborne disease, caused by people drinking impure water, going to the bathroom without washing your hands, et cetera.

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Senator A.A. ADAMS: ... Things like cholera, of course, are water-borne diseases, and are transmitted by people drinking impure water, going to the bathroom -- well, not really the bathroom -- without washing their hands and so on; and so the notion of the standpipe and so on would have come about. Although the young people scarcely know what a standpipe is, people were now able to have piped water, and this contributed tremendously to the improvement of health in and around Bridgetown. The streets around the capital, Bridgetown, he also paid a lot of attention to improving, as well as indeed the sidewalks. The almshouse, which I believe might have been the Beckles Road one, he also paid a lot of attention to, so that the poor and indigent in and around the City would have some place to go and not be left on the streets. The St. Mary's School; one was located at Emmerton -- I found it in my notes -- and the other school was in Reed Street, so when you go around the City you might still see those buildings standing there. London Bourne was responsible

for that kind of thing. There is the missionary zeal of the St. Mary's Church. I want to stress this point because the Anglican Church is looking for redemption since it is a church that has been involved in slavery and things of that nature, but we cannot mention that part of the church's history without mentioning the tremendous work that it did in the field of education in this country. Therefore, this is the level of redemption that has been dealt with.

He was also part of the Back-to-Africa movement and he was involved with a scheme of trying to get freed slaves and so on to go back to the Motherland or the Fatherland, but amidst all of that he found time to get married. We know that he had at least one daughter, and she was married into the Barclay family, and they migrated to Liberia. One of the first presidents of Liberia was a descendant of that Barclay family, so he has gone full circle. We therefore want to let this country know that when they see the London Bourne Towers, it is a housing estate but it is more than that; it is bursting with history. In fact, we should not just have the name but we should have a plaque. It should be a place where every person who gets off a ship in this island should be visiting, and a booklet on the London Bourne Towers should be made.

Aside.

Senator A.A. ADAMS: We are going to be working on that. As I said, a documentary as well. It is a side of history that must be told. We can no longer have these things hidden away, and we -- I have to say "we" because it is generally true -- Blacks in Barbados have a tendency not to tell their children a lot about the past. Some, not all, but it is particularly difficult to do. Even history teachers in the country do not have the sensitivity with which to deal with this difficult side, this dark side of the history which is particularly painful. We need to get over it, and our children need to know. It needs to be said and done in a sensitive way, because it would serve to catapult the children from despondency and give them hope where there was hopelessness and so on.

Asides.

Senator A.A. ADAMS: It is history that is not all that far away. It is not in the antediluvian age and it is something that ought to be told. I thought that in this debate I would stress that area and, having done so, I rest my case, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser, you have the Floor.

Senator Professor Sir H.F.S. FRASER: Thank you, Madam President. It is more than a coincidence that I happen to be sitting next to Senator Carmichael, because I followed him as President of the National Trust and we

have been busy advocating the preservation of our heritage and particularly, both of us, the preservation of the people associated with that heritage. Senator Adams wondered why the Exchange Building had been demolished. It was demolished, as is so often the case, because the views of the National Trust, the non-governmental organisation established to promote the preservation of our heritage, both built and natural, were as usual ignored. The possibility mentioned by Dr. Carmichael of adaptive re-use was one that was proposed and I can give no better example, to the people of Barbados and to this Chamber, of the magnificent adaptive re-use which could have been used in this case rather than that of the Masonic Lodge on Spry Street. The Masonic Lodge on Spry Street was a three-storey brick building with earthquake bolts going through the building to preserve it when the top floor was added back in 1885; and when that building came up for sale from the Masons and was acquired by the Central Bank of Barbados, there was considerable debate and discussion as to what to do. Adaptive re-use obviously was an approach they would have had to take. I mention the phrase again that Dr. Carmichael used because I have lectured on adaptive re-use all over the Caribbean and in North America, and we in fact have used this approach to historic buildings; basically it is as old as the hills. Almost all of the old schools of Barbados were examples of adaptive re-use; the Chaplain's Lodge became the headquarters of Lodge School; Mangrove Lodge became the headquarters of Harrison College, and the Greenfield site at St. Michael became the headquarters of St. Michael's School. It is something that goes back 180 years to Lodge School, for example, so adaptive re-use is a very important approach to historic buildings.

The National Trust is often regarded as an effete organisation of old men who simply want to save old buildings, but whenever we make a proposal for saving an old building that is important for our heritage and that tells the stories of our ancestors, both the ancestors that might have commissioned them and owned them and the magnificent artisans who built them, that is the important thing; those whose craft and whose hard work built these buildings. Two men somehow managing to lift a coral stone block two feet by one foot by one foot into place to build coral stone buildings required enormously hard work. The carving related to the buildings, the carpentry and so on is magnificent work that has been unappreciated by this modern generation who simply say, "I want that" and they get it. Sir Trevor and I have spent a long time trying to establish and emphasise the importance of the relationship between these buildings. It did not work with London Bourne, as Senator Adams asked; it did not work because the advice was not taken. If you look at the Masonic Lodge -- and I invite any Senator who has not been and walked around the Masonic Lodge to admire what was done there -- it was an impeccable, faithful restoration of a brick building of 1733. Because the staircase had been messed up

in 1885 with a lean-to insertion into the building, that was demolished and a magnificent glass tower was added. The architects who produced this, Gillespie & Steele, made a marvelous, intuitive, inspirational bit of creativity. That glass tower which reflects the wonderful landscaping of the Brazilian landscape architect around the Central Bank compliments the brickwork of the old three-storey building in a wonderful way.

7.46 p.m.

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Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir Henry FRASER: Many people feel that those of us in the preservation world do not have options for preserving but developing. The phrase adaptive reuse is essential to that development because every building we think important to be saved we always have a proposal for it just like the Carnegie Library and the old Supreme Court which should be revamped as a state-of-the-art library while other countries are building billion dollar electronic modern libraries with all of the IT facilities which we could put in to those to revamp the buildings at a much, much lower cost, so this is the emphasis, Madam President, the buzzwords, adaptive reuse. Restoration is cheaper than new building by far.

Preserve our heritage and preserve the stories of those people who have made history for us. London Bourne may not be someone who sacrificed his life. He lived to a considerable age. I think he was 76 at the time of his death so he had an obviously healthy lifestyle. He was a healthy man. In those days that was the equivalent of living to 100 years old, so he did not sacrifice his life as did Bussa or as did Clennell Wickham or as T. T. Lewis who lost their lives because of their beliefs and democracy and working for the people and the livelihoods of the poor people of Barbados. He did not do that but he helped them in many, many ways. I do not recall if Senator Adams mentioned that he also supported the Rio Pongo Mission that Bishop Rawle of Codrington College had supported. He did wonderful philanthropic good work and his story therefore does need to be told.

Thank you, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Abrahams, you have the Floor.

Senator W. A. ABRAHAMS: Madam President, it is late in the day.

Asides.

Senator W. A. ABRAHAMS: Well, as some say, the day begins when the sun goes down, so it is early morning for some of us as night people.

Madam President, I rise to enter the debate on the acquisition of the land but the reality is that we are just checking the boxes now because the land had been acquired, the London Bourne Towers has been built, people are in and our vesting in the National Housing Corporation is a done deal, so like others who have sought to give their opinions on Bridgetown and the environs of the London Bourne Towers I will do the same.

Asides.

Senator W. A. ABRAHAMS: My interest is in Christ Church East, that is my parochial interest. As someone who goes into Bridgetown every single day because that is where I work I have a particular vested interest in Bridgetown and I have spoken about it a number of times. I have spoken about it to Senator Todd. I walked through certain areas up by the London Bourne Towers with Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Bostic, the Member of Parliament for the City of Bridgetown and no matter what side of the political fence you sit on I think all of us do have a concern with the state of our capital city. I am not here to point a finger and say that the Democratic Labour Party Government neglected The City and I am not here to point a finger and say that the Barbados Labour Party Government neglected The City, the reality is whoever forms the next Government of Barbados, whoever is the next Member of Parliament for the City of Bridgetown has a task ahead of them because even the most patriotic Barbadian will admit that Bridgetown is not what it could be. Once you drift off of Broad Street and you start to go to the annexes off of Bridgetown, you go to Wellington Street, Nelson Street and to other areas Bridgetown starts to look a lot more like the slums from other cities than what our capital city in Barbados should be so we need to take a holistic look at Bridgetown.

Businesses have moved out of Bridgetown. There is a lot of empty commercial space in Bridgetown. A lot of the activity that was in Bridgetown up to 10 years ago is no longer there. I am not looking to point a finger at anybody. I am calling it as it is because at some point in time the role of Government is to govern. A Government has to play the cards it is dealt. It has to play the game it is in. It does not make sense complaining you got dealt a bad hand, you have to play the cards you have, that is your role, that is why you are elected. When one Government is sent out or changes on an election, that is the public saying we are no longer happy with you, we are giving this next person a chance so when that person gets in it does not make sense to criticise who was there before ten years later because the people already ruled. You do not have to convince the people. The people were convinced at the time when they

sent the last Government out. At some point in time you have to bite the bullet and say I am in charge, this is what I want to do, so for whoever is the Member of Parliament for the City of Bridgetown come the next election these are my legitimate concerns as a Barbadian and somebody who cares about Barbados.

We have to have a zero tolerance policy for dumping in The City and littering in The City. People in The City need to be as proud of where they live as are the people in the heights and the terraces. It is where you live. It is your neighbourhood.

If we are talking about maximising the importance of Bridgetown our capital city as a UNESCO heritage designation we cannot have people coming to walk and look at the buildings and detouring off where you want them to go and heading into areas that you do not want them to photograph. Senator Todd must feel the pain as he walks behind London Bourne Towers into the areas behind there. Senator Todd must feel the pain of The City that he represented that is now represented by Colonel Bostic because I know Colonel Bostic feels the pain. I am not running for The City and I feel the pain. It is disgraceful. There are areas where dumping happens. Somebody said that when you put down a Skip by the church, Senator Todd would have to help me with the names of the streets out there through by the church, in 24 hours it is full to overflowing. People dump everything, dead animals, et cetera. Quite often there is human faeces in the road behind there. I know because I went to church at St. Ambrose and had to step over it. That is the reality of back there. That is a disgrace no matter where you live and that is a disgrace for the capital city in Bridgetown, so let us not point fingers anymore. Let us say it exists and what are we going to do about it. We have to take a holistic look at Bridgetown. Part of why this is going unnoticed is because the traffic through Bridgetown has now ground to a halt. I do not mean the vehicular traffic, I mean the pedestrian traffic and the after-hours traffic.

When I was a child growing up I like to throw some expansive expressions but in my younger days on Thursday and Saturday nights we used to go in the Warehouse and Bridgetown was packed and Cavan's Lane was packed. When you were going to the Warehouse you passed other places that were packed. They had four clubs down there. On a Friday night Bridgetown was packed. At the time I was living in Enterprise and I would pick up and leave Enterprise and go down to Bridgetown to a whole tonne of people and you party and party and enjoy yourself and you come out after partying and buy hot dogs and you walk down the street and buy a drink somewhere else. That was what Bridgetown was then.

On a Friday night Baxters Road was packed not just where they have the fish stalls now but all down Baxters

Road by the Pink Star. We in our lifetime in a short span have seen the death of Bridgetown our capital city. The question is: What are we going to do about it? Yes, the businesses have fled. Yes, a lot of corporate Barbados have moved out of Bridgetown and gone to Warrens. Some people even talk about changing our capital to Warrens, you hear that loose talk and it is foolishness...

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8.07 p.m.

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Senator W. A. ABRAHAMS: Madam President, some people even talk about changing our capital city Bridgetown, to Warrens. We hear that loose talk and it is foolishness. Instead of us trying to mentally abandon Bridgetown as we have done, technically speaking, in practice, do not let us use the word revitalise Bridgetown, let us seriously look at breathing new life into it, and let us seriously look at what needs to be done to drag people in. Madam President, I have some suggestions, when we get to the point where we have more than an eight-hour work day; when we get to the point when we wake up and realise that sometimes you have to open Bridgetown later to accommodate people who are working; when we get to the point where some Government offices will open till 8 o'clock to accommodate people who work and people who have to do business outside of working hours, then that starts to drive people back into our capital city. Madam President, when we actually crack down, when I say zero tolerance, I mean zero tolerance. If you throw a bottle on the ground in Bridgetown the fine should be heavy, you should never do that again after that fine.

Ma'am, there are two young children and I hope that they are somewhere passing by a television and are listening to this statement. I was driving by the Law Courts and saw two school children, one of them takes the bottle from which she was drinking and throws it into the road. I stopped my car right there and then and got out and said: "You, come here!" Madam President, the child looked at me as though I was foolish. I said: "Come here, I recognise your school uniform." She came over. I said to her: "Pick that up." She asked me why. I said: "Because you threw it there. Would you drop that in your house? Pick that up and go put it in the garbage." Madam President, the child picked up the bottle, I got back in my car and she stood there waiting for me to move off. I got back out, looked at her and stood in the road blocking traffic and watched that child walked up the road until she dropped that bottle in a garbage can. Madam President, that is the respect that our primary school children have for our country and it is not just them, that one bottle is magnified time and time over. Ma'am, we should have a zero tolerance policy for dumping in the city, more than anywhere else.

Ma'am, we also have to have a zero tolerance policy for crime and lawlessness in the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown. If we want people to come back into Bridgetown at nights, if we want people to use Jubilee Gardens, if we want people to use that fantastic park out by Independence Square where the statue is, if we want people to see the improvements that have been made and to utilise those improvements and it becomes a place of recreation, a place where you can go and romantically walk. Madam President, Senator Todd should be happy to go on a Friday, armed with his cucumber and his young lady and walk comfortably and enjoy Bridgetown as it is supposed to be but for that now, we also need the buy-in from everybody concerned. The police need to have an increased presence in town at nights in order for people to feel comfortable about using it as a recreational spot. There is nowhere in Bridgetown at night that you should not feel safe to be there. If we have to invest in safety, we have to invest in safety in our capital city.

Madam President, we need to look at Town and Country Planning, we are perhaps one of the only capital cities that I know about where nobody lives in it, so that from the time you reach London Bourne Towers that is the end of residential into Bridgetown. When we are looking at development of places in Bridgetown we need to take the London Bourne Towers model, because it has commerce at the bottom, there is a hairdressing salon and other shops at bottom and residential upstairs. Ma'am, development in Bridgetown should also factor that in. If a development were to take place in and around the Careenage, why should it not have commercial at the bottom and residential at the top, because you are going to pull commercial traffic to it?

Madam President, it happens everywhere else, but not here, the reality is that we need to look at it and contemplate it because why should a young professional or somebody who works in a bank, or somebody who has a business in Bridgetown should not want to live in Bridgetown? They do not want to live there now because it is dirty. They do not want to live there now because it is unsafe. They do not want to live there now because that is not the model to which we are accustomed. Ma'am, if we are looking at Bridgetown and what we need to do to inject life back into Bridgetown, then these are all the things that have to be considered.

Ma'am, as I said, a holistic plan has to be done. We need to look at tourism and transport in Bridgetown. Madam President, the efficiency of a transportation system in and out of Bridgetown is also paramount to people using Bridgetown because my coming down to Bridgetown on a Friday night I need to know that I can get home. We need to look at transport, we need to look at the residential use, and we need to look at entertainment. Let us start driving things back into Bridgetown, it may take a concerted or

planned effort, you may need some plans continuity but we actually need to start pulling things into Bridgetown.

Ma'am, in the park by Independence Square there should be concerts there regularly, facilities should be made available so that people who want to do standup comedy, a concert, a skit or whatever can have it at little to nothing, the investment being made to drive traffic into Bridgetown, to pull people in, to get the best use out of the space. Ma'am, that space is more used for vagrants sleeping there than it is for the proper traffic for which it was contemplated. Ma'am, the fountain does not work. The fountain was an important part of the design, put that fountain back into operation, all of the green spaces that we create in and around Bridgetown and we build the pretty little amphitheaters we build them, we put them, we do nothing else with them. This is something in which the Government should get involved, not necessarily this Government but whatever Government. We should as a matter of course and a planned strategic model be driving things into Bridgetown. Ma'am, Laugh-it-Off should be held in Bridgetown, school choirs at Christmas should come and sing in Bridgetown. You should know that every Friday something is happening in Bridgetown and people would be encouraged to do it.

Madam President, one of the most embarrassing things for me now is when visitors come to Barbados and ask what is there to do. Ma'am, there is actually that not much to do now as compared to before. There are certain places that have their traditional nights of parties but outside of those places the options for entertainment are now slim. Ma'am, St. Lawrence Gap is dead. There is Oistins on a Friday night but when once you have exhausted Oistins on a Friday night you have very little to tell somebody else. Ma'am, we need to look and think, what did we have before that worked, why it is no longer here, what do we need to do to put it back in.

Ma'am, the development in the city must be harmonious, it must make sense, it must be sustainable, and it must be something that can build. When Oistins started on a Friday night it started to build because it was regular, you know that it is going to happen; everybody plans for Oistins because they know it is going to happen. Nobody thinks, is Oistins going to come off this Friday? Are they going to have a lot of people? Therefore Oistins has a lot of people every Friday because it has a lot of people every Friday.

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Senator W.A. ABRAHAM: ... Oistins has a lot of people every Friday because it has a lot of people every Friday. We need to build back Bridgetown in the exact same way, and this one needs to be the Government driving a buy-in from the residents and the rest of Barbados. Bridgetown is too valuable for us to let it die. I have said this before, and I actually challenge all the Senators in here; every one. Tomorrow afternoon at five o' clock, come and let us walk through Bridgetown. Nothing is happening. On Friday coming up, what used to be a thriving time for Bridgetown, come let us drive through Bridgetown. Friday is worse because come 4:30 on the dot, everybody in Bridgetown is trying his or her best to get out of Bridgetown as fast as possible.

Senator Todd inspired me today because he imagined. I am imagining with him. Madam President, imagine that instead of running out of Bridgetown on a Friday, there was something to do. I do not jump into my car and go at 4:30, because I am going to Nelson's Arms where there is a good lime going on. I am strolling across by Independence Square because I know a play is about to start at six o' clock. I am going by Jubilee Gardens because something is scheduled for there. Imagine what that would do to the traffic trying to get out on Fridays. Traffic out of Bridgetown on Fridays is hell. It is a nightmare. I do not know what happens about Friday, but it is a nightmare; so we can actually help traffic problems in Bridgetown by having stuff happening in Bridgetown. If everybody was not trying to leave Bridgetown at the same time, the traffic out of Bridgetown would be less horrendous.

These are all the things which I want us to think about. For all of you who say that I oppose for the sake of opposing because I am on this side, and that I do not offer suggestions, this is my heartfelt suggestion as a Barbadian who is hurting to see his capital city die. I have lots more ideas; plenty, plenty more about Bridgetown, and I am willing to get on board. I am willing to get on the train to help it to happen. If this Government wants my suggestions, I am willing to give my suggestions to this Government. Equally, I will give my suggestions and my effort and my blood, sweat and tears to the next Government to make it happen, because the rejuvenation of Bridgetown is critical to us as a people and it is critical to us in selling our tourism product; not just our heritage tourism but our overall tourism product. Nobody wants to come to a country with a dead capital city. I urge all to take note. As I said, I am willing to help anybody who is serious about bringing Bridgetown back. I have lots of ideas. I know Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Bostic has lots of ideas as well, because I have spoken to him about it. I am willing to work with anybody who is willing to do something about bringing Bridgetown back. It means a lot to me; it should mean a lot to everybody else. Thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, you have the Floor.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Thank you, Madam President. I just want to spend a few words while I lend my voice to support the Resolution to vest this property in the National Housing Corporation (NHC). Madam President, this Vesting is something that really should have happened a very long time ago. Those apartments or condominiums were built, I think, in the mid-1990s, and therefore that land really ought to have been vested in the NHC at the time when they were being built. This is really and truly to put those condominiums into a condition where you can give people title to them, whether you sell them or whatever to the tenants of the place. It is really a cleanup operation which we are doing.

The discussion on the heritage has been very useful and very interesting. I do not believe, though, that the heritage people considered that you are going to always keep a Heritage Site in the very same condition in which it was when it was made a Heritage Site. What should be considered is that what you do in the site should not be done to such a great extent that it changes the character of the area. There are architectural means by which you can maintain the character while you can also increase the commercial viability of what happens in those areas. When you are talking about one of those hotels that have been mentioned here -- those four-star and five-star properties -- in a city centre, density is important; otherwise they make no money. Density was important when the old Hilton Hotel was demolished and a new Hilton Hotel was built at twice the capacity of the old one, because the old one was not making any money. The density was too low. To get the kinds of numbers you need to sustain a quality hotel in Bridgetown, you cannot afford to acquire the land to keep it down at two or three storeys. It would be uneconomic. It would be a complete financial failure.

It is not the kind of area where you can charge the kinds of rates which you can maybe charge for some boutique West Coast property; so you have got to deal with that recognition and go for an architectural style that would enable you to get density without destroying the character of the area. I have seen that done in other cities of the world, where mixtures of glass and concrete are used -- concrete at the lower level and glass at the upper levels -- in order to provide density but maintain the character, lightness and brightness of the heritage area in which it was built. I have seen one in Vancouver with an old Anglican church, the Christ Church Cathedral, set right next to a tall glass building and appearing to be framed by a glass building. So wonderfully done was it! We have to look at those things, because Bridgetown needs to have commercial activity. I agree with that wholeheartedly. I like the passion of Senator Abrahams, but this problem of Bridgetown being dead or dying goes back -- I want to

remind people because this is not a problem going back five or ten years -- 20 years or 30 years.

Madam President, I remember doing a little bit of consultancy work in the mid-1990s for a Bridgetown redevelopment project with Design Collaborative and with Senator Dr. Sir Trevor Carmichael. I do not want people to get the impression that the problem of Bridgetown is a new problem; it is an old problem. This does not mean that we ought not to put all our energies into solving it, but it is not for the Government alone to solve it. We are back to the entitlement mentality where a Government alone solves it. The people who make their living out of Bridgetown and who make their investments in Bridgetown have a duty as well to invest not only in the hardware and in the concrete, but to invest in the activities which keep the place alive. It has to be a joint effort.

8.25 p.m.

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Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: The point I am making is that those things can reside together and that is important because it is unfortunate that a lot of what happens was not what happened here today, that people sat down and said let us look and see what kind of solutions are possible. Government has done something in terms of addressing a number of issues but it is not for Government alone to revitalise Bridgetown. We have talked about housing and the challenges of urban housing but we also have to talk about business practices. Why is it that every store down Bridgetown is closed after legislation has been passed which allows for later store opening? Why does a store in Broad Street or Swan Street have to open at 8 o'clock in the morning when at 8 o'clock in the morning most people are scrambling to get to work or to school? Of course, the employers would tell that you they cannot do it alone so therefore Government as a major employer but more importantly the trade unions have to look and say what is the value of flexitime.

Madam President, I use flexitime. I was in my office at 7.30 a.m. yesterday morning and I left at almost 7.30 p.m. last night. My staff would often not see me there until 9 o'clock or after but they will leave me there and I will leave at 9:30 because when you leave at 7:30 or 8 o'clock in the morning you are sitting in traffic for an hour, for 45 minutes you are okay, but if I leave my office at this time it takes me 15 minutes to get home. The point I am making is that we have to collectively take responsibility.

I laud Senator Abrahams for speaking to that young person but I drive around Barbados... In fact, a friend of mine who is involved in the cruise industry said to me that

it is unfortunate that they walk around Bridgetown on weekends and so on and they see the names of a couple business houses on litter everywhere. Madam President, I therefore challenge those entities that when people buy their food to participate in a campaign to clean up. They are the ones profiting from the litter. They are doing the business but their clients are creating a mess, and I think it is an issue that we have to look at. Every day I go to work now I get very upset when I pass a certain business not because it is successful but because its clients have taken to parking on a green space and with a bit of rain it has turned it into sludge and they drop all of their litter, their plastic cups and plastic bags, when they finish eating the food at the establishment. Madam President, that is one of the nice areas on Spring Garden Highway when you come down but they have turned it into a mud pond and there is ample parking around, so these are the things for which we have to take responsibility.

Madam President, I believe that at the end of the day as we talk about heritage sites as we talk about the housing we can do a lot. When I listen, Madam President, to Senator Abrahams, because I had to step out as I said and I missed some of the presentations, I started to think of key locations: the Esplanade - and that is very nicely used nowadays, I hope they are not littering it because I see barbecues and so on and I hope that they are not leaving all of their grease and whatever else but that they clean up behind them; Independence Square; Heroes Square; Jubilee Gardens; the Post Office area; Church Village Greens; and Pelican Village. All of these are areas where we can have activities.

I challenge ourselves and the young professionals, I am not a young professional, to start to look at developing what I call investment clubs. We complain right now, Madam President, that the commercial banks are paying us less than .25 per cent interest or something like that now. I am not going to go through my long treaties on pooling but I am saying that we can create opportunities. Senator Boyce spoke about what people did in their communities. We have musicians, artists, young people in film and theatre arts and graphic arts, and scientists doing all kinds of creative innovative type things, so let us get together and invest in those people to showcase. We can have all kinds of things.

Madam President, there was an event out here this morning which could have created some challenges for us. Why does it have to be in the morning during the rush hour? Why cannot it be at sunset? What happens when we have full moon? I am saying that there are solutions that are within our grasp.

Madam President, we can look at our churches. One of the most beautiful Friday evenings I had was... Quite serendipitously I was invited to a recital of a young lady

who actually graduated last weekend as she was preparing to go to the Manhattan School of Music at the St. Patrick's Cathedral, I think she is a member of the church, and they put on a fundraising concert and for that evening, at the time it was about 7 o'clock, you saw the beauty of the structure of the Cathedral, but you also had the beautiful renditions of the Royal Barbados Police Force Band, the young lady singing, others who performed with her and so on. On the other hand we have St. Mary's Church which is a very historic building. We have the Cathedral Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Bethel Methodist Church and the Jewish Synagogue which has been beautified, so I am saying to let us not say what is wrong but let us work collectively to find solutions.

Madam President, I do not think that Bridgetown is dead. Bridgetown is quiet. It is not dead because if it was dead, you all are not miracle workers, we could not revive it. There is only one higher being that I know, and none of us cannot bring... It may be moribund, I do not think so either, it just needs revitalising, it just needs some vitamins and whatever else to bring it back to life. I believe, Madam President, that as we look at this, as I said we heard of all those solutions.

Madam President, I was really fascinated by what was said by all of the presenters. Senator Adams gave us an excellent discourse on London Bourne. Quite incidentally, Madam President, yesterday evening I got an email from a gentleman called Prince Maxwell who happens to be a member of the foreign service of Liberia in Brussels, and in the corridor of a meeting we had a discussion on the connection, and he sent me an article which I want people to look for. It is called "From Barbados to Liberia: A Deep Look Into the First Barbadian Settlement in Liberia. Mr. Maxwell talks not only of the Barclay President who was born here and his nephew but its Attorneys-General were Barbadians and a whole set of other people. It is very interesting reading. The point I am making is that in that reference, as I was listening to Senator Adams, I read about London Bourne. That reference speaks to London Bourne, Samuel Jackman Prescod and so on, so I am saying that as we talk about The City we also can talk about it within the context of what you said, about that connection with Africa. For example, we have persons writing and we can showcase these. We have lecturers but a lecture does not have to be indoors all of the time. In fact, we have the beautiful courtyard here and with the permission of the Clerk of Parliament, the Speaker and Madam President we can also utilise this space, not this space in terms of the Senate Chambers but in terms of the Parliament buildings... I am saying that with a little creativity and not much money because everything does not have to be expensive we can do a lot to ensure that people can appreciate the beauty.

Madam President, before the notion of walking tours and so on of Bridgetown was popular, a couple friends of

mine, former students of mine and myself developed a business proposal and I remember walking this entire area to identify key areas for inclusion in a tour of The City. We have been training young people, so let us invest in our young people, come up with the solutions and understand that it is for us not only to be the clients or customers but to be the financiers, the idea generators and the problem solvers and to do what I usually say. We are very good at diagnosing, prescribing and generally bellyaching but we need to come up with the solutions.

I think, Madam President, that in the discussion that we had this afternoon, I like an expression, as we look at the hovering historical financial success, I think that was the wording if I captured it correctly, of London Bourne...

Senate D9 Sequence 45

8.45 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Senator the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I think that in the discussion that we had this afternoon I like the expression, "as we look at the hovering historical financial success of London Bourne, let us in tribute to him and all of those heroes that we speak about, all of those persons named and unnamed who have made Bridgetown an important part of this country, do our part to ensure that we are able to capitalise on that UNESCO World Heritage Status."

Madam President, the Resolution before us was to ensure that we have completed the process that was started long ago in the erection of those towers, just even, for example, to have a collection of the images of that area prior to the construction of the towers. Ma'am, I can put whoever wants to coordinate that project in touch with the artist whose name is Michael Bryan who has systematically painted that area before the demolition of those buildings. Ma'am, we can do a whole set of things to capture that. Madam President, we also need to capture in documented form, that is why I suggested to Senator Adams that he seeks to write about these things because it is important that we are able to share that.

Madam President, I believe that in looking at a vesting that should have taken place a long time ago we were actually able to focus on a number of things that should have been happening and I congratulate those among us and those outside of this Senate Chamber who are making a contribution to revitalizing and reenergizing parts of the city and its environs but I would also want to recommend that we each make a personal commitment to addressing the several problems that currently plague the city which seek to dim the brightness that Bridgetown has to offer.

Madam President, with those words, I now beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The question was put to the Honourable the Senate and was resolved in the affirmative, without division and MADAM PRESIDENT adjourned the Sitting accordingly.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Members, before I declare this Sitting adjourned, I wish to take this opportunity to convey heartiest birthday greetings to one of our Members, and I am sure that the birthday person will agree that they could spend it in no better company than that of the Honourable The Senate.

No.D9 (46)8.52 p.m.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Throughout, ‘Insert s2 juliette’ to ‘Insert s44 juliette’. Eleven notes reading ‘Insert sN juliette’ (for Sequences 2, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40 and 44) stand in the text, and at several of them the debate resumes mid-sentence or mid-speech (for example Senator Boyce’s opening speech resumes at ‘Per customer’, and Senator Boyce’s reply follows Senator Abrahams without any call from the Chair). The reporter’s takes for those sequences appear not to have been inserted, so passages of debate may be missing. The notes are printed as in the source.

Q3. Order No. 2, after take-slip S: D9 (15), 3.27 p.m.. Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd’s speech breaks off and the next text begins in the middle of Senator A. R. Worrell’s speech, with no call from the Chair; similarly Senator A. A. Adams’s speech (after S: D9 (35)) and Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean’s speech (after S: D9 (43)) on Order No. 1 begin mid-argument. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Order No. 2, Senator R. A. Hunte. Within Senator Hunte’s speech, the line ‘She is not in the Chamber, she should hear it when she is around’ and the paragraphs that follow (about 340 words) are labelled ‘Senator H. A. HUSBANDS’, as is ‘That is quite alright with me, Ma’am, I think I have made my point’. No Senator Husbands is listed as present, and the text appears to continue Senator Hunte’s speech. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 2, take-slip Senate D9 Sequence 21, 4.25 p.m.. The sentence beginning ‘I want to say, Madam President, that I feel really privileged today to support the Amendments to this National Petroleum Corporation Bill’ is broken off before the take-slip and typed again in full after it. The first copy (about 30 words) has been left out. Please confirm.

Q6. Resumption before Order No. 1. After the third reading of the National Petroleum Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2017 the record goes to ‘RESUMPTION’, with no suspension recorded. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 2, Committee. The procedural sentence reads ‘the House resolved itself into Committee’ and Mr. Chairman says ‘This House is in Committee’. Senator Abrahams also addresses the Chair once as ‘Mr. Speaker’. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Take-slips. Several take-slips are typed as paragraphs (‘No.D9 (10)2.52 p.m.’ and others), one reads ‘4:46b p.m.’, and some times run backwards (No.D9 (10) 2.52 p.m. before S: D9 (11) 2.48 p.m.; No.D9 (34) 7.08 p.m. before S: D9 (35) 7.07 p.m.). Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 17th May, 2017, with Madam President, Senator Miss Kerryann F. Ifill, in the Chair; prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah. Madam President announced excuses from Senators Watson and Lady Haynes, and the Minutes of 3rd May were confirmed. Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean laid six papers, among them the Royal Barbados Police Force Annual Report 2013, the Grantley Adams International Airport (GAIA Incorporated) Annual Report 2015 and the National Petroleum Corporation Natural Gas Annual Reports for 2010 to 2013. Standing Order 45(2) was suspended and the National Petroleum Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was read a first time.

Senator the Hon. D. W. Boyce moved the second reading of the Bill, which expands section 21 of the Act so that the Minister may make Regulations prescribing fees and rates. He said that the Corporation’s rates had not changed since 1994 for commercial customers and since 2002 for domestic customers, that some lines were close to 50 years old, and that there had been no drilling in 2006, 2007 or 2008; he described the planned amalgamation in which BNOCL would become BNECL with a natural gas unit. Senator A. A. Adams spoke of sustainability and falling production; Senator J. Ince said that the Democratic Labour Party was not afraid to make important decisions; and Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir Henry Fraser welcomed the chance to raise the price of gas delivered to some 20 000 households and 800 commercial entities.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd recalled the 1973 energy crisis and warned against complacency over low world oil prices. Senator A. R. Worrell argued that State enterprises must become more efficient and that natural gas was a cleaner fuel, and Senator R. A. Hunte supported the Bill, replying to comments he had heard elsewhere about the subsidy given by the last Government. Senator W. A. Abrahams questioned the Minister’s authority to set

installation costs and prices by Regulation, the timing of increases, and the state of local reserves after a recent shortage. Replying, Senator Boyce explained the ‘carried interest’ arrangements for offshore oil and gas, gave the Inter-American Development Bank loan as US\$34 million for 30.5 years at 2.14 per cent, and spoke of a biomass-generating plant. The Bill passed through Committee, His Honour the Deputy President in the Chair, and was cited as the National Petroleum Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2017.

Senator Todd then moved the Resolution under section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225 to vest land at London Bourne Towers, Bay Street, St. Michael in the National Housing Corporation for housing development and road improvement. He spoke of the Government’s housing record since 2008, including the project at Country Road, Whitepark Road and Bank Hall which he said had been left abandoned, and was asked by

Senator Abrahams, on a point of order, about the relevance of his remarks.

Senator Dr. Sir Trevor Carmichael spoke of the potential of the area beside Carlisle Bay and the spirit of London Bourne. Senator Adams paid tribute to London Bourne, born in the latter part of the 18th Century and later manumitted, and spoke of cholera and water-borne disease. Senator Fraser defended the National Trust’s approach to preserving and developing old buildings; Senator Abrahams spoke of businesses leaving Bridgetown and dismissed talk of moving the capital to Warrens; and Senator Boyce said that heritage sites could not always be kept unchanged. Senator McClean closed the debate and the Resolution was agreed to without division.

On Senator McClean’s motion the Senate was adjourned sine die, Madam President conveying birthday greetings to one of the Members.