

THE
House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1999 - 2004

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 27, 2001.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11:20 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, G.C.M., B.A., Dip.Ed., (Speaker) His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J.P.,(Deputy Speaker) Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE, K.A., Q.C., M.A., LL.M.(Cantab.) Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc.(Econ.), (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs) (Minister of the Civil Service) Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, LL.B. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)(Leader of the House) Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B.(Hons.) (Leader of the Opposition) Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN, K.A., Q.C., LL.B. Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A.(Oxon.) Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc.(Econ.) Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade) Mr. G. W. PAYNE, LL.B. Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A.(Hons.), Dip. Ed., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C., J.P. (Minister of Labour and Social Security) Mr. D. CARTER (Chairman of Committees) Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports) Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed.,J.P. (Minister of Housing and Lands) Hon. R. D. MARSHALL (Minister of Public Works and Transport) Hon. H. F. LASHLEY (Minister of Social Transformation) Hon. R. St.C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development) Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Physical Development and Environment) Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS Mr. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A. Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY, B.A., B.Sc., J.P. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs) Mr. D. T. GILL, B.Sc. Hon. N. A. LYNCH, B.Sc., M.B.A., (Minister of Tourism and International Transport) Hon. A. P. WOOD, B.Sc., M.Sc. M.Phil., J.P. (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development) Hon. R. R. FARLEY, B.Sc., J.P. (Minister of Industry and International Business) Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P. (Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)

Prayers were taken by Reverend J.J.S. Atherley.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, November 20, 2001.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, November 20, 2001, which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that, Sir. Mr. SPEAKER If there are no corrections or observations, then let these Minutes stand confirmed.

PAPERS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following

The Customs Tariff (Amendment No. 2), Order, 2001.

2. Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation, a parcel of land at Free Hill, Black Rock, St. Michael.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of this day's Sitting.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, seconded by Hon. R. C. EASTMOND the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. D. CARTER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee of Supply.

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$1 501 789 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2001-2002 AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO. 5, 2001-2002 which form the Schedule I TO THIS RESOLUTION AND THAT THE EXPLANATORY NOTES TO HEAD 19 BE AMENDED AS SHOWN IN SCHEDULE II

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the sum of \$201 789 is being required of Parliament by the Ministry of Finance to provide for a subvention for the Caribbean Congress of

Labour. I believe that the Minister of Labour would be better able to speak to the issues in relation to this. This is a headquarters that is headquartered in Barbados. It has been playing an integral role in the development of labour standards in conjunction with the United Nations body, ILO, for some time.

We, as a Government, have been committed to working with them. The request was made for this subvention, and in the circumstances, I am asking that Head 19 stand part.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to this. There is just one point that I believe the people need to be alerted to. Under the United Nations classification for trade union for services, one of those services is liberalisation. I do not think that many people are aware of this, but it has implications throughout the Caribbean under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and then it has wider implication under the WTO. It would mean that a Jamaican trade union would be entitled to provide trade union services anywhere within the CARICOM Single Market. It would mean that a Barbadian trade union would be expected to provide certain services anywhere within the CARICOM Single Market. There are important implications from having trade union services brought under the United Nations classification of services, which I believe need to be looked at.

For example, in the recent CIBC/Barclays scenario, where the Barbados Workers' Union is the trade union representing workers in Barbados, where both entities have their headquarters, this is an example of the kind of developments that you are probably likely to see once the CARICOM Single Market is fully operational.

However, I do not think that the Trade Union Movement has necessarily taken on board this concept. In some cases, the trade unions are not aware that this development is likely to occur. In other cases, I believe, as do many manufacturers and even the distributive sector, that there is going to be something that is going to slow that process.

I believe the reality is that even in countries where you have one trade union as a principal trade union, those countries are going to be likely to come under the threat, if you want to call it that, or opportunity, as some may see it, of being competed with by trade unions from other jurisdictions within CARICOM. That is the first step.

Sir, you may also find that at a wider level beyond CARICOM, when the full round of liberalisation takes place, trade unions may also come under competition from larger trade unions in other parts of the world. Our Trade Union legislation does not necessarily contemplate or take into consideration the potential for these changes.

I am only raising this point because I think in terms of trade unions, policy, legislation, and the question of collective bargaining. We have to recognise that there are going to be major changes which will effect the Trade Union Movement the same way it effects the agricultural sector, lawyers or doctor. I have a strange feeling that the time will come when, as these things are implemented, people will either pretend that they neither know the implications of it, or seek to resist it. Very often things happen as the result of obligations which the Barbados Government has entered into internationally.

If we do not take cognizance soon enough and prepare ourselves mentally and otherwise for the initiatives in terms of Barbados - it is clear that our Trade Union Movement collectively, and to some extent individually, has been extremely progressive from the days of Sir Frank Walcott and down through the years, the Trade Union Movement in Barbados should be beacons, looked up to by the rest of the region. Sir, as I said before, you can see the CIBC/Barclays scenario where the Barbados Workers Union is located in the headquarters of the country where those two entities are headquartered.

Sir, maybe, this is an indication of what would be happening in the future, that is why having a regional trade union congress or entity, which can seek to rationalise the relations between trade unions so as not to have the worse form of competition taking place in your local labour market is desirable.

11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON:

I remember recently doing a project for CARICOM and visiting three Eastern Caribbean Countries which again, in discussion with the trade unions, they were not even aware that trade union activities were classified as services. For years people never looked at trade unionism as a business, but the United Nation's classification has identified trade unionism as a business activity to which all of the other incidents of liberalisation: the removal of regulations, free movement, the fact that others can compete in one's market, et cetera, will now come into play, and like any other manufacturing operation entity in the distributive sector, banking or professionals, trade unions are going to be viewed in the same context, and it is important to recognise that.

Sir, that is why, as I say that hopefully in strengthening the Caribbean Congress of Labour - and I assume that these funds may go some ways towards doing this - we can have that situation rationalized before the full impact of liberalisation takes effect.

The second point is, I would like to hear more from the Minister how the funds are going to be utilized and also to what extent other countries in the Caribbean have also been making funds available to the Caribbean Congress of Labour to carry out work within the region.

Therefore, with those few words, I give my support to this subvention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to thank the Honourable Member for St. John for his rather statesmanlike and enlightened approach to this matter.

Sir, about three months ago, I recall hearing a leading Barbadian citizen saying that the time has now come when, in looking at the whole question of trade liberalisation, we in Barbados should consider the impact of liberalisation and globalisation on labour.

Sir, this person was of the view that in a situation where both trade liberalisation and globalisation were proceeding at such a pace, we could not wait and be caught napping in circumstances where beyond simple business and commercial activities, there are very serious implications for a whole number of other things in which we, as a Caribbean people, engage. I, therefore, will do my utmost to submit to learning about this. Sir, the reason I say this is that even though I know that, within the Ministry of Labour, certain acts preparatory to looking at how liberalisation would impact on labour have started, I am sure we still have to do a lot of work and in a fairly quick time to be able to get on top of the ball.

The other point which we have to bear in mind as a Parliament, Mr. Chairman, is that a whole range of International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions have forever insisted that in all we do, we proceed following the process called tripartism where three bodies are supposed to engage themselves in decision making.

Mr. Chairman, I seem to think - and I have to be fair - that this whole question of tripartism outside of the context of trade liberalisation organisation may very well have been encouraged by a former Honourable Member for St. Michael South, Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford. I believe the whole concept of social partnership and other related things have started during that Administration. I have to be fair and yield that.

Sir, in the context of what is before us today, one would no doubt recall that the periods of the late 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s, seemed to be periods where the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) was at its most active. It is clear that within the last five to 10 years, the Caribbean Congress of Labour has not been receiving the kind of regional support that it deserves.

The reason I say this, Sir, is this. Within CARICOM countries a number of important institutions have been identified as functional areas. For example, the University of the West Indies is identified as a functional institution. The Caribbean Development Bank is also identified as a critically important institution within CARICOM at a level of being a functionary. The Caribbean Congress of Labour, despite the fact that it is not a Government or quasi-Government entity, has also been identified as a functional institution within CARICOM.

It, therefore, makes sense for me to say that in circumstances where the CCL is a functional institution and where, in the last five to six years the region as a whole has not been as supportive of it as it should have been, that we who adhere to the principles of CARICOM must lament the fact that we do not always care, nor look after our CARICOM institutions. There are other institutions in CARICOM that Members are aware, do not get the type of regional support from the other Member States of CARICOM.

There are Member States that are classified as More Developed Countries which have not been paying their dues. There are also countries that are called Lesser Developed Countries, some of them do not always pay their dues. All of those countries that default always blame their default on shortages of funds, but the thing about it is that, at the end of the day, we have to so set our priorities in CARICOM to ensure that functional institutions are not made to suffer neglect.

I am sure that before taking the portfolio of Labour and Social Security, an approach had been made by the CCL seeking financial help. The truth of the situation is that in its functioning, it had incurred a number of financial obligations and because the donors and those who subscribed to it were not faithful in observing their subscriptions, expenses which were incurred could not be paid for on time, hence the reason why the Barbados Government has decided to ask Parliament to vote the sum of \$201 789 towards helping the CCL meet a number of contingencies and liabilities, most of which are short-termed.

I conclude by saying that where trade union activities have been internationally classified as services for the purpose of trade liberalisation, it would mean that, in accordance with international standards which suggest that we practice tripartism, the tripartite body and the social partners will have a very important role in accessing precisely what, generally speaking, are the rewards coming labour's way and also for matters to do with the acceptance of trade unions that come from elsewhere.

11:40 a.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of the Hon. R. C. EASTMOND:

In fact, if you had followed this morning's news, Mr. Chairman, you would have heard that in recent trade union talks here in Barbados, that a number of bodies which were not Caribbean were represented but bodies which shared trade union status. It may very well be that in the near future, the standard will be that this exchange, interchange and movement might very well become normal.

I am in support, Mr. Chairman, of this Resolution and one of the reasons is that, as we seek to strengthen CARICOM and, as we seek to do our utmost for labour in the CARICOM region, we cannot let the representing bodies of the Caribbean suffer and be in financial difficulty.

The Resolution is therefore to be welcomed because it will give the Caribbean Congress of Labour breathing space. There is nothing to indicate that the Congress itself had mismanaged its affairs. There is nothing to indicate that the Congress itself had embarked on squandermania and there is nothing to indicate that the Congress had been negligent in its approach to managing its affairs.

Sir, in circumstances where specific regional entities are not by nature profit making, and not by nature commercial in orientation or commercial in operation, and where they have to ask others for funding, when the Caribbean Congress of Labour found itself in difficulty, the Government of Barbados decided on an amount of money to help the Caribbean Congress of Labour.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise this morning to speak on this Resolution and to remind this Parliament that we travelled this same path some years ago. I advised this Parliament that if we did not make the necessary moves that the Caribbean Congress of Labour would be an ongoing problem in that we would have to come to this Parliament on a yearly basis to vote funds for the Caribbean Congress of Labour.

It was taken as a joke as usual, and everybody thought that this was supposed to be a one-off shot and that we would not be here today doing the same thing again but, Mr. Chairman, one has to be prepared to look down the road and have foresight. I have said on many occasions in this Parliament that one of the things that are lacking in this Parliament is the lack of foresight.

I am saying, Sir, it is not only the Caribbean Congress of Labour that we have to worry about, but it is the whole Trade Union Movement within the Caribbean that we have to worry about. That is, one would figure that the power from the Trade Union Movement is the power that flows from the Caribbean Congress of Labour and that their sustenance is built from the Trade Union Movement.

It is clear that the Trade Union Movements within the Caribbean do not have the power and sustenance to feed into the CCL and that the CCL is now forced to come to a Government when in truth and in fact, it should be going to its members. In other words, it is clear that whereas the Government and the private sector, over the last seven years have been doing well, the Trade Union Movement and its members have not been doing well.

Mr. Chairman, I know you are tired of hearing me talk about the three-sided triangle where two sides of that triangle seem to be prospering and the bottom has dropped out. That bottom, Sir, as you have heard me on many occasions speaking about it, happens to be the side that relates to the Trade Union Movement and the workers of Barbados and the Caribbean by extension.

What I am saying, Sir, is there is no doubt that the Incomes and Prices Protocol has worked well but the question is, for whom has it worked well? Last week in Parliament I produced statistics to show that whereas the private sector and the Government have been able to increase their taxes and profits, that the workers have not been able to do the same thing at the same pace and that is the problem.

Sir, we have now removed wages and we have pushed it in the line item called, profits, and we have pushed it in the line item called, taxes, and it is so impacting, that it is not only impacting on the Trade Union Movement but it is also impacting on the social services of Barbados.

We are finding all sorts of excuses and we are coming up with all sorts of studies and the one thing we are not doing is admitting that we have not allowed the workers in this country to keep pace with what is going on in the world. It is obvious, Sir, that if we have not done that, there are going to be other social fallouts, and it hurts.

Sir, even though I am going to support this, it hurts me to see that the Labour Movement has to come to a sovereign Government to beg arms. It hurts because one would have expected that the workers within the Caribbean itself, would have the capacity to keep their organisation alive.

You do not hear about the Chamber of Commerce coming to this Parliament asking for a subvention, but yet, the organisation that is supposed to look after the interest of workers has to come and beg. Sir, that is the same organisation that is supposed to go to the Government and the private sector to negotiate. Sir, please tell me I am not wasting my time making these statements and that they are not falling on deaf ears.

I am saying that this Parliament has to get serious and we have to be realistic about what we are doing in this Parliament because if we feel good, Sir, coming as 28 black men to this Parliament and passing arms to the Caribbean Congress of Labour, I am saying we are all insulting our intelligence and we would have wasted the free secondary education that would have been given to us.

Surely, when free secondary education was formulated and given to us, it was not given to us to behave like slave masters, passing back crumbs to the organisations operating on behalf of the workers. We speak about independence, Sir, and how we are independent and are speaking about when the workers group have to come to Parliament and beg.

I am saying, Sir, that if we are going to call ourselves a progressive country that we have to do what is necessary to make sure that the Caribbean Congress of Labour and the BWU, NUPW, the BUT, whatever trade union you are talking about, would not have to come and beg their partners whom they have to negotiate with to give them a little something.

Can you image what is happening, Sir? Can you imagine the social impact that this is having on the workers of Barbados? In order for us to increase productivity, we must put all the resources available to the workers to stop them from having stress, but we feel that we can put oil and fuel and all the greases in the machinery, and that is important. We can build all the infrastructures to make Barbados look good for all the visitors, and we feel good about that, but when it comes to the workers who have to be on a daily basis interacting in the same thing, we feel that is not important.

Sir, this is a very dangerous trend because it is giving me the impression that once you are from that mass-based group that you are a nobody. What you are saying, Sir, is that you are calling for somebody to point out to the masses that if they withhold their services that somebody would understand how important they are.

I am saying to the Trade Union Movement, of which I am a member - and has always been a member because I still hold my trade union loyalties and I will continue to hold those loyalties and look after the interest of that particular groupings and all other groupings - that Trade Union Movements need to be independent and free of having to beg alms.

11:50 a.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN:

I am saying that we are calling for this money for the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) but this is not only for the CCL but is for every trade union grouping that makes up the CCL for the simple reason if they had the capacity to feed into the CCL we would not be here today doing this. We have to understand this, Sir.

We have to understand that the Trade Union Movement cannot be put on a back burner as it is now

because the only time I knew of the Trade Union Movement, even though it was not organised at the time, being treated like this was back in the slave trade but now it is even worse because those fighters never had to beg for alms but now the trade union leaders in an independent and progressive Barbados, as I am told, are now begging for alms.

You must ask yourself, Sir, as a member of a union, - and I would like to believe that you regard yourself as one of the workers of Barbados - if you feel good about this particular Resolution. I have to be very honest, Sir. I do not feel good about it because the workers feel that their Trade Union Movement does not have the same powers as they had previously and they have given up some of their rights when they have to come to this Parliament to beg Government for this type of pittance. The Trade Union Movement is much stronger than \$201 789 but when it has to come and beg for a figure like this, one understands what is going on in the world.

I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that we need to have a case study on this \$201 789 because we need to understand why this has occurred last year and why it is occurring again. We need to know why because this it is becoming like a cancer. It started last year, it is here again today and I am sure that next year it will be back here as well. So what we need is empowerment for the workers so that their Trade Union Movement can feel that they can ask them to pay a little more and they would not have to come and beg Parliament for any subvention or anything like that. I hope that those who have ears to hear will hear, Sir.

There is no doubt within the Caribbean that we have a Trade Union Movement but, as predicted, it is obvious that workers feel that they are not getting their fair share so I am saying to the Governments who use the Trade Union Movement to build their economies that it is time they recognise the contributions of the workers and compensate them for their contribution. There is no doubt that if the workers in Barbados had not made the sacrifices they made between the period 1994 to now that the economy would not be at the position it is at right now even though it is slipping.

I am saying, Sir, that we as politicians cannot afford to come to this Parliament and ask the workers and their groupings to help us and then feel that the only way we can help them is by giving them a subvention. What is needed is empowerment of the workers so that the workers can then give a higher contribution to their Trade Union Movement so that they can then pass on the contribution to the CCL. But it is clear to me that people do not deal with the mass group anymore but deal with the person at the top, and once you have dealt with the person at the top, the mass-based have to stand by and wonder what next.

I am saying there is a time for change and that any progressive government should deal with the individual - and when I say the individual, I am not talking about an individual I am talking about the workers - as a body and not just deal with one person at the top. So that is the type of change we need to see in Barbados today where the workers can feel they are somebody and they do not necessarily have to go to the person at the top and negotiate with that person because once you negotiate with a person at the top you have negotiated for everybody else. So I disagree with that system.

I am saying that it is time to come and deal with the workers and not only their leaders because the workers need that empowerment. It is the workers who move the machinery and if you do not deal with the workers their machinery will stand idle.

I thank you, Sir.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this subvention to the CCL but I am fundamentally opposed to the view that this subvention must be seen as an alm. I do not think this is a case in which the CCL is begging for alms. I want to put that first on the table.

I believe that the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) makes a contribution to this society and has made fundamental contributions to the societies of the Caribbean for a number of years.

There was a time, Mr. Chairman, when the CCL had a number of influential men and women at its leadership. There was a time when they had great leaders fighting their cause. There was a time when the CCL was indeed a force to be reckoned with.

I want to say too that throughout the Caribbean, especially the English speaking Caribbean, the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) put forward a number of ideas and policies which were implemented by the various governments over time. When one has to trace the history of the Trade Union Movement dating way back to the 40s - in 1941 the Barbados Workers' Union came into being, and the Trade Union Movement of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica predates Barbados - it is that Trade Union Movement in the Caribbean which gave rise to political parties. Some people believe it was the other way around in that political parties gave rise to the Trade Union Movement but the two of them worked hand in hand through the years. So one can say that we owe a sense of gratitude to the Trade Union Movement in the Caribbean.

If one was to look at the economic, social and political implementations within the Caribbean one can see that the Trade Union Movement and, indeed, the CCL were at the centre of these activities. If you trace from the 50s right up to the present time, you will notice that a number of important measures were introduced. There was a time when workers were treated very badly in this country. There was a time when workers had no rights. There was not the right to vote which was given to us in the 50s and we owe this to the Trade Union Movement. There was no vacation pay. Workers did not have compensation. There was no maternity leave.

12:00 noon

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of the Hon. G. A. CLARKE:

All of these were things that happened before the Trade Union Movement. Therefore, after the 50s and 60s, one found that labour started to be recognised because of great leaders like Marryshow of Grenada, Bradshaw of St. Kitts, Crichlow of Guyana, Bustamante of Jamaica and, of course, Adams of Barbados and Frank Walcott and the like.

One has to understand the fundamental philosophy of the Trade Union Movement. They have performed a vital service in this country and in the countries of the Caribbean. Throughout the Caribbean today all labour gets a vacation. It is not true to say that the worker is not empowered. I think

most governments of the Caribbean, following on the ILO Convention, have tried to empower workers and they are better off today than they were 50 years ago.

There are a number of things that still need to be done such as the Unfair Dismissal Bill. There is need for more legislation to help workers against some vicious employers. Workers today in the Caribbean are better off than in most regions of the world. We do not suffer the same fate as our counterpart workers in some regions in the world. It is not true to say that we have not empowered workers. I think that the Congress of Trade Unions throughout the Caribbean has really worked. We must understand that there are times when the Movement would not be able to support all the activities of the unions and I believe that Government should help.

Mr. Chairman, this Government stands ready to help the Trade Union Movement whenever it can. We recognise that they are part of a tripartite arrangement. We do not believe that they are here to beg alms. We are fundamentally opposed to the philosophy of the Democratic Labour Party which will now seek to say that the Trade Union Movement is out to beg alms.

We gave subventions to the Football Association a year ago. We gave subventions to the Cricket Association. Both Governments have given subventions at times and all types of aid to businesses through monetary and fiscal measures. We have been able to put in place a package to help businesses and other non-governmental organisations. We believe that you cannot look to the workers to carry their organisation alone. That does not mean that because you are giving a subvention to a Congress that they are begging alms. We are giving a subvention to the Caribbean Congress of Labour because it is in need of this subvention at this time to help it over a difficult period. That is a fundamental point. It is a difficult period and it needs the funds.

I must compliment the Honourable Minister of Labour who spoke on this matter. The Barbados Government sees itself in a position to help regional bodies. We have always pulled our weight. We have helped not only the Congress of Labour but we have helped other bodies throughout the Caribbean. In education, we have paid our way in the University of the West Indies.

One of the things that must be said in this debate is that when the Federation was dissolved in 1962 that was a very grievous thing. I believe that the integration movement of the Caribbean is important to the well-being of our people, that the integration movement is foremost. The reason why some of these Governments cannot pay their way is because of their small economies. The reason why some of the lesser developed islands and even the greater developed islands and territories like Guyana and Dominica cannot pay their way is because of their priorities. There are a number of other bodies and other governments that do not pay their way for these regional bodies. But the same cannot be said about Barbados. We pay our way. Whether it be in agriculture - CARDI, in education - CXC and UWI, we have paid our way. It is not that Barbados is doing better than the other Caribbean islands. It is because we believe in regionalism, that you must set the example.

This Government has always set aside money to help these regional bodies. I believe we have to do so. I believe the time has come for employer organisations like the Chamber of Commerce - I see no reason why they cannot help the labour movement. Labour has put a lot of work into production and if they have put...

Aside.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I believe my comrade on the Other Side does not understand the reasoning.

If you look at production, it takes labour, the entrepreneur and it takes land in order to produce a product. If labour is represented by the unions, there is nothing wrong in labour being supported by management and business. It is to the advantage of any organisation to ensure that workers are better educated, and the unions have always done so. They educate workers and if the unions educate workers I feel the employer should also set aside each year a subvention to help the trade unions. It does not mean that the trade union is begging alms. The trade union has a vital role to perform within our economy and I believe we cannot only rely on subventions of the worker. The worker may pay \$15 or \$10 a week but that cannot suffice a union in today's society.

Mr. Chairman, I am supportive of the subvention of Government to the union. I believe it is not alms, that it is a duty of Government and various governments of the region and of the employers to ensure that there is a healthy climate by supporting the workers' organisations. I stand by my position.

12:10 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I am heartened by the contribution made by Honourable Members. I would like to begin with an observation of the Honourable Member for St. George North whose theme was that these Caribbean countries were built by labour. When the Honourable Member for St. George North identified labour as being fundamental to production, what the Honourable Member meant was that if you take land and capital you are dealing with the inanimate. Land and capital do not carry a human spirit or mind but labour represents the animate side of production and labour provides human kind, human effort and human heart for the entire process. This is what the Honourable Member for St. George North wanted to say that of the three factors of production, labour is the one with an animate component and that the others do not carry a human spirit.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy made an important and interesting observation but it is an observation infected by idealism. The Honourable Member said that if the Caribbean Congress of Labour is made up of membership then the membership would be under obligation to support it. Mr. Chairman, that is being idealistic. There is nothing wrong with being idealistic but reality is another thing. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy when he talks about trade unions has been consistent. I have listened to him repeatedly during the last three or four years and every time he spoke to trade unions he tells them to get their act together, be self supporting and supportive and do not sell out your people.

Mr. Chairman, if you look at how Caribbean trade unions function the reality is this. There are several unions scattered throughout the Caribbean and even though members who belong to these unions must pay dues there are not uniform systems across the Caribbean by which there is automatic

deduction of union dues from the employer to be paid to the union. Unions actually rely on members to come and pay over the counters at the union. Those unions which have the facility by which members' dues are taken out by the employers and passed into the union are at an advantage and even then it not every category of worker which would facilitate the union that way. There are a few unions that are specialised unions which do not have a mass-base and the membership is so small that for them to be entirely self sufficient financially is a challenge.

Mr. Chairman, increasingly what has been happening in the Caribbean situation is that as unions continue to modernise and seek to attract high quality leadership, you cannot pay them chicken feed. At the same time, a lot of members value the services of their union, especially when a crisis occurs, but members are very complacent and sometimes three or four years pass without paying their dues.

We could use the experience of political organisations in the Caribbean as an experience of the trade unions. Hundreds of Barbadians belong to the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party. They are supposed to pay membership dues but most members, as supportive as they are of their political institutions, do not pay their dues and even when they are reminded they still do not pay. In the same way that it happens to political institutions it also happens in trade unions.

Mr. Chairman, the real point is that in a modest era where increasingly more and more high quality people are emerging as managers of trade unions and in circumstances where ordinary administrative costs are higher than the earnings of the trade unions out of membership dues, then there is a real problem facing trade unions.

Mr. Chairman, even though the Honourable Member for St. Lucy says that members should support their own unions, the fact remains that beyond the problem just mentioned, unions often in the Caribbean context have been facilitated somewhat by Government. I have no difficulty with that because the progress that Caribbean people have made has been achieved in large part through the activities of trade unions. If a trade union in a modest era is going to educate its workers through a labour movement, keep ongoing seminars to sensitise labour, is doing its utmost for the workers and incurring costs in the process, then we will come across instances when they suffer shortfalls in finance. I take it that there are a number of English-speaking Caribbean countries who actually provide standing subventions in their Estimates for specific trade union activities.

Mr. Chairman, there are Caribbean countries that deliberately provide money annually in their Estimates as standard practise to assist particular activities of trade unions and I believe in the context of Barbados that the Labour College, owned by the Barbados Workers' Union, gets a subvention.

Mr. Chairman, all in all the debate has been an enlightening one. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy says that he doubts whether the Chamber of Commerce or a similar entity will ever come to beg alms but the fact of the matter is that when you think of the nature and character of the Chamber of Commerce and the support system it has, it will hardly ever be as disadvantaged as the trade unions and even though it is not necessary to beg for a subvention but will beg for relief in taxation and get the benefit in another form.

Mr. Chairman, all Honourable Members have not yet spoken and I now give way to other Honourable Members to speak.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James North ended on a good point by saying that the Barbados Chamber of Commerce does not have to beg alms but they beg for tax concessions and the labour movement instead of begging alms should ask for higher packages for their workers. I believe that the Honourable Member for St. James North should agree with that equation.

Sir, one has to be fair in this debate. We are in trying times and the pressures on the labour market are going to become greater. We cannot continue to water down the labour movement. It is clear that the labour movement within the Caribbean will not only have to deal with employers from within the Caribbean but also with employers from outside the Caribbean who do not like dealing with trade unions. Government has to recognise that instead of decreasing the powers of the Trade Union Movement, insulting them and making them look like beggars, we should be strengthening their hands by empowering their workers to be able to fight the giants coming into our shores to unfair our workers.

12:20 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN:

If we feel that the only solution is to strengthen the hand of the CCL by coming here and having a subvention made to the CCL, that is going to improve the lot of the workers in Barbados, then we would have failed ourselves.

The Honourable Member for St. George North enters these debates - the truth is he can leave that ball outside the off stump and allow it to go its own way. When he enters these debates, he creates confusion. Sometimes I wonder if what he says on the Front Bench is really Government policy. I am asking the Chairman of the Party or the Leader of the House to tell me whether the speech given by the Honourable Member for St. George North is part of the Government's policy. They need to associate or disassociate themselves with his speech. Sir, if it is Government's policy, I am afraid of it as it relates to the workers of Barbados.

There is no doubt that the economic and labour climate in Barbados is going to get worse. We as politicians have taken a lot from the workers of Barbados during the last seven years. Sir, if there is a time that the workers of Barbados need us it is now. We need to spend the next few years concentrating on empowering the workers of Barbados. If we are in a competitive climate, you cannot ignore your main human resource, that is the workers.

Sir, we spend a lot of time looking to find capital and to improve our machinery. It is clear that we are not spending time or money to improve the lot of the workers in Barbados. If you cannot get the three organs working together, we are not going to go anywhere. It is very important that we develop that tripartite relationship and that we have a good blend. If you have two strong links and one weak link, you are not going to achieve what is required. It is the workers that we need to ensure that the capital and machinery are working. Sir, we are of the opinion that if we have the capital and machinery, we can

ignore the workers.

I hope that the Trade Union Movement would understand the point and do not see it as criticism. For the last two years instead of recognising the point that has been made, they saw it as criticism. I am very glad that the Honourable Member for St. James North understood that it was not a criticism but it was preparing the Trade Union Movement for what is happening now.

Sir, I spoke about foresight previously. There are too many of us who are reactive and not proactive. There are many of us that do not accept warning. This is why a lot of us walk into traps. I am saying that we have to understand, as I have been told within the last week, that we cannot stop anyone from coming to Barbados. If small countries are going to behave as though the G8 countries can dump everything on them, then there is no need to have a Parliament because Prime Ministers and Parliamentarians will not be classified as being nobody.

Sir, it does not matter what we think of the WTO, OECD, IADB, IMF and the World Bank. They can stay wherever they are and dictate to us in Barbados. Mr. Chairman, I am saying that we need to change that foolishness because they do not have our interest at heart. We are the ones to have interest of the masses at heart and not the international organisations.

Sir, when we gave up the rights of issuing licences in this country, is when we gave up the rights to our sovereignty. It meant that we no could longer dictate what we want in this country, but we have given other people the right to tell us what we must do. The same way that the trade union has a problem at this time, Barbados as a whole will have major problems in less than a year because we cannot control our destiny anymore.

Sir, what are we celebrating this month? We are celebrating a lie. If we cannot control our destiny, we are celebrating a lie. How can we be independent and we cannot stop people from coming to Barbados as they like? We cannot dictate what is going on in our country but we are saying that we are independent and other people are dictating to us. Do you expect me to feel happy about that, Sir?

I will speak about these things as long as I am in here, Sir. We have to stop fooling the youngsters because they are not buying it anymore. If you ask an eight-year old child what is Independence, you will be surprised at what his answer would be. The youngster understands fully what is going on in the world, but there are people in our age group who continue to fool themselves and give the impression that we know everything when we are not being realistic and truthful to ourselves.

Sir, this subvention today is an example of where the G8 countries have us today. They told us that we have to look after their interest and they will give us alms when needed. They would provide a market to lend us money when they have dried up our foreign exchange. They have not told us that they would provide the opportunity and capacity to earn a living. They are saying that we must have the capacity to earn a living, but we must beg alms.

We are now doing the same thing to our own what the G8 countries have done to us. If slavery was not abolished many years ago, I would swear that what we are going through now is slavery. However, they would say that this cannot be slavery because slavery has been abolished. The truth is, we are now worse off than our fore-parents.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. Kellman: At least the fore-parents knew how to fight on their behalf.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Carry on, Honourable Member.

Aside.

12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, for the simple reason that suddenly we are accepting every thing that is happening to us and nobody is prepared to fight or even to write about it, but we feel good.

Mr. Chairman, when we, as Parliamentarians are judged by those youngsters who are now growing up, we will be judged harshly. They are going to consider us as failures, of going to international organisations and signing things that we did not know for what purpose we were signing them, therefore, they are going to regard us as the ones who have sold out our country. I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael East.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Chairman, I believe that matters of this kind in a socialist democratic society, where both political dispensations make the claim that they are committed to the elevation of labour and to giving the proletariat an opportunity to move vertically in the social and economic development of this country, there should be no acrimony or contention over a matter like this. This should have been just introduced as a symbol of reciprocity to the contribution of the great labour movement in this country. All of us should have endorsed this without any contention whatsoever.

Sir, for quite a while we have given assistance to those who control and own capital in this country. Matters of that kind are seen as the norm in a society like this. This is probably a shift from those unconventional practices of just making subsidies to owners of capital to where we are now giving the assistance to an institution which represents labour.

Sir, as the Honourable Member for St. James North has indicated, labour is animate. It is a living entity. It deals with the ultimate efforts of the whole development of mankind in trying to elevate the lives of persons. Labour has always suffered when adjustments are made in a capitalist market. On this occasion, in order to preserve an important umbrella in this organisation like the CCL, we are going to inject some life into it to resuscitate the organisation.

Sir, if one understands the history of the working movement across the Caribbean that goes back to the genesis of the Caribbean development of the 1930s, it is with that kind of historic background and a sound conviction that one should have no reservation in saying that they ought to have received more. The Trade Union Movement has given a lot to this society. Even the existence of a Parliament as it stands with its working class black person in it, are the beneficiaries of the struggle of the Trade Union

Movement. Sir, all those political parties who did not have an ally in the Trade Union Movement have never reached the level of parliamentary representation and we are indebted to the Trade Union Movement in the Caribbean.

Sir, I am surprised, although one may say that it is not a criticism that in not understanding the Honourable Member for St. Lucy had to express his views in the manner in which he did, that we have to keep these institutions alive. Sir, in the last two years, global institutions which represent interests of capital have actually developed counter strategies that have forced the Trade Union Movement on the retreat. Therefore, we have to put new mechanisms in place to give financial assistance where it is needed in order to assist labour to survive through the difficult times so that as things reach their equilibria in the future, the institutions will be able to stand on their own.

Sir, approximately over the last 60 years, these institutions have had to commit themselves to many different functions that demand finance and the collective fees of the members are way beyond their actual financial commitments. Therefore, if they are supposed to survive, then I believe it is the duty of the State that the same way in which they inject funds into the private sector in order to keep them alive and, in some cases, to exploit the masses of the people, we have a responsibility to rescue the masses in circumstances in which they are on this occasion.

Sir, not only individuals in Barbados, but we have a collective responsibility to the lump of the proletariat across the region to ensure that they still can have a legitimate institution to represent their interests against the forces of capitalists. I do not understand why we have to sit and listen to contributions that do not - let persons just come and say that they strongly endorse this. If I was in here today with Mr. Pile or any one of these persons who were members of the plantocracy and they had a different view, I would understand their debate, for their perception would be different to ours. Their conviction of preserving wealth, abusing that wealth and exploiting capital, would differ somewhat from the great grandchildren of the beneficiaries of the Trade Union Movement.

Sir, I am a little concerned that any democratic socialist organisation can have a voice in Parliament that would extend a debate on this matter for more than one second. Sir, I am sorry that I had to go beyond the second in trying to bring some clarification to supporting this subvention.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank all Honourable Members for participating in this debate and I respectfully ask that Head 19 stands part.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 32 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, Head 32 reveals a request made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade for a Supplementary in the amount of \$1.3 million.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the Explanatory Note has been properly circulated to Members. I have only seen one on the Floor of this Honourable Parliament which very succinctly says that this money is required to cover the cost of services of a legal consultant and a hydrographer in an ongoing negotiation for Maritime Boundaries between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

Notwithstanding the very brief explanation, I owe it to this Honourable House to give the background. Mr. Chairman, when one considers how each island lies in respect to its neighbouring island, for the most part the chain of Caribbean islands represents a very curious situation in the context of international law. Every Honourable Member knows that in this modern day every country is supposed to have a 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

12:40 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND:

I may inform Honourable Members that before it became popular to speak about an exclusive economic zone, in the context of European international relations, they used to have an exclusive fishery's zone. It is now more popular to speak about the Exclusive Economic Zone which is also a better international and legal practise.

Mr. Chairman, if you consider the distance between St. Vincent and St. Lucia, there are no 200 miles between St. Lucia and St. Vincent. It is less. If you consider the distance between Tobago and Grenada, there are no 200 miles between Tobago and Grenada. It is significantly less. If you consider the maritime passage between Barbados and St. Vincent, Barbados and St. Lucia, Barbados and Grenada, or Barbados and Tobago, we do not have a full 200-miles exclusive economic zone.

The challenge facing international lawyers over the years, Mr. Chairman, has been how to define a country's access to its economic resources in the sea where you do not have to a 200-mile external limit. In my view, we are coming to a situation where we are dealing with this matter relatively late. This is a matter that should have been dealt with in the 1960s, at the time when the Caribbean countries agitated for political independence. Also, shortly thereafter, especially when Caribbean countries accessed members to the United Nations, a lot of these problems should have been sorted out.

What we have before us, Mr. Chairman, is a situation where we are seeking funding to employ an expert. In my investigations, in relation to working out maritime boundaries and such like, I understand that the whole concept of property locating on maritime boundaries between two adjacent states which lie closer than 200 miles to each other is an area where expertise is scarce, costly and where a number of technical and scientific considerations are always taken into play by the experts.

An expert told me one time casually that there is a system of mapping and satellite demarcation which would allow two adjacent coastal states to work out the medium line between these two states. I

am talking about the medium line, Mr. Chairman, and this is what is very much the discussion of this debate.

The Supplementary is going to fund the expertise that will help us to determine the medium line between Trinidad and Tobago on the one hand, and Barbados on the other, Trinidad and Tobago being treated as a unitary state, two islands, Trinidad and Tobago constituting a unitary state, with a neighbour called Barbados to the north.

Clearly, if Tobago is part of Trinidad, which it is, it would mean that a challenge now would be to so produce the medium line, and not just to pick up Tobago and Barbados but where Tobago is away from Trinidad, and Trinidad's body of landmass extends westward of Tobago, then, in terms of locating the medium line, is an even greater challenge.

I am advised, Mr. Chairman, that in these matters, it is customary not just to go from medium line as between two states but where there are adjoining states, you also have to be so careful as to ensure that by the time you come to that line, you have considered the interest of the other states. For example, I understand that in all this question of the history of Guyana and Tobago, and Guyana and Barbados, it would also be relevant in the interest of a thorough investigation of the matter.

Over time, members of this Honourable House no doubt, would have been painfully aware that because of the absence of a clearly established medium line and because of the absence of a clear agreement reflecting the medium line, and a law concerning reciprocal matters, we have had the very unfortunate episodes of Barbadian fishermen being arrested in Trinidad and Tobago. In fact, quite recently, this phenomenon occurred once again.

Barbados has, for a long time, been trying its utmost to persuade the Trinidadian authorities to sit down at the table to reach agreement on this medium line. The Democratic Labour Party Government of 1986-1994, had been able to extract an agreement from Trinidad for Barbadian fishermen to fish in Trinidadian waters but the fees payable in United States dollars were so high - these are the fees payable by Barbadian fishermen - and the period with which they were to fish was so short that the fishermen on their own aborted it without reference to either the Trinidadian Government or the Barbados Government because as far as they were concerned, they were limited. The fees were high, the period of time was short and the total number of people allowed to fish had been too slight.

The Democratic Labour Party had made some progress, Mr. Chairman, in having a type of fishing agreement. Subsequent to that one-off agreement, there were attempts to have a fishing agreement between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago but nothing to date has happened. Since then, we have continued to experience problems where sometimes Barbados can report that others came into its waters, which we think are Barbadian waters, and took resources.

Now, as far as what we hope to achieve is concerned, the Government of Barbados is of the view that if Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados can agree to a medium line, then Barbados will know what resources are on Barbados' side, Trinidad will know clearly what resources are on the Trinidad side and if there exists any scope by which the two countries could forge agreement in relation to sharing resources that go across each other's borders, then all can be worked out. Mr. Chairman, at the moment the pressing issue is to the whole idea of locating the medium line.

We did not find the expertise required to assist the Government in Barbados and a foreign expert has charged fees reflecting his technical, scientific and professional confidence. There have been talks today, and the talks are to continue but for the talks to really get anywhere, Mr. Chairman, it is going to be necessary for Barbados to know precisely what is Barbados' territory offshore and for Trinidad to be able to declare what is Trinidad's territory.

This, then basically, notwithstanding the very sharp brevity of this Explanatory Note, is the background to the application for this Supplementary.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to move that Head 32 stand part, but Honourable Members would want to take part in the debate so I will provide that opportunity for them.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I beg to second that.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: It is no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that this particular Resolution took long in coming and I believe a matter as important as this, Sir, should have been resolved long ago. I am not surprised when one considers the people that it would help. I hope, Sir, that after the passing of this particular Resolution not only would the fishermen of Barbados know how far they could go to the south but that a fishing agreement could be worked out with Trinidad.

Sir, it is clear to me that the islands within the Caribbean understand the importance of their territorial waters but Barbados seems not to care whether or not they have territorial waters. I have not heard that anybody came into our waters and were arrested by our Coast Guard, except for a drug boat. It is known to our fishermen that many boats from outside of Barbados continue to abuse the fishing stock in our territorial waters and that nothing has been done about it.

I hope, Sir, that when this particular matter has been resolved, that we will see the same treatment that was meted out to our fishermen, will be meted out to others. If people regard their territorial waters as important, we also have to regard ours as important.

It is not fair for the Japanese to come down here, Sir, and rape our waters going back home with large catches where, at the same time, our fishermen cannot do likewise within the region. I am hoping that equality will prevail and that if people feel that their territorial waters are important that we will do likewise.

12:50 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN:

I personally believe that the fishermen within the Caribbean should not be restricted to their territorial waters. I believe that the same way we share airspace we should be able to share our territorial waters

for the simple reason if we are going to be one Caribbean people, we have to start with the fishermen and the farmers.

That is why when a Bill came before this House some two to three years ago and it was praised as the launching pad for the breaking down of barriers between Caribbean people, I said that we started wrong, Sir. We honestly believe that everything must be top down and that is the problem within the Caribbean. I strongly believe that in order for us to have any progress within the Caribbean we have to adopt a bottom up system. So I hope that when we have this particular Resolution we will see the fishermen and the farmers being able to move freely within the Caribbean and we will see this as stage one of Caribbean unity.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I would not be long on this. I must say that I listened to the Honourable Member for James North but I take these matters relative to the fishing agreement with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with a pinch of salt because no one can deny that this Government in particular made this an issue from as far back as 1994 and appointed a special envoy to deal with the matter at the highest level of the party, and infused that envoy with all of the necessary diplomatic and other accoutrements to make his task easier but now eight years later the Government is now recognising that it needs to put resources behind the preparation of the material to resolve the dispute.

During that time, the relationship between the Trinidadian authorities and the Barbadian fishermen deteriorated considerably. Only last weekend, I think it was, there was another incident and the Barbadian fishermen have at the end of the day suffered significantly as a result of the failure by the Government to give this matter the attention it needs. The point is, this has to be viewed as a priority. Nobody who has fishermen as part of the lumpenproletariat living in their constituency or even in the fishing villages could sit idly by and continue to let this situation become exacerbated.

So in a sense what I think the Government needs to do, in relation to the issues that are on the agenda between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, is to move this issue to the top of that agenda because, as I say, there are a large number of Barbadian fishermen who have been constrained from making a living and, meanwhile, there was no guarantee, the reverse was not true.

Trinidad and Tobago have had the resources down through the years to police its territorial limits. Trinidad and Tobago have had a small navy even before Independence and they have had a better history of maintaining and operating naval vessels than Barbados at any given time. So despite the millions of dollars that we spent on the Trident and on other vessels we are basically reduced in relation to our Coast Guard to vessels that can only police the immediate coast line and do so under cover very often of larger ships as they look for drug traffickers who are landing drugs along the West Coast, but these boats do not even go, to the best of my knowledge, off the East Coast of Barbados. So, as I say, Trinidad and Tobago is always going to be in an advantageous position to Barbados.

Sir, it is hurtful and downright demeaning to see the manner in which Barbadian fishermen are being treated, particularly in an environment where you have a Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) and in which you can accord freedom of movement to professionals and university graduates

and so on, but in terms of the exploitation of our common natural resources, freedom of movement cannot be accorded to our fishermen.

Therefore, the question is, how many fishermen can leave Barbados and over-fish in Trinidad and Tobago? Therefore, I am extremely concerned about it and despite the assurance given by the Honourable Member for St. James North who is only carrying out his duties in reading the brief that is given to him, I still feel that not enough has been done to put this matter higher on the agenda of discussions between Barbados and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. I believe for the sake of our fishermen and the relations between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago that the matter needs to be rectified urgently and that this Parliament should give not only resources but should be receiving reports regularly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about progress that has or has not been made in resolving this particular matter.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I want to thank all Honourable Members who took part in the debate and respectfully ask that Head 32 stand part.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 32 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that there is a need for an amendment to the Explanatory Note as regards Head 19. I am asking, with the greatest respect, that the amendment to the Explanatory Note to Head 19 be inserted as shown in Schedule 2 and ask that that stand part as part of this Resolution as well.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 19, as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. G. A. CLARKE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His HONOUR, the SPEAKER, the passing of one Money Resolution in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. G. A. CLARKE, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. SPEAKER, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 215 p.m. today.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I beg to second that.

The question that the sitting do now suspend until 2:15 p.m. today was put and resolved in the

affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

1:03 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 10 - TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A RESOLUTION TO VEST IN THE BARBADOS TOURISM INVESTMENT INC.

A PARCEL OF LAND AT BAY STREET, ST. MICHAEL

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, today we are asking to vest 2 092 square metres of Government owned land at Bay Street, St. Michael in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. Government has been in a process of vesting a number of properties in Bridgetown, Speightstown and certain parts of Christ Church in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. to permit that entity at the appropriate time to leverage the requisite private sector investment needed in order to provide for optimal development.

It is important that we vest these properties in this Corporation so that a number of developments can take place, especially in the areas of Bridgetown and Speightstown. So far, we have vested the old Harbour Police Station and we have seen developments taking place there. The old jetty and the window to the sea opposite Jemmott's Lane, we are also vesting that property in BTII. As I understand it, the development of a tourism nature will be undertaken in that area. The old Eye Clinic on Bay Street is also another one that we have vested, also the old Town Hall, the Savoy and the old Spirit Bond. You will notice, Mr. Speaker, that the old Spirit Bond has started to be renovated a number of months ago and developments have taken place there and in time that development should come to fruition.

The old Post Office in Speightstown we have also vested. This particular development at Bay Street, the Fisheries Department, is situated just where the old Natural Gas Corporation site was and we are asking Parliament in accordance with section 5(1) of the Crown Land (Vesting and Disposal) Act to vest these lands in BTII so that that Corporation can undertake full development of the area.

With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. All Honourable Members can see the plans that are here.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have my usual complaint. It is clear that the main impetus of the economy has to do with tourism and it is clear that Government will have to utilise some of the properties it has around Barbados to allow certain players from the private sector to utilise certain properties.

Because we do not have a proper land use policy, the Ministry of Housing does not seem to know what pieces of land they want to vest in BTII. I am calling on Parliament to make sure that the Minister of Housing and his departments come up with a proper land use policy so that every Tuesday we are not dealing with this and that piece of land but, instead, we would be able to deal with a policy paper outlining the lands owned by the Government of Barbados and the usage for those various pieces of land so that we could know the amount of land that BTII will be using from the Ministry of Housing and Lands, instead of every Tuesday coming for this piece and next week for that piece.

What we need, Sir, is a clear policy so that the Minister can come to Parliament in a block and bring these various parcels of land that are to be vested under the BTII. Instead of getting that, the Ministry seems not to know what they own and every week that they find out that they own this piece of land or that piece they rush to Parliament to vest it in the BTII. If we do not have a proper land use policy, we are going to utilise lands that could be better used in other things. If we had a well coordinated land-use policy we would not be here today having to deal with this particular matter as if we are not professionals.

BTII also needs to submit those parcels of land they require, whether they are lands that are owned by Government or lands they would like Government to acquire compulsorily for them. Every Tuesday to be operating on a piecemeal realisation, I cannot continue this because that is what it is. It is as if you are playing luck and chance with a Government policy. I think the Minister would be better served to speak to his technocrats and tell them to get their house in order so that he can have a better formulated policy instead of a policy of piecemeal realization.

I hope what I said is accepted by the Minister and he can appreciate the finer points that have been made and we will get some action on this particular matter. There is no doubt that we have heard on many occasions in this Parliament that the stretch on Bay Street is important and how we should not be encouraging further building on Bay Street. I heard a senior Government Minister standing in this Parliament and making that point. Yet, today, we can hear of the uses of this piece of land and what other parcels can easily be used for on the Bay Street stretch.

I want to know whether the policy from the Honourable Member for St. George North is the one that stands or whether the policy from the Honourable Member for the City is the one that stands. I am not clear in my mind, Sir, who to listen to in this Parliament anymore when it comes to land on Bay Street. I am hearing one thing from the Deputy Prime Minister and now I am hearing something else from the Honourable Member for St. George North. This House needs to be clear, Sir. There must be a policy.

I am also hoping that at the same time the Minister understands the importance of having land for investment on Bay Street, he recognises that there are some villages to the east of that land. Seeing that we are now recognising that there is something called community development, the people who live to the east of this land can easily go ahead now and continue to promote their property as property suitable for tourism investment and that they will not have a problem getting their clients to use the beach to the west of their land, and that the Minister understands the importance of Barbadians having a right to use the beach, and that he will not do anything to interfere with the privileges that the people in Bay Land and those areas had previously, and that they will not be blocked from using the beaches to the west of where they live.

Sir, I hope that we do not hear about land fetching its highest value and because land can fetch its highest value that the people in Bay Land, Pine, Dalkeith and those areas will not be able to use Browne's Beach because some investor recognises that the beach is much larger than it was before and that area is now the ideal area to build a hotel and the thousands of Barbadians who used to frequent that beach will be blocked.

Thank you.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, thank you again for this opportunity.

2:25 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of Hon. N. A. LYNCH:

This issue relates not only to this specific project under the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., but also to give some measure of comfort to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in relation to what is happening overall in the development of that area.

Honourable Members will recall that the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. was set up with two major objectives in mind. Firstly, to speak to property development in and around the Bridgetown area that would lend some measure of support to creating a more sophisticated tourism industry than the one we now have in Barbados and, secondly, to set up an urban rehabilitation programme that would create not only for tourism industry but for Barbadians, a more congenial and hospitable environment in Bridgetown and the suburbs.

Sir, the vesting in relation to the fish market is one of a number of projects which the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. has undertaken during the past two years. This particular vesting one is of supreme importance to me as the representative for St. Michael South as well as to all Barbadians. Although it comes under the label of BTII, it is very much a local project with Barbadians in mind.

Sir, we have been waiting for a long time for this vesting to occur, but we had a number of problems with the title as to who actually owns the land. The Government is now about to vest this land in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. and the proposed plan for that site is to open up a bigger window to the sea than is already open there and for people to have access to the beach because that strip of beach on Bay Street is one of the most frequented beaches in Barbados by locals. If you go to that beach on a bank holiday, you will see the number of Barbadians who go there. They come from not only St. Michael South but from Bank Hall and even as far away as St. Lucy. BTII plans to create, first and foremost, a beach facility for Barbadians on that site. It will be outfitted with baths, changing facilities and all the amenities that are necessary for Barbadians to have a good time at the beach.

Sir, there will be parking in front of the site as well. In addition, there is already a water sport

operator at the site and BTII plans to allow this small businessman to be incorporated into the plans so that he will not be disenfranchised by the setting up of the facility there.

Sir, there are also a number of old fishermen who operate from that facility. These fishermen still do some fishing but they spend a lot of recreational time at that site. We have discussed it with them and we will maintain the area which they occupy and BTII has plans to build a nicely layout gazebo for these fishermen because they have contributed significantly to the economic fortune of this country by being fishermen for many years and now in their twilight years we want to incorporate them into the project.

Sir, this is not about building any hotel or disenfranchising people from the Bay Land and Deighton Road which the Honourable Member for St. Lucy wants to drag me into, but these people are going to be looked after in terms of having a beach facility from which they can operate.

Sir, a lot of this came out of plans to redevelop the entire strip from the junction with Jemmotts Lane into the City. This is part of the vesting done with the old Eye Ward and the open lot between the Savoy. This will come as part of a package when we develop the old Eye Ward and the Savoy. There will be a high-rise apartment building with businesses at the bottom and then we will develop the old jetty and put a restaurant at the end of the jetty. This is not only for tourism purposes but also for local purposes.

There will still be access to the beach at that point but because there will be a car park in the open lot between the Savoy and the old Eye Ward, and we understand that many Barbadians enter the beach from that point and it is possible that since the grounds will be manicured, and there will be two businesses and a restaurant at this site, Barbadians might not want to enter at this point even though no one is stopping them, so we want to utilise the Fish Market as an entrance to get onto the beach. If Honourable Members are familiar with the area, they will know that the beach can be accessed from that end.

Therefore, we will develop the old Eye Ward, the Savoy, a car park will be in the middle, reconstruct the jetty and at the end of the jetty an upscaled restaurant will be constructed for Barbadians and visitors.

Sir, to the north there are many buildings between the Savoy going down to the old Harbour Police Station which have now been developed and there will be a number of vesting of properties between those sites. We want to open up a bigger window to the sea in that area because Barbadians have been saying for a long time that there are not enough windows to the sea.

Sir, I agree with the statement of the Prime Minister that everybody wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die and the question has to be asked, what is the best economic use for our land? Sir, as far as I am aware, there is a physical development plan for Barbados which clearly outlines how we are going to utilise the land in this country and if I am wrong the Minister of Housing and Lands can correct me. I constantly hear the Honourable Member for St. Lucy making reference to this issue of there not being a physical development plan but Barbados has a physical development plan that has been approved and it seems to me that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is the only person who does not know that there exists a physical development plan for Barbados.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I have never mentioned the word “physical development plan” in here.

12:35 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: The issue is, there is a land use policy for this country. We have a physical develop plan which speaks to the issue of land use and how land is parcelled and used.

The philosophical underpinning of it has to be, how do you deal with a country with a small land mass in which there are limited resources? How do you get the best of those available resources? What is the best socio-economic use of the land that we have?

The tourism industry, and this is what this Bill speaks to, is an industry that we love to hate. People love the receipts of the foreign exchange, they love to have their business going and love to be working. At the same time, some people in this country seem to have an aversion to having tourists and having tourism investment in Barbados.

The issue of BTII and how it works in relation to the development of the tourism industry, the development of our livelihood and our children and their children’s livelihood is how do you create in this environment a more sophisticated tourism country overall that differentiates itself from all of the existing competition around us? Everybody has sun, sea and sand. Barbados has been able to pitch its tourism at a level where we are appealing to mid to upper range tourism consumers without neglecting the people at the bottom.

We are trying to get them to grow along with us. Barbados’ tourism strung up in the early days with a very affluent west coast and a very budget-type south coast. Barbados does not have the resources overall to continue to have, literally, two tourism(s) within a small country. What we are seeking to do is to narrow the gap between the South Coast and the West Coast. Overall, if Barbados is to continue developing in tourism the way it should develop, we have to differentiate ourselves from the rest of the Caribbean in terms of what we do.

Barbados has come along with an affluent nature to it without neglecting those at the bottom. There is a story that the West Coast is so affluent, that people come to Barbados on British Airways and the Concorde. That is the image we have in the marketplace in London. Then there was the issue of bringing chartered flights to Barbados through Air Tours and Britannia. A lot of people thought that what would happen in Barbados was that, if a man who was an aristocrat came to Barbados and got off British Airways or the Concorde, he would not want to return to Barbados if a gardener got off Air Tours, if they were all assembled together in the same arrival hall.

Sir, what has happened to Barbados is, it has not panned out in reality. We have pitched Barbados to that sophisticated level, mid to upper range, in Great Britain. What has happened is, people at the lower

end have seen Barbados as so affluent, they want to come to Barbados.

The Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. gives the type of objectives and environment that are going to differentiate our products from the rest of the Caribbean and some of the long-haul destinations to which people go. The BTII's project is fundamental to showing up the real positioning of Barbados in the international market place.

Sir, beyond that, the BTII is of importance to the average Barbadian. What is going to happen at the Boardwalk, old Spirit Bond, Willouby Fort, Princess Alice Highway car park, Speightstown Post Office redevelopment project and the St. Lawrence Gap sea-scaping? All of these amenities are for Barbadians first. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy constantly comes here with his high level of ignorance and what he does...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member you will have to withdraw that, please. You must withdraw that.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: The Honourable Member, Sir, absence of information.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, do not restructure.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Absence of information.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, did you withdraw that?

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: I withdraw that, Sir. Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Member is not as knowledgeable as he should be on a number of issues relating to Barbados' development. The Honourable Member sits in this Parliament every week and instead of listening and understanding what is happening in terms of the development of this country, he seeks to oppose on every issue without even understanding what Opposition is all about.

These issues relating to the BTII, are not only related to rich people or tourists. There are related to rebuilding a more secure environment at the social and economic level for Barbadians first. That is the point he needs to get into his head. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy needs to understand that we are first looking after Barbadians.

This is a wonderful opportunity to speak to the issues relating to the status of some of the projects of the BTII. The Princess Alice Highway project is ongoing and the latest revised estimated completion date is April, 2002. In April 2002, we are going to have an upscaled facility in terms of a bus stand, food courts and vending courts. There is the extension of the reclaimed Waterfront car park to accommodate 175, hard and soft landscaping and area lights. This project will be finished by the end of this year.

In addition, there will be a street scape improvement at St. Lawrence Gap. This will be from the entrance from Highway 7 to the Dover playing field. Most of the work at St. Lawrence is completed and phase one of this project is expected to be finished by January 31, 2002. However, we believe that

by the end of the year, because of the progress of the work, we may be out of St. Lawrence Gap by year end.

Sir, on the completion of that project, numerous opportunities will be available to businesses. I know that there have been many complaints from residents of the Gap about the project. October, 2001, was a particularly bad month for construction in Barbados because of the heavy rainfall we have had for almost 40 years.

2:45 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of Hon. N. A. LYNCH:

Sir, what is happening is that construction was delayed in the St. Lawrence Gap. Many of the things that were put down actually had to be dug up and replaced, but now as one goes into the St. Lawrence Gap from Highway 7, one would see what a fascinating job it has been overall in the creation of a much better environment. Sir, again, that environment is not only for tourists but also for the enjoyment of the many Barbadians.

Sir, I believe the vesting of this property at that site is going to place those Barbadians who frequent that beach in a much better position. This again speaks to the very nature of this Government in putting the development of the people of Barbados first. It also opens some entrepreneurial opportunities for some persons. The Boardwalk has already been completed near the Wharf and is supposed to go towards Bay Street. Obviously there will be some difficulty where it cannot continue, but from the Wharf up to the Hilton Hotel is what is going to happen in terms of creating more entrepreneurial opportunities to small business persons to be able to ply some level of trade in that area. Overall, this is a vesting that we have looked at for a very long time. I think that it only augers well in continually enfranchising more and more poor black Barbadians. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West.

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to lend my support to the debate before the Chamber. Sir, based on what the Honourable Minister has outlined and also areas of concern in relation to the very development, I do not think that the Minister needs to expound as much as he did. Sir, the development has already started to show some proof. When one looks at what used to be the Old Harbour Police Station, a place where persons were charged and placed in a cell, is now one of the better investments on Bay Street within the Bayshore Project. That is a clear indication that with the transformation coming to Bay Street, there is the possibility that there will be a new-look Bay Street, not only to the benefit of the locals, but also to the visitors.

Sir, one can clearly see that the Bayshore Project is not one that is built mainly for visitors. Within recent times, we have seen young entrepreneurs being able to set up businesses there. When one looks at what can be considered as one of the better beaches within the Caribbean, that is the stretch between

the Hilton Hotel down to Willoughby Fort, one must also look at the private businesses and private properties that have been established along that stretch. Sir, I wonder when that project comes on stream, what will happen to those derelict properties. Will they be eyesores within the make-good of the area? I have also heard the Minister speak of the changing of the old Eye Hospital building which, over the years, is part of the culture and history of Barbados. When one looks at the architecture of that building, one must wonder if the remodelling or the transformation of that building is going to be somewhat preserved.

I also would like to draw attention to the fact that on Bay Street, there is a property known as the Old Savoy building that, for many years, has lent to the history of Barbados. It is now in a state of disrepair and is used by vagrants. Sir, the question must be asked. Is this going to be embraced within the investment? If it has to be placed within the investment, the consideration has to be given to the truism of the Barbadian architecture through the years. Sir, one has to worry that when this investment comes to Bay Street, are those buildings that have the Barbadian architecture going to be destroyed?

Mr. Speaker, as one travels further down Bay Street, opposite the London Bourne Towers, there is a property that was once owned by the Inniss' family. I have recently noticed that there is a "for sale" sign there. When one considers that building was owned by the Inniss' family, many Barbadians who pass that way used to point at a window and remark that they had seen the face of a man there, but it was only an illusion. Sir, one of the leaders of West Indies cricket, a man who played cricket for many years in this country used to live there. Nothing has been mentioned about his contribution to cricket in general and I believe that something should be

done to that building to honour Mr. Inniss' contribution to cricket within the Caribbean and in Barbados over the years.

I have the privilege almost every Saturday to have a picture of an artist impression of what the Old Bay Street had looked like, taken from the junction of Wellington Street towards Jemmotts Lane. When one looks at those buildings, one can still see some of those old historic buildings still there in today's day and age.

Sir, we have talked about the beach front. Yes, the beach is beautiful. It is one of the most lovely beaches anywhere in the Caribbean but at this point my concern is since there is going to be this investment in the development of Bridgetown, what happens to those buildings?

Mr. Speaker, on the Floor of Parliament, these are things that one must say in fairness to the Barbadian public. If one is going to transform Bay Street into these things, then one has to consider that there are some white spots within Bay Street that do not have any feelings for the black spots. That is to say that one has to be very careful not to involve certain places within the transformation process that do not respect the involvement of black persons in their environment. Sir, I say that without any apologies because those of us in this Chamber know exactly what I am speaking about in terms of a particular night club on that stretch of land at Bay Street.

Mr. Speaker, as I speak to the concept of the refacing of Bay Street, there is a stretch of land outside the area of Beckles Road, where there is another "for sale" sign opposite the Harbour Lights Night Club. As we speak to that stretch of land where there is the "for sale" sign, I am wondering what are

the plans of the Barbados Tourism Investment? In recent months, I have seen various forms of development and activities taking place there in terms of games and athletics. Sir, I am wondering if that area of land, which is approximately 93 000 acres, cannot be taken over by the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. and be used for the development of persons within the communities and from persons who are

likely to be visitors to this island in time to come.

2:55 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS:

Sir, if I should also concern myself with the development of Bay Street, taking Bay Street as I come on down and looking at the plan for the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. (BTII), I accept the fact that we have one of the better beaches on Bay Street. I think that the cultural and historic background of the buildings on Bay Street should be taken into consideration in the development of Bay Street.

We have a situation where two main buildings on Bay Street have closed over the last decade. One is Detco Motors and the other is the building beside Detco Motors and I am wondering what will happen to those two buildings. Sir, what is the plan in terms of development for Bay Street in general?

If you are going to be developing Bay Street and you have a situation where you get some trucks with cement and lumber pushing out in front of you and there is lumber and cement floating on the water, we are not really developing.

Aside.

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: Sir, my concern about the development of Bay Street, yes, the development is necessary at this time, but with this development, we also have to think about relocating some of the business places on Bay Street, for example, the same business that I just spoke about. Sir, you cannot talk about bringing beauty and having the beast between and I consider that building to be the beast of Bay Street.

Sir, I am in favour of the BTII as far as the development Bay Street is concerned, but I would like to hear from this Chamber, what is likely to happen and I would like to repeat slowly at this time. That is to say that one of the places I am concerned about is what is going to happen to the old Eye Hospital.

There is another house in Bay Street, known as the "Round House", which was the home of the former Edmund Brathwaite and that home should not be destroyed. Also, you cannot speak of transforming that home unless you consider what came out of that home and what that home has done for Barbados. The "Round House" is situated between the old Eye Hospital and also some other buildings and it has produced one of the most brilliant Barbadian scholars.

Sir, when you talk about remodelling Bay Street, you have to take the architecture of those buildings into consideration. I would like to hear the Minister's view on this matter. I would not like to see Bay Street different from what I am seeing now, or what Bay Street was in terms of the historical aspect because, over the years, we have seen the changes there where Bay Street has lost a lot of its value.

Sir, there was a large grocery store at the corner and we have only memories of that store. As we drive up Bay Street, we see Woodside, which was the home of a former Governor-General of Barbados. People just drive past there and forget that was the home of Sir Winston Scott.

My appeal to the Honourable Member responsible is that I am supporting this Resolution before the House but I am requesting a bit of clarification of what is likely to happen with these changes. Bay Street can be transformed but the same former way of how it used to be should remain. The walls of the Harbour Police Station are still as they were but when you go further up Bay Street, from the area outside of Chelsea where there are a lot of private homes, for example, the home of the Burkes, I would like to know what is likely to happen to those buildings.

Further, down Bay Street is the Esplanade which is being taken care of by the NCC. Sir, there is a part of the Esplanade that is part of the cultural history of this country. A lot of people pass Bay Street on mornings and do not relate to it. I relate to it because I am one of the Barbadians who observe these things and I will be asking questions. At the end of the Esplanade is a shed, just opposite Beckles Road where, for years, people from the Bay Land, Brittons Hill and around the community went to socialise.

My question to the Chamber at this time that of the plan I am hearing if any of these things are going to be incorporated where that place, which for years people went there and debated the issues of the day, talked about fishing and related to one another's lives. Even Sir Garfield Sobers, one of the world's greatest cricketers, had tuition under that shed.

People must understand fully that changes must come, but if we want to keep the young minds of Barbados and stop saying that there is a generation gap, too many young people in this country are not familiar with the cultural history of Barbados. Many young people are not aware of what Barbados used to be and cannot relate. Sir, we have seen the changes and transformation but we have not continued the pattern to allow the young generation coming up to know exactly what it was, because that is what it was, this is what it is today and you have benefited from what it was and you will benefit from what it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I close with the understanding, yes, that I support this debate before the Chamber but with some concerns that as a true Barbadian, I want to find out exactly if there will be any transformation of Bay Street that would make me forget that I am on Bay Street if I drive through there another 15 or 20 years from today.

I thank you, Sir.

Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to give support to the Resolution before the House and to commend the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West for a very wonderful exposition of our historical and cultural heritage. He is very right that in Barbados over the

years, we really have not taken enough time to preserve and build on that historical and cultural heritage.

I would wish, Mr. Speaker, by just going back to the remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and seek to clarify a number of things and then, move to the Resolution before the House.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy made the point, Sir, that he would wish to see come before Parliament, a plan from the Ministry of Housing which will indicate its general policy plan for the development of various sites and buildings.

That would be a desirable thing but it would not, as he went on to suggest, stop the Ministry of Housing from having to come to Parliament with these acquisitions and resolutions, because acting pursuant to the policy, if such a plan was brought before the Chamber whenever a particular parcel of land is being acquired, we would still have to have a resolution. Sir, what appears to be a piecemeal approach really is not. In fact, such a piecemeal approach is simply following the requirement that such a resolution must come before this Chamber.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy well knows that there is a land use policy for Barbados and I recall that prior to 1999, a Committee of this Chamber was set up to look at land use in Barbados and to comment on the existing land use policy, and the Opposition was represented at that Committee. Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy cannot claim, or should not claim that there is no land use policy.

Similarly, there is an existing Physical Development Plan which was brought before Parliament by the last Administration. Again, we are in the process of developing a new Physical Development Plan which will come before this Chamber early next year, for which the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment now has responsibility. Sir, in the absence of the Physical Development Plan, we are operating under the old Physical Development Plan which is the existing and current plan.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy knows this because the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has commented on the fact that in that Physical Development Plan, I think two landfills were identified for the constituency of St. Lucy and he had reason to comment on it. The Honourable Member should not now be saying, Sir, that there is no Physical Development Plan.

3:05 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON:

I would wish to speak to this whole issue of the vesting of this particular property in the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated (BTII).

Government owns large tracks of land all over Barbados, some of which are overrun by bush and some of which derelict buildings are located. Government is perhaps the worse offender in terms of the

maintenance of property and is the landowner with the largest number of buildings in Barbados, in the capital City of Bridgetown itself and outside of Bridgetown that are derelict and run down.

This Administration has developed a conscious and deliberate policy, that it represents a waste of national resources and the worse possible husbandry of the country's resources and physical plants that these buildings should be left derelict. In pursuant of that policy we have determined that as many of these properties as possible will be put to good and proper use.

The policy will be administered through a number of approaches such as Government acting on its own through individual ministries, Government in partnership with the private sector, and Government acting through its satellite corporations and companies, the satellite corporations, of course, being the statutory boards. We have seen since 1994 examples of all of these.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West spoke beautifully to the project at Bayshore. That was a derelict building which used to be the old Harbour Police Station and that building - I believe the land was leased on long lease to a group of black businessmen who have now develop it under the ownership of Bayshore Incorporated into a wonderful project which captures sensitively traditional Barbadian architecture - now houses a number of restaurants, shops, salons, beauty culture businesses and a wide range of other businesses, the majority of which are owned by black businessmen. That the Government worked with the private sector to ensure that kind of development is significant because that property represents one of the largest joint venture of black businessmen in this country.

I think we do not even recognise the significance of that because far too often black businessmen have been suspicious of one another and refused to work together. I think there are four to six of them in this grouping who are all established businessmen in Barbados who came together to make that investment which was opened about two to three Friday evenings ago which represents, in my view, a watershed in Barbados in black cooperation for economic investment and speaks well of the future because in these times of globalisation and liberalisation it is going to be critical that our black businessmen get together for investment purposes because gone are the days when they can figure and be satisfied to go at it alone.

The world economy as it is evolving will require diversification of local businesses and will require joint ventures of the sort that we have seen at Bayshore Incorporated. Government has moved again through the Barbados National Bank, one of the Government owned companies, to do investment in buildings in St. Peter which were derelict. There are other examples of how the Government has acted either on its own through central government, through a satellite corporation, through one of its companies or with the private sector to develop lands all over Barbados.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South spoke to many of the sites which have been and which will be developed under the umbrella of the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated acting either alone or with other private and public sector agencies. I believe that the next site to be developed will be Fort Denmark in St. Peter. That fish market used to be a very active fish market when I was a child, which is fast becoming a long time ago since I turned 40 last Thursday, and I remember going to that site with my parents to buy fish, but as fishermen and their trade change and other fishing markets, especially the one at Harbour Road, were developed, the smaller fishing markets became less active

and that property was sitting derelict on a site which represents prime real estate and prime lands in Barbados.

Similarly, Fort Denmark, a site in St. Peter, is a historical site housing an old fort but is being grossly under-utilised in terms of its economic value because that was the northern headquarter for the Sanitation Service Authority. So we have a wonderful historical site on prime real estate sitting on the beach but the land is being utilised for the housing of garbage vehicles and that kind of operation.

Therefore, the Government has said that it makes no sense, in a country that has such a small land mass, not to properly and beneficially utilise all of these properties, whether it is for the benefit of local business people or in the public sector, or in the private sector, and bring them back into active use so that they can help to drive economic activity and that is what this Resolution is seeking to do.

The Town Hall in Bridgetown at the Lower Green area is another example of a property which the Government is going to bring back into beautiful and active use. We have seen already how the private sector, for instance, the Barbados Shipping and Trading Company Limited (BS&T) acting on their own initiative has redeveloped properties along Hincks Street and open them up for malls, for the housing of other businesses, offices, shops and so on and that is what we are going to see continue.

It is important that this work should happen at this time not only because we recognise that to keep these properties derelict will represent a waste of good resources, but it imposes on their utilisation and upon the physical and the natural environment of Barbados. To have derelict properties in the capital city does not speak well for our image as a city or for the image of our commercial and national capital. Not only that, but the existence of derelict property provides havens for nefarious persons with all kinds of activity, nocturnal and otherwise, as well as create a haven for rodents and vermin. So if we are to properly care for our natural environment, it is critical that every derelict building in Barbados be refurbished and put to good use.

It represents, too, Sir, a diversification of our tourism product. There is the tourist who will come for the cultural experience. There is the tourist who will come for the sun and sea. There is the tourist who will come for the sex.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: That is the truth, Sir, tourists come here for various experiences.

3:15 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON:

There are those who will come for historical traditions and those who will come for the cultural traditions and those who will be interested in tracking the history throughout the Caribbean.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West spoke beautifully to Bay Street but, in fact, we undervalue the worth of the entire Bridgetown. This Parliament is the third oldest Parliament in the Commonwealth, the Jewish Synagogue on Synagogue Lane is the second oldest in the western hemisphere, the Free Library at Coleridge Street is one of the oldest ones in the western hemisphere and the Empire building was put up at about the same time as the free library which I think goes back to the 1800s.

There are a number of historical buildings all over Bridgetown which we have not fully capitalised on their worth, nor sold them sufficiently as part of our tourism experience, and it is important that in harnessing our resources that a lot of these buildings which have historical and cultural value and relevance be brought back to good and proper use. Part of the utilisation of these buildings, Sir, will in my view give greater impetus to the private sector if Government takes the lead for them to continue the redevelopment of Bridgetown.

We have already seen on Swan Street the fact that Government has gone in and put pavers in the road and pedestrianising Swan Street has made a difference to the way that street is utilised, and merchants themselves are now redeveloping their old buildings to make them converge with the image and the vision which the Government has for Bridgetown.

Sir, we have the Boardwalk put in on the Careenage and, in fact, the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment is currently evaluating a project by BS&T which will see the whole redevelopment of the Wharf and that is a very interesting proposal. It will refurbish under that proposal the only Screw Dock left anywhere in the world. It exists right here in Barbados and we do not know what we have. For the first time I went down to the Screw Dock and looked at how it would function. In fact, it can be rehabilitated and will be rehabilitated. That project will also see the development of a number of business malls and shops and, important to me is that it will also have a residential component, putting into Bridgetown, into the heart of the capital city, a number of up-scale residences which will have magnificent views of Carlisle Bay.

I grew up in the City, Sir, and I lament the fact that living in the City has now come to be a slum area with areas having all kinds of nicknames. I remember well when I was a child that Baxters Road, Tudor Street, Roebuck Street were not only the centres for black businesses, but many persons had their shops and their businesses on the ground floor, and residences on the top floor. I am a product of that culture. My parents had a laundry business for many years and still have a laundry business and that was the ground floor and we lived upstairs on Baxter's Road. There were several other persons. The Honourable Member for the City were she here would say that that too was part of her cultural experience.

We must bring back residences and people living in the capital city. We seem to have ceded it to the vagrants and the "paros". Sir, since we are required to speak in English if "paro" - I know it will be understood culturally by everyone present if the House will accept the term but Your Honour knows well that the term "paro" means one who is addicted to drugs. For the benefit of those reading the language of the future I have done the interpretation from the vernacular to English.

It is important that we clean our City of these negative aspects and people feel comfortable to work,

live in Bridgetown and to have recreation in our capital City. Gone are the days when at four-thirty everybody should be rushing out of town because they feel that that is “paro” time, or the time for the vagrants and they do not have a place in Bridgetown past 4:30 o’clock, or past 6 o’clock, or that they only use it to hustle from the Lower Green to the Fairchild Street bus stand. The City must be worthy of the capital City that it is and it must represent the heart of our commercial enterprise as well as of our cultural and environmental, physical and natural enterprises.

Sir, as part of this redevelopment project, the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment will work with the BTII to dredge the Careenage. If the Careenage is dredged, the waters of the Careenage will be as blue as the other sea waters anywhere in Barbados. We will work, Sir, with the NCC which is one of our satellite corporations to landscape all of the inner basin of the Careenage and we will go further.

Part of the problem with the Careenage has to do with the practices of businesses and itinerant vendors who surround that area and dump into the inner basin of the Careenage and we will work with businesses located around the inner basin and itinerant vendors to guarantee proper practices and use of this area so that the waters do not become dirty and polluted again.

As part of this development, we will also ensure that there are proper public conveniences placed in Bridgetown. When you go to metropolitan countries, Sir, you can find public conveniences whether you have to pay some nominal sum for their use or whether they are free that are clean, well-maintained and proper to use. If you are in Bridgetown, Sir, and are caught by a natural urge, you have to go into a store to beg somebody to let you use their bathroom. This is not acceptable, Sir. There should be public conveniences that members of the public could use that would be properly maintained that would have in the best technology for bathroom facilities. These days you can have all kinds of water saving and electronic devices, toilets with sensors that flush themselves once you get off of them, taps under which you push your hands to get water and once you remove them the water stops running so that people do not tamper with the devices.

We have had a problem in Bridgetown where people removed stop corks and taps but if we utilise the latest technology we can have bathroom conveniences of the highest possible standard. Far too often if you walk through certain alleys in town you can tell that they are used as public conveniences by itinerant vendors, by taxi-drivers, by people caught in emergencies and cannot make it to a store to get in.

At this point in the 21st century a city that is described now as the best organised black government and black country in the world we cannot continue like this.

Aside.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West is reminding me of a Chalkdust song now of some vintage about no toilets in the whole of town and he was speaking of Port-of-Spain, but it is equally applicable to Bridgetown, Barbados and I regret that we would have to adopt it but indeed we can adopt it with a high degree of veracity. That is the reality.

It is important too, I believe, that even as we seek to have this major refurbishment programme that

we take conscious decisions which allow us to protect the rights of our citizens and our people, protect their rights to access to the beaches, protect their rights of access to land, ensure that as a government we do not make decisions that marginalise from the use of the average black Barbadian large parcels of land that will never come back into the ownership of Barbadians. These are the conscious policy decisions we will have to be making even as we seek to ensure that development takes place at a satisfactory pace and that it is the kind of development of which all Barbadians can be proud.

If I could just make another point. I think it is important in this redevelopment process that all sectors of society be involved. I have spoken of the private sector and the public sector.

3:25 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of Hon. Miss. H. E. THOMPSON:

It would be remiss of me if I close without saying that civil society also has a role to play in the redevelopment process. The Barbados National Trust also has a role to play, the service clubs such as the Rotary, Kiwanis and the Lions Club has worked with Government to ensure that they have a project which redevelops some of these sites with prime real estates. Sir, I can think of two examples, Batts Rock was developed with the help of the Rotary Club and the NCC during my last stint as Minister of Environment and the Hastings Rock project was developed using civil society.

Sir, it is important that we act on our national motto "Pride and Industry". We have to take pride in Barbados but if we are to do that then we must care for our physical and natural environment. We must make sure that we have the best possible facility and the most beautiful capital city. We must ensure that we recognise that the call is not merely for pride but also a call for industry. Sir, that requires that all of us, civil society, the private sector and Government agencies act together to ensure that we develop Barbados in the best possible way.

I believe that this Resolution and the deliberate policy being pursued for the redevelopment of Bridgetown and Barbados as a whole will give credence to the whole motto and that we are developing a Barbados in which all of us can be proud. We recognise that this takes work and effort and we invite all Barbadians and people of goodwill to join us in this effort.

I commend the Minister of Housing for bringing the Resolution at this time and I am keen to see what BTII will do with this site. I am pledging the support of the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment as we go about this important work of the redevelopment of Bridgetown and Barbados.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I want to raise a few issues with the Minister. I do not blame him but I believe that on previous occasions I have indicated that I am reluctant to support Resolutions by way of vesting assets or guarantees of loans to companies 100 per cent owned by Government and not required by law to lay their financials in Parliament. The Minister or a previous Minister on a previous occasion had given an undertaking that this would be done but it is extremely

important. This is an asset that is being vested in a Government-owned company and once it has become vested therein there would be no requirement for that company to report to the Parliament of Barbados. Even though the Minister was extensive in terms of enunciating the number of projects the company would be undertaking, he was not able to give us the kind of financial information relative to the operations of these companies. This Parliament may have guaranteed loans to the company or through the public investment fund.

We would have also seen grants being made to these companies but Government does not have any oversight over the assets and liabilities, the nature of each investment or how they are proceeding. I am still very concerned about that. The Government promised to bring legislation which would put all of the existing companies under one piece of legislation which would require them to lay their financials in Parliament. One of the problems the Government has is that it does not know all of the companies that have been formed since 1994. The previous Attorney-General asked me to give him a list of all the companies because different Ministries have formed companies like the Ministry of the Environment through NCC and the Ministry of Tourism through BTII.

I was a Minister of Finance only to discover for seven years that Land Reclaimers had neither submitted to Parliament, nor for the Minister's consideration, any statement. They may not have been doing anything wrong but the point is that it was a board elected by the Ministry. The Government has a minority interest in the Pine Hill Dairy but nobody was alerted how the representation was voting on issues that came before the Pine Hill Dairy.

Sir, that kind of slackness occurs when you set up Government-owned corporations and the people who run them do not feel that they are accountable to this Parliament when, in fact, ultimately they are. When the Government was privatising BNB and ICB I made that point that prior to the privatisation and despite promises that there would be consultation with the Opposition, none took place. A Resolution was brought to repeal the BNB Act but the privatisation has taken place and nothing by way of financial statements would have been made available to this Parliament although the first dividend was paid out.

3:35 p.m.

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Continuation of Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON:

Dividends have been paid and I am glad about that. I am saying, let us not move the BNB so far away from the element of accountability, that this Parliament is not also aware of what is happening. You can get a Barbados Light and Power Annual Report, a telephone company annual report. These are publicly listed companies, and as a matter of courtesy they send them to Parliamentarians. I think that this needs to be done in relation to government companies.

I want to boldly say that where Government enters into some of these investments, I am happy to see them taking place. I do not agree with the Honourable Member for St. James South that every derelict

building should be refurbished. There is also tourism value to derelict buildings. Farley Hill is a derelict building and there are some derelict buildings which, because of the dereliction, have commercial value.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. I trust that I did not suggest or my comments could not be interpreted as the Honourable Member for St. John is interpreting them, then I would be saying that every derelict building, such as Farley Hill which has its own historical value as is, should and will be refurbished, clearly that is not the case.

I was making the point that there are those derelict buildings which have become a nuisance and a haven for rodents, vagrants and persons who want to do various activities.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I know the Honourable Member did say that “all derelict buildings”. Maybe, it was a slip of the tongue. The point that I am making is, not every derelict building in Barbados needs to be refurbished. There are ruins that are of commercial, tourism and historic value in their natural state.

Sir, there are cities in Martinique which have suffered from volcanoes and remain in their natural state. Fort Royal, Jamaica, is basically a derelict area of old ruins that people have visited. The point is, Government needs to identify which of those buildings that will remain in that state.

Sir, if you took all the derelict buildings in Havana, Cuba and refurbished them, the very essence of the attraction of Havana would dissipate. It would become like any other South American city. If you give every Cuban a new car and retired all the cars that they drive - which, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael East would tell you it is amazing that the Cubans are showing the Americans how to keep their technology alive for five decades and the Americans cannot keep it alive and we view them as technological giants.

Sir, the point I am making is that not every property that appears to be derelict needs to be refurbished. We need to identify the ones that we are not going to refurbish. I agree that many of the properties that BTII has identified as needed to be refurbished, yes, are worthy of the work that has been done subject, of course, to the concerns that I have raised about the financial aspects of the investment. One always has to give consideration to what would happen should these investments flop.

Sir, look what has happened to Pelican Village, which was almost derelict but I used to go there and eat lunch twice a week in the restaurant. They refurbished it. It lost its character and appeal, tourists do not go there, Bajans do not go there and the people whom Government hailed as taking up these new entrepreneurial opportunities in this refurbished Pelican Village have said that it does not suit their mode of operation.

Sir, that is why I say that there are some physical developments that make sense but there are also some places that develop their character from the nature of the dereliction. Think of Bay Street and the Belair Night Club.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I used to go there as a school boy. From the time they fixed the Belair Night Club, who can you say went into the Belair? The whole concept of it was taking people to a place that had character.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The steps that you walked up, and the visitor says, "Wait, where are you carrying me?" When you get upstairs, you will see all of these old men with some battered musical instruments. The Belair Night Club was a place to go because it had that character. I am saying that it was a place to go because it had that character. We need to appreciate that there are going to be aspects which will need that level of refurbishment but there will also be properties, because of their character, we need to make sure that they are the same but we do not necessarily need to so refurbish them that they lose their distinctiveness and the flair for which they are known.

The other point I want to raise is, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, I am still of the view that the amount of traffic on the roads in Barbados is a lot of that physical development that is taking place, and will take place in St. Lawrence too, and it is going to be affected by the level of motor vehicular traffic that is going to be passing through that area. We have to understand that is one of the big problems that we face. A lot of the properties in that area do not have service entrances. In other countries the business places have service entrances. People work 24 hours a day instead of 12 hours a day.

We need, as I said, the natural attractiveness of these areas which can be affected by having that kind of traffic travelling during the day, particularly when you are showing those sites to visitors. In Bridgetown where many of these developments are taking place, they take away from the natural beauty of those investments.

The Ministry of Tourism should, to my mind, try to work with the owners of a lot of the great houses in Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Many years ago, there was an issue about taking plantation houses off the agricultural land. Some have remained or have been developed for commercial use. Some families still live in them but there are large numbers of those houses though they have not yet fallen to pieces are on the verge of doing so.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I think that the Government owns some of these houses. Look at New Castle House. The people in that area are now knocking down the soft stone. All the windows and fittings have been removed from New Castle House. Government owns houses on that beach. There is the one that was occupied and rented by the Barrow family. People are now going into that house and removing the windows and items from the inside of the building. These are houses that can generate rentals from movement. Some of them could be used for activities.

There are many Barbadians who would want to rent beach houses but because of the amount of red tape they would have to go through, they would not bother with them. There are people who could lease them from Government and rent them to others. I do not think that Government is active enough in managing many of these properties. There are a lot of properties dotted across Barbados which Government has some interest or control, which could be put to good use as tourism attractions. I hope that will occur.

The last point which I want to mention to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South is to take a look at the old train line development. I still think that it is certainly for Barbadians. I know tourists use it but I know that there are Barbadians who are interested in nature walks. The old train line a very popular trail.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I think that it is also a very attractive scenic walk. It does not take a lot to maintain but consideration needs to be given to promoting it as part of our natural heritage. It goes between Martins Bay, Bath, Consett Bay, College Savannah and a part of St. Philip. It is obviously a development that needs to be considered.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: A lot of them have fallen into disrepair. People in Barbados tell you what we call slave huts are not slave huts. The real slave huts are natural attractions and part of our history.

3:45 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Continuation of Mr. D. H. J. THOMPSON:

I do not know of any primary school children who have been to see a slave hut, but they would have been taken to Sunbury Plantation, to sugar plantations. They are not going to see the more important aspects of our development as a people and therefore, attention needs to be paid to these kinds of issues.

Sir, when next the Minister comes here, I hope that he would not only seek to give us the kind of financial information we need, but also to have a general debate on issues such as this so that we can all make an input as to areas of physical development that could be improved so as to make the overall experience of visiting Barbados something that is memorable.

I live in Barbados but I will never forget my trip to Cuba because of the difference in Cuba's architecture, its cultural heritage, its different regions and its activities, the way in which its history has been preserved. The fact that in Cuba, of all places, one can go back to the old capital building where the pre-revolution legislators used to conduct their business - everything has been preserved in exactly the same way as when the Revolution took place, down to the old RCA microphones and the stuffed chairs that, in those days, were used for the legislators to sit in, the paintings and everything else.

Sir, despite the fact that a revolution had taken place, the Cubans recognised that physical development was a continuing process and the fact was that at some point in their lives, they were oppressed and colonized. Sir, the Cubans are able to take one through an experience from the pre-revolution, revolutionary times, post-revolution period, and then to the newer resort areas like Viadera, the Ernest Hemmingway Marina, et cetera. There are developments which would rival any other country in the Caribbean in terms of tourism. I think that Barbados can offer similar experiences to places like Cuba. Cuba has had fewer resources but they do offer an experience. I think that is what our tourism should be all about. I thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. George.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, before winding up the debate, I want to thank all Honourable Members who have spoken and to say that, from time to time, we have to bring Resolutions separately. This was a point that was hammered out some time ago about lumping all vesting documents or Resolutions together, but we were told that each Resolution is separate and distinct and that the parliamentary process demands that each be treated separately. I believe that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has been asking why not let us bring all of them together, but they are so different.

I must say that there are many outstanding land acquisitions, or vesting of properties that have to be done and these lands are scattered all across Barbados. We will hope that within the near future we can bring many of them to Parliament. There are a number of them and we would want to vest them in either agriculture, Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., housing or lease to the private sector. We have leased them to many sporting organisations such as lawn tennis, and cricket, the health organisation, the Barbados Cancer Society, the Heart Foundation of Barbados, et cetera.

Sir, I would want to say to the Member for St. Lucy - I know that he is getting old and cold. I want to refer him to the book of Kings, chapter 1, verses 1, 2 and 3, since all Members have been given a new Bible. I think he will do well to have been warned.

With those remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

The question that the Resolution do pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government's Business for the day.

Sir, before formally moving the motion for the adjournment, I want to wish the staff and security of Parliament and everyone else here all the very best on the occasion of Barbados' 35th Anniversary of Independence.

I now beg to move that this House be adjourned until next Tuesday, 4th December, 2001.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the House do adjourn until Tuesday, December 4, 2001 was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

3:55 p.m.

DRAFT