

*Leave of Absence**Friday, March 15, 1991***HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES***Friday, March 15, 1991*

The House met at 1.40 p.m.

**PRAYERS**[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Mr. Speaker:** The following Members have been granted leave of absence from today's sitting: the Member for La Brea (Hon. Albert Richards), the Member for St. Augustine (Mr. John Humphrey) and the Member for Couva South (Mr. Kelvin Ramnath).

**PETITION****Faith Centre**

**Dr. Anselm St. George** (*San Fernando West*): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of the members of the Faith Centre who are desirous of introducing a private bill in this honourable House for the purpose of incorporation of the organization.

I now ask that the Clerk be permitted to read the petition and that the promoters be allowed to proceed.

*Petition read.**Question put and agreed to, That the promoters be allowed to proceed.***PAPER LAID**

The Defence (Rates of Pay and Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 1991.  
[*The Minister of Justice and National Security (Hon. Joseph Toney)*]

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

*The following questions stood on the Order Paper in the name of Mr. Govindra Roopnarine (Siparia):*

**Roads/Bridges**

- 16. (a)** Would the honourable Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Decentralization state whether Mohess Road in the county of Victoria will be re-opened to the residents in 1991?

- (b) Would the honourable Minister also state whether the Katwaroo Trace and Sammy Trace bridges which have forced the closure of these roads, will be repaired in 1991?

**Estates  
(Rehabilitation)**

17. (a) Would the honourable Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Decentralization state how many estates were rehabilitated by his Ministry in 1990 and who are the owners of these estates?
- (b) Could the honourable Minister also say what benefits will accrue to the state from his Ministry's efforts in rehabilitating these estates?

**ECHO**

18. (a) Would the honourable Minister of Social Development and Family Services state how many communities have benefited from its programme called ECHO?
- (b) Would the honourable Minister also state how funds allocated to ECHO are disbursed?

**Mr. Raymond Palackdharrysingh:** Mr. Speaker, the Member is not here and I am requesting that questions 16, 17 and 18 be deferred to another time.

*Questions, by leave, deferred.*

**NATIONAL TRUST BILL**

[THIRD DAY]

*Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question [March 8, 1991]*

That the bill be now read a second time.

*Question again proposed.*

**Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Decentralization (Mr. Jenson Fox):** Mr. Speaker, very often when I stand in this Parliament it is my opinion that it is difficult to get Members of this House to take some of the comments I make seriously. Other times it is not always the perception or thinking of some of my colleagues in the Government. However, today, I hope that every Member of Parliament and indeed the country, would

listen attentively and take seriously what I have to say and perhaps view some of the items that are brought here in the Parliament with seriousness.

First of all, it is indeed a correct thing for the Minister who has presented this bill before Parliament to come here and seek to put in place measures that would protect, recover and preserve the heritage for future generations of Trinidad and Tobago.

Standing here today, I do not want to do like what has happened in the past which is attempt to cast blame because blame would not matter at this point in time, because the damage has already been done. To make my point—and I want to emphasize that I am not attempting to cast blame—about the damage that has been done, I refer to comments, though they may not be accurate, that were made by the Member for Diego Martin Central last week when he sought to endorse his party's support for the bill as represented by the Minister. He attempted to put a firm stamp of the former regime in the light, as he described it, that the PNM was like a mother protecting the heritage of the country as such and the mother preserving that sort of posterity. I do not have the *Hansard* records and you would forgive me if I am a little bit off, but I have the correct meaning behind it.

Nevertheless, while conducting the work of the Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Decentralization, I made a trip to Chaguaramas looking for items that had nothing to do with the bill before us today, but certainly looking for items that would serve the purpose of the Ministry. Indeed, we found large amounts of the particular item we were looking for but little did I know that I would have stumbled upon items which I was not looking for.

### **1.50 p.m.**

Sometime between 1975 and 1985, there was a deterioration in the control and the upkeep of the Royal Victoria Institute—what we know as the museum in up-town Port of Spain. The building began to really deteriorate. For whatever reason, during that period, someone in authority took the drastic decision to remove thousands upon thousands of precious writings and precious historic items from that building which should have been kept under lock and key and preserved in the highest order, for the generations ahead to be able to enjoy.

I know because I was a little boy going to school and I remember the days when I used to go to that museum. When my kids began to grow, I started taking them there, so I have a very clear impression of how things went. Someone took that decision to remove thousands of artifacts, books, writings—both foreign and

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local—thousands of items of gifts which were given to the people of Trinidad and Tobago and dumped them in a cold, damp, dark bunker facing the east, down in Chaguaramas and left the door wide open; that bunker which took the brunt of the sun, as far inside as possible, and of the rain which blew east to west.

Today, just to emphasize what I am saying, I brought to Parliament some items—some of which—for those of you who went to the museum during your childhood days and may have taken your children there, would have read an inscription which states—

"Printing press 1831:

The first all-metal printing press was invented by Earl Stanhoe in England in 1804. The press here exhibited is an example of Stanhoe's invention, manufactured only 27 years later. The first book to be printed on this type of press was published in 1810 and the *Times* newspaper first used it in 1814. The advantages of this press were two: It was more rigid than the previous wooden machines and in half the time taken in printing. The machine exhibited here was actually used by Yuille Printery Limited, who donated it to the museum 10 years ago."

I have no idea when they said 10 years ago how far back that was. But this is the inscription as removed from the press which is rusting and rotting down in a bunker in Chaguaramas. *[Interruption]*

Do not worry my dear friend from Couva, I will explain that in a while. Mr. Speaker, I remembered in 1984, when attempting to assist the Belmont Girls R.C. School with a project, I was the then President of the PTA of that school, and we were raising funds to rebuild the school which has since been rebuilt. It was opened last year. The teachers of that school were attempting to find information relevant to the use of the National Flag of Trinidad and Tobago. I remember calling the Ministry of Youth and Culture as it was then, only to find out that they had no information on the national flag. I remember calling many places, including radio stations, the television station and no one had an idea of where to put his hands on that information. I just want to show the Parliament this document. It has on the cover a printed colour picture of the national flag and it states: *The National Flag of Trinidad and Tobago*. If I may read some of the headings: "The official description and dimensions of the flag", "The meaning of the flag", "Special days for flying the national flag".

The Governor General's residence, Prime Minister's residence, Government buildings, education institutes, motorcars, overseas missions, pay respect to the national flag and other flags: "General rules for the use and display of the national flag".

Mr. Speaker, while in our educational institute they were crying out for this information, someone in authority, in those years, dumped thousands of copies of this document in that bunker. From the look of it, you can very well recognize the deterioration which has taken place over that period.

It was hurtful to watch thousands upon thousands of gramophone records and this is just a few here, all broken because people who did not know better walked into that bunker and stepped on them. Gramophone records, gifts, which were sent to the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago by various governments and organizations all over the world and not just foreign records of the masters, but I stumbled across several—and I say several—like Trinidad Tripoli Steelband; Amen, I want you back—a 45; the Mighty Sparrow, "Get To Hell Out of Here". This record is old and broken. For want of pronunciations, volumes upon volumes of precious writings—I am advised by my friend to my extreme right that the pronunciation is, Ramayan Maha Mahaba. Volumes upon volumes. This one says "Dead Souls". A record and a written manuscript, "The seven last words of Jesus Christ on the cross"; Mozart's life story; Crusoe's life story; "Practical harmony at the keyboards"; Beethoven; "Second year harmony", a music course by Perry Williams, "The Growth of Music, Part III"—I am saying Part III because there is Part I, Part II, all lying there and many of them damaged by the weather and times.

### **2.00 p.m.**

Beethoven's old music score: "I Vow to Thee my Country"; and writings—scores of it—Julius Ceasar, Charles Williams Selected Writings, Musical Instruments Through the Ages, the Messiah; and we pulled out more records—18th century Italian songs by Jeannette Pasta. I just want to read the date on this record: 18th Century Italian Songs—it has on it the 12th month 1945 and obviously it was bought with taxpayers' money at J. C. Sealy, the book shop at 2A Marli Street, Port of Spain; I do not know what now stands there. This one, Operatic Favourites, the 12th month 1946.

In this destroyed case—a very precious requiem; the record broken but fortunately the manuscript in itself—forgive me for the dust because these things,

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I know you are not supposed to take the dust off of them; you have to get experts to handle them; but I had no choice but to bring them here today—manuscript of that requiem. The box that it was held in is a precious box and maybe someone who can perhaps assist in preserving it would want to take care of it.

Mr. Speaker, what amazes me is that it was not just records and stuff like that. You know what I found down there? "Works of Art, 1967", information on a programme—

**Mr. Valley:** I wonder whether the Member would inform us of what information he has that assured him that these materials were not surplus hence the reason for their being moved. Secondly, if they were not, I wonder whether he can tell us who gave him the authority to remove these materials from wherever they were, to bring them to Parliament this afternoon.

**Mr. Fox:** Mr. Speaker, "Get to Hell out of Here" could never be a surplus record in Trinidad and Tobago. As for authority, it seems to me at this point in time that the side of the House that I am on has more authority than the side of the House that he is on. I showed you just now an official programme for the 14th Music Festival, March 21—April 10, 1976.

Mr. Speaker, this could not be surplus. This is a file that should have been preserved but instead ended up in that cold bunker. The first document in it says: "The Art Council of Great Britain"; and I turn the page and there is the German Review and beyond that, this is a document—I want to tell you that all these documents had stamped on them, "The property of the Department of Culture"; whatever Department that was—but this document has the national coat of arms on it—and it has, "Work accomplished, 1973—1974". It is a little tidy document of work done by the Department of that Ministry during that period.

The other document in that file: Full Constitute of the Antilles, Report on the Caribbean Folk Art Workshop/Seminar, in co-operation with Faith International, Chacacabana Hotel, Chaguaramas, Trinidad, West Indies, December 12—15, 1974. We go down and see Art-Spanish; I do not know but I recognize it to be something from Venezuela. Strangely, I am sure this last document has something to do with all that I just called in the file. It says, "Senate Paper No. 1972, Report of the Joint Select Committee and Public Accounts for the First Session of the Third Parliament 1971—72. I have not had the time to read through that document, but I am sure there is some relevance seeing that they were all locked

in this file. Water Birds, a tag for what certainly is not surplus because there are damaged, historic, preserved water birds and animals in that bunker.

Question: Why a national trust? When I started, I said people do not listen attentively to what I am saying and I am getting it from both sides and I was hoping people would listen to me today because I thought the presentation was a serious one. It has to do with the prevention of destruction of the valuable art and treasures of Trinidad and Tobago. It has to do with the preservation and keeping in safe places, for extended periods—for as long as they would last and be preserved—the heritage of Trinidad and Tobago for the generations to come.

That is why I said, when I started, that I felt that the advancement of this bill by the Minister, which is in keeping with a commitment in our manifesto, is something that no one should attempt in this Parliament to treat lightly or attempt to undermine. Last week I observed certain Members in this House deliberately attempting to undermine a very serious effort on the part of this Government, to preserve dying treasures of Trinidad and Tobago.

The time certainly has arrived when the throwing, locking away or dumping in cold, damp bunkers in Chaguaramas or elsewhere must come to an end. There is need—not just for the national trust—for the assignment of individuals who have the knowledge and wherewithal to retrieve items, as demonstrated here today, and attempt to preserve them.

### **2.10 p.m.**

In another bunker very close by—and that too should be preserved—there are scores of voting machines of the 1960s. That too, should be preserved. Like the press of 1831 that is rotting down at Chaguaramas; like the old mas' costumes; the beheaded statute of Gandhi, the original one, that was thrown inside that place; reels of 35 millimetre film and I have seen a film from Carnival 1955 down inside that bunker; reels upon reels of tapes of Government Broadcasting Unit presentations through the 1950s and 1960s; tapes that I have listened to that tell a cultural and historic story about Trinidad and Tobago; tapes that no longer, or for some reason, when they were sought some years ago could not be found.

I am talking about St. Joseph Convent singing the National Anthem and other national songs in 1962, just before Independence, left to rot and to waste away. I want to say that the time down at Chaguaramas has not gone unnoticed by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and to that extent I understand that the

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Minister in charge has already made arrangements—I understand that they are in process at this point in time—to have youngsters from—

**Mr. Wilson:** Thanks for giving way. Just as a matter of information, can you tell us whether any of the tapes which were missing from Eric Williams, the founder of the nation, were found in that bunker? Do you remember we were accused of destroying those tapes? Can you tell us?

**Mr. Fox:** They are there. In fact, writings by Eric Williams were there.

I was saying that already efforts are being made by the Minister to have the youngsters from the Youth Camp at Chaguaramas which is almost opposite the bunker, go in there with boxes and painstakingly remove those things, sheet by sheet, and take them to a safe place, where the experts would obviously have to be called in to go through them and try to retrieve and preserve them.

My presentation today is about ended. I thought that a more descriptive, visual effort on my part would have told my story. I hope that records of events of the past which are present with us at this point in time would be put to rest and what is left would be preserved.

**Mr. Raymond Palackdharrysingh** (*Naparima*):

"I do not want my house to be walled on all sides and that my windows are blinded. I want all cultures of all countries to come into my house, but I refuse to be wiped away by any cultures whatsoever."

by Mahatma Gandhi, a Statesman. I am sorry to hear that the head of his statute has been severed and it is quite an indictment. This is the most profound statement about how our lives could be enriched by the many endowments of our communities' heritage without having to fall victim to the imposition of the accretions from the *status quo*.

One of the functions of the bill, among others, is to make the public aware of the value, beauty and heritage of Trinidad and Tobago. What is the heritage of Trinidad and Tobago? The Minister, in her presentation, has not defined or attempted to define what our heritage is, or how it has evolved, except to say that it is fragile. I got the impression that she knew exactly what that heritage involves and it mattered precious little what others thought.

What is the starting point of the surveying of the phenomena that would constitute and contribute towards the realization of the objects of the bill? The



Minister has not intimated any concrete proposals to the House and one gets the impression that we have not gone beyond the white paper approach. This is a pity, for when we speak about making the public aware of the value and beauty of the heritage of Trinidad and Tobago, the premise or assumption of such a statement must be abundantly clear. Are we speaking of geographic Trinidad and Tobago, or are we speaking about the nation state? Are we speaking about the latter? Then I take it that we start with people; for it is the major component of the understanding of the heritage of Trinidad and Tobago.

As the Member for Oropouche has rightly pointed out, we must have a profound sense of our history and historical development in order to lend focus to our hunches on this bill. Without this focus, the nation of Trinidad and Tobago would be sailing without a compass on the treacherous waters of uncertainty.

In the foreword to his book on page 9 *History of The People of Trinidad and Tobago* the late Dr. Eric Williams had this to say:

"The history of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, in seeking to inform them of their past as an essential guide to their future action, places them and their problems at all times in international perspective.

There has been no hesitation in drawing extensively upon, when necessary, the author's knowledge of Caribbean history as a whole, in respect of which he had the advantage of an incomplete and unfinished history of the West Indies begun some eleven years ago and put into cold storage until more leisured times."

He has departed into the transcendental world and more leisure times have not been found by him nor his successors. It would seem that an adequate history of our society would be prominently held in cold storage, deliberately so, for it is only in this confusion would the *status quo* reign supreme. But whatever is swept under the carpet would live to haunt generations to come.

We are still fortunate to have a lineage of people dating back to our Amerindian ancestors. I am suggesting that time, talent, and resources, be put aside for the purpose of preserving and promoting whatever is alive of their culture and people; our heritage. We cannot escape the influence of our European colonizers. The French, Spanish, Dutch and English influences are all around us. In spite of its brutal and colonizing influences and dominance, we cannot escape their impact. Why is it that we speak English and not Swahili, Arabic or Hindi by

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and large? Why is it that we are attired in Western dress and not in the modes of Africa and the East? We are just beginning to realize what the tip of the problem is.

**2.20 p.m.**

No one disputes that Africans were dragged by the millions from their native land in Africa to the Western Hemisphere. The late Dr. Williams has indicated that what began as a mere trickle in 1441 with 12 African slaves captured by the Portuguese and taken to Portugal became a roaring torrent in the 18th and 19th centuries. This cost Africa about 50 million souls, scattered across America, Brazil, the Caribbean, and indeed Trinidad and Tobago. One knows of the seasoning, indoctrination and their treatment for them to feel as inferior human beings. I am interested, like the vast majority of others, to learn more about the historical and cultural heritage of our African presence in these parts.

Prime Minister Mr. A.N.R. Robinson in his book, *Caribbean Man*, an article entitled "The New Frontier and the New Africa" has made revealing disclosures. He writes that a priest startles Europe with Bantu philosophy.

Mr. Speaker, Ourie Sempels used the term "philosophy" because he considered that the Bantu had a system of cognition, metaphysics and an ontology which the author was rash enough to compare with that of the West. He found that at the centre of Bantu philosophy was the conception of vital force, a universal, omnipotent energy, around which all thought and action revolved.

He has shown that the empire of Ghana flourished during the dark ages of Western Europe and that there was a university at Timbuctoo. The Ashantis of the Gold Coast and the Yorubas of Nigeria possessed highly organized and complex civilizations long before their territories were brought under British political and military control. He has shown how African art astonishes the critics:

"To embody his religious visions, the African artist combines the naturalistic and the abstract, surrealist and expressionist elements into a unity entirely new. How does the artist achieve this? Take for example the idea of power; what is its physical manifestations? The answer is large heads, abdomens and breasts, sparkling eyes, the horns of buffaloes, rams, antelopes and the snouts of crocodiles."

Mr. Speaker, are these things not essential for our people of African origin and ourselves to know about and to appreciate?

I watch my African brother but I do not see him. Is he of Yoruba, Ashanti, Bautu, Merikin, Hauses, Tibi, Mandingo origin? From what part of Africa are his forbears? Are these things not necessary for the sustenance of our psyche? Surely, we must go beyond our carnival festivity to discover and know ourselves. Would the National Trust consider this aspect of our existence as inherent in the value and beauty of the heritage of Trinidad and Tobago?

Let me publicly commend the Member for Tobago West for her forthrightness when she stated:

"We Africans are all too eager to forget our roots and our heritage. We want to lighten our skin and hair and straighten our noses. It is people like Dr. J.D. Elder who will show us where we have come from, help us to get a better understanding of our ancestry, and so be more creative in our cultural traditions."

On that occasion, she said that although some Africans choose to forget their heritage, there were some black intellectuals who were fighting to enlighten the public and dispel the myths surrounding African culture. The Minister was very elated for noticing that there was a resurgence of black consciousness in our society and pleased to be part of it:

"Perhaps what is most significant about his work is his attempt to educate the public through socio-historical research. I say this is significant because we have been called a historyless society, and people like J.D. Elder are trying to put that sense of history back into our society through anthropological research, ethno-musicology and folklore."

I have no problems with the Minister for explaining that in linking the cultural traditions of the people of Trinidad and Tobago with certain African tribes, Dr. Elder has made an attempt to dispel myths about African civilization and culture, promote a sense of identity among Afro-Trinbagonians and generally uplift our perceptions of self.

Mr. Speaker, the Black Power stirrings in the 1970s initiated the process of finding identity and selfhood of our people of African origins. The process has to be deepened and strengthened. I am sure that if the African brother breaks out of his metropolitan cocoon, he would have no difficulty or hesitation or doubts about others affirming their selfhood and identity alongside their own cravings. When this National Trust comes into being, I am sure that the Confederation of African Associations would be of tremendous assistance in promoting African

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awareness in our society. Like other organizations, their work would in no way hinder the integrative process of our country. It would help us to appreciate unity in diversity.

Mr. Speaker, the value and beauty of the heritage of Trinidad and Tobago cannot escape the arrival and cultural input of the East Indians. In his book, at page 105, *History of the People of Trinidad and Tobago*, on the contribution of the East Indians, Dr. Williams again had this to say:

"At the outset, barracks were only built for the Indians who came unaccompanied by women, and free labourers were lodged as before in separate cottages. The first in Naparima was erected at Palmyra Estate and I think that one was the first in the island, but as the estates got fully supplied with coolies, the cheapness caused it to be adopted universally."

Mr. Speaker, I feel constrained like others to make the point that by 1891, the number of Indians in Trinidad was 70,218 out of a population of 220,028 or 35.10 per cent. One cannot escape the fact that the Indians were of different ethnic origin from the Creoles and the descendants of Africans, and inevitably their presence increased the existing heterogeneous character of the society by enriching it. A certain attitude has been manifested in which the coolie people were made inferior beings. The early Presbyterian missionaries called them heathens. John Morton in 1864 felt that 20,000 heathen people were brought into a Christian country and not to care for their souls was a stain on Christianity. The status quo inflicted prejudices and stereotyping on the coolies who have not been given their authentic recognition since then.

Mr. Speaker, the status quo which I consider to be Euro-Anglo Saxon culture, is self-perpetrating in our schools and our society. Unless there is a concerted effort at education, African/Indian culture will be relegated to the cupboard of contempt and denial, making it impossible for the public to be aware of the value and beauty of the heritage of Trinidad and Tobago, especially our cultural heritage.

Many times I watch my East Indian brother and I do not see him. I, too, oftentimes wonder what part of India and from what group of people did my foreparents come? Worse than that, I listen to the old East Indians speak and I do not understand. Is there anything wrong with asking, who am I? Where it all began? Where am I going? The trust might be willing to investigate this on my behalf.

Mr. Speaker, among the other functions of the bill as stated is:

"Permanently preserving lands of beauty or historic interest as far as practicable, retaining their natural features and conserving their animal and plant life."

Indeed, this is a laudable objective, but I have very serious doubts about the accomplishment of this aim. The protection of our natural and scenic endowments must be of concern for us and for posterity. We owe it to future generations. There are serious obstacles, national and international, that we have not begun to address. The provisions of this bill will not be able to deal with the serious environmental issues which will impact negatively upon the effectiveness of the intent of this bill. As a matter of fact, some of our prehistoric endowments may have been damaged irretrievably.

Among other things, we need as the broader parameters: comprehensive laws dealing with industrial development, energy and mining, land use planning, tourism, rationalization of squatting, nature conservation, environmental health, water resources, and the involvement of local government bodies. The involvement of community groups and the non-governmental organizations must continue to play a complementary role in this regard.

We know that the Caroni River is contaminated with pollutants from rum and beer distilleries, effluence from food and beverage processors, pesticide and fertilizer run-off, manure, household appliances, and derelict vehicles. Caroni was particularly affected by raw sewage from packaged sewage treatment plants along the eastern corridor, most of which are malfunctioning. Dead animals, manure from pig, poultry and livestock farms, automobile waste from garages and gas stations can all be found in the river.

Caroni also contains unhealthy, untreated/partially treated organic and inorganic pollutants from beer and rum distilleries and partially treated effluent from food and detergent processors along the eastern corridor. Most of its tributaries from San Juan, St. Joseph, Tacarigua, Arouca, Arima, Gunapo, Cumuto, Talparo and Tunapuna suffer from varying degrees of environmental damage due to agricultural waste, erosion and siltation from quarrying, logging, and solid waste and dumping.

### **2.35 p.m.**

The Couva and Cipro Rivers have been heavily polluted with organic waste from sugar factories. Guaracara and Silver Stream Rivers and Guapo River are

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heavily polluted with oil; Ciperio River, in my constituency, with raw sewage, sugar factory waste and oil; Goldsborough River in Tobago is also heavily affected by silt from quarrying. Human hair from religious ceremonies, meat, feathers from camp sites, poultry farms offal and food and beverage containers are to be found in abundance in the Caura River.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the sources of pollution to the Caroni River system come from both the environment and man. The ecological decay of the Caroni Swamp threatens the scenic panorama. Not only the flora and fauna have withered but the Scarlet Ibis bird population has also dwindled due to the deterioration of the natural environment especially by industrial pollution. This indicates the magnitude of difficulty one would encounter as the trust sets out to permanently preserve lands of beauty or historic interest as far as practicable in restoring their natural features and conserving their animal and plant life.

Take another classic example, the Buccoo Reef. There is an urgency to do something about it for the reef is dying, as well put by a writer, and I quote:

"Trampled by tourists, pounded by storms, poisoned by drains, bruised by anchors, silted with sewage, muddied by the Orinoco and tangled with the poachers' nets. The reef is at least 100 years old. More than half of a million visitors have crunched their happy way across the corals in the last 20 years alone. In spite of being a restricted area, it is virtually unpoliced; in spite of more than a dozen reports about conservation and management, it is virtually unconserved and unmanaged except by the volunteers of the Crusoe Reef Society."

What an indictment against us all, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Sudama:** In the constituency of Tobago West.

**Mr. Palackdharrysingh:** After years of indiscriminate abuse and devastation of Buccoo Reef because of sheer ignorance, carelessness and the lack of national pollution laws from all those who do not realize that the coral reefs are not merely underwater phenomena, something must be done urgently to protect it and it is not only for excursions and fun sessions by locals and tourists alike or for scuba divers and fun seekers.

It is generally agreed that the reef is damaged and destroyed by infiltration of sewer waste and effluence not properly engineered out to sea from sea-coast hotels, guest houses and coastal institutions.

It is pointed out that the flow out to sea of commercial detergents and kitchen soaps as well as an inflow of fresh water into the reef area from domestic areas seriously reduce the saline content of the ocean salt water so necessary for the life of the reef and its relation to fish life. Oil discharged from boats and underwater disturbance all contribute against the survival of the reef. Does this bill have the teeth to deal with problems of this magnitude? Or are we going to settle for the limitations of "as far as practicable", which is far from good enough?

This bill would be meaningless and its provisions insignificant if we do not tackle the environmental problems against sustained development. Does the Government have the will to act now? It would seem that the answer is no, or it is now a pawn on the chess board of the local and foreign conglomerates.

The Government has failed to monitor and enforce the existing environmental and protection laws. Take a simple thing as the Litter Wardens Act—no effect. It has failed to deal with poverty and as a consequence, turns a blind eye to income-producing activities that damage or destroy the natural systems.

There is no willingness or initiative by the Government to control the negative environmental effects of the private and public sector developmental activities. It has not even attempted to deal with the inadequacies in environmental, economic and social data, the difficulties in data collection and processing and the lack of knowledge of past trends which limit the quality of analysis, synthesis and evaluation.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed "United Nations Code in the Conduct of Transnational Corporations" with a draft section on environmental protection cries out for attention and recognition by our Government. I quote:

"Transnational corporations should carry out their activities in accordance with national laws, regulations, administrative practices and policies relating to the preservation of the environment of the countries in which they operate and with due regard to relevant international standards.

Transnational corporations shall, in performing their activities, take steps to preserve the environment, and when damaged restore it to the extent appropriate and feasible, rehabilitate it, and should make efforts to develop and apply adequate technologies for this purpose."

A cursory look at our country would tell us that rivers, beaches, coasts and scenic spots are all in the process of decay, and the Government is not serious about tackling the problems created by its benefactors, the large companies.

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Therefore, the function of the trust to “permanently preserve land of beauty or historic interest, as far as practicable retaining their natural features and conserving their animal and plant life” is merely an illusion of grandeur.

Naparima. As part of this beautiful country, I take it that Naparima would be considered as an area of interest. There are some aspects of the heritage Naparima of which I am not proud and some of which I am proud. I am not proud of the perpetual, deplorable conditions of the roads, the landslides, the poor drainage systems or the shabby treatment of its residents by the Government with respect to employment and poor agricultural access roads.

This Government cares as little as the former regime did about rural development and development of the people. Could they care very much about the scenic beauty, monuments and artifacts? Had it not been for the Naparimas and the resilience of its people, the glory of Trinidad and Tobago would remain in the ashes of a shadowy existence.

Despised as she is, yet she remains ever beautiful and aesthetic like the omnipresent lotus blooming out of the dirty governmental pond of discrimination and neglect. She lubricates the wheel of industry by the outpouring of petroleum from her deepest reaches; she produces sweetness for the nation's tables by the paradoxical bitter experiences of the descendants of the East Indian labourers in producing sugar. Wounded, but not subdued, she lives to speak in the corridors of power and in this august Chamber.

Oh beautiful Naparima, my beloved, with undulating lands and unspeakable natural endowments—the people, oil, sugar-cane, its Ramleela festivities and its natural land formation.

**2.45 p.m.**

Cedar Hill Park. Since 1986 the Forestry Division, the National Park section of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production prepared a rather comprehensive plan named the Cedar Hill Recreation Park for the Victoria County Council. The summary of the plan indicated that the park represented a relatively near natural area which was not unduly subjected to the pressure of competitive uses because its private ownership by the then Ste. Madeleine Sugar Company restricted its use to a bird reserve and also because of its sloping terrain.

The plan of the Cedar Hill Recreation Park calls for the protection of the existing ecosystems, accommodation for traditional, religious and cultural uses, provision for passive recreation opportunities, environmental education and



protection of soil conditions. The Victoria County Council would be the administrative agency and will be responsible for all management functions of that plan. Has anything been done since 1986? No. Once it is in Naparima, nothing will be done. And it is now apparent that the local government bodies would be sidelined.

Fourteen hectares of near national beauty in the ward of Naparima is left to deteriorate. The vegetation of the area is representative of the secondary, deciduous, seasonal forest formation. One must note that this was significantly altered due to clearing for sugar-cane cultivation as well as squatting for agricultural farming during recent years. However, there remains a portion of natural secondary forest of about six hectares on the eastern side of the park which is critically important, both from the aesthetic point of view and for soil stabilization in supporting the surrounding roadways. Apart from the natural beauty there is a section of the area that is used annually to hold one of the country's largest Ramleela celebrations. This area is of tremendous importance. I appeal for quick action to save and rejuvenate whatever is left.

Mr. Speaker, if the Government's plan to shut down the Brechin Castle Sugar Factory succeeds, then it is even more critical to maintain the Usine Ste. Madeleine Sugar Factory as functional wealth and as a historical symbol for it would be the last remaining symbol of slavery and indentureship of that magnitude. The Ste. Madeleine pond could be re-modelled so as to serve its original intent and to introduce aquatic activities.

I have discovered quite an impressive and historic area at the back of the Cedar Hill Park. I take this opportunity to recommend it for listing by the Minister. One must never forget that Barrackpore (meaning the holy city) over decades, has been an oil-producing region. I am sure that some of the discarded instruments at the Barrackpore field could become corner-stone artifacts.

Mr. Speaker, I also commend as resource person for artifacts of Hindu festivals, Mr. Seecharan Pandohie of Cedar Hill. He might be among the very few remaining experts in this field.

For more than four years now I have been part of the city. The capital of Trinidad and Tobago has deeply entrenched itself as one of the most significant heritage that we possess. Very many are of the view that the architectural delights of the city reflect the character of the citizens and would remain one of the most cosmopolitan centres of the western world. Many conservationists lament the fact

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that though developed before Victorian times, the old traditions are being torn down or burnt out. Many historical landmarks are being removed and replaced by such monstrosities as the Twin Towers. Now the capital city has found itself in a tug-of-war between the past of classical architecture and a growing metropolis of modern fashions. Is it not a fact, Mr. Speaker, that the capital city is threatened by complete dissipation of its treasures, of classical buildings for modern types? Do we recognize that history today?

Groups preserving their historical values continue to fight for restoration work to be done all around to ensure that old buildings keep their pristine elegance and their place in the scope of things to remind us of our historical heritage. It was pointed out that the historic structures which have been destroyed could never return to their period designs in a modern world and therein lies the folly and frustration of a lost world of architecture.

Are we not indifferent to the traditions with which we have entered the 20th century? Are we not frightened by the prospect of losing our heritage in which the beauty of old structures with their history and traditions, tell us of a great past? Are we not concerned that they will be just a memory according to Horace Harragin, a concerned citizen?

Mr. Speaker, the Magnificent Seven around the Queen's Park Savannah, the Red House and other classical masterpieces of architecture are the only areas which give us hope. The historical significance of the Red House has been embellished by the July 27, 1990 coup attempt in which the Prime Minister and 16 of our colleagues were held hostage. I wonder if the Prime Minister would make available, for posterity, his trousers in which he was kept in this House. When we were in Cuba we saw the blood-stained clothes of many of the heroes of the revolution in the museum. I am just merely suggesting that to the Prime Minister.

The concept of modern development and progress threaten our priceless architectural heritage. Frankly, I do not see the provisions of this bill as being far-reaching to stem the tide of metropolis development and thereby protecting the reminders of the history that is engendered by the warmth and peace of yesterday's dwellings.

In this respect, Mr. Speaker, the bill would hardly be efficacious, especially since so many of our citizens are yet not made aware through proper educational means, to recognize and appreciate all that is good and worthy of preservation. I

am anxious to hear how the Minister intends to deal with matters of such magnitude since there are several weaknesses in the bill.

Mr. Speaker, under clause 8(1) of the bill, I think it is an oversight to omit worthwhile organizations and bodies which are interested, whose contributions would be invaluable. The local government bodies must be included for their administrative and servicing roles in a multitude of these programmes. It is imperative that the National Trust work in conjunction with and incorporate the participation of the local government bodies. For example, if there is to be the Cedar Hill Park, the Victoria County Council would be instrumental in many functions, or the Asa Wright Nature Centre or the Bird Sanctuary.

It is myopic to leave out the participatory role of the non-government organizations which have, by their tenacity, been able to lead when Government was imbecile on these matters like the Wild Fowl Trust or the Save the Buccoo Reef Society.

Because of the heavy hand of the state, when consideration is being given to the listing of any category of property, there must be provision for an opportunity for members of the public to make contributions, in whatever form, to the work of the National Trust. The National Trust must therefore be prepared to receive and consider recommendations for listings for any category of property by members of the public.

Therefore, I serve notice of amendments to the bill which I hope will be circulated. The first amendment is to clause 8(1): add two new subparagraphs (d) and (e) which read as follows:

- "(d) engage in consultation in respect of programmes, activities and policies, such local authorities, other statutory bodies and non-governmental organizations and persons as appear to the Trust to be likely to be affected by its functions;
- (e) receive and consider recommendations for listing for any category of property by members of the public."

**2.55 p.m.**

Clause 12(2) states:

"The Council shall consist of four elected and three appointed members except that the first Council shall consist of seven appointed members."

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I am worried that the time-frame might appear to be for a three-year period. I think that if the first council is to be appointed, a one-year period should be sufficient for it to put the council's house in order and by that time the Minister and others would be able to allow the National Trust to function as it is envisaged and not to hold it by the scruff of the neck for any inordinate period of time. So three years in my view is too long and I hope that the Minister and Government would consider a one-year period as ample time for setting it in order whereby the process for functioning could be followed.

Clause 15 of the bill states:

"The funds of the Trust shall consist of—

- (a) all monies received by the Trust out of monies appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of this Act;"

Yet in another breath it says at clause 19(1):

"The accounts of the Trust shall be examined and audited at least once a year by a qualified accountant appointed by the Trust..."

In the first instance, I see numerous avenues for misuse of state funds, and secondly when such an audited report is laid before Parliament, the Public Accounts Committee would not be able to draw upon the expertise, advice and guidance of both the Auditor General's Department and the Comptroller of Accounts.

**Mr. Speaker:** The speaking time of the hon. Member has expired.

*Motion made,* That the hon. Member's speaking time be extended by 30 minutes. [*Mr. T. Sudama*]

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Mr. Palackdharrysingh:** Clause 19 of the bill is a slap in the face of the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago. Let me refer to section 116 of the Constitution which states:

- "(1) There shall be an Auditor General for Trinidad and Tobago, whose office shall be a public office.
- (2) The public accounts of Trinidad and Tobago and of all officers, courts and authorities of Trinidad and Tobago shall be audited and reported on annually by the Auditor General, and for that purpose the Auditor

General or any person authorised by him in that behalf shall have access to all books, records, returns and other documents relating to those accounts.

- (3) The Auditor General is hereby empowered to carry out audits of the accounts, balance sheets and other financial statements of all enterprises that are owned or controlled by or on behalf of the State.
- (4) The Auditor General shall submit his reports annually to the Speaker, the President of the Senate and the Minister of Finance.
- (5) The President of the Senate and the Speaker shall cause the report to be laid before the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, at the next sitting of the Senate and the House of Representatives after the receipt thereof, respectively.
- (6) In the exercise of his functions under this Constitution the Auditor General shall not be subject to the direction and control of any other person or authority."

Mr. Speaker, need I say anymore?

The Exchequer and Audit Act, section 9(2) states:

"The Auditor General shall satisfy himself that—

- (c) all money expended has been applied to the purpose or purposes for which the same was granted by Parliament and that such expenditure conforms to the authority which governs it and has been incurred with due regard to the avoidance of waste and extravagance."

Section 25(4) states:

"The Auditor General may at any time if it appears to him desirable transmit a special report to the Minister for presentation in like manner to Parliament. Such special report may be made on any matter incidental to his powers and duties under this Act."

I think the provisions of that clause of the bill that deals with auditing have really put accountability at risk. Therefore, it is my hope that we should not go that way and that the Minister and the Government would take the necessary steps to bring the auditing function under the purview of the Auditor General and the Comptroller of Accounts.

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It is said that when one examines the performance auditing and studies the above sections, one should not have any doubt as to where the responsibility lies for the conduct of performance auditing in the public sector of Trinidad and Tobago; something that would not see the light of day in this bill. In the name of accountability let the Government do the only thing and allow the Auditor General to do his work as stipulated in the Constitution and the Exchequer and Audit Act, otherwise he would be opening the floodgates to immense corruption and wasteful investigations.

In the First Schedule, I find paragraph 9(3) on page 22 of the bill, pretty hard to accept. It states:

"If within one hour after the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be called to order, but no business shall be transacted other than—

- (a) the election of members of the Council;
- (b) the consideration of the Report of the Council and of the accounts; and
- (c) the election of Auditors."

I simply wish to ask: What business is more important at an annual general meeting than to elect officers with a proper quorum and to have the business of reports being adopted? To say that these matters can proceed without a quorum, at least, not having tried to have a quorum on a second or third occasion, in my view synchronizes the approach in the regulations with intent under the auditing section of the bill. This Mr. Speaker, I find hard to accept and I wish that some consideration is given to the stipulations to reconsider that there is a proper quorum when business of the importance of the election of officers and the reporting of accounts should be taking place.

**3.05 p.m.**

Mr. Speaker, I hope that what I have said would be looked upon with the spirit to put focus into accountability. Often do we have laws, but we fail to proclaim them, or to set up the functional machinery to operationalize them and enforce them. I hope that would not be the case in this situation. The search back in history for our uniqueness; the inculcation of aesthetic values; the preservation of our natural and outstanding beauty; our ecological balance and our artistic excellence must be the silent electrifying force which brings forth the

illumination of souls; the rejuvenation of our psyches and the engendering of our national pride and self-worth as a people.

I hope to see some response to what I have said before I give my support to the bill. Thank you.

**The Minister of Food Production and Marine Exploitation (Dr. The Hon. Brinsley Samaroo):** Mr. Speaker, I consider this bill such an important one in the legal annals of this country that I could not let the opportunity slip by without adding my own sincere congratulations to the Minister who is piloting this bill before us this afternoon.

In presenting this bill before the Parliament, what we are seeking to do is to provide a legal framework for the recognition and preservation of the varied and very rich heritage which our nation possesses. The Minister, in her presentation of the bill, paid tribute to those organizations and patriotic citizens who have been doing their best to preserve their national heritage. But their efforts have been, by and large, outside of any proper legal framework and this has been a great hindrance to their work. Because of this they have not been receiving either sufficient state support or international assistance, nor has their work received the national recognition which it deserves.

The Member of Naporima has to understand that these philanthropic and goodwill organizations cannot just go and do so many of the good things that he says they should be doing, without their having some legal authority to do so. That is the purpose for this bill being brought before the Parliament.

**Mr. Palackdharrysingh:** I never said that the philanthropic organizations should preclude any organization. The Minister is misleading the House. I said that they must be incorporated into any activities of this trust.

**Dr. Samaroo:** Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that the Hon. Member is not understanding what I am saying. What I indicated is that the many things which he said should be done, cannot be done by these philanthropic organizations outside of a legal framework. I hope he understands it now.

In this regard, therefore, we must carefully note the Minister's clear indication of the role which the state must play in the preservation of that national heritage. I wish to quote from the Minister's speech:

"It must be noted that the responsibility for preservation and conservation of the cultural historical heritage against destruction and loss cannot be

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abdicated by the state. To leave such a service and obligation only to private enterprise or to personal inclination or ambition is to take the risk of getting substandard, as we have been getting, and indifferent service in this crucial area of national significance."

Another important objective of the bill is the creation, in our population, of awareness of the need to regard what we now have in the present and what we shall be creating in the future as integral parts of that national heritage. This is very clearly stated in clause 5(g) of the bill, where we read:

"making the public aware of the value and beauty of the heritage of Trinidad and Tobago."

So on the one hand the bill deals with the past, but on the other hand, it looks with equal force on the future, both being seen as integral parts of the national heritage. Therefore, the heritage created in the present becomes part of the culture of the future.

There are other equally important parts of the bill which must be pointed out, Mr. Speaker. The Government has taken the firm view that the national heritage is not restricted to buildings and other artifacts created by people. If you look at the Second Schedule, you will see in regulation 3(3)(f), things like songs, music and other cultural works. So the bill does not, as the Member for Oropouche indicated, concern itself mainly with physical things. The bill goes even further, in that in this Second Schedule it emphasizes that the natural history of this nation constitutes part of that heritage. I read from the Second Schedule, 3(3)(b) Grade B:

"—an area, site or place of natural beauty or repose that would be despoiled if it were to be altered by the introduction or removal of any flora, fauna or work of man;"

These are the aspects of the natural, national heritage which the bill deals with. Then it goes on to Grade C:

"—A site or place which contains or breeds a particular specie of plant, animal, bird, fish, insect or marine life, that is likely to be despoiled by the introduction or removal of any, or all, or a combination of, the species present, or by the introduction of any new specie;"



and this would enable the National Trust to take care of those particular areas, such as the Caura River Valley in which the Member for Naparima is very interested.

Therefore, the bill before us is all embracing and very comprehensive, including almost everything that forms part of the national heritage which we now hope to bequeath to those who would come after us. Why is it necessary that we should want to preserve and bring forward a heritage? The Member for Oropouche asked categorically: What is the Government's view of history? What is it that you wish to preserve? It is because of the manner in which our history has been consistently de-emphasizing heritage, that we now need to bring it forward.

The Europeans who took control over us some 500 years ago, found it an effective management tool to force us into a denial of that past, except from a European perspective. If, for example, a colonial administration allowed an Afro-West Indian to learn that he came from high civilizations such as have been so well described by the Member for Naparima, that it was the African who brought Islam to the Caribbean, or that he introduced a wide range of necessary skills to develop the region from primeval forest to thriving plantations, then that Afro-West Indian might one day feel that he could even govern himself; if the colonial administration were to allow the Indo-Caribbean person to know that he too came from a civilization that pre-dated that of Europe or that he also enriched the New World with song and dance, architectural style and crops that were new to the region, then he too might develop perceptions, which in the European view, would place him above his station.

Exactly the same thing could be said about the peoples who have added so richly to our cultural mosaic: Chinese, Portuguese and the Syrian/Lebanese Community. It is in that very context that those of us who have been working in those areas of cultural development have written about the neglect of the African heritage, the abandonment of the Indian traditions of our civilisation and about the neglect of the cultural traditions of the smaller groups.

### **3.15 p.m.**

The state's role in the promotion of respect for this heritage in the colonial era and through three decades of PNM rule has been one of abandonment, no identification of what we had, no co-ordinated effort to preserve our precious past possessions.

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In the case of the colonial administration, one can well understand why it is they saw no point in preserving the national heritage. They had to socialize us away from cultural moorings in order to make us constantly dependent on them for our very existence. That we can understand. What is difficult for us to understand, however, is the attitude of the past Government to this question of the national heritage. Perhaps we have had two good explanations here in the House. One explanation given by the Leader of the Opposition, who in his contribution related the case of the PNM Minister wantonly destroying the Scarlet Ibis, a most treasured part of our national heritage; then there was the other example given by the Member for Port of Spain North, supported by his very graphic and painful display of the destruction of so many important artifacts of our civilization.

One finds it difficult to understand how a Government that has derived from the country, and not from the colonial administration, continues in that same colonial attitude. If the attitude of this Government has been different, what have we done, even without the present bill, to preserve the national heritage?

I am quite sure that the Minister in her final reply would give a number of examples. I would give just three or four that come to mind. Let us begin right here in the Red House—the Member for Naparima mentioned this just a short while ago. What is being done about the Red House? Even before the events of July 27, 1990, the Government had clear plans to refurbish this major part of our national heritage, destroyed by fire in 1903 and rebuilt two years later. The events of July 27, 1990 have certainly hastened that process.

The restoration work that was originally planned was to be done in two phases at a cost of \$3.3 million. Phase one would see the restoration of the southern Chamber—that is where we are on this part of the building—and phase two, the northern Chamber. Phase one has now been completed and phase two is expected to start in this first quarter. So, by the end of the year, we would have restored this historic building to at least some semblance of its former glory.

Secondly, the Member for Oropouche himself commented that he had seen some work being done at Fort San Andres. That historic building was used by the Spaniards as a defence against attack from the southern side of the city of Puerto España and it was a site of many military engagements. When restoration is completed—which will be completed in this year—it will not only be a reminder of the earliest part of European colonialization of this country but would serve as an added tourist attraction in our capital city.

The third project that is being undertaken by this Government has to do with the way in which we have duly recognized the presence of, and importance of, the descendants of the indigenous peoples of our lands. That is another area that the Member for Naparima mentioned—and I do hope he now believes that he is not being disregarded in the contributions that he has been making as we are addressing some of the issues that he raised. No one can deny that those who laid the first foundations of our civilization were the Caribs and the Awaraks—the two largest nations of our early history—and the smaller tribes such as the Tianos and Lucayos who also inhabited this country.

These were our ancestors who taught us to use our hammocks and to boucan our fish and meat. These were the people who showed us how to live in harmony with nature and gave us our first lessons in the protection of the environment. From them we obtained such names as "Mucarapo" from the Amerindian word *Cumo Mucurabo*, a place of great silk cotton trees; "Arima", the place of water; "Naparima", no water; and "Tacarigua" being the name of an Amerindian chief from the Caura Valley.

For many years, their local descendants—these descendants of early and first members of this country—were vainly clamouring for recognition from the past administration, as the representatives of the indigenous Amerindians of Trinidad and Tobago and for Government to help in preserving that part of the national heritage. It was this Government which gave such recognition by Cabinet decision of April, 1990. We agreed, among other things, to recognize the Santa Rosa Carib community as the representative of the indigenous Amerindians of this nation; we agreed to an annual subvention of \$30,000 towards their upkeep and preservation of the national heritage; we agreed to make the contribution of the indigenous peoples, an essential part of our observation of the 500 years of our achievements which will coincide with the quincentennial of Columbus arrival here 500 years ago. The year of course for that is 1992. At the present time, the Government is talking to these persons whom we have recognized about giving them a piece of land as a permanent site for the establishment of a village to commemorate their ancestry.

For those who say that the Government has done nothing towards the restoration of our national heritage, let us look briefly at what this Government is doing about the restoration of Knowsley, one of the major buildings around the Savannah, part of that classical tradition about which the Member for Naparima spoke. Knowsley is one of the best examples of what used to be called the "Great House" of the English part of our heritage. It was one of the centres of decision-

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making from the mid-19th century, a centre of much social activity and one of the finest examples of the excellence of local craftsmanship which we have always had and which went into the creation of that beautiful structure that we know as Knowsley.

Neglected for years and threatened by collapse through insect infestation and the ravages of time, and the neglect of the last Government, it was this Government, which since 1988, has been restoring this part of the national heritage. Up to the end of 1991, the sum of \$864,000 has been spent and in 1991 a further \$300,000 has been allocated for further work. But Knowsley, will be only the first of a series of buildings around the Savannah which will be restored. As the National Trust sets about its work, it will identify other buildings all over the country for similar restoration. So, the Member for Naparima need not fear about the restoration of these classical buildings in which he seems to have an educated interest.

I would now proceed to give other examples of the work which the Government has been doing in respect of the preservation of the national heritage as I deal with some of the major arguments advanced by the Opposition.

**3.25 p.m.**

There is the matter of too much power being given to the Minister. The Leader of the Opposition tells us that in other countries where there is a National Trust, there is not this heavy hand of authoritarianism in their legislation on national trust. Yet, he does not give one solitary example of such other legislation, or of how such other legislation, to which he alludes, puts authority in hands other than that of the Minister. I daresay that he cannot give such an example because he would have great difficulty in so doing because of the nature of the operation of democracy in countries such as ours.

Indeed, the answer to his charge was given by the distinguished Member for Diego Martin Central, who pointed out very properly that ministerial responsibility means that ministers are "responsible and accountable to the House"; that is, before the Bar of Parliament.

You cannot bring public officers or members of a trust before the Parliament to answer for the operation of any agency that falls under the jurisdiction of a ministry. It is the Minister who has to give public account and it follows logically, therefore, that the Minister has to assume responsibility for the operation of trusts in her portfolio. Therefore, those who rant and rave about too much power for the Minister must show where else such responsibility should

reside and must also state clearly the manner in which public accounting must be done, in cases where a minister is not given full authority in the operation of her ministry. That has not been demonstrated.

Now for a few comments on the favourite topic of the Member for Oropouche, namely, discrimination against the East Indian community. So bent is he on proving that such discrimination exists, that when he does not have the evidence, he seeks to fabricate it. He claimed in his presentation, that for the last two years there has been no Divali Nagar because he was informed by the Chairman of the NCIC that one of the reasons for their not holding the festival was their inability to secure Government funding.

I wish to report to this House that the Chairman of the NCIC has completely and categorically denied that allegation. In fact, he clearly stated that his Council had made no application for funding either in 1989 or 1990 to the Government. So how does a Government deny an organization when that organization has not applied for funding? I therefore suggest to the Member for Oropouche that this matter must be referred—

**Mr. Sudama:** If the Member is quoting from a document, I think that document should be laid in the House so that we can all be privy to what he is quoting from.

**Dr. Samaroo:** I am quoting from the *Hansard* of this Parliament, from the speech of the hon. Member for Oropouche. That is a document that is already before the House.

**Mr. Sudama:** He said the Chairman of the NCIC wrote to him. It is his word against mine. No! No! That is what the Chairman of the NCIC told me.

**Dr. Samaroo:** I wish to report that I never said he wrote me. I said he has categorically denied such a statement.

**Mr. Sudama:** Could you indicate where he has categorically denied this?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order please! Proceed.

**Dr. Samaroo:** I would proceed to recommend that the Member for Oropouche refer that matter of racial discrimination to his party's Commission for Racial Equality. I challenge him to do so and to publish the full report of the said commission and not convenient parts of it, as his Leader did with respect to allegations of racial discrimination in his own party.

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In this particular regard, I can repeat here what the Member for Caroni East alluded to.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please! Order! The Member for Oropouche was asking you to give way. Are you giving way or not?

**Dr. Samaroo:** Yes.

**Mr. Sudama:** He indicated that the Chairman of the NCIC categorically denied. I am asking him where did the Chairman of the NCIC categorically deny the statement with respect to Government's funding for Divali Nagar?

**Dr. Samaroo:** I would give such evidence before the UNC's Commission for Racial Equality when the matter comes up. I give you my assurance. That is the reason I suggested that his party's Commission for Racial Equality look at it and call me to give evidence. I will state precisely where I got it and quote from *Hansard*, where he is even accusing the Minister of deviation from the truth.

I can repeat here what the Member for Caroni East alluded to in his question to the Member for Oropouche, namely, that this Government has donated 15 acres of prime land on the Uriah Butler Highway next to 610 Radio, to the NCIC as a permanent site for Divali Nagar. Here the Member is saying that the Government would not give them money and part of the council's programme for that site is the setting up of a museum depicting the Indian heritage in the New World.

In this activity—the Member for Oropouche doth protest too much; something is seriously bothering him—the National Trust will no doubt be very much involved in giving guidance and support in this much neglected area of our heritage.

I am also certain that at the appropriate time the relevant Minister will clear the air on the proposed Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Co-operation, informing the nation of the scandalous allegations that have been made against the Honourable Prime Minister, who it is claimed, has been blocking the setting up of such an institute because of his anti-Indian bias. Such negotiations and arrangements take time. I am certain that the national community will be most pleased when, in the not too distant future, the outcome of such negotiation is announced.

Finally, I would like to make one or two suggestions for the enhancement of the work of the National Trust. At clause 12, we see that there will be seven

members of the council. It is my own view, that later on, as we look at the operation of the National Trust, that number should be increased by about three to 10 members. I would give two reasons why I believe that the number ought to be increased.

Firstly, seven people may not be able to represent the very broad areas of interest covered by the bill. When I heard the contributions of the Member for Naparima and Port of Spain North, I am even more convinced that the wide range of activities require more people than proposed to deal with this very neglected and expansive area.

When one looks at the amount of work proposed by the two schedules for the National Trust, it seems that the council should be increased by about three additional members. When one thinks about the retrieval of so much material that has been abandoned at Chaguaramas mentioned by the Member for Port of Spain North, it seems to me that you need more people on the National Trust.

The second reason for the suggested increase is that the First Schedule lists a wide range of functions for the secretary and the treasurer who would be drawn from this same seven-member council. That fact further reduces the functional strength of the council and, therefore, strengthens the case for more members.

### **3.35 p.m.**

In the interim, one supposes that an advisory committee or advisory committees can be set up to assist in the broad area and the vast panorama of the council's work. Whilst the bill does not prohibit the appointment of such advisory committees, it does not give clear directions that this can be done or how it ought to be done. These are matters that have to be addressed to facilitate, in my mind, the operation of the National Trust.

As a general comment, however, it is my own view that this bill fills an enormous void in this nation's efforts to strengthen the soul, to enrich the spirit of our people by indicating to them that we have much in our heritage of which we can indeed be very proud. Such spiritual rejuvenation is the stuff of which national pride is built. Therefore, we should do all in our power not only to support the legislation, but to ensure its observance and its continued successful operation. Its support therefore ought hardly to be a point of controversy and, therefore, I expect that all Members will support it resoundingly when the time comes to vote. Thank you very much.

**Mrs. Muriel Donawa-McDavidson** (*Laventille*): Mr. Speaker, at the commencement of this debate, the Member for Diego Martin Central indicated to this honourable House that in some other places in Trinidad and Tobago many ideas, suggestions, and recommendations were made to make this bill what it is today. What bothers me in this Parliament is, why is it that some Members on the other side find it necessary to write off history? I would want to simply indicate—and I hope that this will be the last time that I will have to say it—that it seems to me that the present Members of Government seem simply to want to become the Government and have absolutely no work whatever to do. And for the record, the PNM Government in 1956 came into power with the specific objective of educating the masses of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, of educating the people to emancipate them so that we may move this country from colonialism to independence. Under the rein of the PNM Government, this country achieved political independence.

The PNM Government, after stating its objectives and development plans for this country, was able only to implement many of its plans and proposals from 1973 to 1982. I am tired of sitting in this Parliament and hearing Members of the Government on both sides—that is, those who are temporarily off or in, I am not sure where they are—continue to say that the PNM Government have stayed three decades with the oil boom and have not done this, that or the next.

I sometimes wonder whether these Members of Parliament are living in Trinidad and Tobago. I sat here and listened to the Member for Nariva, very brave and bold-faced, who said that it is under their administration that the question of national heritage and National Trust came up, when from 1956 we have been in the vineyard trying to educate the people of Trinidad and Tobago on all aspects of national life. The PNM Government's understanding, Mr. Speaker, during the period of the oil boom was that independence in a country does not end with political independence.

I want to refer again to the *Chaguaramas Declaration* where the way forward to build the new society was clearly spelt out and clearly indicated. I want the Members to proceed to build on the foundation that we have laid and to discontinue taking credit which is not theirs. Take the credit from what you do here onwards, and do not take credit for what took place before.

In that *Chaguaramas Declaration*, we said that if we are to complete the independence of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, there are two areas in which we must work: economic development and cultural development. Economic



development does not only necessarily mean the Government saying that investors are coming, or the Government investing, or the Government expecting thousands of people to come. I find the time is taking just so long.

We also said that economic independence simply means—we of the PNM said it and we did it—to alert the population, educate them on the importance of thrift, on the importance of saving, on the importance of investing. If many people like me in this country, Mr. Speaker, understood how to budget, we would be better off. If we understood and had deep in our consciousness the relevance of what thrift really means, all of us would be better off.

What we are saying is the way to do it is to get the mass of the population to participate and become involved in all aspects of national life. We gave incentives to the credit union movement, we gave incentives to the co-operative movement, we built the Workers' Bank, we established the people's co-operatives, we have done community development, real genuine community development. Now I am hearing about community development and I cannot believe my ears, when there was a foundation on which the present administration was supposed to build.

We have a bill here on the National Trust. Mr. Speaker, I was the Minister of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs; I worked in the Ministries of Education and Community Development. I also worked in the Ministry of Works, all the ministries where the people are. These are not original ideas. I have met with the museum. I have met with every single trust organization in this country, and I know the Minister will be honest enough to note that in her ministry, in the Ministries of Education, Community Development and Planning and Mobilization, there is endless research. So that when one sits here in the Parliament and hears the impression given that this is something new I get really very upset, and I am asking that the time has come to discontinue this behaviour.

The other Member for Nariva is telling me about the refurbishing of the Red House when the Member for Ortoire/Mayaro and the then Attorney General spent large sums of money to bring this Red House to where it is today. It is on his initiative. We worked with him. We have seen him decorate the walls in the compound of the Parliament. When the Parliament was to open, one got the impression that this Parliament was such a terrible building, and it was only the first time that something was really done. It is not necessary. *[Interruption]* Have you ever seen a car drive without pressure on the wheels? So what do you expect, that as soon as you come with an idea, you have to jump at it before you

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are convinced, before you understand what is the objective? That is what life is about. Just get on with the work. Mr. Speaker, please protect me from the Member for San Fernando East.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please!

**Mrs. Donawa-McDavidson:** It is unfortunate that I have not been able to attract in this country, except for the Member for Chaguanas, who is about the only Minister—he would not talk this kind of language—because he became involved with me in participating in National Days and Festivals. So he will understand. I sympathize with them and I do not get too vex, because I did not know. If I had known that Minister Johnson had an interest in politics, she would have been in the PNM. If I had known about Hon. Tewarie, he would have been here really making sense.

**Mr. Sudama:** Are you sure they are out of the PNM?

**Dr. Tewarie:** I am, Mr. Speaker.

**Mrs. Donawa-McDavidson:** I am not going to underestimate that question. Because after you have been trained, after you have been indoctrinated, and after you have served at the feet of a master, it is really very difficult to go contrary. That is why I believe, Mr. Speaker, that I have an obligation to make certain that Trinidad and Tobago goes forward. Whenever I stand in this Parliament to speak, I make certain that what I say makes sense and that it would be followed, because we have laid the foundation.

**Mr. Wilson:** Are you sure the Member for San Fernando East is following in that tradition?

**Mrs. Donawa-McDavidson:** He has no choice than to follow in that tradition because I am still around, and I will make sure that my voice is also heard if ever he goes contrary to what we stand for. So you have no fear whatsoever that he will follow in the footsteps and on the foundation laid by the master.

To come back to the point that I was making. The bill is excellent. The bill tells us about all the things that we need to do where cultural development is concerned. Cultural development is all about everything that we are, our soul. So let us recognize how wealthy all of us are. What is wealth, Mr. Speaker, except soul, spirit, and body? That is what wealth is, you know.

Many people confuse wealth and riches, and I want to talk about the wealth of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. We have done the work. We have had Special Works. We have Best Village. We have research on National Days and Festivals. You have spoken to Elder, but it is Elder—and I am the greatest inspiration to J.D. Elder, and at some other point I will tell you how.

By all means, let the Member for Nariva talk in glowing terms of what they propose to do, but I cannot sit in this Parliament after giving my sweat and blood in order to develop community development, sport, culture and all these areas, to allow Members to take the credit for a number of the things that we have done.

I would like to simply end by asking the Members of Parliament—and I hope that this is the last time I will have to plead—to come forward with what they are doing. Give us all the brighter ideas because there is no finality on anything. As good as this bill might be today, in the light of new information, in the light of new developments, in the light of people's conscious development, then the Act in the future, will have to be revised. That is what life is about.

I end, Mr. Speaker, by saying that I will support anything that is good, useful, and practical, but I will not sit and allow anybody to discredit the Government that I had the honour of being part of from 1956 to 1986, and take the credit for what we did.

### **3.50 p.m.**

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill. I think that I have to pay a little more attention to the Minister of Youth, Sport, Culture and Creative Arts. Why did they change the name? It is so confusing. It was so nice the other way around, but they had to change it. You know, it is a period of change. Although the philosophy is the same, the change had to come. I am going to become an official member of that Ministry to make sure that what we have laid at the background is carried out. I will do anything for the cultural and economic development of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago but I will not remain in the Parliament and allow the people who, for the first time, understand what community development is about; who now understand that they are a part of Trinidad and Tobago.

I should like to take this opportunity to call upon all the university graduates, all those with degrees to start going out into their communities and getting involved with the various groups and organizations so that they will really begin to understand what real intelligence and education is about; that all of us in Trinidad and Tobago would go forward and be guarded against some of the

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people who may want to believe or give the impression to Ministers that they are now doing research by copying—and you see a lot of that, you know. I listen to the radio sometimes and I laugh. Sometimes I even dance when I hear some of the technocrats talk as if they have now come up with an original idea, when in truth and in fact, it is a—I would not say it is plagiarism because, after all, it is research, and documents are there for others to follow.

It is most unfair to those dedicated civil servants who have worked with the past regime, who understood the philosophy of the PNM Government, who recognized that the Government at that time was all about the people because without people's development there is no real development in the country. Those who are there at present, and who would come in the future, must now stimulate their own minds and see what they can add to what existed before, rather than claim, seize, copy and steal other people's ideas and make them appear as if they are originally theirs.

I wish therefore to indicate my full support, not only for the bill, but to ensure that it is properly implemented. I think that I would get an organization—I might have to have an outside government—to try to start watching what they say in the bill, how much of it is being implemented, and really carry out a pilot project. When I feel strong enough about it in the country it is going to be as though a volcano is erupting in Trinidad and Tobago.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health (Mr. Kenneth Butcher):** Mr. Speaker, whenever the Member for Laventille makes a contribution here, the House normally comes alive. She indicated in her contribution that if she knew that the Member for Princes Town was interested in culture she would have recruited her. I remember when I was a councillor in the ONR, I went to the Ministry of Community Development and I had some discussions with the Member for Laventille. In her jovial, buoyant manner she said, "You show so much concern for the community, maybe you should join the PNM." I had to laugh then. I told her that the direction in which the PNM was going was not the direction which a young person would want to follow. Although she was buoyant, jovial and always good in heart, the regime that she is in was going in the wrong direction so I could not follow.

When the Member for Nariva made his contribution he said that he supported the bill and mentioned the different voluntary groups that had contributed. I too want to make particular mention of these groups because I think that a number of

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persons are really not aware of the contribution of these groups over the years. We have had individuals, clubs and organizations who contributed, but, as the Member for Nariva correctly said, they did not have the establishment of this particular bill to facilitate them to go further. I think that the Member for Laventille should pay particular attention to that. While Members might have been critical of the PNM Government, it is not that they were trying to take false kudos but they were trying to get on very quickly and crystallize this particular bill.

The records would show that it was way back in the early 1950s that moves were being made by groups to have this type of legislation come to the fore and over that period of time it was not done. This is what I think was really coming out here today, not really trying to degrade the work of the PNM Government but the time they took and it was not established, and this Government coming in and taking whatever material was there, taking the material from the groups, putting them together—and I think you have to compliment the Minister for taking that particular interest and following this bill through and bringing it to fruition. Four years might seem like a long time but when you compare it to the length of time that all that information was being collated by the Member for Laventille, I think over a period of maybe 30 years, just gathering information and nothing was being done in crystallizing the bill. But here you have the Minister bringing this bill in a relatively short time despite the amount of legislation that we, as a Government, had to bring to this Parliament.

You would see that last week or the week before another bill was brought by the Minister. We have one today and I sincerely hope that the National Sporting Authority Bill would follow quickly as well. I compliment the Minister. Also, I compliment the groups. We hear about the Asa Wright, Wild Fowl Trust, Field Naturalist, Archaeological Society, Citizens for Conservation; all these groups have been working over the years and I do not think kudos for them would be enough. I really wanted to have it recorded, that the Government, the Parliament, should pay tribute to those persons, clubs and organizations which contributed and continue to work towards the preservation of our history.

What does this bill really mean to the man-in-the-street? While coming down in my car last week I was listening to a programme and somebody was saying that there needed to be some kind of law to look after the preservation of buildings and things like that. I was saying that here it is that this bill is being debated in

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Parliament and there was not much mention of it in the press. Something as important as this, I felt that the country should know about it. The press should look at the seriousness of this and try to assist in educating our people as to the seriousness of this bill. This bill requires a three-fifths majority vote because it is inconsistent with sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution. I do not think the public realizes the seriousness of the bill. These things should be highlighted. What does this mean to the man-in-the-street?

**4.00 p.m.**

Mr. Speaker, if I tell you about a gentleman who had a property with much historical value, on hearing about the coming of this bill, because he was unsure of where this bill will go, and realizing the location of the property that he could get more value from rental of the property, decided in the wee hours of the morning, to get a bulldozer and destroy a particular place because of the law not being established.

The Member for Port of Spain North gave us examples of what takes place when we do not have laws to really enforce things when they are going wrong. I am extremely happy that this is coming forward today. But I have one or two concerns that I wish to share with the Minister and hope we will use them to enhance the bill, if it is possible. Under clause 4(2) on page 7, "The classes of membership":

- (a) ordinary Membership which shall consist of citizens of Trinidad and Tobago who shall be eligible and who shall make an application on the prescribed form and pay a membership fee which shall be fixed by the Trust in an amount not exceeding twenty-five dollars;"

I feel that we should not stipulate the \$25.00 there. Mr. Speaker, if you look at subclause (3), it states:-

"The Rules of the Trust may be amended from time to time by special resolution passed by the Members of the Trust and approved in writing by the Minister."

When we look at the First Schedule on page 19, we see "Class of Member" and eight classes. You have the ordinary member having to pay \$25.00. It is listed here. But if we leave that fixed figure under clause 4(2)(a), it means that anytime we have to amend or change that figure we will have to return to Parliament;

whereas, all the other membership fees, can be changed in a meeting. I suggest that we delete the \$25.00 charge and maybe, just stop at, "on a prescribed form" thus enabling all the membership fees to be amended by a simple meeting of the trust instead of having to come to Parliament.

When you look at a number of laws in the country where people are still paying twenty-four cents, it is because it is left there and no one really wants to come to Parliament to amend something simple. In years to come what we might have is people paying, maybe thousands of dollars for membership fees and we still have a \$25.00 fee for an ordinary member because we do not want to come to Parliament to amend something as simple as that. I suggest that should be changed.

I also want to make a suggestion on clause 2, where we speak about "property of interest". That also relates to clause 5:

"(b) permanently preserving lands that are property of interest and as far as practicable, retaining their natural features and conserving the animal and plant life;"

If we are going to have "property of interest" specified under clause 2, it means that we will be including forest reserves, natural reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, national parks and other special protective areas. I was wondering if that did not come under the Ministry of Environment. If the Ministry of Environment laws would cover forest reserves, natural reserves and national parks and we also have the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago covering the same thing, we will have two bodies in control of the same functions. I can see overlapping and problems arising. I think we have to define that and be a little more precise in exactly what "property of interest" means. While I am on that, I feel that art and manuscript should also be included, after hearing the contribution of the Member for Port of Spain North because under the Second Schedule on page 25, 3(3)(f) states:

"Grade F—an original manuscript, music score or other similar work that was written or composed by a citizen or resident of Trinidad and Tobago or by a person of international repute."

Mention is made of it in the Schedule but when it comes to defining it under clause 2, it is left out. I think that those two areas are too important not to be in the definition of "properties of interest". I suggest that both art and manuscripts be included.

Mr. Speaker, another point I want to raise is on page 18 where we have clause 25(2) which states:

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"A person aggrieved by an order under subsection (1) may appeal in writing to the Minister against the order and the Minister may—

- (a) suspend the operation of the order pending his determination of the appeal;"

but when you check 25(1) it states:

"The Trust may, for the purposes of securing the safety of any listed property or preserving any listed property from deterioration, by order in writing given to—

- (a) the owner or the person in possession of listed property, require that person to take such measures as are specified in the order in relation to the property..."

The trust has many powers here. If the particular individual is aggrieved, I feel that if he has to appeal he should not be appealing to the Minister, but he should appeal to a judge in chamber, if we really want to keep it away from the possibility of someone saying that he was politically victimized by appealing to the Minister. These laws are going to be made for time immemorial. We would not want to be guilty of political interference regardless of the Government of the day. I feel that for something as important as this, one should not have to appeal or depend on a Minister, but should be able to go to a judge in chamber and deal with it.

The last point I want to make is with respect to clause 8(1) which states:

"The Trust may with the approval of the Minister and in accordance with principles and procedures laid down in regulations made under section 29:

- (a) prepare a list of buildings and sites of particular national, historic..."

and other interests.

What it is stating is that the listing of properties should be placed with the National Trust. I was wondering if the Town and Country Planning Division is not the correct place for something like that. Developers or anyone doing any type of work to property, your main thrust would be with Town and Country Planning Division. If this department has the jurisdiction to list, it means that you would get your information there and then but if it was listed with the National Trust and you were not aware, I feel that the man-in-the-street or a developer would encounter serious problems not knowing. Therefore, while the responsibility could lie with the Town and Country Planning Division, the National Trust could keep a listing for their own records. The other way around I



feel might lead to problems which could put people or organizations into serious problems.

Mr. Speaker, with these few words, I reiterate that I feel this piece of legislation is long overdue. I feel the different groups would be happy to see it come into fruition with the Minister doing what she had to do and doing it quickly. I feel it is a good move on behalf of the Government and for the country.

I thank you very much.

**4.10 p.m.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Before the Minister speaks, may I announce the presence of Mr. Mc Keeva Bush, who is a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands.

**The Minister of Education (Hon. Gloria Henry):** Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Minister of Youth, Sport, Culture and Creative Arts for bringing in this timely manner, the bill for the establishment and incorporation of the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago. This bill would have the effect of enabling feelings of national pride and self-worth to be shown and that at this time, is very, very important to Trinidad and Tobago and those who may go abroad.

Feelings of national pride and self-worth, do not come about by chance or by osmosis. These feelings must be fostered by responsible leadership. Through the work of this trust, the Government would have taken an important step in fostering feelings of national pride and self-worth and would have also given to the country, a mechanism with the sole responsibility of maintaining the beauty of our land.

This trust is even more important today, when structural monuments and natural sites appear to be equally threatened by degradation. I have the confidence that in many ways, the natural sites would be preserved and enhanced by the work of environmental protection agencies with which we have been working, but the man-made heritage and some of the natural heritage would also need to be protected and enhanced by the work of the National Trust. In addition, it is very important that we make the public aware of the value and beauty of the heritage of Trinidad and Tobago as has been set out in clause 5, which indicates the general purpose of the trust.

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This trust too, would send a signal to the international community that Trinidad and Tobago is serious about joining the world community in the protection of the world heritage. This is a timely message when we recall that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has declared the period 1988—1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development. The purpose of the World Decade for Cultural Development is to arouse an awareness of the fundamental importance of culture in the lives of human beings and societies and the fruitful interactions that bind culture to development.

This trust is fulfilling its general purposes as outlined in clause 5 and will certainly serve to ensure the contribution of culture to national development. We have just come out of the very serious discussions in the Caribbean Economics Conference which committed us to securing human resource development and ensuring that the social and economic development of the region go hand in hand. The cultural development happens to be an integral part of the whole social and economic development. This trust will reinforce the work that is going to be done both in the social and the economic fields. This Government has been pursuing a consistent line, ensuring that we raise the standard of living for the people of our society and raising the awareness of the public to the work that has to be done to ensure a better life for all our citizens.

Clause 8 which deals with the listing of properties of interest is in fact consistent with international practices. Clearly, we have done a lot of work to get us to this point. Such listing is also important should the country be seeking funds from international agencies for assistance in the preservation of monuments and sites, *etc.* Under the UNESCO's World Heritage Convention, for example, monuments and sites whose splendours enrich each and every one of us and whose disappearance would be an irreparable loss are listed on the World Cultural and National Heritage List. Trinidad and Tobago is not yet a signatory to this Convention and the Acting Secretary General of Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO has had discussions with the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Culture and Creative Arts and the Ministry of Environment and National Service with a view to Trinidad and Tobago becoming a signatory to this important convention.

The preparation of a list of buildings and sites of particular national historic or architectural interest is an indispensable requirement if Trinidad and Tobago is to seek to become a signatory to the World Heritage Convention and the Second Schedule outlines quite clearly the procedure for listing. This activity would not

be left to the whims and fancies of members of the trust, ministers or any individuals who may feel that we need to put any building or monuments on the list without due regard to the procedure which should inform the listing of properties of interest.

The World Heritage Committee which decides which of the sites and monuments proposed by countries should be included in the World Heritage List, has provided detailed criteria for the establishment of the list. A cultural monument must, for example, be authentic and have exerted great architectural influence or bear unique witness or be associated with ideas or beliefs of universal significance; or it may be an outstanding example of a traditional way of life that represents a certain culture. Those people who have fears that some elements of our culture may be left out, ignored or marginalized, can be assured that we are informed, not by our whims or fancies but by an international criteria which will secure the interests of all the cultural groups.

A natural site may exemplify a stage in the earth's evolutionary processes, or be representative of a biological evolution, or contain the natural habitats of endangered animals. This is where the Ministry of the Environment and National Service is supportive of the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Culture and Creative Arts to ensure that we preserve both the natural and man-made heritage within the responsibilities of the National Trust.

The World Heritage Committee applies these criteria rigorously in order to prevent the list from becoming too long or turning into a simple check list. Furthermore, when a site or monument of the list is seriously and specifically endangered, it may be put on a complementary list called the List of World Heritage In Danger, which provides for emergency measures.

#### **4.20 p.m.**

This timely piece of legislation ensures that we fit in with the World Decade of Culture and we preserve a lasting monument for our children. When we have built upon what was left and we have improved on it and we have secured it for the future, we would have left a mechanism for ensuring that we do not have problems like the ones the Member for Port of Spain North has listed in his own contribution.

Let me assure the Member for Port of Spain North, that this week our Cabinet provided funds and made firm arrangements for a proper place of storage for the

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national archives which are now housed at Chaguaramas. We have recognized what the deficiencies have been and we have taken steps, even before the bill is passed, to ensure that the archives which we recognize as being important, are housed in a fit place.

Next year the Member for Port of Spain North will not go into Chaguaramas and see some of the things which he has seen. I have no doubt that there are some things that deserve to be dumped, because there may be a surplus—as the Member for Diego Martin Central has said, but there are some things which are worthy of being preserved and which we have to preserve in the proper manner. This has not been attended to up to this point. This Government has made arrangements to ensure that our archives are protected.

Let me support the Minister of Youth, Sport, Culture and Creative Arts in this bill, as I am sure all Members of this honourable House would. We have taken the appropriate steps to ensure that our national heritage is secured for our children and we have taken the appropriate steps to ensure that even if some things may have changed by the end of the decade, we would have done our part to secure what was left to us. The Member for Laventille can rest assured that her precious writings and memories would be preserved for posterity. We have recognized their importance and we will secure them for our children.

I have no doubt that when the Minister winds up her contribution, she will reassure those persons who had doubts about the validity of the bill or the need for it at this time; or even the extent to which it would preserve their own particular cultural concerns. All that needs to be done would be done in the fullness of time for Trinidad and Tobago to benefit from the attributes of modern society. When this Government moves on, we would have left a lasting monument of what we met and what we have contributed to the society of Trinidad and Tobago.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I indicate my strong support for this bill and trust that other Members of this honourable House would do the same. Thank you.

**4.25 p.m.:** *Sitting suspended.*

**5.10 p.m.:** *Sitting resumed.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**Mr. Arthur Sanderson** (*Fyzabad*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was not my intention to contribute to this debate but having sat and listened quite attentively

to some of the contributions made by hon. Members, I thought it fit that I should add my two bits.

I represent the constituency of Fyzabad—this term and the next, and that is a challenge I make quite openly—and you know the district of Fyzabad has a history, not only for the people of Fyzabad, but for the country and the Caribbean in general. So I rise this afternoon to give support to this bill, taking into consideration its legal aspect to protect the things of the past, the history, the artifacts of the past especially in a district which played such a vital role in the development of we, the people in Trinidad and Tobago at this juncture.

I decided to contribute to the debate because I listened quite attentively and have heard certain individuals—for whatever reason—talking in a manner as though there was this caring concern for the things of the past. The name Charlie King Junction is written in the annals of colonial history and in the books of English history sitting in London and other parts of England, describing to those people in England, workers and people in Trinidad and Fyzabad *per se*. It is there.

I have also heard contributions from hon. Members in relation to the role of the press. For some reason the eyes of the press have been looking at this bill as a ordinary bill. There is no sensationalism and by extension, it is not a money earner. But, I think when one weighs the questions of money earning and the soul of a nation, there is no comparison. There are things that money cannot buy and there are things that are priceless. A level of patriotism coming from the press is required in our society.

The question of responsibility is at all levels in the society and this is something that should have been sold and we should continuously be selling to the people of Trinidad and Tobago so that the grassroots man will understand his role. The history of the majority of the people of this country is sometimes hidden in a corner, well-preserved within the individual's building. If education, via the press, is not amplified to the people then one would not know how important this piece of legislation is. That is why I got up today to add my two bits to this debate. On the note that parties come and parties go—

**Mr. Sudama:** Are you anticipating something?

**Mr. Sanderson:** I think you should anticipate something. Generations come and generations go. I know for a fact that in the humble district where I come from, Fyzabad, children sit and listen to their parents and grandparents relate the events of 1937. It is sad to say some of the unscrupulous developers knew exactly

how important certain landmarks were but the dollar—we all know what the dollar can do.

When they sit around the table, there are places and individuals that come to mind; they remember what building was there; they remember La Brae Charles; they even remember Uriah "Buzz" Butler; they remember when George Weekes stood up at the junction; they remember where this place was supposed to be; the landmark where blood was shed; they remember Charlie King, the first police officer who died in the riots of 1937; they remember this and that. Within the constituencies of each one of us who sit here in this honourable House, there are artifacts, there are things to remember of yesteryear.

But there is no protection, no legal institution whatsoever for the things that are necessary to be in place and kept in place to be preserved for future generations and this is what this bill is about. I remember sitting on a committee called the National Days and Festivals Committee, at local government level with the hon. Member for Laventille who was the former Minister of Sports and Culture. The intention was good because there was an attempt to do something relating to a significant holiday, a significant occasion and sometimes assistance was given by the very same Ministry. But what was absent was some structure to encourage the community organization or individuals to go forward with some level of protection to develop sincerely what he or she or the organization was attempting to either display, demonstrate or protect.

So you found that in 1979 or 1986 six or seven individuals would have gotten together, sat at a committee to do certain work but by 1988 other individuals would then step in because the philosophical objective that group "A" was aiming at, would have been blocked by some individual within the bureaucracy because the idea was not thought laudable. This piece of legislation is now putting into place an institution that would protect the individual, the organization or whatever, in preserving the things of today, the things of yesterday for the children of tomorrow, historically.

**5.20 p.m.**

I do not want to get into the technicalities of this bill because it was perfectly dealt with by other Members on this side. The Member for Nariva was very, very good in his contribution. Actually, it is the best I have heard from him since I have been here this term and I will be here next term representing Fyzabad. I am quite sure about that. *[Interruption]* No, I said it before.

Fyzabad is an oil-producing district. The constituencies of La Brea, Ortoire/Mayaro and Nariva are oil-producers. During the colonial era drilling was a tedious occupation. Death stalked the man who was doing the job. Today, in those areas where the drilling of oil still continues, there are monuments, large and very tall structures called rigs or derricks, that are no longer used—but the dollar—when advanced to certain companies, one can see some contractor coming to dismantle them and take them elsewhere for whatever purpose. I have seen many elsewhere; I am not saying that it should not have been done. If you go to P.S.A. on Long Circular Road, in Skinner's Park, and a number of other places, they are being used for flood lighting. The individual who sees those structures, not recognizing where they came from and what use they served would not even know that this is part of our colonial days and history. So this bill, in its attempt, would tend to preserve the little that is left, so that one day when the children of our children go into the oilfields, they will know how the drilling operation was done in Trinidad in the colonial days, and Fyzabad the birthplace of the labour movement.

There is a lot of history. Lum Tack Hill, as I said before, is the hidden tunnel, where in those days, it was said Butler used to disappear. In the centre of a meeting they tried to arrest him, then he suddenly disappeared. It was said that he was dealing with science. But when you go to the spot and you look at what existed, even today, at Charlie King Junction, you would recognize that all Butler did was walk through a tunnel from Charlie King Junction straight through Lum Tack Hill and went his way. The great magician!

Again, I compliment the hon. Minister for presenting this simplistic but patriotic bill. It is the soul of the nation. After all these years, to quote from the famous calypsonian: "The journey now start."

**The Minister of Youth, Sport, Culture and Creative Arts (Hon. Jennifer Johnson):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, first of all, let me thank all my colleagues, particularly those who have supported this bill before this honourable House. May I specially congratulate my colleague from Nariva who did justice to the bill. I also congratulate Members of the Opposition who contributed to the bill and indicated their support for the bill and also those who indicated amendments that they would like to see to this bill.

Now, I will deal with three specific areas. One which was dealt with by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, who unfortunately is not here. I do not know if his problems are too overwhelming, but here, this afternoon, whatever the reason, I

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will deal with a point that was made by him; then with the hon. Member for Oropouche whom I feel did quite well in his contribution.

May I say, it is the first time in this House in four and a half years, that I saw the true spirit of what it means to be in politics coming out from the Members. In my opinion, being in politics helps you to keep in touch with humanity and with those things that are important. For the first time I saw that humanity coming out from the contributions of the Members. I congratulate hon. Members for that and I hope that we will continue to see the humanity in our contributions. I would deal briefly with some points made by the hon. Member for Naparima also.

Now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition in his contribution, indicated that some people may think this is something we should by-pass but I think it is important because every bill we have brought to this House for about the last five months, the Opposition has made the same charge. He has made the charge that we are now bringing this bill because we are seeking to politic for election; that it is very devious to bring this bill and questioned why we did not bring it before.

I want to read very briefly from a document dated September 23, 1986, which I received from the then Director General of UNESCO. He was reminding members of the United Nations about their responsibility to preserve their cultural heritage. In the final paragraph of his letter he said:

"I hope that the attached list would enable Member States that intend to take additional steps to preserve cultural property against natural disasters to be better informed of the relevant positions of the existing conventions and recommendations and to obtain guidance from them as necessary."

The list he is talking about is the consolidated list of provisions of the existing conventions and recommendations that are applicable for protection of our national heritage against natural disasters. Natural disasters here are very wide.

These recommendations dealt with the identification of properties to be protected. I would only read some of it. It says:

"Each Member State should draw up, as soon as possible, an inventory for the protection of its cultural and natural heritage, including items which, without being of outstanding importance, are inseparable from their environment and contribute to its character. To ensure that the cultural and



natural heritage is effectively recognized at all levels of planning, Member States should prepare maps and the fullest possible documentation covering the cultural and natural property in question."

I skip a bit and then he goes on to talk about preventive measures. He says that:

"Member States should as far as possible, take all necessary scientific, technical and administrative, legal and financial measures to ensure the protection of the cultural and natural heritage in their territories. Such measures should be determined in accordance with the legislation and organization of the State."

Then he went on to the scientific and technical measures that must be taken:

"Member States should arrange for careful and constant maintenance of their cultural and natural heritage, in order to avoid having to undertake the costly operations necessitated by its deterioration. For this purpose, they should provide regular surveillance of the components of their heritage by means of periodic inspections. They should also draw up carefully planned programmes of conservation and presentation work, gradually taking in all the cultural and natural heritage depending upon the scientific, technical, and financial means at their disposal."

### **5.30 p.m.**

It talked about legislation. He reminded the member states of our legislation. He said:

"Member states should enact or maintain, on the national as well as on the local level, the legislative measures necessary to ensure the preservation or salvage of cultural property endangered by public or private works, in accordance with the norms and principles embodied in this recommendation."

Then he talked about finance where he said simply that:

"Member states should provide, as much as within their means, for the development of their cultural heritage."

Finally, I want to point out that he talked about the hon. Member for Oropouche spending a lot of time on the question of public education and information. He insisted that, "Member states should undertake educational campaigns to arouse widespread public interest in, and respect for, the cultural and natural heritage.

"Continuing efforts should be made to inform the public about what is being and can be done to protect the cultural or natural heritage and to inculcate

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appreciation and respect for the value it enshrines. For this purpose, all media of information should be employed as required."

So you see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I said in my opening presentation, the bill is part of our natural evolution as an independent nation, and as part of the United Nations, we are only doing what is necessary. Notwithstanding my good friend the Member for Laventille, we are doing what should have been done a long, long time ago.

The Member for Oropouche was very concerned, and he is concerned about what we perceive as our cultural heritage. He wanted to know how we determine what is perceived as our cultural heritage and how it would be handled. He went on to insinuate that at present the things that are perceived as—

**Mrs. Donawa-McDavidson:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I ask the hon. Member to clarify something for me. I was so thrilled when she said "natural evolution", which means something new growing out, but yet she said it should have been done before. So I am not sure, but if the evolution should have been before, it is not relevant now.

**Mrs. Johnson:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, can I pass that one?

I was dealing with the hon. Member for Oropouche who was very concerned about what would be identified as our cultural heritage. He was insinuating that at present there are people who determine those things which become part of our cultural heritage, and that he was afraid that certain aspects of our culture would be left out of the preservation of our cultural heritage.

Although Dr. Samaroo dealt very well with that, I want to point out some of the things that are happening now, some of the things that have happened over the last three or four years, some of the things that we as a Government have decided to deal with. We are talking about the recognition of the indigenous Amerindians of Trinidad and Tobago as part of our cultural heritage. Indeed, the hon. Member for Naparima did talk about that. He said we have lost no opportunity to ensure that the future generations of our citizens possess knowledge, enjoyment and pride in the many aspects of Trinidad and Tobago's multicultural heritage. In this context, special attention has been paid to the oldest sector of this country's multicultural society, the Amerindians.

In April, 1990 Government agreed that the Santa Rosa Carib community of Arima be officially recognized as a representative of the indigenous Amerindians of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Government also agreed that the

Santa Rosa Carib Committee be granted an annual subvention of \$30,000 starting in 1990. The Santa Rosa Carib community has also elaborated proposals, with help from the technical staff in our Ministry, for the establishment of a Santa Rosa Carib Village to include the following: a co-operative farm, a Carib kitchen/restaurant, a performance centre, dwelling cottages in Carib style architecture, a fruit/vegetable/meat/handicraft market, poultry and livestock rearing, a multi-purpose building designated for paramedic, fire services, police, army, telephone, personnel, and other activity, a school of indigenous traditional music and dance which would hold classes for community children, and some children from the nearby schools. An Amerindian Project Committee has been appointed to advise Government on the development of the Amerindian community in this country. As Dr. Samaroo already indicated, they would play a major part in 1992 when he is celebrating the encounters of the two world.

The Archaeological Committee has been working on several projects. Professor Ari Broomer, who is an archaeologist, and who was with the University of the West Indies for sometime, did a lot of work in Tobago. These are a few of the sites that are identified. Some work has been done in these areas: the Point D'or estate, and the Fort Monk in Tobago, among many of the other areas.

Then we have been dealing with an archaeological site which very many people may not know about, and that is the Banwarie Trace archaeological site. This site was discovered some 15 or 20 years ago when the owner of the land, Mr. Soonan Jaglal of Banwarie Trace, San Francique Road in Penal was removing material from his land to use as landfill. A mountain of shells was discovered. These shells were an indication that there had been life in the area, and these were food remains. During the excavations, skeletal remains were found which were sent abroad and carbon dated. They were traced back to 5,000 years before Christ. The site is referred to as a pre-ceramic site; that is, a site that was in existence before the era of pottery making.

Cabinet has recently approved, only I think about six weeks ago, the acquisition of these lands at Banwarie Trace, San Francique in Penal for conservation purposes. The Banwarie Trace archaeological site is the oldest known occupation site in the Caribbean and among the richest in artifacts and faunal remains in the Central American/Caribbean zone.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what are the things we are talking about? What are the things that we feel should be included in our heritage? The Lion House, a museum. I read some extracts from a task force that was set up, and the report of

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the task force has been passed on to the Ministry of Culture and, notwithstanding our very limited budget, we have decided that this project would be one of the projects we are going to do this year.

The Lion House has for nearly a century attracted the attention, both of the local as well as international community, and within more recent times has been brought into greater prominence as being the birthplace of the world's renowned writer and novelist, Sir Vidya S. Naipaul—does the hon. Member for Naparima recall that name—recipient of the Trinidad and Tobago highest award, the Trinity Cross.

Just a bit of information about the Lion House: Lion House is also the birthplace of the late Dr. Rudranath Capildeo, mathematical genius, scholar and politician, and other well-known descendants of the Capildeo clan. The building itself is very simple yet impressive and unique in architecture and design and bears a living testimony of a humble, hard-working and God-fearing indentured family domiciled thousands of miles from their native country, here in Central Trinidad, producing offspring of national and international reputation.

I do not want to spend too much time, but the Capildeo family supports the views expressed by the task force, and they have indicated their desire and willingness to assist in any action to be taken by the Trinidad and Tobago Government to restore, preserve, and maintain this building as an historical landmark. This is a project that no doubt would be very significant.

We also have a project that could very well be part of our national heritage but again, not having the kind of mechanism that is necessary, I think that this is something that we would lose. The birthplace of Winnifred Atwell, which is now being run as a music school, and notwithstanding the efforts we have made—because I think they came to the Ministry quite late, I think that this is something of historical importance which we may lose. But we also have the building in which the late, great C.L.R. James was born. All those things we need to deal with.

So when the hon. Member for Oropouche said that we are only thinking about the buildings around the Savannah, he displays again—I have the greatest respect for the hon. Member, but sometimes I think that he willingly and purposely misleads the House in some of his suggestions. So, it is all-embracing.

I also want to point out that the trust was carefully set up in such a way that its membership would be very wide to all kinds of views. It will be open to those people who now contribute, like the Conservation Committee, the Wild Fowl

Trust, the Asa Wright Nature Centre, and all other groups who would come in. It would be open. So one cannot say in any way that the Government would influence what kind of heritage, what kind of things we do. It is the very nature of the group, the very nature of the composition of the trust that would influence the kinds of actions that it would take.

I want to point out one final matter that is important to our national heritage. Right now, what is happening in Tobago? One would never have thought that this would happen, and I am reading from the museum newsletter. They have found a bronze cannon, 1663, recently dug up in Scarborough harbour believed to be from the La Glorio. I will just read a small bit from it.

"In February, 1677 this fleet attacked the Dutch in Tobago West, West Indies. After a landing party bombarded a fort on Scarborough Hill and failed after 11 days to take the fort, the French on the 3rd of March, 1677 entered Route Clip Bay full-sail intending to take the Dutch fleet by surprise. Ships fought at close quarters. The Bay became a burning battlefield. Men crossed to and fro on the burning decks . . ."

This is a very interesting find, and how it has been dealt with, I am not quite sure. I know that the museum has some hand in it, and I know the Tobago House of Assembly has been doing something. But again, if you had the kind of legislation which we are now embarking on, I am fairly certain that in terms of finance, in terms of the technical capability, and things like that, we would have been able to handle it better.

Now, let me deal with some of the suggested amendments to the bill. I think the Member for Oropouche wanted to find out under whose control people employed with the trust will be. He asked: Would these people be under the control of the trust, or would they fall under the control of Government, and would they be regarded as public servants? I want to tell him that they would be under the control of the trust, according to the legislation before us.

He wanted to find out also about the compulsory acquisition. He said, "I presume that it includes in its purview, compulsory purchase. Therefore, what discretionary guidelines would apply in a compulsory purchase where you have, for example, people feeling that whatever is considered the national patrimony ought not to be taken away from their control".

With respect to compulsory purchase under clause 7, property of interest may not be acquired before it is listed. As you know, persons who are aggrieved by listing have two avenues for complaint. If you look at clause 9(1) and (2), they

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can either appeal to the Minister or to the court. So I hope that answers his question.

**5.45 p.m.**

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The hon. Member for Barataria/San Juan said that the \$25 as set out in the bill would restrict the Trust and that we would have to come back to this honourable House to change it. I think that perhaps he is correct and we can make a minor adjustment there so we would refer to the First Schedule instead of having the \$25 stipulated here.

The Member for Naparima referred to clause 8(1) and he said that a new section should be put in as follows:

"should engage in consultation in respect of programmes and activities with groups such as local authorities, other statutory bodies . . ."

I humbly suggest that since the membership of the trust is so wide that any organization, group or individual who would like to become a member of the Trust can do so and any contribution to be made by these organizations can be made through their membership on the trust.

The second point he made was that we should receive and consider recommendations for listing of any category of property by members of the public. I think we can entertain an amendment there and we would make that amendment in the committee stage.

**Mr. Palackdharrysingh:** Would you give way?

**Mrs. Johnson:** Yes, sure.

**Mr. Palackdharrysingh:** With respect to clause 8(a), are you saying that in order for people to make a contribution they must join, which is forcing them to join an organization which they may not necessarily want to join? There are groups which may have worked in this field and they may not consider joining the organization but yet they have made a worthwhile contribution and, therefore, consultation is in order.

**Mrs. Johnson:** Mr. Speaker, there is no provision in this legislation for special groups. There was much discussion on that. The original legislation catered for special groups but we felt that particularly in the initial stages of the trust we should leave it as wide open as possible, and I honestly believe that any group in the society has a right to join the organization and also to make suggestions.

The other amendment which we are going to make would leave it open so that any group can make suggestions to the council.

**Mr. Palackdharrysingh:** Would you give way?

**Mrs. Johnson:** Yes, sure.

**Mr. Palackdharrysingh:** Take, for example, the Wild Fowl Trust. You may want to enlist that. Are you saying that you are not going to enter into consultation with them?

**Mrs. Johnson:** To list?

**Mr. Palackdharrysingh:** For listing and so on. They have an interest in the Wild Fowl Trust itself and they may want certain requirements to be achieved. It was this sort of situation that I was thinking about: non-governmental organizations that had done work of national importance, in terms of our heritage, still having an interest. Are you saying that once the Trust is satisfied it is for national listing you can merely list them and then subsequently take them over without consultation?

**Mrs. Johnson:** No, the listing is not for organizations. Listing is in relation to any property of interest.

What I am saying is that the provisions of the bill are wide enough to be able to take in any group, whether it be Wild Fowl Trust or Citizens for Conservation to become a part of the Trust and even to be members of the council eventually.

Mr. Speaker, these were the matters that were raised and these minor amendments would be made.

If I have not specifically referred to the contribution of my predecessor in the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Culture and Creative Arts, let me take this opportunity to do so and to tell her that what we are doing today is really moving forward, way beyond what she conceived or her Government was able to accomplish during her tenure.

I have always been engendered by a contemplation of the future and it is for this reason that I could not join the PNM and I preferred to join the NAR and will continue to be a member of the NAR, the most forward-looking and youthful party and the party that will continue for quite some time.

I wish to thank hon. Members for their contributions. I will move those minor amendments at the committee stage.

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Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a second time.*

*Bill committed to a committee of the whole House.*

*House in committee.*

*Clause 1 ordered to stand part of the bill.*

*Clause 2.*

*Question proposed, That clause 2 stand part of the bill.*

**Mr. Butcher:** Mr. Chairman, I raised the question of property of interest. First of all, I think that art and manuscript should be included and defined. Also we would have an overlap with forest reserves, nature reserves, wild life, and national parks if we leave it as it is.

**Mr. Chairman:** Let us take one by one.

**Mrs. Johnson:** Mr. Chairman, could we just have a few minutes to get the amendments?

**Mr. Chairman:** Do you have amendments on the Government side?

**Mrs. Johnson:** Yes.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Member for Barataria/San Juan is proposing an amendment to "Property of Interest" in the interpretation clause.

**Mr. Butcher:** Define "Property of Interest".

**Mrs. Johnson:** Yes, there is going to be a slight amendment there to include manuscripts and so on.

**5.55 p.m.**

**Mr. Sudama:** I thought it was standard procedure to circulate copies of the amendments. If I were to move an amendment at this time it would be regarded as out of order, since I did not circulate the amendments before. I am saying it is a lapse on the part of the Government not to have circulated these amendments before.



**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister is asking that we wait a while as the amendments are being prepared.

**Mr. Sudama:** It should have been circulated before now; that is my argument.

**Mr. Chairman:** It is standard practice that you have amendments arising during the course of a debate. There are supportive staff who try to do the best they can. All they are saying is that they are putting it in print. If Members of the House would be a little co-operative—

**Mr. Sudama:** I have no problem with that, it is just that I hope that this is not a precedent.

**Mr. Chairman:** I do not understand what the Member is insinuating at all. All I am saying is that the circulation of the amendments will take place shortly. The Minister is saying that it is being prepared by the staff.

**Mr. Sudama:** Do you take notice of amendments verbally?

**Mrs. Johnson:** I did indicate in my contribution that those amendments would be taken at committee stage.

**Mr. Chairman:** Have you circulated the amendments. If you have, we can have photocopies made and circulated to Members.

The sitting is suspended until the amendments are circulated.

**6.05 p.m.:** *Sitting suspended.*

**6.25 p.m.:** *Sitting resumed.*

*The committee of the whole House resumed its deliberations on the bill.*

[Chairman: Mr. Nizam Mohammed]

*Clauses 2 and 3 ordered to stand part of the bill.*

*Clause 4.*

*Question proposed, That clause 4 stand part of the bill.*

**Mrs. Johnson:** Mr. Chairman, I beg to move the following amendment to clause 4(2)(a):

Delete the words "in an amount not exceeding twenty-five dollars" and substitute the words "in accordance with the First Schedule."

*Clause 4, as amended, ordered to stand part of the bill.*

*Clause 5.*

*Question proposed*, That clause 5 stand part of the bill.

**Mrs. Johnson:** Mr. Chairman, I beg to move the following amendments:

- (a) Insert immediately after the last word in this paragraph the words "and in so doing may secure and consider recommendations from members of the public."
- (b) Insert a semicolon immediately after the words "not interest but features" occurring in line 3 and delete all the words occurring thereafter.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Clause 5, as amended, ordered to stand part of the bill.*

*Clauses 6 and 7 ordered to stand part of the bill.*

*Clause 8.*

*Question proposed*, That clause 8 stand part of the bill.

**Mr. Palackdharrysingh:** Mr. Chairman, I withdraw both recommendations for amendment. It was pointed out to me that the Second Schedule would more or less take care of the concern that I have had.

*Amendment withdrawn.*

*Clause 8, ordered to stand part of the bill.*

*Clauses 9 to 29 ordered to stand part of the bill.*

*First and Second Schedules ordered to stand part of the bill.*

*Preamble ordered to stand part of the bill.*

*Question put and agreed to*, That the bill, as amended, be reported to the House.

*House resumed.*

*Bill reported with amendments.*

*Question put*, That the bill be now read the third time.

*The House voted: Ayes 28*

*AYES:*

Tewarie, Dr. B.

Robinson, Hon. A.N.R.

Dookeran, Hon. W.

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Richardson, Hon. S.

Smart, Hon. A.

Hosein, Dr. E.

Johnson, Hon. J.

St. George, Dr. A.

Wilson, Hon. S.

Nicholson, Hon. P.

Henry, Hon. G.

Samaroo, Dr. B.

Toney, Hon. J.

Hector, Hon. M.

Hem Lee, Hon. O.

Sudama, T.

Palackdharrysingh, R.

Fox, J.

Raphael, L.

Manning, P.

Marshall, M.

Donawa-McDavidson, Mrs. M.

Valley, K.

Guerra, T.

Butcher, K.

Shand, E.

Sanderson, A.

Pollard, G. Mrs.

*Question agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.*

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**The Minister of Industry, Enterprise and Tourism (Dr. The Hon. Bhoendradatt Tewarie):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind Members of the Finance Committee meeting on Monday, March 18, 1991 at 10.00 a.m.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to Friday, March 22, 1991 at 1.30 p.m.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*House adjourned accordingly.*

*Adjourned at 6.36 p.m.*