

Speaker, St. Lucia

Friday, December 01, 1995

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 01, 1995

The House met at 1.30 p.m.

PRAYERS

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SPEAKER, ST. LUCIA
(Welcome)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I simply wish to draw to the notice of the House that we do have today, sitting in the distinguished persons gallery, a most distinguished person, the Honourable Speaker from St. Lucia, Speaker St. Clair-Daniel. He is, in fact, accompanied by the hon. President of our Senate, Senator The Hon. Ganace Ramdial.

I wish to welcome him and to indicate that one of the most experienced Speakers from the Commonwealth is very welcome here among us today.
(Applause)

PAPERS LAID

1. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Public Utilities Commission for the year ended December 31, 1992. [*The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar)*]
2. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Public Utilities Commission for the year ended December 31, 1993. (*Hon. K. Persad-Bissessar*)
3. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Institute of Marine Affairs for the year ended December 31, 1994. (*Hon. K. Persad-Bissessar*)
4. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts and Financial Statements of the National Settlements Programme for the year ended December 31, 1992 as required by Loan contract 584/OC-TT between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Inter-American Development Bank. (*Hon. K. Persad-Bissessar*)

Papers Laid

Friday, December 01, 1995

5. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of Deposit Insurance Corporation for the year ended December 31, 1994. (*Hon. K. Persad-Bissessar*)

Papers 1 to 5 to be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

6. Annual Audited Accounts and Financial Statements of Reinsurance Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (TRINRE) for the year ended December 31, 1994. (*Hon. K. Persad-Bissessar*)
7. Annual Audited Accounts and Financial Statements of Trinidad Nitrogen Company Limited (TRINGEN) for the year ended December 31, 1994. (*Hon. K. Persad-Bissessar*)

Papers 6 and 7 to be referred to the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee.

8. Seventeenth (17th) Annual Report of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the period January 01, 1994 to December 31, 1994. (*Hon. K. Persad-Bissessar*)

UNPROCLAIMED LEGISLATION

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar): Mr. Speaker, between 1934 and September 1995, at least 21 pieces of legislation have gone through all the legislative stages in both Houses of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago and have been enacted, but to date have not become law because the President of the Republic had not been advised to issue the Proclamations which will make them law.

The subject matter of this unproclaimed legislation varies from the Bahamas and Leeward Islands' Light Dues Ordinance, which was passed in 1934, to the Companies Act of 1995. I am advised that the following Statutes have been enacted in the Parliament but, to date, have not been proclaimed:

1. Bahamas and Leeward Islands' Light Dues Ordinance, 1934 (Chap. 18 No. 7).
2. Workmen's Compensation Act, 1960 (Act. 24 of 1960), Parts IV (Occupational Diseases) and Part V (Compulsory Insurance) unproclaimed.
3. Investment Disputes Awards (Enforcement) Act, 1968 (Act 23 of 1968).

4. Plant Protection Act, 1975 (Act 13 of 1975).
5. The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 4) Act, 1978 (Sections 3 and 4 remain unproclaimed).
6. The Landlord and Tenant Act, 1981.
7. The Land Law and Conveyancing Act, 1981.
8. The Trustee Act, 1981.
9. Limitation Act, 1981 (Act 22 of 1981).
10. Condominiums Act, 1981 (Act 23 of 1981).
11. Land Registration Act, 1981 (Act 24 of 1981).
12. Succession Act, 1981 (Act 27 of 1981).
13. Publications (Legal Deposit) Act, 1985 (Act 8 of 1985).
14. Customs A.T.A. (Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission) Carnet System Act, 1986 (Act 25 of 1986).
15. Municipal Corporations Act, 1990 (Act 21 of 1990), parts not yet proclaimed are those sections and schedules falling under or relating to:
 - Part III which deals with the Municipal Police Force.
 - Part V which deals with house rates.
 - Part VII which deals with streets and buildings.

Insofar as they apply to the several new municipal corporations established under section 4 of the Act—remain unproclaimed.

16. National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago Act No. 11 of 1991.
17. Telecommunications Authority Act, 1991, Act 40 of 1991.
18. The Venture Capital, Act No. 2 of 1994.
19. The Land Acquisition Act No. 28 of 1994.
20. Securities Industry Act, 1995 (Act of 1995).
21. Companies Act, 1995 (Act of 1995).

Unproclaimed Legislation
[HON. K. PERSAD-BISSESSAR]

Friday, December 01, 1995

Mr. Speaker, it is our respectful view that it is undesirable as a matter of public policy for legislation which has been passed via the democratic processes in this land to remain in limbo. The elected representatives of the people have voted for it at a point in time. Those following them, who are also duly elected, must decide whether or not to implement the legislation or repeal it, otherwise the process of parliamentary law-making is brought into disrepute.

Moreover, much time, effort and taxpayers' moneys have been expended over the years in the research, drafting and debating of these statutes.

1.40 p.m.

Consequently, this Government being mindful of the responsibilities entrusted to it by the people of this nation has moved with despatch to take steps to rectify this situation. In this regard, Cabinet at its meeting on November 30, 1995 agreed that an inter-ministerial committee be set up to make recommendations regarding which of the unproclaimed statutes should be repealed, which should be proclaimed, and the steps to be taken to ensure the timely proclamation of the statutes to be proclaimed and the dates by which such shall take place.

The committee will comprise representatives from the relevant ministries which sponsored the original Bills for these Acts and they are the Ministries of Finance, Labour, Trade and Industry and Consumer Affairs, Agriculture, Works and Transport, Community Development, Culture and Women's Affairs, Local Government, the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Legal Affairs. The committee will be mandated to submit its report and recommendations within three months of the date of its appointment. Upon receipt of the report, Cabinet will take such further action as may be deemed necessary.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

IMMIGRATION (AMDT.) (No. 2) BILL

Bill to amend the Immigration Act, Chap. 18:01, [*The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs*]; read the first time.

Motion made, That the next stage be taken forthwith. [*Hon. K. Persad-Bissessar*]

Question put and agreed to.

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move,

That the Bill to amend the Immigration Act Chap 18:01 be now read a second time.

Mr. Speaker, it is instructive when we look at this Bill, to examine the background against which it was originally conceived. You see as early as December, 1993 there were reports coming from the public and reflected in the media, that there was a scam with respect to the payment of moneys for issuing of false certificates of identity to Hong Kong Chinese nationals who wanted an easy route to Canada. As early as December, 1993 the previous Government was aware of the issue of false, fraudulent or tampered passports.

In his contribution to the debate on December 10, 1993, the then Minister of National Security, Sen. Russell Huggins, in justifying the introduction of new passports into Trinidad and Tobago pointed out the many problems that were being experienced with respect to tampered or fraudulent passports. He enumerated these problems and he pointed out that there was tampering with respect to the changing of the photographs in the passports, the substitution of pages, the addition of forged immigration stamps and with respect to the manufacturing of complete passports using genuine passport paper. All these things were enumerated in his contribution of December 10, 1993.

He further pointed out that between 1990 and 1993, 260 cases of forged passports had been brought to the attention of the authorities and he said that because of these problems, a new passport would be introduced. It was proposed that existing passports would go out of circulation by June 30, 1995 and therefore would continue in circulation up to that date. I understand that this deadline has been extended to December 31, 1995 so that the old passports are still in circulation.

Thereafter, as the records will indicate, it was not until June 1994, that the previous Government agreed that section 40 of the Immigration Act, Chap. 18:01 should be amended so that the person in possession of a fraudulent or tampered passport, or one that had been fraudulently issued could be prosecuted. It appears that the Chief Immigration Officer's advice was that couriers were often caught in possession of fraudulently issued passports, but they could not be prosecuted under the existing section 40 (b), unless it could be proved that they knew the

Immigration (Amdt.) (No. 2) Bill
[HON. K. PERSAD-BISSESSAR]

Friday, December 01, 1995

passport was forged or false because their knowledge of the offence had to be proven as an element of the offence.

By January 3, 1995 the amending Bill had been drafted and on January 19, 1995, the previous Government agreed that the Bill be introduced in Parliament at the earliest opportunity. Thereafter, the Bill was laid by the previous Government in the House of Representatives on January 20, 1995. Regrettably, it did not get a second reading until 9 months later, on September 20, 1995 and all stages were completed on that date. Thereafter, the Bill was laid and received its first reading in the Senate on September 26, 1995, and remained thus until it lapsed on October 6, 1995.

Mr. Speaker, in that context and having regard to the reports and the concerns expressed over the past two years of the need for speedy action to prosecute persons who were apprehended but could not be charged because of the limitations of the Act, public concern was reflected in the press and I have several of them with me. One is an article in the *Daily Express* of December 17, 1993, a story written by Annabel Thomas with the heading "VISA SCAM Police seized genuine and false passports." The article went on:

"Several forged United States and Canadian visa stamps and more than 60 genuine and forged passports were seized by police when they raided the home of a Chaguanas travel agent yesterday.

The travel agent has about ten charges of forgery, larceny of a passport and receiving stolen passports pending...."

as a result of a previous raid in February 1992.

They could not be charged under the Immigration or Forgery Act for the possession of the immigration stamps as it is not, at present, an offence under either Act. In that said article it was reported that passports with false visas were reckoned to be worth TT \$10,000, so producing them was very profitable.

The *Newsday* of November 1, 1994 quotes: "Passport racket exposed," and the Ministry of National Security issued a statement saying that the crooks were making \$12,000 for a forged passport therefore they were willing to pay the maximum fine of \$4,000 under the Forgery Act.

The *Newsday* of June 4, 1995, states: "27 freed in passport fraud." The article goes on to say:

"Twenty-seven people who were caught tendering false documents to secure US visas, and others bearing false passports were interviewed by the Fraud Squad over the last month and released."

They were all freed because possession of a false or forged passport is not an offence under the Act, and the Chief Immigration Officer was quoted as saying: "that draft legislation to make possession of a false passport an offence is now with the Attorney General."

Again, in the *Newsday* of October 14, 1995: "Passport racket uncovered" and the reports continue, Mr. Speaker. More recently, there have been three articles carried in the *TNT Mirror*. The first was on November 17, 1995 which alleged that Chinese nationals paid up to US \$10,000 each to be granted resident status. The *TNT Mirror* claims to have the list of the names of such persons.

1.50 p.m.

A second article appeared in the *Sunday Mirror* of November 19, 1995. It deals with persons with false visas getting through to board flights. It is headlined: "TnT clamps down on visa bobol".

Chief Immigration Officer, Mr. Harper, has indicated, since then, that officers of national security are now carrying out increased random checks, especially as the old and easily alterable Trinidad and Tobago passport is still valid.

The same article which appeared in the *Mirror* of November 17, 1995, entitled "Cops in airport racket" alleges further passport scams and frauds.

Mr. Speaker, it is our respectful view that, given the context and the background outlined, there was a crying need for the amendment to the Immigration Act, and that has been obvious since 1994. While we would not want to be ungenerous and ungracious and would want to compliment the former government for taking steps to deal with the problem—

Mr. Panday: Government of national unity!

Hon. K. Persad-Bissessar:—by bringing the amendment to Parliament earlier this year, one cannot help but be alarmed and must remark on the tardiness of the handling of the legislation by the previous government; just like they have done with the 21 other pieces of legislation that we spoke about earlier this afternoon.

Immigration (Amdt.) (No. 2) Bill
[HON. K. PERSAD-BISSESSAR]

Friday, December 01, 1995

It is even more alarming, Mr. Speaker, when we examine the results of the tardiness. *[Cross-talk]*

Mr. Speaker: I am sure that hon. Members of this House would not want to start this new session with the amount of cross-talk that we are now getting. I am sure of that.

Hon. K. Persad-Bissessar: Thank you for your intervention, Mr. Speaker. It is our respectful view that the tardiness of the previous government in getting that legislation onto the statute books is even more alarming when we consider the results of the tardiness.

The figures show that there has been an increase in the number of persons apprehended with false documents between 1994 and 1995, which makes the failure of the previous government to enact this simple legislation even more regrettable.

In the period January 01, 1994 to December 31, 1994, 224 persons were apprehended with false or fraudulent documents but only 152 of them could be prosecuted because of a deficiency in the law. In other words, 72 persons escaped the law because the amendment was not enacted.

In the period January 01, 1995 to November 28, 1995, less than a year, a total of 289 persons were apprehended but, regrettably, only 141 of them, which is less than half, could be prosecuted. In other words, Mr. Speaker, so far this year 148 persons escaped the law because of the neglect and tardiness of the former government to move speedily with that amendment bill.

This Government of national unity is strongly of the view that we must tackle crime head on, that crime must be tackled now, that criminals should not escape because of a deficiency in the statute, and this is why this Government intends to take the steps today to have this amendment bill made into law. But that is not all this Government intends to do, Mr. Speaker. It will take steps to ensure that the law is implemented by increased surveillance and vigilance.

Consequently, the Bill that is before the House today purports to amend section 40 of the Immigration Act, Chap. 18:01. There are two limbs to the amendment. Firstly, the amendment to section 40(b) deletes and substitutes a new subsection 40(b) which in fact clarifies the position as regards the particular offence. What it does is take the old subsection 40(b) and partition it into two

parts. It removes the word "knowing" as being an element in the offence with respect to part (1) of the offence. So that it reads:

"Any person who—

(b) comes into or remains in Trinidad and Tobago by means of—

- (i) a false or improperly issued passport, visa, medical certificate or other document; or
- (ii) other false, misleading or fraudulent method, knowing it to be false, misleading, fraudulent or otherwise improper;

is liable on summary conviction for a first offence to a fine of one thousand dollars and to imprisonment for twelve months, and on any subsequent convictions to a fine of two thousand dollars and to imprisonment for eighteen months."

The existing subsection 40(b) reads:

"Any person who—

(b) comes into Trinidad and Tobago or remains therein by force or stealth or, knowing it to be false, misleading or improper, by reason of a false or improperly issued passport, visa, medical certificate or other document pertaining to his admission or other false or misleading information or other fraudulent means;

is liable on summary conviction ..."

The use of these words would pose some difficulty to law enforcement officers because the meaning is not apparently clear, and this is what the amendment to the section seeks to do; to clarify section 40(b). With the greatest of respect, the use of somewhat very quaint and vague terms in the legislation would have made the job much harder for law enforcement officers.

So that we commend this section for amendment. The fault is cured when we amend the Bill and we put in the words "other false, misleading or fraudulent method" in the new section 40(b)(ii).

Even more important in this amendment Bill is the new subsection 40(b)(j) which now creates an offence. This new subsection (j) for the first time creates a specific criminal offence of attempting to enter or leave Trinidad and Tobago or to have in one's possession a passport which is fraudulent, which has been

Immigration (Amdt.) (No. 2) Bill
[HON. K. PERSAD-BISSESSAR]

Friday, December 01, 1995

tampered with, or which has been fraudulently or improperly issued, whether or not it was issued to the person in whose possession it is or to someone else. As long as one is in possession of such document and one attempts to enter or leave Trinidad, one would be guilty of an offence under the statute.

I beg to move that this amendment Bill become part of our law.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Question proposed.

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis (*Arouca South*): Mr. Speaker, I would like to start my contribution to this debate, first of all, by indicating our support for this piece of legislation which was brought during the PNM's administration. We note that not even a comma has been changed in the legislation which is now before the House and we understand that it is the same legislation and we support it wholeheartedly.

Mr. Manning: Our work!

Mrs. C. Robinson-Regis: Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity, before I actually get into the debate, to congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker of the House of Representatives. I also take the opportunity to echo the sentiments expressed by my leader on the occasion of the opening of the new session of Parliament on Monday. We agree with those sentiments and we wish you all the best in your post as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Also, Mr. Speaker, permit me to embrace this opportunity to congratulate the new Prime Minister and the other Members of the House who now form the Government; not a government of national unity but a coalition Government consisting of the UNC, the NAR of Tobago and Ish Galbaransingh, Brian Kuei Tung and Steve Ferguson—a coalition Government, Mr. Speaker.

2.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Maharaj: Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, we are debating the question of the amendment to the Immigration Act and although one appreciates your graciousness in offering congratulations, I would simply ask that we stick to the issues.

Mrs. C. Robinson-Regis: Mr. Speaker, [*Interruption*]

Mr. Robinson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the NAR in this Parliament is the NAR of Trinidad and Tobago. [*Interruption*]

Mrs. C. Robinson-Regis: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your guidance. I was only attempting to start our contributions by correcting the record and secondly, by being as gracious as possible to you and to the Members of the Government.

Mrs. Persad-Bissessar: Thank you so much.

Miss Nicholson: Sickening.

Mrs. C. Robinson-Regis: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, we are in full support of the Bill, which was introduced by the PNM administration and is now being re-introduced by the present Government.

Mr. Speaker, although the Bill at one time was considered a simple Bill, we saw the need to amend the immigration laws, largely because of the fact that several instances of passport fraud continued in Trinidad and Tobago. Our intention was, therefore, to curb the spiralling incidence of fraud and to plug any loopholes that existed in the area. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, the PNM administration saw this not just as an isolated piece of legislation, but as legislation that was part of a total legislative and administrative package that would have dealt with reforms to the Immigration Department and on a broader scale, reforms to the Ministry of National Security.

You may recall, Mr. Speaker, that the PNM administration clearly outlined that the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of National Security were priority ministries with regard to reform legislation and this, in addition to the illegalities that could not have been dealt with, given the convoluted nature of section 40, was part of the reason why this legislation was brought to the House. I would like to repeat that the previous legislation was somewhat convoluted and led to a difficulty for those who had to administer the legislation being able to bring cases before the court and get convictions in those instances.

Mr. Speaker, we therefore know the intention of this piece of legislation and we sincerely hope that, once it passes both Houses of the Parliament, the provisions will redound to the benefit of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to deal with the previous Opposition's concerns as raised in the last Parliament when this piece of legislation came before this honourable House. The legislation as thought through

Immigration (Amdt.) (No. 2) Bill
[MRS. ROBINSON-REGIS]

Friday, December 01, 1995

by the PNM administration was, as I said, part of an overall package of reforming the Immigration Department and dealing with the crimes of fraud as it related to passports.

Mr. Speaker, when the Bill came before the House in the fourth Parliament, the Member of Parliament for Oropouche, our new Minister of Planning and Development, questioned the bona fides of the Immigration Department, wondering whether it was a properly functioning department; if there were any immigration officers who were doing their job; whether there were irregularities in the department which encouraged the large-scale issue of fraudulent passports. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the Member even indicated a lack of confidence in the Immigration Department's dedication to implementing the amendments in the interest of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if he still has those concerns? [*Interruption*]

Mr. Sudama: Quote me correctly.

Mrs. C. Robinson-Regis: I also wonder if this administration will work with the public servants in order to ensure that if they do have those concerns, that those concerns would be eradicated. Having worked with public servants,— [*Interruption*]

Mr. Panday: For the next 15 years.

Mrs. C. Robinson-Regis:—we understand what those public servants can, in fact do, and we did and do have confidence in those public servants. The PNM administration had no difficulty, with the competence and dedication of public servants, to implement these amendments and consequently the amendments were brought before the House.

Mr. Speaker, we take our roles as parliamentarians very seriously. Indeed, I trust that the present Government has changed its view that this Bill would be an attempt to, as stated by the Member for Oropouche, "toy with the immigration laws of Trinidad and Tobago to satisfy the political interests of the ruling regime." Indeed, I trust this is not their reason for bringing this as their first piece of legislation to the House this afternoon. [*Interruption*].

Mr. Sudama: What were you doing with the Immigration Department— what was the PNM doing?

Mrs. C. Robinson-Regis: Mr. Speaker, might I specifically quote from the Member's contribution, because my concerns, as they relate to their feelings of

lack of confidence in those persons who will now have to implement this amendment, are very deep-seated. I am very concerned—and let me indicate to you why I am concerned, Mr. Speaker.

2.10 p.m.

I am quoting from the contribution of the Member for Oropouche. It is a quotation taken directly from the *Hansard* of September 20, 1995. He indicated that there was an article in the *Newsday* which spoke about the so-called passport scam. I quote:

"Furthermore, the article goes on to state:..."

Now he quotes the article:

"...it is important to note that the influx of Chinese immigrants may be seen as a political device to foster the economic development and create a climate of confidence for the Government as it prepares for the 1996 general elections."

I wonder if the Government is also preparing for the 1996 general elections.

I continue to quote the Member for Oropouche. These are his words; no longer the article.

" The influx of Chinese immigrants is not going to have any lasting beneficial effect. It is merely designed for a certain time period, after which the Chinese will seek to relocate elsewhere...for the purposes of pursuing political gains and interest."

Mr. Speaker, I hope he was not referring to our brand new Minister of Finance.

We trust that these are not the same feelings that are influencing the Government's decision to bring this piece of legislation before the House today. We are clearly of the view, as we were of the view when the legislation was introduced in the fourth Parliament, that this is a necessary and worthwhile amendment to the immigration laws of Trinidad and Tobago and we support the legislation.

In closing, I would like to wish the Government well. I would like to congratulate the Member for Siparia, the Attorney General, on her maiden speech in the House of Representatives. I would also have liked to congratulate the Minister of National Security, in whose name the Bill stands on the Order Paper, but unfortunately I see that he is pursuing his Government's vision of world-class

Immigration (Amdt.) (No. 2) Bill
[MRS. ROBINSON-REGIS]

Friday, December 01, 1995

by starting off on his first-class trips around the world. But I am trusting that the Government will continue along the path of good government, as it continues with the policies of the PNM administration.

I have also noted that the Government, in many instances—not in this Parliament because I have only heard the hon. Attorney General, the Member for Siparia—many of them have changed their manner of speaking. They now have very manicured voices. I know that this is a good sign and it will serve them in good stead when they return to their rightful place in the Parliament on this side of the House.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say again that we support our legislation.

Special Advisor to the Prime Minister (Mr. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj): Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to make a contribution on this Bill, but having regard to what the Opposition has stated through the hon. Member for Arouca South, I think it is my duty to rise and make a contribution.

Before I do so, and as part of what I am saying, I think that it is most opportune for me to express my sympathies to the Members on the other side for having to be in opposition for five years. I only hope that they would aspire to be a world-class opposition.

The hon. Member for Arouca South made reference to the hon. Minister of National Security and his trip. We wish to announce that the hon. Minister of National Security, as mentioned in the newspaper—perhaps the hon. Member does not read the newspaper; we wish to remind her that the hon. Minister travelled in order to attend a conference on the laundering of money as a result of the drug trade. *[Interruption]* It has to deal with crime and drugs in an effort to eradicate illicit drugs in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I still feel sure that it is not necessary for me to remind hon. Members of Standing Order 40 which reads as follows:

" A Member present in the House during a debate—

- (a) shall enter or leave the House with decorum;
- (b) shall maintain silence while another Member is speaking, and shall not interrupt, except in accordance with these Standing Orders; and
- (c) shall otherwise conduct himself in a fit and proper manner."

I am sure it is not necessary for me to say much more on this.

Mr. R. L. Maharaj: I am much obliged to you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, it is not surprising to me that that side of the House would express criticism for a Minister of Government going on the country's business in the fight against drugs.

I would have thought—

Mrs. Robinson-Regis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. May I indicate the Member is misleading the House. I did not criticize the Minister for leaving the country to deal with the Government's business.

Mr. R. L. Maharaj: What did she do?

Mrs. Robinson-Regis: I did not criticize.

Mr. R. L. Maharaj: The Member did not criticize, but the Member, in effect, made reference to "first-class" and "world-class"; derogatory remarks.

I would have thought that the Opposition would have come today and apologized to this House and to the country for a simple piece of legislation which was passed in this House and could have been made law. It took them so long to bring it to the Parliament—four years—and the hon. Member for Arouca South got up here and has decided to treat the people with the same kind of contempt and would not apologize to the people for the error which they have made in not bringing this legislation earlier before this House and causing the law to be subverted. I would have thought that the hon. Member for Arouca South would have done that.

Be that as it may, the hon. Member for Arouca South continued to say that they would continue in their role as parliamentarians and they would, in effect, serve the country. I wish to remind the hon. Member for Arouca South that the role as parliamentarian involves levelling with the population; levelling with the facts in a particular matter.

2.20 p.m.

I still expect that our "world-class" Leader of the Opposition, the hon. Member for San Fernando East, would get up and apologize to this House, on behalf of his party in Parliament—

Mr. Manning: I am not getting up.

Mr. Panday: Then sit down and say it.

Mr. R. L. Maharaj:—for being delinquent and procrastinating in bringing this Bill to the Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, I could also understand the anger of the Government [*Laughter and desk thumping from Opposition Benches*] I could also understand the anger of the Opposition—the last government—for being very envious of this Government of national unity. The then government of the day, was very anti-national unity, therefore, when it sees that there is a Government of national unity, it would do everything in its power, not only to criticize it, but to expressly and impliedly subvert, undermine and destroy it.

We are aware of that, therefore, when we see that kind of criticism against the Government of national unity, we are not surprised, and the country is not surprised.

Mr. Speaker, when the Member for Arouca South said that we were campaigning for the 1996 general elections, it shows that she probably does not understand the situation as yet. We wish to inform her that she should understand that this Government of national unity is here for the next five years, at least. Therefore there would be no campaigning for a general election before the year 2015. [*Laughter*] General elections every five years, but not until the year 2015 at least.

Dr. Rowley: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. Member for Couva South is aware that his leader took leave of absence from the union for only one year?

Mr. R. L. Maharaj: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member for Diego Martin West should know that leave of absence could be renewed annually. I thought he knew that.

Mr. Speaker, what surprised me about the Member for Arouca South is that she read from the contribution of the hon. Member for Oropouche—who is now the hon. Minister of Planning and Development—which he made in this House on September 20, 1995. I would say that the then Opposition did not oppose the Bill. As a matter of fact, the then Opposition supported the Government's measure, and the Member for Oropouche raised certain questions which had to do with the lack of ability, or the refusal of the Government of the day in supplying—

Mr. Imbert: Mr. Speaker, I was looking at the *Hansard* and the hon. Member for Oropouche had recommended that the Bill go to a committee. Why was that?

Mr. R. L. Maharaj: Mr. Speaker, the then Opposition was in support of the Bill, but the hon. Member made reference to other matters relating to immigration.

Mr. Speaker, if the Member for Arouca South read from lower down in the contribution of the Member for Oropouche, she would have seen the point the then Opposition was making at the time. I quote from the *Hansard* of September 20, 1995:

“This is a statement from the very Ministry and the very Minister who is presenting to this House this amendment which seeks, as he says, to tighten up the Act and the penalties available.”

He continued quoting:

“‘Describing it as a ‘million dollar racket’ since a forged TT passport could cost \$12,000.00, the Ministry revealed that while it has already issued 130,000 official new passports, making the Treasury \$12 million richer in the race to June 1995, the...con men are also ‘walking away with heavier pockets’ as they race to get all these people to the USA before the deadline.’”

We are told from a Ministry statement that:

‘...the old passport offered no security features and data could be easily changed, pictures switched...’”

The hon. Member was, in effect, asking the Government of the day to provide information on such a material matter to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Speaker, that is why, today, we are saying that if it is that there was a Government which was prepared to make information available to the population, much of these injustices to the people would not have occurred. Therefore, the criticisms by the Member for Oropouche, at that time, in respect of the Government’s measure relating to that Bill were in relation to the lack of information made available to the people and the Parliament concerning matters of such great importance.

Mr. Speaker, it was common knowledge that the media was printing all sorts of information about the passport racket which we in the Parliament, as an

Immigration (Amdt.) (No. 2) Bill
[MR. R. L. MAHARAJ]

Friday, December 01, 1995

opposition party at that time, did not have. We did not have the facts surrounding that information. We had no machinery to get that information.

Therefore, those criticisms must be considered in that vein. But, there is a new hope for this Parliament and the people of Trinidad and Tobago because this Government of national unity is committed to making information available to the people of Trinidad and Tobago and the Parliament. This Government is committed to open government. In this House we are going to have a situation where the Opposition would be able to have the machinery whereby it could get information, and where the people would be able to get information.

Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House are saying that this Government of national unity would, in effect, make material information available so that Members of the Opposition would not have the difficulties we had while in opposition in trying to get information for the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House wish to state that this Opposition has not surprised us. They are behaving in the same way they behaved whilst in Government. They are arrogant, contemptuous and yet they were prepared to say that they were world-class.

We on this side of the House are happy that the Government has decided to support the Bill. *[Laughter and desk thumping from Opposition Benches]* We are happy that the Opposition has decided to support the Bill, but we are very sorry that it has not decided to apologize to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

2.30 p.m.

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar): Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. Member for Arouca South, it is all very well and good for them to pat themselves on their backs. I must say this amending Bill has come back to Parliament without changing a comma. With the greatest of respect to my Friends on the other side, I cannot help but wonder how is it then that if this was so important to their government that it took so long for it to be made law in this country.

I had pointed out that it was since 1993 that it was brought to the attention of the other side that there were difficulties with the passports, with respect to

forgery and fraud. There is very little to reply to. We have not changed a comma. The important point is that we thought we should bring it speedily to the Parliament and have it become law so that we can deal with that problem.

With respect to the other matter, I did refer to some of the allegations and articles that were in the newspaper. *[Interruption]* If my Friend would give me the opportunity—I would take my seat if he has a point of order, through you, Mr. Speaker. I am saying that the other allegations referred to by the hon. Member for Oropouche as he then was and still is, are in *Hansard*. Those matters were referred to in the articles that I spoke of earlier. I would like to indicate that those matters are receiving the attention of the Ministry of National Security and the office of the Attorney General.

Thank you.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

Bill committed to a committee of the whole House.

House in committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 ordered to stand part of the bill.

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

House resumed.

Bill reported, without amendment; read the third time and passed.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members I wish to announce that the hon. Prime Minister has a statement which should have been made under Statements by Ministers. With the leave of both sides of the House he would now be given permission to make that statement.

Assent indicated.

CRIME

The Prime Minister (Hon. Basdeo Panday): Mr. Speaker, I am indeed grateful to you and hon. Members on the opposite side for bending the rules a little and granting me the permission to make this statement at this stage.

Crime
[HON. B. PANDAY]

Friday, December 01, 1995

Three especially shocking crimes have been reported in recent times. The first is the evidently carefully planned attack on the Bank of Commerce at two locations. The second is the brutal murder of Leslie Ann Ramsey who was shot to death last Tuesday when her car was hijacked. The third reported incident is the murder of a man, as yet unidentified, who was executed, his hands and feet cut off and his body dumped in a cane field in the vicinity of Princes Town.

Developments have been commendably swift in relation to all of these matters. With respect to the first of the bank robberies two men have been arrested. In relation to the second of the Bank of Commerce robberies a suspect is assisting the police in their inquiries and another suspect is being sought. In relation to the heinous and senseless murder of Leslie Ann Ramsey, police have seized the pick-up and detained three men who are now assisting them in their inquiries. Arrests are expected shortly. Investigations are continuing into the case of the unidentified man and the police officers are being assisted in their inquiries by two persons.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the police on their swift and effective police work in relation to these matters, and to urge them to press on with their investigations so as to ensure that they bring all these matters to a speedy conclusion. This Government intends to ensure that those who do the crime will serve the time.

Thank you.

LAND ACQUISITION

The Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (Hon. Dr. Reeza Mohammed): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move,

That this House approve the decision of the President to acquire the lands described in the Appendix for the public purposes specified.

Returning Members of Parliament will certainly be familiar with the basis of this motion, since 12 of the 13 listed parcels of land were the subject of a similar motion passed in this House under the former Government in September 1995. The advent of the now famous snap election prevented the said motion from receiving the consent of both Houses of Parliament, and so the motion having lapsed requires that I raise it today.

For the benefit of new Members, the description of the lands and the purposes for which they were acquired are itemized in the Appendix to the Order Paper. It

should be noted that the procedure of acquisition in some cases was initiated as far back as 1986. Parliamentary approval therefore is long overdue. Members should also be aware that the existing system of land acquisition is very bureaucratic and by nature, a slow and tedious process.

I wish to advise this honourable House that the Ministry is presently reviewing the existing legislation and the Land Acquisition Bill (1994) with a view to enhancing the efficiency of the process of acquisition.

Parcel one as identified in the Appendix refers to land located along the Toco Main Road which is being acquired to facilitate improvement to road alignment for bridge construction.

2.40 p.m.

The land listed at item 2 is required to locate a T&TEC substation along the Valencia Road.

The land at item 3 refers to land located at Morton Street, Tunapuna, which is being acquired for the purpose of building a public library.

The land identified at item 4 is required for the construction of a bridge along the Maracas Royal Road.

The land at item 5 refers to lands being acquired in the parish of St. Patrick, Tobago, to facilitate the expansion of the Crown Point Airport runway.

The approval of the Parliament is also being sought for the acquisition of land cited at item 6 towards the improvement of the Churchill-Roosevelt Highway, from Golden Grove to Arima.

The land as outlined at item 7 is required to facilitate the East/West Corridor Highways Project, that is, the Priority Bus Route.

The parcel of land at item 8 is being acquired to further road development along the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway.

The parcel of land at item 9 refers to land designated for road improvement along Plymouth Road in the sister isle.

The lands listed at items 10 and 11 are required for laying the natural gas pipeline.

Land Acquisition
[HON. DR. R. MOHAMMED]

Friday, December 01, 1995

The parcel of land at item 12 refers to land at St. John's Trace, Avocat, designated for the provision of a recreation ground and access to said recreation ground.

Finally, the parcel of land at item 13 requires the approval of this House for the acquisition of land along the bank of the Maraval River, towards the provision of an access ramp to the river.

Hon. Members, these acquisitions are in keeping with sections 3, 4, and 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, Chap. 58:01.

I wish to reiterate at this point, my Government's commitment to ensure that the chronic delays which now attend the process of compensating persons whose lands have been acquired by the state are eliminated and that the procedure becomes more humane and efficient.

Question proposed.

Dr. Keith Rowley (*Diego Martin West*): Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin my very, very brief contribution by sincerely congratulating you on your ascension to high office, particularly since I was one of those who, on Monday, during the proceedings, unfortunately, did not express those sentiments as I would have liked. *[Interruption]* Contrary to what is being said by my Friend from Couva South, it was never deliberate, and my earlier apologies are multiplied on this occasion.

I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate sincerely all my former political opponents of great vintage—and the new ones—including fellow party members. *[Laughter]*

Mr. Speaker, permit me, as I crave your indulgence, to congratulate particularly, the Attorney General, the Member for Siparia, on her maiden speech and her acceptance to this high office. My Friend from Nariva, with whom I had the opportunity to work when he was a journalist, I am sure can now be more open in his expressions, and we look forward to his contributions.

I also would like to congratulate my colleague from Tobago West. I am particularly pleased to see that she has now been given a portfolio where she would take on the trials and tribulations of youth. I also would like specially to congratulate my colleague from Naparima. I did look for him in San Fernando West, but he was a little further east. I congratulate him on his second term in office.

I congratulate my colleague from Couva South who most certainly has set the standard by which he will be governed for the next five years, or five weeks.

I also particularly congratulate my Friend from Couva North whom I have always warned that his leader from Couva South will get him in trouble. Now that he is the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, no bigger trouble could he have found himself in.

On the matter before us—this land acquisition—I would like to indicate that we are in total support of it, as my colleague from Princes Town mentioned. It was a matter brought before this House by this team under the PNM administration and we are simply rectifying the procedural arrangements, so our support is virtually automatic.

However, the Minister did make a point which has caused me some concern. He indicated—and I take it to mean that he did it in the context of an earlier statement made by his colleague, the Member for Siparia, when a point was made that there were pieces of legislation which have not been proclaimed. One gets the impression that the Government has committed itself to proclaiming these pieces with dispatch, and will discover that there are reasons why some things are not proclaimed.

The Minister said that his Ministry is reviewing the 1994 Land Acquisition Act. I am a little concerned when I hear that. I thought that the reason these pieces were before us was as an aspect of the continuity of Government—that they were in the pipeline and the Government had not yet settled in and is not yet producing its own legislation and therefore the wheel was rolling on the things in the pipeline. When the Minister said that the Ministry was reviewing it in the context of the problems which have been identified as being associated with land acquisition, I wonder if he is doing that in the context that the previous Parliament had very exhaustively, as a result of matters brought by the Ministry with which I worked within the last term, looked at the problems surrounding land acquisition. As a result of that, very extensive work was done both in and out of the Parliament, and we arrived at a Bill which was passed in this House and which is just about ready to be proclaimed. Is it that it is being reviewed with a view to making changes to bring it back to the House? Or, is the Minister saying that, as in the context of that which was said by the Member for Siparia, that the Government will proceed to proclaim it and have it in force. The impression being given by the statement made earlier this afternoon was that there was some

Land Acquisition
[DR. K. ROWLEY]

Friday, December 01, 1995

inherent tardiness or negligence on the part of the previous administration why bills were not proclaimed.

Let me just take this example, Mr. Speaker, to demonstrate that this is not so. The Appropriation Bill, 1995, would have been passed very early in the year and did provide moneys to service the country in a certain way. The existing Land Acquisition Bill provides for land to be acquired where one publishes sections 3 and 4 and the land can be acquired and one can later come to Parliament and the process is completed. The new Land Acquisition Act recognizes the hardships that are associated with that approach and did make very fundamental changes to it. In fact, the Land Acquisition Act, 1994, makes provision for payment of as much as 80 per cent of the value of the land to be made available at the point of acquisition. Once that has become law, it then puts the onus on the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources to have that money available. I am just signalling to my colleague on the other side that as he proclaims that Act, he also has to have available the moneys to apply to every piece of acquisition.

We have proceeded in a certain way. I expected to be standing here speaking in an Appropriation Bill debate, but that is not to be. I am sure when that is done, the Minister will take into account what I have just said and make adequate provision to deal with parcels of land to be acquired because the new law when enacted will make an immediate call for substantial outlays of money.

2.50 p.m.

I simply want to mention that I did receive a copy of the statement by the Attorney General. Again, there was a piece of legislation called the Plant Protection Act, which was put forward as something which the last Government was tardy about. I simply want to remind new Members, that some of us who were here before might have a different story.

When I was Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, seeking to amend that legislation which required a special majority, the indications I got from those who now sit in Government and who were then on the other side, were that they had no intention of supporting any such legislation, because they were not here to make the Government look good. In fact, I did speak to the then Leader of the Opposition and I did make copies of the Bill available asking for comments, so that we could treat with any concerns that they might have had as we went into Parliament to treat with that Bill.

Regrettably, Mr. Speaker, no comments were received and the Bill did not progress any further. I hope now that a new attitude prevails, that the Bill will be brought here to Parliament. I give the assurance that when the Bill is brought here it will be supported, because it is in the interest of the people of Trinidad and Tobago. *[Desk thumping from Opposition]*

The Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (Hon. Dr. Reeza Mohammed): Mr. Speaker, I remember very clearly the presentation made by His Excellency, the President of Trinidad and Tobago at the opening of this Parliament, when he said, *toujours la politesse*. I will be very polite to the Member for Diego Martin West by saying, thank you very much for your advice in connection with this item, Sir.

I would like to also thank the Members on that side of the House for agreeing to support this Bill. I know that some Members in the Opposition may have their reservations, but ironically, this is exactly how I have always envisaged our much maligned "Unity Government" as functioning; working for the common good of Trinidad and Tobago. Thank you, hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That this House approves the decision of the president to acquire the lands described in the appendix for the public purposes specified.

APPENDIX

Description of Land	Public purposes for which to be acquired
1. The following parcel of land containing 748.5m ² , more or less situate near Bridge 1/3 Toco Main Road, in the Ward of Manzanilla, in the County of St. Andrew, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated August 3, 1994 executed under Survey Order No. 106 of 1993 and filed in his office.	Improvement to Road Alignment for Bridge Construction

Description of Land	Public purposes for which to be acquired
<p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>A parcel of land comprising 748.5m² more or less, situate on the eastern side near Bridge 1/3 Toco Main Road in the Ward of Manzanilla in the County of St. Andrew and said to belong now or formerly to Bissram Batchar.</p> <p>This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed as GA 103 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port of Spain.</p> <p>2. The following parcel of land containing 0.1090 hectares, more or less, situate at Valencia Road in the Ward of Manzanilla, in the County of St. Andrew, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated June 22, 1993 executed under Survey Order No. 114/91 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>A parcel of land comprising 0.1090 hectares more or less situate at Valencia Road, Valencia in the Ward of Manzanilla in the County of St. Andrew which was leased by the State to Ms. Camilla Charles for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1214 Folio 13 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port of Spain.</p>	<p>North Oropouche (T&TEC) Sub-Station</p>

Description of Land	Public purposes for which to be acquired
<p>3. The following parcels of land containing 1141.2m², more or less, situate at Morton Street, Tunapuna, in the Ward of Tacarigua, in the County of St. George, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated October 27, 1994 executed under Survey No. 141/90 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A parcel of land comprising 1141.2m² situate on the western side of Morton Street, Tunapuna, in the Ward of Tacarigua, in the County of St. George said to belong now or formerly to Jessie E. Crompton.</p> <p>This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1140 Fol. 173 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port of Spain.</p>	A Public Library
<p>4. The following parcel of land containing 0.0257 hectares, more or less, situate at Maracas Royal Road, St. Joseph in the Ward of Tacarigua, in the County of St. George, described in the Schedule hereto and colouring raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated June 8, 1994 executed under Survey Order No. 129/90 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A parcel of land containing approximately 0.0257 hectares situate on the western side of the Maracas Royal Road, in the Ward of Tacarigua in the County of St. George said to belong now or formerly to Trevor Hewitt.</p>	Construction of Bridge 3/1 - Maracas Royal Road

Description of Land	Public purposes for which to be acquired
<p>This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed as GA 98 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port of Spain.</p> <p>5. The following parcels of land containing 9.1774 hectares, more or less, situate on the northern side of Crown Point Runway, in the Ward of Tobago, in the Parish of St. Patrick, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated May 16, 1994, executed under Survey Order No. 93/88 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Twenty-six (26) parcels of land together comprising 9.1774 hectares situate on the northern side of Crown Point Runway between Gaskin Bay Road on the east and lands of L. Stewart on the west, on the north partly by Crompstain Trace and lands of E. Young and D. Pantin, in the Parish of St. Patrick in the Ward of Tobago and consisting of:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2011.9m² said to belong now or formerly to Percy, 2. 1626.8m² said to belong now or formerly to J. and R. Crooks, 3. 7514.3m² said to belong now or formerly to James Percy, 4. 1597.8m² said to belong now or formerly to Gaston, 5. 2039.4m² said to belong now or formerly to F. Walcott, 	<p>Crown Point Airport Runway Expansion</p>

Description of Land	Public purposes for which to be acquired
6. 6231.4m ² said to belong now or formerly to E. Joseph,	
7. 5031.9m ² said to belong now or formerly to P. George,	
8. 6134.1m ² said to belong now or formerly to J. N. Scipio,	
9. 945.3m ² said to belong now or formerly to L. Stewart,	
10. 380.1m ² said to belong now or formerly to Quacco,	
11. 169.9m ² located on the west of lands of N. Percy,	
12. 464.5m ² said to belong now or formerly to N. Percy,	
13. 6445.7m ² said to belong now or formerly to A. Henry,	
14. 4053.7m ² said to belong now or formerly to D. Chapman,	
15. 1184.9m ² said to belong now or formerly to Heirs of Cornelius,	
16. 1376.6m ² said to belong now or formerly to Heirs of Cornelius,	
17. 1485.7m ² said to belong now or formerly to Heirs of Cornelius,	
18. 1590.6m ² said to belong now or formerly to Heirs of Cornelius,	
19. 6186.2m ² said to belong now or formerly to Samuel Cornelius,	

Description of Land	Public purposes for which to be acquired
<p>20. 8404.7m² said to belong now or formerly to P. Wills,</p> <p>21. 5807.7m² said to belong now or formerly to M. Samuel and Blake,</p> <p>22. 4463.8m² said to belong now or formerly to D. Melville,</p> <p>23. 983.3m² located west of lands of E. Joseph,</p> <p>24. 2581.5m² said to belong now or formerly to E. Young,</p> <p>25. 9114.3m² said to belong now or formerly to E Andrews,</p> <p>26. 3984.2m² said to belong now or formerly to P. Chapman,</p>	
<p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed as AN 153 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House,</p>	
<p>6. The following parcel of land containing 1166.4m² more or less, situate on the southern side of Churchill Roosevelt Highway in the Ward of Arima, in the County of St. George described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated January 24, 1994 executed under Suvey Order No. 79/93 and filed in his office.</p>	<p>Improvement to the Churchill Roosevelt Highway from Golden Grove to Arima</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>A parcel of land containing 1166.4 m² situate on the southern side of the Churchill Roosevelt Highway, approximately 100m west of O'Meara Road, Arima and said to belong now or formerly to Dean Ali.</p>	

	which to be acquired
<p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>A parcel of land comprising 527.8m² more or less situate at Mahogany Trace, Gasparillo, East of the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway in the Ward of Pointe-a-Pierre in the County of Victoria and said to belong now or formerly to Ivy Adams.</p> <p>This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1140 Folio 116 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port of Spain.</p> <p>9. The following parcels of land containing 2708.2m², more or less, situate at Plymouth Road, in the Ward of Tobago, in the Parish of St. Andrew, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of surveys and dated December 23, 1994 executed under survey Order No.93/92 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Two (2) parcels of land comprising together 2708.2m² situate at Plymouth Road, Scarborough, north of the Claude Noel Highway in the Parish of St. Andrew in the Ward of Tobago and consisting as follows: (1) 903.4m² said to belong now or formerly to Loveland O'Brien and (2) 1804.8m² said to belong now or formerly to Violet Seymonson.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Road Improvement</p>

Description of Land	Public purposes for
---------------------	---------------------

	which to be acquired
<p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1140 Folio 175 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port of Spain.</p> <p>10. The following parcels of land containing together 8.5186 hectares, more or less, situate between Phoenix Park and Baboolal Road, in the Wards of Couva and Pointe-a-Pierre, in the Counties of Caroni and Victoria, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on plans of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated September 26, 1986 executed under Survey Order No. 32/83 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Several parcels of land comprising together 8.5186 hectares and situate between Phoenix Park on the west and Baboolal Road, Pointe-a-Pierre on the east, in the Wards of Couva and Pointe-a-Pierre, in the Counties of Caroni and Victoria and consisting of:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2.3494 ha said to belong now or formerly to Caroni (1975) Limited; 2. 0.2046 ha said to belong now or formerly to Caroni (1975) Limited; 3. 0.0182 ha said to belong now or formerly to Kalloo; 4. 0.0162 ha said to belong now or formerly to Forres Park Estate; 5. 0.0157 ha said to belong now or formerly to Ballee; 	<p>Natural Gas Pipeline</p>
Description of Land	Public purposes for

	which to be acquired
6. 0.0121 ha said to belong now or formerly to Maharaj;	
7. 0.0129 ha said to belong now or formerly to Ballee;	
8. 0.0136 ha said to belong now or formerly to Nanoo;	
9. 0.1343 ha said to belong now or formerly to Forres Park Estate;	
10. 0.1370 ha said to belong now or formerly to P. Bousset;	
11. 0.1594 ha said to belong now or formerly to C. Christopher;	
12. 0.0525 ha said to belong now or formerly to C. Hacklin;	
13. 0.0711 ha said to belong now or formerly to N. Cabo;	
14. 3.8969 ha said to belong now or formerly to Forres Park Estate;	
15. 0.3573 ha said to belong now or formerly to Rattan;	
16. 0.0538 ha said to belong now or formerly to Trinidad Cement Limited;	
17. 0.0186 ha said to belong now or formerly to Ramkissoo Dowlet;	
18. 0.2232 ha said to belong now or formerly to Bhagwansingh;	

Description of Land	Public purposes for
---------------------	---------------------

	which to be acquired
<p>19. 0.0716 ha said to belong now or formerly to Dhowtal;</p> <p>20. 0.2526 ha said to belong now or formerly to Ramsaroop;</p> <p>21. 0.3398 ha said to belong now or formerly to Singh;</p> <p>22. 0.1078 ha said to belong now or formerly to Singh.</p> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on survey plans filed as Nos. A.N. 79, A.N. 79A, A.N. 79B, and A.N. 79C in the vault of the Land and Surveys Department, Red House, Port of Spain.</p>	
<p>11. The following parcels of land containing together 7.2698 hectares, more or less, situate between Guaracara-Tabaquite Union Road and Golconda, in the Wards of Pointe-a-Pierre and Naparima, in the County of Victoria, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on four plans of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated September 16, 1986, executed under Survey Order No. 91/81 and filed in his office.</p>	Natural Gas Pipeline
THE SCHEDULE	
<p>Several parcels of land comprising together 7.2698 hectares and situate between Guaracara-Tabaquite Union Road and Golconda, in the Wards of Pointe-a-Pierre and Naparima, in the County of Victoria and consisting of:-</p>	
<p>1. 0.0573 ha said to belong now or formerly to Caroni (1975) Limited;</p> <p>2. 0.2138 ha said to belong now or formerly Caroni (1975) Limited;</p>	

Description of Land	Public purposes for which to be acquired
<p>3. 0.2366 ha said to belong now or formerly to Caroni (1975) Limited;</p> <p>4. 0.9519 ha said to belong now formerly to Caroni (1975) Limited;</p> <p>5. 5.8102 ha said to belong now or formerly to Caroni (1975) Limited.</p> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on the survey plans filed as Nos. A.N 73B, A.N 73C, A.N.73D and A.N. 73E in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port of Spain.</p> <p>12. The following parcels of land containing together 1.8566 hectares, more or less, situate at St. John's Trace, Avocat, in the Ward of Siparia, in the County of St. Patrick, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated July 21, 1988, executed under Survey Order No. 17/87 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Three parcels of land comprising together 1.8566 hectares situated about 440 metres on the southern side of St. John's Trace which comes off the Siparia Road at Avocat in the Ward of Siparia, in the County of St. Patrick and described as follows:</p> <p>1. 0.0246 hectares, more or less, and said to belong now or formerly to Beepath Hassai;</p>	<p>A Recreation Ground and Access thereto</p>
Description of Land	Public purposes for

	which to be acquired
<p>2. 1.0121 hectares, more or less, said to belong now or formerly to Bopart;</p> <p>3. 0.8199 hectares, more or less, said to belong now or formerly to Bopart and others.</p> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed as R. H. 168 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House Port of Spain.</p> <p>13. The following parcels of land containing 494.5 m² more or less, situate at the bank of the Maraval River, in the Ward of Diego Martin, in the County of St. George, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey filed by the Director of Surveys executed under Survey Order No. 23/92 and filed in his Office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Two parcels of land comprising 203.2m² and 291.3m² situated at the bank of the Maraval River obliquely opposite east of La Sieva R. C. School and west of the Saddle Road, Maraval, said to belong now or formerly to E. Phillip and N. Lewis.</p> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port of Spain.</p>	<p>Providing an access ramp to the Maraval River</p>

Adjournment

Friday, December 01, 1995

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to Friday, December 8, 1995 at 1.30 p.m.

Mr. Valley: Mr. Speaker, could the Leader of Government Business inform this honourable House—as is the custom—what business we would be transacting on that day?

Hon. K. Persad-Bissessar: Mr. Speaker, Members on the other side would certainly be apprised at the earliest opportunity and time of what would be happening next Friday.

Mr. Panday: Mr. Speaker, Members on the other side must appreciate that this is a new Government.

Mr. Valley: Mr. Speaker, we do appreciate the fact that this is a new Government and obviously we want to give all the assistance that is required. For simply good order, however, we would like to know what we would be discussing, because obviously it means that the Government would be introducing legislation and would want to debate on the same day. *[Interruption]* Well then we would have a two-minute Parliament where the Government would merely be introducing.

Question put and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 2.57 p.m.