

33 L M Browne-Evans

Member:

Does any other Honorable Member wish to speak to the motion?

(loud noise, many voices) Honorable Member for Devonshire North,
Honorable [Learned?] Member Devonshire North, Mrs. Lois Browne-
Evans.

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[0:15] Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm thankful that at least I have
helped to bring some democracy into this chamber today.

Member:

[0:27] And we thank you for that.

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[0:28] And to help this country a little further on to realize
that we must allow people of different viewpoints to have their
say. People pay lip service to contribution and lip service to
democracy, but when it comes to it they really don't want you to
exercise [0:58] that democracy. I am glad that we have reached
the stage now when we're going to soon be called upon to vote on
this matter. I've made it clear where I'll be voting, and Mr.
Speaker, I'm -- Active Speaker -- I'm so glad that the Lord has

allowed me to live to 66, and that in the process I developed and learned sufficiently that I have matured [1:28] that I have matured to the point that hysterically, uh, arguments and, as they say, rhetoric no longer can sway me from what I know is the truth. I also know that I have always from the time I was a young person -- people asked me, "How did you know you wanted to be in, a lawyer?" I was always interested in things that seemed to me to [1:58] uphold what I didn't even know what it was then. I thought it was just right and wrong, but I think now I even know that what, in fact, it must have been is justice. (several crowd members agree)

Mr. Speaker, it is no accident then that I spent most of my time as a lawyer defending people rather than in the corporate law and some other branches of the law that takes advantage of the law to allow loopholes for people [2:28] like in the corporate fields to avoid taxation, et cetera. It's my opinion, my opinion why I stayed in the criminal law so long, and now I do the little law I do, I do [like reals?], et cetera, and I'm not advertising. I have a conscience, and very early as, I think, one of the best criminal lawyers on this island, I gave (break in audio) doing criminal law cases dealing with drugs. I didn't need anybody else [2:58] to come tell me then that it was a ruination and abomination of our children, and the moment that

hard drugs started to come into this country I could see where it was going. I had traveled abroad and I knew what it was doing in other countries. I knew we were not an island unto ourselves, and that ultimately it would come here. I thank God for the privilege of going abroad and stop being insular and small-minded and narrow-minded.

("ooh" noises, many voices)

I at one time [3:28] regretted having to go to England and I went to America.

I wanted to get American school and college, but I believe that accidents of fate or certainly by the same former school teacher, Sir Edward Richards, that my colleague and my friend over there from Smith South, the Mr. Jim Woolridge referred to as his school mentor [3:58] for Edward Richards, God rest his soul. He was also a mentor of mine and he played a lot of a part in my life, because he helped me and he directed my path to Middle Temple in England, and he, [4:18] too, might've said to me like Mr. Woolridge where you didn't use those words; he said today that Edward said to him that if he behaved [4:28] himself where he sat here looking around this august Chamber some time ago, he said if you behave yourself you might be able to have it arranged that he could be here.

(muttering, many voices)

I never heard such a, such a blatant! I don't know how he could be a Mr. Speaker! Had no shame!

(laughter and shouting, many voices)

I thought you got into Parliament by making speeches, [4:58] going up and down the island knocking on doors. That's what I had to do, and then winning the people's vote! But I don't know about this arrangement that he had. Well, Sir Edward was the Premier and I guess he could arrange a lot of things.

Audience Member:

[5:14] He was not (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[5:15] But I want to let him know that he has -- he strayed from his mentor, 'cause I have a copy of the journals of 1971 here, and when they had the last bill about homosexuals, I'll let him hear the names that... First I'll tell him who [were?] the [nerve?] for killing debate. Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans -- thank God my name start with a B, I get at the top of the list most times -- W.M. [Cook?].

Member:

[5:46] [Gordon?]?

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[5:47] No, this is for -- not to kill the debate. Dr. [Givett De Hoigt?]. Dr. E. James -- that's another schoolmate taught by Edward. S.W. [Low?]. (laughter) [Low?]. . . I know where he would've been today! R.O. Marshall. Mrs. G., Mrs. Gloria McPhee. [5:17] Mrs. J.M.S. Patton -- another lawyer. Mr. J.E. [Herman?], another lawyer, [August 1?], all sorts of people. Sir Edward Richard.

Audience Member:

[6:29] Another lawyer!

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[6:30] [Nay?], another lawyer. Your teacher, you strayed from the teacher [Edwards?] here. (laughter, many voices) That's what I want you to know. (shouting, many voices) Now, Mister...

(shouting, many voices) Yeah, [so she?], [so she?] been a bad student! (laughter)

(laughter, many voices)

Anyway, those are the journals -- you can look at them -- from 1971 and the journals of today's debate will be there also at the future for other young students of historical to look at.

[7:00] Mr. Speaker, you see, my name was there in '71.

Member:

[7:07] Jim, Jim, Jim.

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[7:08] Well, obviously. I didn't bother embarrass some people and call out who was for killing debate!

(laughter, talking and shouting, many voices)

I didn't bother tell you who was for it, so leave my, leave my good friend from [Sandstorm?], Mr. [Cox?], out of it. He's consistent! (laughter)

So Mr. Speaker, let me say, [taking stands?], I watched a weird movie, and it wasn't on any, [7:38] (inaudible) on blue channels or something.

(muttering, many voices)

[Hugh?], (inaudible)!

Member:

[7:43] [That's what we're doing?!]

(laughter, many voices)

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[7:47] Oh! (laughter) Somebody was taught by Lot's house in glass houses today! I think Jesus (inaudible)! (laughter)
(laughter and talking, many voices)

Pardon me, Mr. Speaker. The Minister for Tourism really amazed me today. Some other days he surprised me, but today he amazed me. (laughter) Of all the people, he has amazed me, but I want to get to the real issue. This movie was talking about The Stand, [8:17] and it seemed to have gone on for several nights, and it's on network television, and it's by somebody who seems to make these way out movies, and this movie had a man [rascal?]. At one time he was a rat. Another time he was the devil. Another time he was just like some monster from outer space. And there was the plague had descended on the United States, and then it would show you the different [8:47] states and all these dead bodies in the... And I didn't know whether I was watching Rwanda or what I was watching, but it went on for... It finalized last night, and I think the end of it was that good triumphed over evil, and some part of the movie they had three people on the wooden cross, and they were going to have them killed by torture, and these wheels would turn [9:17] and dismember them. Now, I thought, well, Lord, that's the closest to what used to go on in the past,
(muttering, many voices)

and I said, have we turned the clock back? But it took a long time to get to the message, which was that we must love our fellow man as ourselves, and about five people survive and were left at the end to start a new world, I guess. I thought, well, [9:47] when I saw the word 'stand' I thought it was going to be about people taking a stand for rights and people taking a stand for, you know, something they believe in.

(muttering, many voices)

Now, those two [ex-Mafia?] who joined Sir Edwards and helped the UBP stay in power, please stop fighting among yourselves and, and Mr. [Henry?]. OK, now some of his [Mafia?] people [10:17] started a political people and we heard today it made life better for a lot of people, and if you don't like it all the history books will reveal [Arlo?] Francis, [Walter?] Robinson, Lewis Brown, Evan, Edward [Dijon?], [Mose Allen?], and a lot of people, including [Berkeley students?] created something that's going down in history and has brought some rights for people. Now, Mister --

Member:

[10:40] (inaudible)

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[10:41] Now, Mr. Speaker...

Member:

[10:43] Come back, come back (inaudible).

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[10:45] Well, if you interrupt --

Member:

[10:47] Come, come back [down?].

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[10:48] If you interrupt you'll get told these things.

Member:

[10:51] You're welcome, ma'am.

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[10:52] Thank you. Mr. Speaker, taking a stand is the point.

People take their stand whether you like my stand or I like the other. When we took a stand in 1963 to usher in party politics in this country, I heard all kinds of argument by people who now are on the bandwagon, who now know that the Progress Labor Party

[11:22] holds out the only really hope for this country's salvation.

(loud noise, many voices)

Ohh! (laughter) [Got you now?!]! It's a conscience [vote?], but people were taking a stand then, and it wasn't an easy stand, 'cause this country was ruled by a lot of people who had a lot of power and economic, had the country in economic (inaudible), and I can assure you to take a stand then was harder than it is [11:52] to take a stand now, because I can assure you we even have [annuitized?] mortgages. You can get a mortgage for 15 years or 20 years, can't be called in, but in our day they could have [ripped it back?] in three months notice, "Give me all my money or this is it," and that was the order of the day.

(muttering, many voices)

So taking a stand has some [conscience?]. So I want to say to the people [12:22] that are taking a stand on this issue one way or the other, once your conscience is clear that you have taken a stand, that you haven't been unjust to another person, and to prove your stand you haven't vilified another person, that you haven't behaved in an unrighteous and sinful manner, that you have not broken God's commandments in trying to get somebody to do what you want to do, well then, when it's all over you're quite all right, [12:52] because, Mr. Speaker, I know that tomorrow or tonight after hearings that if God spares I see the

sunlight another day and I meet a certain few people I know, I'm happy -- he talked about his grandchildren, I can talk about my grandchildren -- I'm happy to know that my children are born again -- I got one that's in the faith, and I've got a, an adopted 20 year old that I hope I'll get her in the same position my 29 [13:22] and 31 year old children are, accept the Lord, and they do believe that people have a right to their opinions and they don't browbeat nobody with them.

Go into [prayer?] -- my daughter came up here today and she said, "Mama, I heard (inaudible) different people have views, they're crazy, some don't like what you said, but I'm letting you know as far as I'm concerned you're in the hands of the Lord and [13:52] we'll keep praying for you."

(loud noise, many voices)

Now, that's what I like! Now, if she turned it into a bigot or a fanatic, I would've thought the Lord -- I'd have to go back on my knees. I have produced (laughter, many voices) a bigot and a fanatic, and there's two things I cannot bear! I saw some fanatical people in my day. Unlike Mr. [Woolridge?], I used to come up this gallery and listen to the debates [14:22] of the early Parliamentarian who didn't believe people should have the right to vote (inaudible) 21. I listened to their speeches -- I believe they quoted the Bible then, too, some of them, to prove

that it was wrong -- [Han?], what they call it, [Han's?]
children, or...?

(many voices)

Yeah, you know, they'd already divided us up, and that one member of Parliament said black people was ineducable, that parents had great expectations over and above [14:52] the children's possibilities, and was a Minister for Education -- not a Minister, they call it, something they called it...

(loud noise, many voices)

No, [wasn't a member?] before that or something, Director of Chairman. It was terrible! The things and the way people believe that you subjugate another person if their views were different, the vilification that went on of Dr. E. F. Gordon, and the nine -- [15:22] at one time we had nine black members in Parliament, Mr. Speaker, and that was a great team, a great struggle, a lot of manipulation, a lot of maneuvering, and I've heard the number from Hamilton East, or Hamilton West, Mr. Frederick, talk about his grandfather.

Member:

[15:37] Honorable, Honorable.

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[15:38] Honorable I said, sir. Honorable. I (inaudible) listening to his program. I listened from beginning to end on certainly the other program throughout the night, and it was all right as far as I was concerned, but that same grandfather he talked about, if he could come back and tell him what a struggle it was to get one black man in Devonshire, that's where he was first, and he could tell him that he [did?] Devonshire Parish 'cause I live there and I think it's a liberal parish, but I am telling you -- no, the great, great, [16:08] great, great, great, great father -- I forget you're so young down there (laughter, many voices)

-- and that was it. Now, that was a hard day for us to get representatives, and they were tortured, they had to go sm-- that's why Bermudians talk out of one side of their mouth and both sides at the same time. We have spent some years being deceptive so as to make one step forward, but a lot of people make one step forward and [16:38] two backwards, and I'll close ranks as being hindered because of that. You'll hear the atheists and the agnostics will say that's why we can't get ahead, 'cause it keeps you (inaudible) subjugation and this and that and (inaudible) with the Bible and all kinds of quotations.

I knew when I went to college that my brain was going to be challenged, [16:58] and I'd rather you believe in evolution or

you believe in the theory that God made the world in seven days, and that there is life after death, but no amount of my mother's presence 3,000 miles away, and there I am at 21, if I didn't have that belief and pray I couldn't come back after five years in the metropolitan area where people have free speech. [17:28] Hyde Park Corner, you have a soapbox every word, everybody's fighting off every kind of theology, every kind of ideology, every kind of view, from A to Z, and this is...

(chatter, many voices)

Mister... Mister... I'm not trying to, but I tried to, not to hear him. I know you're listening. And this is what I'm saying: if you train (inaudible) upright, if you give them that [17:58] Christian values that people wanted to have, if you truly give them the real Christian message, not the letter of the law but the spirit, you cannot tell me people use all passages out of the Bible just like lawyers. You could take the same sentence, twist it around, and get two different meanings, and you could use God given brain to understand it. God help real estate agents when they're selling to a buyer [in Kuala?].

[18:28]

(laughter, many voices)

You know, if lawyers are in trouble, real estate agents are [third?], you know, and if lawyers go to hell you can bet some

real estate agents is going to be there before, I could assure you. (laughter)

Now, Mister, Mister... (chatter, many voices) Mr. Speaker, all I'm saying -- if you don't train 'em up, this is what's going to happen, but if you don't train your child, your children to have that Christian [18:58] love... You know what my mother used to say? The best phrase -- my grandmother brought me up, and that helps me even more, and I'm very ecumenical because she would spend all of Sunday morning at St. Augustine's Anglican church for Anglicans, then she would leave and go in the afternoon (laughter) -- it is not the Anglican -- (inaudible) Anglican church now and doesn't agree with its minister, I understand, at St. Mark's Church. You and him have a difference of opinion, [19:28] but he's (inaudible). Let's bring it up here.

So Mr. Speaker -- and after she left the Anglican church, she would go to Salvation Army or the Methodist here in town. [Really of?] living on the outskirts of town you can come in. I will go to the Salvation Army Sunday school in the afternoon, and then at night she would go to the Baptist church in a hall here on Church Street. Now, I know there's a little hall and a little white-haired man named Reverend Stewart, [19:58] so I now returned to Baptist church, 'cause when I came over to England I

found -- I went to all the churches and I found that to be the most appropriate for my needs, and I've been there ever since. Now, it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the Christian values my grandmother taught me is a good guideline for the future. Nobody has been able to make me deviate [20:28] from the fact that you must love your fellow man, and Mr. Speaker, so well have I loved my -- and love your enemies -- I have loved some enemies that I don't even know why they came out of the woodwork and became my enemies. I think just my achievements alone made a lot of people envy and become my enemies in the early years. I don't understand why, but I can remember... It seems like being the first woman in the court of law, [20:58] that got some people against me, some judges when I had to fight my way and open up some pathways, but you take a stand and you go ahead. I remember once they told me -- I took such a stand, I told a rude judge that if he doesn't like being here he could leave and go back to Africa, and that got me headlines in the newspapers, but it was a bigoted one and therefore he had to be told.

So speaking one's mind and one's convictions and [21:28] demonstrating integrity has not gotten in me any hard [up?] water, it has made it easier for me to sleep at night, to survive some opposition, some strong wind, some persecution, and

some just plain outright male chauvinism and some sexist treatment.

("mm-hmm"s, many voices)

But having had to survive -- [21:58] I remember talking to all male juries -- can you imagine? -- for eleven years after I came here every time I was in the court, in Supreme Court, they would say, "Swear in 12 good men." (laughter) You know, I had to convince these 12 good men [what?] of my claim. I said, "Lord, am I ever to see women sitting on that jury?" I say praise the Lord, I go down there now, the majority of them are women. The men always apply for excuses of business and (inaudible) money [22:28] and the rest of it. They get exemptions and exemptions. You usually find most women on the jury now. But I remember it was a happy day for me. I was still sitting down in that corner down there. I was able to get our former member, Mr. Ernest [Reeves?], another young lawyer, and an older lawyer, Mr. [John Packey?], to agree, and they've brought in the amendment to the Juror's Act, and we got women on the jury.

[22:58] Now, that was one of the old laws, and some people behaved like what was there was inviolate, so when I interpolated today that that was 1907, it was a good year -- my mother was born that year on November the 11th -- (laughter, many voices) but if she were alive today she'd tell you what was

wrong and what was archaic in the thinking of people at that time, we would know that many of the laws passed at that time [23:28] should be changed, and they were based upon intolerance and bias. So when anyone thinks that because it's there it's God-driven, I want to let some people know, Mr. Speaker and the members of Parliament, I'm not preaching to the Christians or the church people, I'm not preaching to the gallery. They could not -- we're so used to having it empty, I'm not used to having a full gallery, so, you know, I don't understand it. I'm preaching to your members [23:58] that's out there in the audience (inaudible) people in those days had a intolerant mind, so the laws that they passed obviously must need reviewing, just about all of them, the suffragette movement, the right to vote, some of the criminal code has been amended, we have abolished that barbaric law called the cat of nail tales, may it never come back, (members of crowd agreeing) and even though some people around here [24:28] can't manage their children, can't manage their neighbors children, can't manage their society, and they think, well, if you can still have crime, you can still have robbery, you're hearing one or two phonetics, (inaudible) phonetic column of the newspaper, page four usually, (laughter, many voices) and, and they say "Bring back the cat of nine tails!" You know, but all America now, right now is telling you that to rip the young man [fry or faith?] [24:58] in Singapore

in public is inhuman, uncivilized. It was wrong (inaudible), of course. It got to the President of the United States to intervene.

Member:

[25:14] (inaudible, off-mic)

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[25:15] Well, they reduced it. You gotta do things in stages, gradually. (laughter, many voices)

That's what they taught us. Next time they might not give 'em any. (shouting, many voices)

No, you can't say that, either!

Dr. John D. Stubbs (UBP):

[25:28] Just, just a little order please.

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[25:30] So, Mr. Speaker -- but you always know that the people that cry loudest for the most barbaric treatment for others always cry the hardest if something happens and it comes home and steps on their toes. Mr. Speaker, I remember people who would say to me earlier in my years, "Oh, how could you defend criminals?" But Mr. Speaker, when it began to hit home and

their families [26:00] and their children and their grandchildren, and they would come to my door and they'd be crying and they'd be saying a totally different story. They want a lawyer, they want it fast, (inaudible), the police has got 'em locked up, you don't know where they are, Somerset Police Station or in King George's (inaudible). You had a lord that came from abroad, which is Lord [Pip?] that pulled that sail down there to Western (inaudible), the stinking hole, [26:30] hellhole of Calcutta. Now, that's what he described it. Can you imagine, you have people that say "We are interested in rehabilitation for people, we are interested in correcting the errors of society, and at the same time believing I could invade your privacy and leave it as to be an offense?" I mean, such illogical thinking I cannot understand. [27:00] People who should be in the vanguard for this sort of thing are, convince themselves, God told me in a Bible written by some human men many years ago in a foreign language, been translated, been changed, (loud noise, many voices) they got new Bible versions, they got old Bible versions, they got King James' Version, they got this (inaudible) version of the narrative of the days of Christ, [27:30] and that somewhere it's inviolate that what is decent, what should tell them we must not criminalize and continue to criminalize those in our society that's weaker and frailer than ourselves. If they wish to believe that

homosexuality is something that people are falling victim to, the more the reason to be sorry for them. If it's in their genes, [28:00] as others can -- then we know they are not to blame. We know that the inbreeding and the, and the crossover of genes that's in all the rest of us produces... You know, unless it produces among the Lord's child, people don't believe something is genes. Unless you produce a child with a harelip or some kind of deformity, they're going to believe that other mutations happen.

When I started law there was a thing called the McNorton Rule. [28:30] It was very simple then. It started in 1896, 18- -- I'm trying to remember which right now -- but all they decided, whether you were sane or not sane, whether you knew right from wrong, and that was an easy test, so the mental institutions of the world -- in England they had a place called (inaudible), and down here they had Bedlam, and (inaudible) what passed as asylum when I was living down in Devonshire and how they treated those people, Lord help us, [29:00] and thank God Dr. [Trumpman tamed?] this country with a slogan. Now there's hope and some understanding of psychiatry, and many people who had been put away down there with what we call now as a ordinary breakdown were left there at the mercy of -- they're not out and in society and performing. They had no concept of the development

of the mental processes of the brain. The brain is a mysterious [29:30], you know, part of our anatomy. There is no person, even a (inaudible) scientist this year, has been able to understand the infinite and divine creation of all of those cells and all those (inaudible) in the brain. So therefore, when other men prejudge to say "I know the mind of that man, that man only does such and such [30:00] because he likes it or he wants to be that way," we are judging, because you don't know... When Dr., Dr. Stubbs, the Honorable and Learned Member, produced the [Wonfordon?] Report -- some people have never heard of it, and it was produced after exhaustive study in England. In 1957 it's [aged?], and we are always so far behind [30:30] in Bermuda, but I guess some people ain't ready up to now and don't intend to read it, even after the debate. What I hope that this has done for everyone, whether the -- what you call it? -- the vote is for or against, whether it's lost or won, that some people will keep reading so Dr. Stubbs will have done a service to this community, because it will make people begin to read on an otherwise [31:00] obscure topic that some people had not read about. I have always been fascinated -- I think if I wasn't a lawyer I would've happily been a psychiatrist because I would have deeply loved to be able to understand the human behavior and the reasons why it, we do the things we do, why people like -- oh, now, you hear people telling they're having flashbacks,

people believe the flashback [31:30] of what happened to them when they was a child and all the rest. It's an interesting study and sphere of knowledge that is yet developing and coming in.

So, Mr. Speaker, believe in that way we were very early in our criminal defense to bring in psychiatrists from abroad in this case, in this country, and Mr. Honorable Francis and I had the privilege to defend the man in [32:00] 1956, and we brought in a learned psychiatrist from the United States. We were helped in our study and our research (inaudible) by the late Dr. C. A. Smith, who was a good physician who studied, even though he was only a GP, he was interested in other branches and [phases?] of the, of the medicine, and he was quick to make context [32:30] in his study and while he lived abroad and taught abroad, and he directed us to the psychiatrist. Mr. Speaker, it was a learning experience in the court to listen to the psychiatrist try to educate none other than some of the Victorian archaic judges that was around in those days, and they continued to dismiss these theories. In 1959, Mr. Speaker, [33:00] there was another thing that came out of the McNorton rule, McNort... Uh, the -- was the law about diminished responsibility. And Mr. Speaker, I couldn't see why our Attorney General didn't bring that law here and change the book. That's another ancient law, but what did

they do finally? They changed it in 1978, so long after it had been changed in England, [33:30] so long after many people by impulses of certain things in the brain had gone out and committed certain acts, and when I used it in the famous case in 1959 of (inaudible), I had the privilege to bring to this country a second cousin of mine, a psychiatrist, late -- now she's dead, too -- Dr. Mildred Maynard [Rosso?], and the Crown was forced to [34:00] send to England and get a man named Dr. [Reeve?]. The end result of that case, Mr. Speaker, was for the first time the British government sent to this country, at the expense of you the taxpayers that was around then, and they said you should have these people in your country. They sent the, the home secretaries, psychiatrists, and neuros, neurologists, and, uh, and a person [34:30] that would take the encephalograph, and they investigated and they found that the man was suffering from a mental illness, less than crazy but suffering a mental illness recognizable in the law.

Member:

[34:49] (inaudible, off-mic)

(break in audio)

Member:

[34:56] ...very colorful ora- oratory. I just wondered if she could tell us when she's going to -- if she's going to put the question any time soon.

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[35:06] I am not the one to put the question. He can get up, right, or somebody else (inaudible). The Premier hasn't spoken, he could put the question, OK? Now, Mr. Speaker, this country again got another education in the stages of development in the human mind. They readily amended the criminal code [35:30] and it's been amended so many times I wonder why don't just drop the new one. Every other time the Attorney General and anybody else wanted -- I remember during the times of Mister, (pause) uh, [Bosselin?] -- he was the Solicitor General and used to prosecute -- if he lost the case and there was some [phase?] of the law that he could change, we got a law through (inaudible) amending the criminal code. [36:00] One that he amended was took away the right of seven preemptory channels, and he amended it, so this, this criminal code being amended today is nothing new and is long over-... It's not written in a sacrosanct. This bill has been amended many, many times, and it was amended one more time... It's [36:30] going to be amended yet another time in the future. Now...
(loud talking, many voices)

Mr. Speaker -- (sound of gavel) one thing I know what --

Dr. John D. Stubbs (UBP):

[36:39] Quiet on behalf of the court.

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[36:40] -- the days when that government brings me some bills that [bores me?], they're going to have to listen to this one tonight. (laughter, many voices)

So Mr. Speaker, that takes care of the people that don't wish, you know, as far as I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker, they figure that we got all the votes, they may have conquered them, and they think they know who they are, but I want the issues and the real things to be... We can't [37:10] go on as a backward country.

(sounds of agreement, many voices)

One time I said in another place -- I remembered somewhat I went to another country and I had to say it. [They was?] talking about it (inaudible). I said Bermuda is a sick society, and it still suffers from this kind of sickness.

("mm-hmm"s, many voices)

It has aberrations suddenly and everybody rips themselves up into (laughter, many voices) this (inaudible), and then, you know, and then after that you go [plant this?], and you see all kinds of wrongs being, [37:40] going on day after day and nobody

does nothing about it. Dr. Stubbs, in his wisdom, which he should do, he has time in this house, what this bill, as a members' bill -- he takes, you know, whatever people want to say [for grievance?], but I think he's to be praised, 'cause a lot of people lack courage. A lot of members of Parliament lack courage to bring some bills here that they should (inaudible, static). Lots of people I know are hiding behind, you know, [38:10] their conscience, hiding behind their conscience, not exercising their conscience, hiding behind it and not exercising it, but, Mr. Speaker, they're entitled to, 'cause we can't read their mind. We can have an opinion of it, and that's what I want other people to say -- they have opinions about it. We ought to create a society where people stop having homosexuals the butt of jokes, stop [causing?] homosexuals the butt of Calypso joke. [38:40] I used to hate Calypso jokes when they made jokes about women, and men and women in the Calypso. I still -- and I hate 'em now when they're even talking about ducky man, and some people believe it's nice and bring 'em into the country and permit them immigration to come into this country. People are very quiet, [aren't you, Mr. Ferreby?]? (laughter, many voices)

You know, after coming here and to, to, to, to parody people and to make -- there are some young people coming up now to hate homosexuals [39:10] 'cause they're different to them, to beat

them, to stone them, to revile them, and this is inhuman treatment. I don't understand why people feel that your brothers or sisters that's weaker than you -- you're supposed to have pity, you're supposed to love them, bring them up, help them, pray for them, not revile them, not throw them in case mates where nothing is done for them, or that new facility. That's not the place to [39:40] pack up all these people, anyone that you find committing these offenses! But this is what we're so afraid of in this society. People have said to me, "Ms. Browne, I know it's on the books, but let them go on doing it in secret, but don't remove it from the..." Now, how could that be honest? How could that kind of argument, a specious one (inaudible), [40:10] and they say that that's right. We know it's been there all this time. "It's never been used," somebody told me. But it should not be there so it can be misused! Even if it's there and it's misused once...

I heard somebody -- a member from work must have talked about it once in some many years ago, (inaudible) I heard the member from Cambridge East Central, Mr. [Morton?] said that's long ago, but I remember the case, I remember sitting on the case. [40:40] I was called out to the police station. Lots of cases in the early years I thought I shouldn't do, but this one I, I really agreed with. I didn't like it when the judge said they

shouldn't do a murder case 'cause some woman killed her paramour and I shouldn't be in with something like (inaudible) or common law living, but, I mean, what did this -- go to the police station and what did he say? The young man said, "Thank you for coming, Ms. Brown." He wasn't so young, either; he was old enough to know better. And he said, "But my brother must have [41:10] made a mistake in sending me you to lead, because even though I'm here and I need a good lawyer, my offense is not charged with burglary, I was charged with burglary, and I don't think (laughter) you would want to do this case." Well, I blushed. I was young enough to say I blushed! (laughter, many voices) And I thanked him for releasing me! (laughter, many voices) And I went back and called up another one of my male [41:40] colleagues, and he went round to the station and saw him and did the case, but these things are not fiction, they are truth, Mr. Speaker, and when people stand up here and talk about like everything is going to go on in public if this is changed, that's not true. I've had cases where people have done wrong acts in public and they have been charged. I had the case to represent when a man was found bound and (inaudible) committing an, [42:10] an act against the order of nature (inaudible) fellatio of, and they took him to court, and before Victorian magistrate says, "Officer, what was going on?" And he told them, "Well, you can draw the conclusion that one member was

laying on his back and the other one was over the fly
(inaudible) with his mouth, with his organ in his mouth, and
this is certainly something offensive in a public place.”
[42:40] And the Magistrate said, “You found it offensive, so
it’s offensive to you. Decision: case is offensive.” It was
offensive to the police officer. Any act that these people
might think is suddenly going to start looking like San
Francisco, kissing, French kissing or kissing like they do in
Africa or in Russia. If you find that offensive, as a citizen
you can make a citizen’s arrest or a citizen’s charge, but don’t
[43:10] say that what we’re going to do with the law that
clearly says in private adults over 18, consenting people, that
you’re now going to leave that on the statute books for someone
even once to misuse.

As someone else did say about the past, in the past we made
anything that was different, like people who wore glasses --
somebody’s giving me a clip in here [43:40] that in the past the
people said, “Look, spectacle wearers met opposition, too.”
(laughter, many voices) In medieval times they felt that glasses
were immoral. Poor sight was necessary affliction sent by God
to be patiently borne. Now Mr. Speaker, (laughter, many voices)
I tell you, I’m so thanking God that I don’t live in medieval
times. I wear glasses and I’m sure [44:10] other people like

me, they would've had me at the stake long ago. (laughter) One of the reasons I didn't go to the South below the Mason-Dixon line in America, because I was scared that they'd lock me up or do something to me, and I remember refusing to go to Martin Luther King's funeral. I said, "If they killed him, God help me and my mouth, (laughter) they'll kill me, too!" So somebody else from the PLP had to go in my place, a lady I saw in the [44:40] gallery today, Miss [Elvira Warner?]. I didn't intend to die in America where they're fighting their battle. I wanted to be here. If I had to die here fighting, that's better. I got a bullet through the mail for standing up for Dr. [Ball?], remember? ("yeah", many voices)

Told me if I have a mass meeting at Devonshire [record?] any outside area again, you'll get the second one through this. Police still have the bullet and I have the note and [I have?] the photograph of it. (inaudible) fanatics in this country. They threaten you when you take a stand. If any place [45:10] burned down -- I remember one night when Hewitt Brown had to quell the riots downtown --

Dr. John D. Stubbs:

[45:15] Honorable Member.

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[45:16] Honorable Member, Learned, too. (laughter, many voices)

When I went home I was very happy to see him down there by where is the Blue Jay Restaurant and they got him from wherever he was and Salvation Army Band was making their music, and [he moved?] and then they had (inaudible). But I went home and some dear lady whose husband's a fireman, she got on the phone and she said, "You so-and-so so-and-so, if any fireman dies tonight, you watch out! You'll get it!" [45:46] So... And poor guy, [Mr. Thompson?], she used to get it all for standing with us, and as David Allen has told you about his experiences, he knows the dealing with fanatics. He knows what it is to take a stand. I remember when this country used to get real uptight, and everybody thinks what I'm doing is right. The group that was controlling the population explosion of this country, they wanted to control the spot -- any girl that got [46:16] pregnant, had one illegitimate baby, the second one she should be sterilized. (chatter, many voices)

Now, that was a government project, a Health Department proposal, and they had a public relations campaign to do it. Now, this is not in the Dark Ages. This is what people was thinking, the ends justify the means. Now, that is a wrong philosophy, as they were going to, in other words, [46:46] castrate our young women for what they considered was an immoral sin, to have a baby out of wedlock. They were willing to do

what was mutilation of the body that God gave her, and it was [fought?] in certain areas, certain [views?], procreation. Her sin was to do that. We have to realize that when we [47:16] seek to bring about God's word, we must remember -- I have said it earlier -- he did not say to fight with Caesar. He said to run down to Caesar, (inaudible) Caesar -- and I, I want to repeat it, because I learnt it in the days when I was going to Sunday school when I did religious knowledge in school [47:46] and in high school for a [GCE?] exam, OK, that I know that Bible, I know the New Testament, which is what I really do believe that God wants us to live by, and it seems to me that one message that most people seem to forget what it says to do, go out into the world, preach the word about salvation, [48:16] emulate it, live the life yourself so that others would emulate you. That's the way to do it. And to live the life, not to persecute people as was done in the people. I would thought if you'd studied the Old Testament you have heard enough bloody wars, enough who took the (inaudible) who killed this one, how many thousands they (inaudible, loud static), you don't really want to emulate that, [48:46] but you certainly want to emulate the good deeds and all the work that you see in the New Testament, (inaudible, static). What is the greatest commandment of all?

(chatter, many voices)

Love your neighbor as yourself. Take care, go out and preach the word. Take care of the sick. Take care of the meek.

[49:16] Help the poor. Feed the needy.

Member:

[49:20] All right!

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[49:22] Minister to the (inaudible). There is sufficient work for all of us, whether we have the collar around our neck, 'cause one day when you are saved -- my minister says this every day in church, and I think Reverend Johnston is a good minister, been a minister to me for the last four years, and I can assure you he don't pontificate a preacher's [needs?], but he prays in church every Sunday for the people that's [49:52] in the House to make a right decision and decisions according to the Book. God you'd think would be able to form a judgment, not him! And he's not being judgmental about it, and I have told him (inaudible, static). He knows it, and I know it, and Mr. Speaker, it seems to me if we live like Christ, who had such compassion for a thief on the cross that when he at the last day, at the last [50:22] moment there, he asked and recognized (inaudible) and asked for his forgiveness, and he gave it. He said (inaudible). There are enough scriptures in the Bible or

in the New Testament that is so ennobling. It should be a noble feeling. You get a good feeling when you think of that kind of compassion, that kind of mercy, that kind of love. You're hanging [50:52] on the cross and you can forgive people and say, "Father, forgive him." He didn't judge him. We have so many people here that want to take over God's work before, want to judge them. I feel that I have known many people (inaudible) homosexuals. Why don't we stop and make the jokes on ourselves instead of them? If we're going to do anything, help, lend a hand, stretch it out, and I hope that this bill is going to go somewhere. [51:22] I remember when I -- we used to belong to a book lovers' club.

Member:

[51:26] (inaudible, off-mic)

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[51:27] (laughter) Sorry for you! You cut the debate in '71 and I have stored it up ever since and (inaudible) it ever since, so it must come out! (loud talking, many voices) I remember, Mr. Speaker, the [Wonfordon?] Report was put in a booklet, and we had a book lovers' club, and it -- you know, you had to do something in the '50s round here because it was kind of sterile and nothing much to do, so we formed a book lovers' club and we

used to review books, [51:57] that so many people reviewed so much books about novels and [other things?], I started to review the books about Africa, and when I finished with (inaudible) and a few more in Nigeria and *Inside Africa* by Gunther, I said, "Now, I'm going to do for my next [turn?] the [Wonfordon?] Report." There was a man in the club much older than all of us but in a [very way?] wiser, [Wilford?] Allen. He said, "What are you going to be reviewing?" I said, "The [Wonfordon?] Report." He said, "You mean that report [52:27] they passed in the house of the Lord about homosexuality?" I said, "Yes." I said (inaudible, static), and I don't think the members of our club should know enough about it. So I went through reviewing and the rest of it, and I've given them a list. He said, "You know, you're a brave young girl. There were three homosexuals sitting up in that room there, (laughter) and you decide to go and review the book of (inaudible). Didn't you notice they were kid of quiet and shifting?" I said, "Oh my Lord!" [52:57] And he said there were some relatives that weren't too happy. And I said, "Well, they should've understood what I was doing," 'cause I was trying to enlighten all the other people about how we should compassionately treat a homosexual, whether we know it, whether we suspect it, whether we have caught them in the act, or the rest of it, what we should have in the hand, try and counsel them, try and do something for them, [53:27] but not say

leave this punitive law on the book and spend all that energy trying to do so. I heard one member say the amount of money that was spent on the campaign. Well, I don't want to know how much was spent, but I know the money could have been put to better use, because the members of this house are a very opinionated group of people! (laughter) I'm saying... I've been in many houses, but the group you've got here now, they're very opinionated and they really feel they're going to make up their own minds [53:57] to do what their own thing is, so I think it's a bit late to try to include this group of 40 people, because like my mind [some have been closed?],

(laughter, many voices)

and that proves my point. It's not them that you're talking to, it's those who are out there in the community and have to be convinced. Maybe now we'll stop getting that crazy lot of letters to [54:27] to (inaudible) if some people will get some of the literature, ask for it, read it, and try to understand it. I don't think I, many of us started out this morning thinking we're going to convince all the members; that's why we wanted an open vote. We don't want no secret ballot, no secret vote. We want to vote on the issues, and this is what we spoke on, and now everybody has heard it and everybody's going to vote, and there will be names recorded, so we obviously history

[54:57] -- just like you look at this clipping of '71, you look at the future.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some people think going home is more important and have said their little bit, (chatter, many voices) and have said their little bit, and have... (chatter, many voices)

and have been told how nine votes lost them this and turned it back around, but, as I said, they are the [members back?], so obviously the people in the constituency is open to changing

[55:27] their mind, and they're there. So therefore -- one's going to move in your district, for sure, a couple of

(inaudible, crowd noise) down there. I could tell you! But I hope, Mr. Speaker, for the sake of the member who's in charge and has got to speak (inaudible), he said to me he appreciates it. Do not be deceived by those who are anxious to go. (loud noise, many voices)

Don't speak again, because once you say it I -- I'm getting it from all corners, and I got a one unsolicited one [55:57] from a certain reporter about my speech this morning. Now, when you start (inaudible) reporters you have to be careful, 'cause, you know, I'm always not good to, you know, [curse in there?], but this is it. I'm not interested in what your judgment of my

speech is. You ain't my school teacher! You're not marking my speeches! You might be tired, but Mr. Speaker, I wanted --

Dr. John D. Stubbs (UBP):

[56:25] [Ignorant, ignorant?! I'm not listening to him!

Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans (PLP):

[56:29] Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for his benefit, let me say in this way: the difference between my speech this morning -- my speech was one to bring about democracy and let us get a debate on it. My speech this evening is to tell you my conviction, how I'm shaped and well and wonderfully formed in God's image out of God's love, and I practice it every day. And I can assure you I remember, Mr. Speaker, [56:59] he's reminded me of an incident when there was a man in this country [on a woman's trial?], Dr. [Ma?]. I remember the racist remarks I heard from some people in this House, some people in close to me, that I ought not to represent a South African. I don't know whether you did, but I bet you the one that's been making a lot of noise over there was thinking so, and calling this name [57:29] directly across from me, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Speaker, there was another argument once when the [Burke?] people had to come here, and the Vietnamese, and I said, "We must take the Vietnamese in because it's human rights." I don't know where

this number that's coming to tell me -- did you vote for the human rights for the Vietnamese? The government that opposed it, the Premier, had to go to England and be told [57:59] "If you want (inaudible, static) register here you take the responsibility what it is. Now, you go and pick the four, the six that you want, but you're going to take them into your country." You can't have rights without some responsibility, and if we believe in human rights, the human rights are there for all people, and until we give it to all people... And that's what the [58:59] handicapped people have been fighting about for so long! People think [physically?] don't believe that they've had rights. Margaret Carter died having fought all her life for these rights! This is where we seem to be selective. Uh, the Reverend Trevor [Williamson?], member from (inaudible, static), (inaudible) selected (inaudible). Well, I think I prefer to say it: we must realize [58:59] every human being, however form, shape, or color, or what sexual origin, or what sexual preference, has a right to the same rights and privileges a human being as every one of us here, and that's what we've been talking about today: the rights of a certain segment of our community to have privacy in their house, not to be invaded, not to have somebody [59:29] kick down a door without a search warrant and to arrest you, arrest you, uh, for doing something that's in the Bible, but some people who was in 1907 were sin

selective and only made that an offense and didn't bother to make adultery, which was going on throughout the pages of the Old Testament and the New Testament, [59:59] didn't decide to make that an offense. Why? Why they didn't? I'll bet you it was a male dominated world (sounds of agreement, many female voices) (inaudible) at that time.

(chatter, many voices)

I know they were the drafters of the legislature in those days, and obviously... (static) And Mr. Speaker, I want to just close on that right about human rights, and it's time for us to stand up for them. I've got (inaudible, many voices, static, gavel hammering)...

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