EXHIBIT 7

Royal Gazette

JANUARY 31 1956 p10.

'Exorbitant' Price For School Field Site Is Criticised In Assembly

Continued from Page 1

afraid this is one of the problems to which I contributed when I was chairman of the Board of Education in 1943."

At the time the Temperance Hall School was overcrowded, as was the Cripplegate School. Some children were lodged in a temporary quarters in a lodge room on Blue Hole Hill.

The Board attempted to find sites for five years, and eventually were able to acquire the site of the Francis Patton School from the Bascome estate.

Mr. Bascome agreed to sell two acres and the Board attempted to negotiate with the owners of the two areas which the House had under discussion. They refused to sell, so the Board went back to Mr. Bascome and he finally agreed to sell four acres.

Sir John did not like to use expropriation except in the last resort.

"It was the thought of the Board that it would be possible to locate the school so that a playing field could be made," Sir John said. "Eventually, on the strong advice of the Works Department, the school was designed to follow the contour of the land."

But building the school in that way made it impossible to locate a playing field on the site.

"Perhaps the Board should not have agreed to the plan," Sir John said, "but, Mr. Chairman, after four years of negotiation the Board felt pretty desperate."

"I would not like it to be thought that I am criticising the Board of Works," Sir John added.

The Board of Education might be criticised for the present problem. "We explored every other alternative we could find," Sir John said. But he did not think any other site would be as suitable.

WHOLLY EXTRAVAGANT

Mr. H. J. Tucker thought it was a wholly extravagant price. "I don't think it wise for Government to establish a precedent," he said. "I hope that other members who have that point of view will express it."

Mr. D. C. Smith thought the Government should acquire all land compulsorily; it was the fair way to do it.

"The House is continually asked to adjudicate on land values," he said. "I don't think this House can possibly place a value on land."

Such cases should be sent to a jury to adjudicate the price.

Mr. Smith suggested that in some cases a project came before the House and the House, in its enthusiasm, agreed to pay a higher price for the land than it should have done.

Mr. Smith suggested the purpose should be put before the House — not the price. "I think it's time for the matter to be reviewed," he said.

Mr. J. E. P. Vesey thought the school had been built on an unsuitable tract of land. He also felt that Sir John Cox had been weak.

Mr. Vesey asked the members from Hamilton Parish to say something.

He then suggested that the land across the road was more suitable, and that five to six acres of it should be purchased. The present site would be too small in two or three years in any case.

"If we cannot make a reasonable agreement with the owner across the way then let us purchase it compulsorily," Mr. Vesey said.

SHOULD TELL THEM

In such cases, Mr. Vesey felt: "The Government should tell them straight: 'Now look, the Government requires this land'."

"Schools which look large now will look inadequate with the growth of our population," Mr. Vesey stated. "We might as well face it."

Mr. Nicholl was against purchasing the land at the price asked. He suggested there should be a law to allow the Government to purchase land it needed.

Mr. E. H. Barnes said the site was not suitable for a building of that size. He disliked the idea of "a playing field on one of the bleakest places on the island."

Mr. W. L. Tucker hoped the chairman of the Board of Education (Mr. Watlington) would give some explanation about the policy of the Board of Education. Did they buy sites for both school and playground at the same time?

Mr. H. B. L. Wilkinson (a member for Hamilton Parish) said the land on which the school is built and the land across the road belonged originally to the Bascome estate. The other land belonged to the estate of the late Rev. Austin Richardson.

The attempt to get the land for a school dated back to the time of the late Sir Henry Watlington's chairmanship of the Board of Education.

EXCELLENT SET-UP

"If they had the playing field the site would make an excellent set-up," Mr. Wilkinson said. "That is a very fine piece of land."

The land on which the school stood was fertile.

Mr. Wilkinson felt the people who had their houses there did not want a playing field next door. For a long time they had not wanted to sell the land at any price.

"The present chairman of the Board has done good work in persuading them to sell," Mr. Wilkinson added.

He thought there might be land behind the school.

Mr. J. Fred Tucker thought the price was exorbitant but that provision should have been made for a field from the start. He thought the school was on a good site.

Sir John Cox remarked he had been brought up on the North Shore. "I have a great liking for the invigorating climate of the North Shore," he said amid laughter.

In his time on the Board of Education it had been the policy to keep schools to 360 or 400 pupils, and to build a new one rather than extend an old one.

(Later Mr. Watlington said this was the present policy.)

The Francis Patton School was placed to be between the two great centres of population in Hamilton Parish — Shelly Bay and Bailey's Bay.

Mr. Watlington said it was the present policy to buy school and playing field sites together, but that this had not been done by the older generation.

"This school is one of the few now without a playing field," Mr. Watlington said.

Mr. Toddings said the house of one of the owners was on Government land.

Mr. G. O. Ratteray criticised the site of the school because it was on an "S" shaped bend on a busy road, was on a slope, and was in a bleak place.

He felt that the price for the land was high.

The committee rose and reported progress. The matter will be considered further, and has been set down for tomorrow.

—o—

Britain Ready To Jam Greek Broadcasts

Continued from Page 1

this outrageous broadcasting and we now feel we must be free to act as we think necessary."

When Mr. Griffiths suggested making approaches through the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, Mr. Lennox-Boyd said: "Our diplomatic approaches hitherto have made us a shade sceptical