

**HAVRE DES PAS BATHING POOL,
ST. HELIER**

**Lodged au Greffe on 17th February 1998
by Senator R.J. Shenton**



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

175

1998

P.26

Price code : A

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion -

to request the Finance and Economics Committee to make available from the General Reserve sufficient funds to enable the restoration of the Havre des Pas Swimming Pool to commence without delay.

SENATOR R.J. SHENTON

Report

During my term as President of the Tourism Committee it was brought to my attention that the Jersey Swimming Club was finding it difficult to maintain the pool and wished to relinquish their lease at the end of the present term. My Committee was quite enthusiastic about the suggestion that we should take over the pool from the JSC, make representation to the Crown to have the property gifted to the Island and then embark on an adventurous scheme not only to restore the buildings but also to introduce changes which would make the pool attractive to residents and tourists alike.

In an Island it was felt that here we had an opportunity for the memories of Jersey past to be featured in displays which, together with dining facilities, would provide a marine restaurant of some quality. With the use of modern materials, alfresco dining could be accompanied by suitable music and entertainment to make it a first class venue for those people who enjoy the informalities of beach bistros which are becoming more and more the vogue.

On the aquatic side, with the loss of the West Park pool, much could be done to bring the Havre des Pas pool into play for galas and other events together with the day to day pleasures of swimming on the town's natural beach in a safe enclosed area.

My Committee of the day made representations to other States Committees and also considered its status in respect of funds being made available from the Tourism investment vote. The Tourism Investment vote has helped the Island in many ways and Jersey Heritage would be the first to support the view that the Maritime Museum is proving to be one of the best examples of how Jersey past can be used to benefit Jersey future. The Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust has benefited from funds which were made available and with our new cycling networks it can be seen that everyone has profited in some way from the tourism policies of the day.

It saddens me therefore to see the Havre des Pas pool growing more derelict by the hour because of the familiar States inertia of waiting for tomorrow. As I have stated the Havre des Pas pool is just as much a part of Jersey's heritage as any castle or architectural landmark. The

pool is in fact a living heritage and Jersey residents will be well aware of such names as Horsfall, Sowden, Macready, Fage, Charles Duret Aubin, who was Attorney General both before and during the Occupation, Crill, Le Poidevin, Gilbert, Fairburn and Yvon, some of whom went on to become Olympic champions in their own right, adding prestige to our Island and enjoyment to all. It is also worthy of note that in its heyday the pool on a Sunday played host to between 1,500 and 2,000 visitors.

My proposition asks for an end to the delay and a stop to promises. The pool should not be a millennium project; it is very much a part of our responsibility to look after the fabric of Jersey life and to take pride in our past. I believe the pool restoration should begin without delay and monies should be provided from the General Reserve.