

DR. Gilbert Sprauve

of the people of the island in the Senate of the Virgin Islands (as holder of the At-Large seat) and as one of the two remaining children of the late Dentist Gehardt A Sprauve, owner during much of his lifetime of the property named Estate Adrian that adjoins Estate Catherineberg, I feel compelled to speak up on this proposed land exchange.

I need to make it well known that, first and foremost, I speak in favor of the construction of the Public Education facility on Catherineberg. My strenuous opposition is to the Government of the Virgin Islands and the National Park Service executing this proposed swap.

It is with deliberate reluctance that I am making known to the actors in this proposed land trade that our patriarch, Gehardt A Sprauve, made possible at a very reasonable price to the Government the land on which the George Simmonds Terrace is located—a series of residences set aside for women-heads-of-households--, a residential community from which grandchildren of these local original homeowners on St. John, it is hoped, will “hop and skip” across the street to school in the future.

And before that, Gehardt had made available, again for modest returns, the land for the Baptist Boys Home at Estate Adrian.

It is against this background that I remind our Government and the National Park Service that if ever “magnanimity” and “Reparations” had their place in serving the Public—especially the local population of St. John who increasingly must move off the island due largely to the Parks’ pre-eminence in Cultural erosion and disastrous demographic drift there—, now is that time!

The National Park Service needs to yield back the 11 acres into the hands of the People of the Virgin Islands for the Education of our youth, and to back off on its attempt to take even Whistling Cay  
{from us!