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17 August 1984

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PRIME MINISTER REITERATES DECISION AGAINST IMF ASSISTANCE

St Johns NATION'S VOICE in English 29 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, The Right Hon. V.C. Bird has once more re-iterated his Government's decision not to seek financial aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Speaking to the first Swedish Ambassador to be accredited to Antigua and Barbuda, Mr. Dino Sciolti as he paid a courtesy call early last week, Mr. Bird said:-

"I view with concern the recommendations of the IMF to cut back employment in the country if they are to consider granting us a loan for development purposes and I still wonder about what would happen to the workers in this country should the Government adopt the moves they recommend."

According to Prime Minister Bird, the IMF views Antigua and Barbuda's refusal to adopt their recommendations as determination not to co-operate.

But Mr. Bird considers the conditions which the IMF has attached to funding in exchange to aid the Nation, onerous.

He was quick to clear the air on his Government's policy regarding the provision of employment for nationals.

"My Government would never deliberately set out on a journey which we know would prove hazardous financially for our people and politically risky for ourselves."

And as if to lay aside charges made by opposition factions just prior to Election Day April 17th, 1984, that the Antigua Labour Party plans to adopt the IMF recommendations and in direct response to the IMF, Mr. Bird said:-

"My Government will try its best to cut costs and stamp out wastage, but our budget has been severely pruned already, and to institute cuts in employment, wages and cease subsidies would mean causing almost half of our nationals who are presently employed to join the ranks of the many unemployed who are already on the streets."

And as if in an effort to rub it into the minds of Antigua/Barbuda nationals and to cause them to look with disdain at the IMF, Mr. Bird said:-

"This is the price they are asking in return for help to a country which has been hard hit by the oil crisis, which has to import its fuel and find the cash to continue to import staple commodities needed to keep

the economy going."

Mr. Bird, however, sees the need for continued technical advice from the IMF which he hopes to put to good use wherever he finds it necessary but he promises to resist stoutly all loans temptations from that institution.

The rationale behind Mr Bird's strategy is shared by many developing and under developed countries, a rationale which is severely critical of the methods of the working of the fund.

Mirrored in a recent Brandt report are the following comments regarding credit conditions imposed by the IMF:-

"Sometimes these measures are considered appropriate by some Nations of the World, but in many cases these measures reduce domestic consumption without improving investment; productive capacity often falls more shortly sharply than consumption. This is because many developing countries with deficits have a shortage of foods basic consumer items, or cannot readily shift resources in line with their new needs."

And Prime Minister Bird observed that the fund's insistence on drastic measures, often stipulated to take effect within the framework of one financial year, imposes unnecessary and unacceptable constraints on the poorer countries after leading to Anti-IMF riots and causing the downfall of Governments especially in the Latin American region.

And taking pride in his Government's decision not to fall victim to the IMF, Prime Minister Bird said that his decision has a significance which easily transcends the prevailing circumstances of small islands in the Caribbean and developing countries in all parts of the world which have been hit by the twin difficulties of rising oil prices and world recession, but which refuse to jettison as consequence their legitimate political objectives.

He also told Ambassador of his recent signing of an agreement for some US\$46 million which will set the construction of a large hotel at Deep Bay. He also spoke of plans to construct more large hotels on Antigua.

NEW PARLIAMENTARY SESSION OPENS, HEARS SPEECH FROM THRONE

Report on Objectives

St Johns NATION'S VOICE in English 7 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

The first session of the new Parliament was formally opened on Thursday last with the traditional Throne Speech by his Excellency the Governor General Sir Wilfred Jacobs.

It was the second time for the year that Sir Wilfred was addressing a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament, the last being March. This second address was made possible because the Labour Government of Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr. called elections one year before scheduled, his Labour Party was returned to power winning all 16 seats it contested, and the lone opposition being the seat held by Hon. Eric Burton who ran as an independent in the sister island, Barbuda.

In outlining the governments pro-

gramme. Sir Wilfred Jacobs explained that his government will, among other things, continue to speak out forcefully for **Human Rights and Values**, and it will maintain its independence foreign policy.

The country's position on these important issues was made unmistakably clear.

On the national front, Sir Wilfred told of plans to upgrade the radio and television services, electricity, water, roads, health, sports, education and agriculture.

Plans were also announced for the general development of the sister island BARBUDA including improvements to the Airport and agriculture.

Earlier this year, the Hon. John E. St. Luce introduced a \$EC 124.5 million dollar tax free

budget to parliament which was later approved. It is evident that this speech by his Excellency, proves constancy in governments programme, and approaches the nation's problems on a scientific basis.

Before the joint sitting - separate meetings were held by the House of Representatives and the Senate to elect their presiding officers. In the House of Representative the Hon. Casford Murray was re-elected for a third term as speaker, while new comer the Hon. Dr. Rodney Williams was elected Deputy speaker. In the Senate - Senator Bradley Carrott was re-elected as President of the senate for a third term, Senator William Robinson is the new Vice President.

"See centre pages for details".

Sir Wilfred's Speech

St Johns NATION'S VOICE in English 7 Jun 84 pp 6-7

[Apparent text of speech from the throne of Governor General Sir Wilfred Jacobs to joint session of parliament on 31 May 1984]

[Text]

The Labour Government of Antigua and Barbuda has always subscribed to the process, and has affirmed its belief in the multi-party system enshrined herein. In what can be seen as an answer to opposition forces charges that Antigua is not a democratic state, the Governor General Sir Wilfred delivering the speech from the throne following the April 17 election says:-

Honourable President of the Senate, Honourable Senators, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House of Representatives -

I indicated earlier this year that we have emerged from a trying year for the Caribbean.

In the area of External Affairs, my Government will continue to pursue an interdependent foreign policy in the best interest of the people of Antigua and Barbuda. This policy of necessity takes into consideration the established fact that we foster close relationships with countries who adhere to the democratic process.

"Nevertheless, we recognize that in a pluralistic world dialogue is a necessity, even if we do not share the same ideological positions with countries in the community of nations.

"Our strength lies in our voice of moral suasion, and as such we will continue to speak out forcefully on issues which affect us directly in regard to human values. In this respect our geographical size will in no way act as a deterrent to our continued efforts to secure peace, equality and freedom among all peoples.

"My government recognises the need for closer regional co-operation with the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean and will continue to play an active role in achieving closer co-operation in regional matters and in promoting Antigua and Barbuda for the maintenance of democracy, equity and social justice in international relations.

"My Government will strengthen its relations with the commission of the European communities in an effort to identify areas of economic co-operation and to realise tangible benefits from such co-operation.

"My Government is aware of the need and importance of a well-organised and well-managed information service. My Government will therefore establish a new and dynamic public information service.

My Government is aware of the limited facilities and the scarcity of Trained and qualified personnel in Radio Broadcasting and Television. To overcome these problems, my Government will continue to re-organise the Radio, TV and information services with the expressed intention of improving the quality of the

product and ensuring that wages in this service, as in all other Government departments and agencies, relate to productivity. Steps have already been taken by my Government to achieve this goal.

"My Government during the current year to increase its effort for the development of the civil service for the benefit of the people of Antigua and Barbuda. Efforts have already been made to improve the conditions of service governing civil servants and for the removal of much that has been irksome in the service by the implementation of the anomalies report following the re-classification of the service and the introduction of a 5-day work week.

"Work have also been done in respect of a Civil Service Act, for 'Inter Alia', regulations the relationship between government and the service. It is expected that arrangements will be made to have this measure finalised this year for the general improvement of the conditions of service and to ensure the improvement of discipline in the service.

My Government recognising its new status of independence will embark upon a course to commence a complete revision and consolidation of the laws of Antigua and Barbuda. This whole exercise is expected to continue over a period of at least three years.

"My Government will seek as early as possible to provide proper accommodation for the magistrate courts and to increase the number of magistrates in

order to avoid delays in the hearing of cases and to provide adequate facilities for the efficient and up to date running of the courts.

"My Government recognises that a stable industrial climate is the prerequisite of a second and expanding economy, my government will therefore endeavour to promote good industrial practice in Antigua and Barbuda and will review and amend the Industrial Court Act to provide the necessary permanent staff to enable the court to function more efficiently and to promote industrial peace and harmony.

"My Government will seek to establish, equip and maintain a National Law Library with proper facilities and staff for the courts of Antigua and Barbuda.

Being fully aware of the importance of tourism in the economy of the nation and in the light of the fact that it increased by 16% last year, my government is confident that such increases will be continued and is making every effort to improve its promotion in consultation with representatives of large and small hotels.

"My government will pursue its policy of mortgage financing with particular reference to persons in low-income brackets to enable such persons to be provided with their own homes on terms that they can afford.

"This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the abolition of slavery in Antigua. My government has appointed a committee to plan appropriate events to mark the 150th Anniversary of this first step on the road to genuine freedom by the people of this country.

"My government will pursue its policy of making education accessible to the children of this country as a whole with particular reference to broadening its scope

in the light of the development of the country.

"In the area of sport my government can point to the establishment of basketball courts across the country as an outlet for the energies of our youth. My government recognises the need for a stadium capable of accommodating a variety of indoor sports and this is a priority of our requirements for assistance from friendly countries. My government can be justly proud of its continued efforts in the improvements being made at the Antigua Recreation Grounds. In April we hosted the 4th test match in the recent West Indies-Australia series which was highly successful not only for the West Indies team as a whole but also for our local heroes on that team. This was an event for which our people can be justly proud.

"My government being fully aware of the importance to the economy of a healthy and tranquil industrial climate will continue its present policy in industrial relations, namely, that of ensuring that the wheels of industry will continue to grind smoothly and continuously in the best interest of the economy of the nation.

My government intends to continue its efforts for the provision of health care for all people. Efforts are being made to improve the schools dental services with some equipment already purchased and steps will be taken to secure even more this year. Immunization will be maintained especially for the group up to 5 years of age. My government will continue its efforts at improving the health of certain deprived groups in the community by the distribution

of essential foodstuffs such as milk, margarine and wheat-flour made available through the world food programme.

"My government sees disaster preparedness as an increasingly important subject. Many countries have learnt by bitter experience the high price to be paid for the lack of preparedness. My government has therefore decided to ensure that there is continual planning and preparation for disasters and has decided to appoint a co-ordinator of disaster preparedness as from this year.

"My government recognises the important role agriculture must play in the economic development of Antigua and Barbuda. Over the years agriculture has become a highly scientific field. My government is pleased to record that despite the continued adverse weather conditions, there was no noticeable decline in the levels of agricultural production. In spite of the dry weather conditions, the livestock subsection continues to show an increase in output. This performance indicates that with improvement in the weather conditions, sustained growth in the agricultural sector can be expected.

"My government has secured funding from the organisation of American States to undertake an agricultural census and production survey during 1984. This activity will strengthen the data base of the agricultural sector and enhance the capability of planning, programming and evaluation of agricultural projects.

"My government will provide agricultural extension officers with aid and equipment to improve their

effectiveness in the delivery of services to farmers and to assist in transportation to improve the mobility of the field staff. Continued emphasis will be placed on the training of agricultural extension officers as well as farmers' training.

"In the area of sugar production, my government is pleased with the results of the 1983 sugar crop which indicated that the factory is mechanically viable. It is expected that the reaping of the 1984 sugar crop will be accomplished with far less difficulty than in 1983.

"My government will in 1984, finalise its comprehensive fisheries development plan this year which is intended to help our fishermen to purchase materials at reasonable prices and to provide the foundation for the effective management of our fisheries resources. This would guarantee a local market for part of the fisherman's catch, and the provision of fish, which is an important source of protein to the community as a whole.

"My government will strengthen the price control and consumer protection agency. The scope of the exciting legislation will be broadened with a view to bringing a number of items, deemed essential within its ambit.

"In further pursuit of efforts to protect the consumer, my government has initiated dialogue with various institutions regarding the establishment of a Standards Bureau. It is envisaged that, in the immediate future, efforts in this regard will bear fruit.

My government will continue its programme of road improvement in keeping with its policy that roads

should be in acceptable condition for as long as possible. Work in the areas of improving and expanding the electricity and telephone services of the nation will be continued in order to provide adequate electrical services and instant and reliable communication.

"With regard to water, the country continues to be in the grips of a severe dry spell. Last year's rainfall statistics indicated that some districts recorded only half of the average 43 inches normally registered in a year. This has created serious difficulties beyond the control of my government as the main reservoir at Potswort Dam has been depleted.

"My government has taken active steps to alleviate the situation by baring water from neighbouring friendly states. Financial assistance was obtained from the governments of the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom, France and organisations such as the United Nations Development Fund and the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation.

"These efforts have been co-ordinated by the Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project based in Antigua.

"My government wishes on behalf of the people of Antigua and Barbuda to publicly thank all our benefactors and hope for their continued assistance. The country wide water distribution project which is currently in progress is expected to be completed by the end of 1984; it will carry water to areas which never had, and improve distribution in others. Moreover, a programme of rehabilita-

tion and ground water development will begin during the course of this year to significantly expand the water supply capacity of the island.

"The meteorological service will continue to improve its services rendered to the public. To this end my government will continue to tap scholarship sources for training of its staff in fields such as weather forecasting, hydrology and electronics. The meteorological service will continue to actively participate in the work of the Pan Caribbean disaster preparedness Prevention Project in its awareness Programme in the 1984 hurricane season.

"With the increase in aircraft movements at Coolidge Airport and the difficulty experienced with their manoeuvring on the existing parking apron, my government is actively pursuing plans to expand the existing ramp by a further seventy-seven thousand (77,000) square feet.

"It is expected during 1984, the navigational aids at Coolidge Airport will be upgraded. My government will be introducing a paid public car park system during 1984 at Coolidge Airport. The revenue derived will go towards the general upkeep of the new air terminal building and its environs.

"My government will carry out a proper study of the airport facilities in Barbuda to accommodate night flights at Codrington and in addition will enlarge the airstrip to facilitate twin auto aircrafts.

"Farmers has demonstrated that Barbuda can still produce corn, peas, beans, lentils, ground nuts, and coconuts, which have been successful over the years and are now administered by the Barbuda

Council. Government will give every encouragement to the development of agriculture in the island.

"My government being mindful of its agreement at the constitutional conference will take the necessary steps to ensure the implementation of the Essex report particular with respect to electricity. My government will continue the process of involving Barbudans full in the sport-

ing activities of Antigua and Barbuda.

"My government in co-operation with the Barbuda Council will be taking a serious look at the necessity for developing a proper sports complex in Barbuda.

"It is the firm resolve of my government to assist the island in becoming more autonomous, and to do everything that will involve all the people in the development of their island.

"My government pledges to keep the people informed from time to time of the progress of the socio-economic development of this nation and will continue to pursue this year, its commitment to the democ-

atic process, its policy of creating board based development and its determination to bring the greatest benefits possible to the people of this nation bearing in mind at all times our motto "Each Endeavouring All Achieving."

"Other measures will be laid before you .

"Honourable President of the Senate, Honourable Senators, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, I now declare this legislative session open and pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels."

CSO: 3298/999

LESTER BIRD RETURNED AS CHAIRMAN AT ALP CONVENTION

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 27 Jun 84 p 1

[Text] The ALP held its first convention for four years at the Atmosphere night club on June 24 and 25.

The convention was attended by over 500 delegates. Fifteen voting members were present from each of the 17 constituencies of Antigua and Barbuda in addition to a similar number from the A.T.L.U. the Youth Arm and the Womens Action Group. It is the first time that a full delegation from Barbuda attended and fully participated in the proceedings.

Highlight of the proceedings was the election of Officers with attention focused on the battle for Chairmanship. Tension was building up as two popular members of the party were scheduled to contest this position. The contests should have been between incumbent Lester Bird and Labour Minister Adolphus Freeland. However the situation was defused when the minister of Labour on the first day of convention declined the nomination. Others elected were V.C. Bird, Sr. Political Leader unopposed. A. Freeland, 1st vice chairman, R. Harris, 2nd vice chairman, H. Marshall, 3rd vice chairman, John St. Luce, secretary, unopposed, R. Yearwood, treasurer.

The elections were conducted by James 'Bags' Thomas. Details in a later issue.

CSO: 3298/999

ALP CHAIRMAN BIRD RESPONDS TO ATTACK FROM TIM HECTOR

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 27 Jun 84 pp 2-3

[Article by Lester B. Bird, chairman, Antigua Labor Party]

[Text]

The Outlet of May 18, 1984, carried an article of mine under the caption "Whether objectivity - Whither Factuality: Has Tim Flipped?" The article was in response to an article by Leonard Tim Hector in the April 27, 1984 issue of Outlet on George Walter. The article brought certain pertinent information to the public, on matters that were not correctly represented by Mr. Hector. In the same issue that my article was published, the ACLM Leader carried a rebuttal "How Lester Flopped and Flunked?"

Having read the article by Tim Hector, I was amazed at his ability to evade the main points of an argument and to completely shift the emphasis to one of nonsensical misrepresentation. I recognised that Tim was only pamphleteering, and consequently I was reluctant to respond to his simplistic and misleading assertions. I have, however, rethought the matter, and I believe that the Antiguan public ought to be fully apprised of the relevant situation, irrespective of how distasteful it may be to me, to respond to a most degrading and unwholesome form of journalism.

But in dealing with the claims by Hector, I would like to assert that I wish to take nothing away from George Walter during his tenure as General Secretary of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union. I admitted in my previous article that the hotel workers were incorporated into the ATLU structure while he served. That the Union's rank increased during the sixties

is a known fact, but this increase was under the umbrella of what was happening on the political front. It was the Antigua Labour Party leaders who were in the Government that decided that tourism ought to be pushed. They were all members of the Union and the decision was made in conjunction with the Union Executive and had the support and approval of the Annual Conference. It was a clear and determined effort of the Union structure to work for the benefit of the Antiguan working population, and to see that they were able to make a livelihood. It was also known that these workers would need protection. The lessons learned by Hurst, Lake, Carrot, Williams and Bird, yes Bird, in the sugar and commercial sectors of the economy

were not lost. The General Secretary was expected to have done what he did. In short, he was in the right place at the right time.

In Mr. Hector's pen - chant for unsubstantiated statements he stated that a simple inquiry from Robin Bascus would have told me that Bascus himself and other Sugar Estate Managers joined the AT&LU in the early sixties, and even though they were managerial, they had George Walter to negotiate for them. I must admit that I never got around to asking Senator Bascus about the statement, even though I was so inclined. Before I could arrange to get a briefing from Senator Bascus, he had replied to the statement and declared it to be a fallacy. In his column entitled "Frankly Speaking" in the Workers Voice of June 2, 1984, Robin made it quite clear that he and two other managers approached the General Secretary. Ultimately Walter declared that he could not represent the managerial staff, since the Union represent workers in the

same industry. Perhaps it is appropriate here to quote the following remark of Senator Bas-cus in his re-sponse:

"So you see Tim if Lester had asked me, I would have told him exactly as I have written here George never organised the Syndicate Estate staff. Many of these people are still alive and living here and would attest to that."

I do believe that politicians have an obligation to be factual and responsible. To deal with issues and trends, and to carefully check out statements before publication. Obviously Mr Hector, after years in the business, is still in need of a basic course in the rudiments of proper journalism.

Tim Hector has dared to accuse me to fostering cult-ism. There is no more profound cult leader in Antigua than Leonard Tim Hector. He speaks with the voice of knowledge

and authority and his disciples must of necessity acclaim him. Many of his devoted followers were students at school and he remains their master. I stated in my earlier article that he was willing to make sacrificial lambs out of his devoted lieutenants. He was willing to compromise in the United Front if he had a chance of being elected. He admitted that the other three constituencies reserved for the ACLM were certain to vote heavily for Labour. But true to his form he shifted the sense of the argument, and replied in the following manner. "If Lovell had run against you in the 1984 Elections and the United Front pulled out the non-voters in your constituency he would have beaten the living daylight out of you". Lovell, undoubtedly, is bound to support the statement. The master spoke, and irrespective of how absurd the pronouncement the loyal followers will agree. So much for cult-ism.

I will state, however, that Tim Hector's flip-pant remarks will not persuade me from rendering unto Caesar what is Caesar's. He seems to suffer from the "shivers" when tribute is given to V.C. Bird. Why is he so unwilling to grant recognition where recognition is due? I may recall to him that he once told me that "Antiguans have a singular lack of ability in recognising ability in others". It is indeed most intriguing how some people have a singular ability in characterising themselves.

I am calling upon Tim Hector to generate aspects of responsibility,

To speak and not later disclaim what countless people heard him say. He has now denied that he stated during his explanation of the breakdown of the embryonic United Front, that he had never attacked Robert Hall from the platform. Were all those people who heard that statement somehow collectively mistaken? Was there present some antagonistic hypnotist who could have so trans-fixed the audience into hearing what Tim did not say? Tim Hector, like all Antiguans, have a role to play in our national development, and I am challenging him to be progressive and constructive.

Antigua is a land of talent. Antigua is a land of ability. Fortunately much of the talent is harnessed in a constructive manner. In this way we will achieve and progress, and overcome mis-directed abilities. As a servant of the people I am duty bound to see that they receive correct information. I will therefore not allow information to go unchallenged, if it contains statements and assertions of an irresponsible nature. If we are to move forward, there are those of us who have to take a stand against that which is undesirable.

Our country is now a nation, and small as we may be, we are not insignificant. The voice of Antigua is heard in the United Nations, and it is one that speaks for the dignity and equality of all people. As a Nation there are characteristics or ingredients which ought to be present. We must recognise and acclaim our real leaders, regardless of

whom they happen to be. We need symbols, whether personal or otherwise. We need national monuments such as the Westerby Memorial. We need to develop a sense of togetherness from which we can stride manfully forward. Our children need to be taught and constantly reminded of the sacrifices of others, to build upon the past. We can start by doing it this year, and recall those who made contributions throughout our existence let us be objective and forthright.

[Editor's Note: The above item also ran in the St Johns NATION'S VOICE of 29 June 1984, pages 1 and 12.]

CSO: 3298/999

JURNAL LISTS MILITARY OFFICERS UNDER INVESTIGATION

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 13 Jul 84 pp 42-44

[Article by Eduardo Parise: "Military Officers Under Investigation"]

[Text] Some 250 officers and noncommissioned officers in the Army, Navy and Air Force are currently involved in different cases being investigated by civil and military justice. Some simply stand charged but have not been indicted, while others are already being tried or held in different military units. Among them are four former presidents, former commanders in chief of the Armed Forces and corps commanders, whose cases attract the most attention. The complexity and number of judicial presentations makes it nearly impossible to draw up a complete list of all those involved in any proceedings, basically because many trials are going on in the interior of the country and have not received publicity. For a better overall understanding, one can distinguish three major groups of cases: those on trial for their responsibility and conduct in the war in the Malvinas; those involved in cases of violations of human rights during the fight against terrorism; and those charged or under indictment for common crimes such as the adulteration of gasoline or under investigation in connection with the Interama pool.

The group of those indicted for human rights violations are the members of the first three military juntas of the National Reorganization Process, which proceedings are before the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces in accordance with Decree 158 of the National Executive Branch. The following report is an attempt to give a list of officers and noncommissioned officers in the Army, Navy and Air Force -- in that order and in declining order of rank -- who are included in any one of the three main groups.

Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla: indicted for Decree 158 of the Executive Branch (Military Justice); indicted for the crime of rebellion (Civil Justice: Judge Berraz de Vidal declared himself incompetent); indicted for the confinement of Dr Carlos Saul Menem (stayed; the case went to the Appeal Court); charged in the Giorgi case (transferred to Military Justice); charged with illegal detention of Uruguayan newsman Rodriguez Larreta (Civil Justice); charged in the disappearance of Guillermo Moll-r (Civil Justice).

Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola: indicted for Decree 158 (Military Justice); indicted in the Giorgi case (transferred to Military Justice; under preventive arrest; free on bond).

Lt Gen Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri: indicted for Decree 158 (Military Justice); indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice); charged in the Giorgi case (Military Justice).

Gen Reynaldo Bignone: indicted for the disappearance on conscripts Luis Pablo Steimberg, Luis Daniel Garcia and Mario Molfin. Proceedings were initiated before the court of Carlos Olivieri, who rejected a petition from the military courts for the case to be transferred to that jurisdiction, but his decision was voided by the Chamber and turned over to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, which ruled that Bignone should be immediately freed, thus nullifying the preventive prison ordered by Olivieri. Charged in the Giorgi case (Military Justice).

Gen Guillermo Suarez Mason: indicted in the Giorgi case (Military Justice); indicted on the charge of the emptying of the YPF [Government Oil Deposits] when he was president of that company (Civil Justice under federal Judge Nestor Blondi); indicted for the illegal detention of Uruguayan newsman Rodriguez Larreta (Civil Justice); indicted in the disappearance of Guillermo Mollera (Civil Justice); indicted as former head of the 1st Army Corps in charge of military personnel and the Penitentiary Service (unidentified) acting in the illegal detention centers Olimpo, El Vesubio and El Banco.

Gen Ramon J. Camps: indicted for Decree 158 (Military Justice); charged in the Giorgi case (Military Justice); indicted for concealment in the Triple A proceedings (Civil Justice); indicted for the disappearance of a child, the daughter of a missing person, who had been turned over to Alfredo Ruffo (member of the Anibal Gordon gang).

Gen Albano Harguindeguy: charged in the illegal detention of Uruguayan newsman Rodriguez Larreta (Civil Justice); charged in the disappearance of Guillermo Moller (Civil Justice); indicted for the confinement of Carlos Saul Menem (Civil Justice); charged in the disappearance of Carlos Esteban Alaye (Civil Justice); charged in the Giorgi case (Military Justice).

Gen Juan Bautista Sasiain: indicted for the death of Amelia Insaurrealde (Civil Justice, Court 2 of Cordoba); charged in the Fleitas case (Civil Justice, Cordoba).

Gen Cristino Nicolaidis: indicted for the disappearance of Ines Ollero (competence to be decided);

Gen Osvaldo J. Garcia: indicted for his responsibility of the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice).

Gen Mario Benjamin Menendez: indicted for his responsibility of the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice).

Gen Oscar L. Jofre: indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice).

Gen Omar E. Parada: indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice).

Gen Antonio Domingo Bussi: charged for the disappearance of persons in Tucuman (Military Justice).

Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez; charged in the disappearance of persons in Tucuman (Military Justice).

Gen Santiago Omar Riveros: charged in the disappearance of persons in Tucuman (Military Justice); indicted for illegally depriving Iris Etelvina Pereyra de Avellaneda of her freedom and the kidnaping and death of her son Floreal Edgardo Avellaneda, 17, whose body was found floating off the coast of Uruguay. The federal judge of San Martin, Luis Cordoba, ruled himself incompetent and the case was transferred to the military courts. Charged in the Giorgi case (Military Justice).

Gen Antonio Merlo: indicted for threatening police in Tucuman (Civil Justice); charged for the misappropriation of funds during the 1978 World Soccer Championship (Civil Justice).

Gen Federico Minicucci: charged but not indicted in the Giorgi case (Military Justice).

Gen Ernesto Trotz: charged but not indicted in the Giorgi case (Military Justice).

Col Roberto Roualdes: charged in the Giorgi case (Military Justice); indicted for the disappearance of Ines Ollero (competency to be resolved).

Col Juan R. Mabragana: indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice).

Col Alejandro F. Repossi: indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice).

Lt Col Mohamed Ali Seineldin: charged but not indicted in the Giorgi case (Military Justice).

Lt Col Italo Piaggi: indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice).

Capt Enrique Mones Ruiz: indicted -- according to the federal judge of Cordoba, Julio Rodriguez Villafane -- for "his direct responsibility in the killing" of Raul Bauducco and Jose Moukarzel, two prisoners being held in the penitentiary in that province. Indicted in this same case are Capt Gustavo Alsina, noncommissioned officer Miguel Angel Perez and Prefect Roberto Torres. The case has been transferred to the military courts.

Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera: indicted for Decree 158 (Military Justice); indicted for the crime of rebellion (Civil Justice, with Judge Berraz de Vidal declaring himself incompetent); indicted and under preventive custody for the concealment of evidence in the disappearance of businessman Fernando Branca (Civil Justice); charged in the Holmberg case (Civil Justice); charged in the disappearance of Guillermo Moller (Civil Justice); charged for the

illegal detention of Uruguayan newsman Rodriguez Larreta (Civil Justice); charged for having appointed to diplomatic posts and issuing a diplomatic passport to the head of Propaganda 2 Lodge, Licio Gelli. Upon the recommendation of Military and Navy Justice, the Supreme Court ruled that the civil courts would hear the case, before federal Judge Nestor Vlondi.

Adm Armando Lambruschini: indicted for Decree 158 (Military Justice); charged in the Giorgi case (Military Justice).

Adm Jorge Isaac Anaya: indicted for Decree 158 (Military Justice); indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice); charged in the Giorgi case (Military Justice).

Adm Ruben Oscar Franco: indicted in the disappearance of Ines Ollero (competency to be resolved).

RAdm Ruben Chamorro: indicted in the disappearance of student Pablo Horacio Galarcep (Civil Justice, heard by the Criminal Chambers); charged for his responsibility in connection with the secret prison camps El Olimpo, El Banco and the Naval Mechanics School (Military Justice); indicted for the disappearance of Ines Ollero (competency to be resolved); indicted for the disappearance of Swedish citizen Dagmar Hagelin, before Judge Miguel Del Castillo (matter of competency would be brought up); charged in various disappearances in the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which cases were initiated before former Judge Nicasio Dibur, who declared himself incompetent and turned the proceedings over to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces.

RAdm Carlos Alberto Lacoste: investigated for the death of Gen Omar Actis and for the appointment to a PAMI [Comprehensive Medical Assistance Plan] post of guerrilla leader Marta Bazan. No action has yet been taken by Judge Berraz de Vidal (Civil Justice). Charged for the misappropriation of funds from the 1978 World Soccer Championship (Civil Justice).

RAdm Leopoldo Suarez del Cerro: indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice).

RAdm Juan J. Lombardo: indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice); charged in the disappearance and death of Rosa Ana Frigerio (Civil Justice, federal judge of Mar del Plata, Osvaldo Petigiani).

RAdm Cesar Augusto Guzzetti: passport of Licio Gelli (see charge against Massera).

RAdm Oscar Montes: charged with alleged illegal exports of fuel between 1980 and 1983 worth \$1,979,000,000 (Civil Justice, federal Judge Miguel del Castillo); case of the passport of Licio Gelli (see charges against Massera).

Capt Gualter Allara: suit involving passport of Licio Gelli (see charges against Massera, Civil Justice).

Lt Cdr Luis Carlos Lagos: indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice).

Lt Cdr Alfredo Astiz: indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice); charged in the disappearance of Swedish citizen Dagmar Hagelin (Civil Justice, matter of competency to be posed).

Former naval Petty Officer Raul Vilarino: indicted for automobile theft (Civil Justice); charged for his participation in actions related to the fight against terrorism (Military Justice); witness in the Holmberg case.

Brig Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti: indicted for Decree 158 (Military Justice); indicted for rebellion (Civil Justice, with the judge declaring herself incompetent); charged with the illegal detention of Uruguayan newsman Rodriguez Larreta; charged in the disappearance of Guillermo Moller; charged in the Giorgi case (Military Justice).

Brig Gen Omar Graffigna: indicted for Decree 158 (Military Justice).

Brig Gen Basilio Lami Dozo: indicted for Decree 158 (Military Justice); indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice).

Brig Osvaldo Andres Cacciatore: indicted and placed in protective custody for fraudulent administration in dealings with Interama (Civil Justice; challenge to Judge Alfredo Olivan).

Brig Rolando Ghisani: passport of Licio Gelli (see charges against Massera, Civil Justice).

Brig J. Santuccione: charged in different cases of missing persons in Mendoza (Civil Justice).

Brig Helmuth C. Weber: indicted for his responsibility in the war in the Malvinas (Military Justice).

Adulteration of Gasoline

The following military officers are involved in this case:

Col Carlos Laudano, Col Roberto Di Lorenzo; Lt Col Ricardo Aguirre and Lt Col Guillermo Davies; Maj Daniel Merimom, Maj Horacio Pastore and Maj Blas Palermo; 1st Lt Julio Gianobile, 1st Lt Felix Carbajal and 1st Lt Claudio Taquini; Sgt Maj Benjamin Gegundez; Sgt Maj Carlos A. Fernandez; Sgt Adj Juan Nikifornk; Sgt Jose Marinetti. All indicted by Military Tribunal No 17.

Capt Delucchi Casares; Capt Mario Moreno and Sgt Miguel Capasso. Indicted by Military Tribunal No 1.

Maj Norberto Candia and Maj Felipe Alegre; Capt Guillermo Larreyna; Lt Dardo Forti; and Sgt Elso Carabajal. Indicted by Military Tribunal No 35.

Lt Col Oscar F. Garrafa and Sgt Maj Nicolas Di Scala, indicted by Military Tribunal No 27.

Concerning all these military officers, the Army High Command last year reported that they were indicted for the adulteration of gasoline, discovered by federal Judge Martin Anzoategui, who received a petition to have them turned over to the military jurisdiction, which he did. By the middle of last year, the Army published the names and places where they were being tried, but the results of those trials are still unknown.

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CSO: 3348/506

LABOR MINISTRY REINSTATES EXPELLED UNION LEADERS

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Jul 84 p 5

[Text] The Ministry of Labor has reinstated five opposition leaders in the Association of State Workers (ATE) by revoking a recent congress of that trade union group which had expelled the union officials.

The ministerial decision is in behalf of German Abdala, Carlos Custer, Victor Degennard, Andres Perez and Manuel Sharbatti, leaders of the National Unity and Solidarity Group (ANUSATE) of the ATE, the Green List of opposition to the current board of directors headed by Juan Horvath.

The action radically changes the pre-election picture in the ATE, which, with its 100,000 members, is the largest of the public administration unions. It enables ANUSATE to present its staff in the elections to face Horvath's Blue and White List.

In a bulletin published yesterday, ANUSATE provides details on the opposition which occurred at the 25th Special Congress of the ATE held on 3 December of last year in Parana, Entre Rios.

The Ministry of Labor caused the opposition with Resolution 56/84 of the National Directorate of Trade Union Associations.

ANUSATE had presented the opposition before the congress was held, based on the objection, among others, that the congressional delegates were elected in 1975 by a direct vote of the members, meaning that their term of office ended in 1979.

In addition, the opposition grouping questioned the decisions of the congress and the expulsion of their leaders, along with the appointment of an election board before the elections were called.

For ANUSATE, this decision by labor authorities "puts an end to the rule of the arbitrariness used to avoid a democratic confrontation in clean elections."

Consequently, the group demands "the urgent convocation of elections, since the critical economic situation in which national companies find themselves makes it essential to have legitimate representatives of the workers" vis-a-vis the ATE.

INTER-AMERICAN GROUP EXTENDS HELP FOR GOOD CROPS

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 1 Jul 84 p 2

[Text]

Barbados is receiving more than US\$252 000 from the Inter-American Institute for Corporation on Agriculture (IICA) in support of transfer of technology for the production of food crops in the country.

The corporation said that in recent years Barbados has had to import increasing quantities of food and agricultural commodities in order to satisfy domestic demand.

"Also the agricultural sector on the whole had been beset by problems such as the unavailability and relatively high cost of labour; rising costs of inputs; inadequate storage arrangements and processing facilities for land cultivated.

"Although the techniques employed in agriculture are fairly advanced on large farms, there is still need for improvement in productivity, especially of vegetables, fruit, other food crops and livestock. This is particularly the case among small farmers," the IICA said.

The agricultural organisation said most of the vegetables have been traditionally produced by small farmers or farmers with medium sized holdings but the yields on small holding are approximately 20 to 30 per cent lower than those on the plantations.

"It is apparent that with the exception of sugar cane and a small number of other crops, the yield of most farm crop is below potential, which suggest the need for the increased adoption of new techniques and an improvement in extension services," IICA said.

Some of the factors related to the problem outlined are corrected

with the land tenure, land distribution, land utilisation and farm size. Small farmers frequently suffer from a shortage of land and the available holding often has poor soils and no irrigation capability.

High investment costs and institutional problems (such as poor marketing arrangements, shortage of credit, and lack of farmer organisations all combine to adversely affect small-scale farming in Barbados.

"It is estimated that some 86.2 per cent small farmers operate holdings less than one acre in size, 12.2 per cent work farms of 1-5 acres, and only 0.6 per cent operate farms between 5-10 acres. The majority of small farms are to be found on a loan textyred soil which is often too shallow to support normal and intensified cropping and they are also very prone to erosion," IICA said.

The co-operation said that there was no facility for the training of farmers adding that the bulk of the research work done over the years on crops and livestock is mainly applicable to the estate sector and little or no consideration has been given to small scale farming.

In addition, extension officers are insufficiently trained and inadequately remunerated to provide the high level of motivation and performance expected of them.

"Although there is a high unemployment level in Barbados, the scarcity of agricultural labour seems to be due to the unattractiveness of the industry, especially for a population with a 97 per cent literacy rate. Soil erosion is a problem when conversion from sugar cane is con-

templated, since many alternative crops do not provide a protective cover against erosion caused by heavy rains," the cooperation said.

IICA said that there is no well-defined programme for the transfer of technology and improved techniques within the extension service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs (MAFC) nor in the Barbados Agricultural Development (BADC) through the implementation of the two major ongoing projects.

The extension services system is not adequate enough to adapt to the now agricultural technologies for the small farmers. Also there is a need to transfer research findings from the central agronomy research unit to the small farm.

The objective of the programme is to improve small farmer participation in rural development of Barbados through production and diffusion of technologies and production systems, taking into account the relative availability of production factors.

If IICA achieves its objectives but there are no financial constraints, food crops production from small farmers should increase thus improving their participation in the country's development process. At the same time there should be an improvement in the overall domestic food supply and the balance of payments as a result of import substitution and an increase in exports.

The duration of the project is for four year, so as to meet the established goals outlined in the proposal for technical co-operation.

JOINT VENTURES CONCEPT TO BE TRIED FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 1 Jul 84 p 1

[Text]

BARBADOS is making a concerted effort to push the concept of joint ventures as a new phase of industrial development in the country. At least two Government agencies, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the Barbados Development Bank (BDB), in addition to the Barbados Manufacturers Association (BMA) have been in the forefront in promoting such ventures.

Joint ventures are arrangements where local and foreign investors pool their resources to set up business operations. Partners supply a varying number of inputs—technology, markets, labour and capital.

The BDB has been looking into the possibility of setting up a special fund which would provide equity funding for local partners in a joint venture operation.

A senior BDB official has said details of the fund were still to be worked out but could not say how

big the proposed fund would be since no firm decision had as yet been made.

However, it is believed that the fund would not exceed the Bank's maximum loan limit of \$2.8 million.

The BDB has also been advertising the concept and the Bank official has pointed out that some inquiries to the ads have been fair.

"The Bank's role is to collaborate with other agencies doing the promotion", he said.

The benefits outlined by the BDB in one of its advertisements were the opening of new opportunities to enter into wider areas of manufacturing, an avenue to larger export markets, greater access to technical expertise, and means of acquiring additional equity financing.

The other two agencies have also been in the process of pushing this phase of development.

Meetings have been held with representatives of visiting business delegations to the country...

Earlier this month the BMA and the Caribbean Council sponsored a

one-day seminar on joint ventures. It was designed to explore the opportunities available between Barbadians and their business counterparts from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) on one hand, and small and minority U.S. businessmen on the other.

One component of Barbados' industrial development programme involves the enclave type industry where investors are offered tax incentives for a possible 10 years.

However, what has been worrying to most countries pursuing this strategy is that some investors tended to close their operations on a date approaching the expiration of the incentives, and for a variety of other reasons, leaving empty, factory shells and hundreds of unemployed people.

Under such circumstances where there is a foreign and local partnership and the foreign owner wishes to pull out, it is hoped that the local partner would be able to buy out the shares of his foreign counterpart.

CSO: 3298/1002

ST PETER BY-ELECTION RAISES BROADER POLITICAL ISSUES

DLP Leadership

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 6-7 Jul 84 p 1

[Text]

THE people of St. Peter feel that the man to lead the opposition Democratic Labour Party in the next general election is Errol Walton Barrow.

Opposition Leader Mr. Barrow, who headed the DLP government for 15 years and led the country into independence was favoured over the three younger party MPs who are considered likely candidates to take over party leadership. They are president Mr. Brantford Taitt, Mr. Erskine Sandiford and Dr. Richie Haynes.

The views of the people of St. Peter were sought in a recently conducted public opinion poll carried out on behalf of **THE NATION** by the Systems group of companies. People were questioned on a wide range of issues, including their choice of candidate to represent that parish in the July 19 by-election. (Results of that poll were published last week-end).

Mr. Taitt was the second choice of those polled while Dr. Haynes placed third. Support for Mr. Sandiford was negligible.

Support for Mr. Barrow came largely from committed DLP voters, judging from their responses to other questions in the public opinion poll.

This is how the support for leadership was distributed:

Mr. Barrow: 32.3 percent.
Mr. Taitt: 15.0 percent.
Dr. Haynes 11.0 percent.
Mr. Sandiford 7.1 percent.

A very high number — 32.1 percent said that they did not know who should lead the DLP in the general elections.

Responses were sought from 508 voters in St. Peter. Households were selected from each enumeration district in proportion to the population in that district. One respondent was selected from each of the sample households, with controls on sex and age, so as to achieve a representative cross section of the people in the parish.

The people were also asked how they compare the quality of life today with that of five years ago, the quality of representation provided to St. Peter by retiring MP, Mr. Burton Hinds, and what they see as the major issues of the day.

A full report, prepared by Systems is carried on today's centre pages.

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 8 Jul 84 p 4

[Article by Henry Christopher]

[Excerpts]

CAMPAIGNING for the July 19 by-election in St. Peter will move into a different phase this weekend with both major parties scheduled to hold their first mass public meetings.

One of the most significant features of the electioneering so far has been the vibrant support the DLP has been getting from such groups as the PPM and the communist influenced and directed MONALI organisation. So far the DLP has not issued any press statements disassociating itself from these questionable bodies.

In light of the strong and long-standing connections the DLP has with the PPM especially, it would not at all be difficult for it to put an end to the low level of PPM campaigning if it wanted to do so.

But the intensity of the PPM's involvement in St. Peter on behalf of the DLP which is running Mrs. Sybil Leacock, is exceeding that which this notorious team exerted in the last by-election in St. Michael South Central in 1978 won by the DLP's Dr. Richie Haynes.

In 1978, the PPM carried the ball for the DLP as it led a scurrilous programme of rumours linking DeLisle Bradshaw with the murder of Pele Parris. A subsequent public enquiry has vindicated Mr. Bradshaw and the BLP and condemned the actions of the PPM and the DLP. But still the DLP has allowed, and by not repudiating publicly, seemingly encouraged the PPM even as recently as now in St. Peter.

It has come as a fresh and different shock to St. Peter to see the DLP being in association with the MONALI (Movement for National Liberation). This puny and largely paper organisation has always disgusted Barbadians by its anti-democratic philosophy and action, the most recent of which has been the unreserved support it gave to the murderous happenings in Grenada last October.

Somersault

It is to be doubted that anyone

would have prior to now imagined that the DLP could ever have anything in common with MONALI. But considering the double somersault the DLP performed over the Grenada intervention (backing but later criticising the BLP Government for saving democracy in Grenada), it is now very clear that the DLP and MONALI are intimate political bed partners after all.

The BLP has however been stressing the virtues of its candidate, Owen Arthur, projecting him as part of an ideas-filled team ("BLP Brains") and a fine product of the Parish ("St. Peter Sense") with all the attendant social values, humaneness, compassion and sensitivity and a close intimacy with the constituency, its people and its problems.

Even now the DLP through its rumours and its PPM mouthpiece, have been seeking to detract from the outstanding academic and personal qualities and record of Owen Arthur.

To hear the DLP, PPM and also MONALI, it seems as though they would like to make the people of St. Peter believe that they neither need nor deserve the candidate best equipped to represent them.

All of a sudden this motley combination would want the electorate there to swallow the assinine theory that the best possible education and intellect are obstacles to proper parliamentary representation, when for generations Barbadians all over this island have recognised and fought for these standards both in politics and every other sphere of national life.

Unable to deny or disprove the intellectual gifts Owen Arthur has brought to political life in Barbados, they have resorted to character assassination as a stock weapon. Nevertheless, this has proven ineffective and has not in any way blunted the people's ability and readiness to accept him moreso since he easily relates to them in all age groups and of both sexes.

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 12 Jul 84 p 13

[Text]

MR. BRANFORD TAITT, a former Minister of Trade in the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Government, said last Tuesday night the blame for the industrial morass in this country should be laid squarely at the feet of Prime Minister Tom Adams.

Speaking at a public meeting at Mile-and-a-Quarter in the St. Peter by-election campaign, Mr. Taitt, said that Prime Minister Adams' indiscretion in dealing with other countries' officials, particularly those from Trinidad and Tobago, had ended up with action of an electrifying mood.

The DLP president spoke of the quality of representation that the party's candidate, Mrs. Sybil Leacock, could provide for the people of St. Peter when she became a member of Parliament.

He added that the unemployment situation in Barbados could also be laid squarely at the feet of the Prime Minister and his disinterest in the manufacturing sector.

When one also looked at the antagonism of other Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) countries, Mr. Taitt said, the nature of the problem, which was political, could be understood.

He said: "Things in Barbados will not get better until the Barbados Labour Party is thrown out of office.

"No matter how the Government tries to paper over the deep chasm which now exists between Trinidad and Barbados, it is clear that the differences between the two countries are almost irreconcilable," Mr. Taitt said.

He added that the people of St. Peter had a chance to change the history not only of Barbados, but of the entire Caribbean.

He said: "By their vote for Mrs. Leacock they can usher in a new era of Caribbean prosperity which would start with a new era of Caribbean relations once again."

Mr. Taitt made references to the off-loading of Barbados cement in Trinidad. He said it had been reported on good authority that Barbadians had to go to Trinidad to help off-load Barbados cement.

The Member of Parliament for St. Michael West also touched on certain practices in the Immigration Department, citing a case of what he called "corruption" in that department.

He related a case of a Guyanese national who had arrived in Barbados in November, 1983, and had been given permission to remain as a visitor on vacation.

He said that on July 2, 1984, she had been granted the right to reside and work in Barbados.

Mr. Taitt said that approval had been given even before a proper form had been submitted.

He said: "People are getting extensions of stay before they are interviewed. I maintain what I have said in Parliament and outside, that such practices smack of corruption."

Mr. Taitt warned the crowd not to interfere with the buses that were inching their way through the crowd. He said that the buses were not the property of the Government, but the taxpayers.

"The people of Barbados and St. Peter must recognise that they are the owners of Barbados, and not the politicians," Mr. Taitt said.

DLP Voter Registration Objections

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 12 Jul 84 p 13

[Text]

THE Democratic Labour Party (DLP) has filed more than 40 objections to the registering officer against names appearing on a preliminary voters' list in the St. Peter constituency where a by-election will be held next Thursday.

President of the DLP, Mr. Branford Taitt, said the objections related to the names of a number of people who were dead, who had left the constituency and were living in other constituencies, or who had left the island for longer than five years under Section 9, chapter 12, of the Laws of Barbados.

He pointed out one of the problems was that even though a person might be away, that person had left the constituency for any length of time, it had to be known exactly where that person resides.

The reason for that, he explained, was that if an objection was made to a person's name being on the list, and that person's name has to be removed, the Chief Electoral Officer must have another constituency to which that person must be assigned.

So that, he added, the DLP's objections had to be accompanied by affidavits, and because of the technical problems with the law, there were over 100 persons on the list, who did not live, and had not lived in St. Peter for some considerable time.

He said the DLP did not know exactly where they had moved to in Barbados, or how long they had gone overseas.

The DLP, Mr. Taitt said, was maintaining a very diligent monitor of the electoral list, and on by-election day, would pay especial attention to those persons, although living outside the constituency, or dead, appear to turn up to vote.

The DLP believed, Mr. Taitt said, the appointment of an Electoral and Boundaries Commission required under the constitutional amendment passed in 1981 by Parliament, continued to be of crucial importance in the political life of Barbados.

He said a commission whose sole job was to deal with matters of elections and the franchise, would insist that returning officers did their jobs effectively and efficiently.

Arthur Promises

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 9 Jul 84 p 1

[Text]

BARBADOS Labour Party (BLP) candidate in the St. Peter by-election, Mr. Owen Arthur, last night promised a mammoth crowd at Mile-and-a-Quarter to bring more jobs to St. Peter at the industrial estate at Colleton.

He was speaking at the first BLP public meeting, at which he was given a resounding carnival-style welcome, in support of his candidature for the St. Peter seat in the House of Assembly.

The 34-year-old economist said that the type of industry that would be brought to the Colleton estate would be three-fold.

He said they needed to bring agro-industries to process the output of the Spring Hall Land Lease Project and increase vegetable production.

Mr. Arthur added that they also had to deal with the excess fish that would be created when the new fishing harbour was built in Speightstown.

He said that a vibrant craft and souvenir industry could be created at Heywoods.

Manufacturing industries, he noted, could also be created to link with the Cement Plant since there would be a demand for such things as the output of bags for cement.

There could also be factories for building materials, Mr. Arthur said.

He noted that in the process of these developments, jobs and opportunities would be created for small businessmen, artisans and people in the service industry, like cashiers, maids and so on.

On the question of roads, Mr. Arthur said that they were being destroyed, not because the Government was a bad one, but because the roads accommodated vehicles for which they had not been designed.

He suggested that politics be taken out of roads and that each year when the Estimates were presented to the House of Assembly, funds from the Transport Levy should be apportioned for the construction of new highways, improving existing highways, and the development of tenantry roads.

Mr. Arthur further suggested that a comprehensive list of roads in greatest need for repair should be presented to the House and done on a rational and constructive basis of choice.

He said that it was his view that \$5 million should be provided by Government to be put into a rural basic needs programme to provide electricity and water.

Report on DLP Rally

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 11 Jul 84 p 1

[Text]

The Democratic Labour Party launched its platform campaign last night with a massive public meeting at Mile and Quarter, St. Peter. And from the beginning the party emphasised why it needed the support of the constituents of St. Peter for its candidate, Mrs. Sybil Leacock.

DLP speakers Cameron Tudor, Warrick Franklin and Erskine Sandiford all said it was a serious meeting in view of the crucial situation which the country now faced.

Mr. Tudor said the Barbados Labour Party Government had not been giving the country a fair deal and he appealed to the BLP supporters to join their DLP counterparts and support Mrs. Leacock.

Mr. Tudor said: "You BLP supporters have been treated just as unfairly as the DLP's."

Mr. Franklin criticised the Government's housing programme

as well as Government's decision to spend \$60 million on the new Central Bank headquarters.

He said the \$60 million could have built 1 200 houses and in the process provided jobs for over 2 000 people.

Mr. Franklin asked how could the Government have gone ahead and spent that money on the structure of the Central Bank when Mr. Owen Arthur is a director of the bank and would have known the plight of people who needed houses.

Deputy Opposition Leader Mr. Erskine Sandiford said that his party was campaigning in the constituency for two reasons. The first was to explain how the BLP mismanaged and misgoverned Barbados.

The other reason, Mr. Sandiford said, is to solicit support for Mrs. Leacock who had served St. Peter admirably and who will continue to do so.

"I am submitting to you," Mr. Sandiford said, "that the most

appropriate person to fill this vacant seat is Sybil Leacock."

Mr. Sandiford said there were a number of inadequacies in Barbados, and citing the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) of which Mr. Arthur is chairman he said that this corporation had done nothing to contribute to a viable agricultural sector.

In fact, Mr. Sandiford said, Government had spent as much as \$25 million on the statutory corporations, including the ADC, and Mr. Arthur should tell the country what is going on at Coverly and Fairy Valley — two ADC estates.

He also dealt with what he called the poor educational system, criticising Education Minister Billie Miller.

Mr. Sandiford said that when in power his party had been criticised for building too many schools, but he said that is exactly what the BLP is doing now.

He said there were plans by Government to close down a large number of schools.

CSO: 3298/1001

MANUFACTURERS' LEADER QUESTIONS CHARGE BY TRINIDAD

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 11 Jul 84 p 1

[Text]

Trinidad and Tobago's demand of an assurance that its Caribbean Community (CARICOM) trading partners buy more of its goods as a precondition for dismantling a controversial trade barrier is "a little dangerous," according to the head of the Barbados Manufacturers Association (BMA), Frank Da Silva.

"I think the figures will show for the first three months of this year — and I have no doubt for April, May and June as well — that Barbados is in fact buying more from Trinidad than she is selling Barbados," Da Silva remarked. "I think there is something a little dangerous in Trinidad's stipulation."

Trinidad and Tobago Government officials spoke about the precondition while CARICOM Heads of Government were meeting in the Bahamas last week, mainly to resolve problems that had snarled intra-regional trade.

The Heads of Government underlined the need for a return to free

trading in the community at the earliest opportunity, for reducing the importation of third country goods similar to those produced in the region, and for refloating with foreign aid a trade credit scheme that was grounded after the credit ceiling was surpassed.

Da Silva said he had "grave reservations" about the possibility of a higher tax on third country imports keeping purchases from non-CARICOM states to the level desired. He also remarked that the removal of import licensing regimes had to be accompanied by governments assurance that they will pay their imports bill, since "the biggest barrier against free trade is a country not paying our bills." This appeared to be a reference to CARICOM countries with hard currency problems.

He also suggested that the CARICOM governments look at the possibility of issuing bonds to raise money to refloat the grounded Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF).

PLP NO-CONFIDENCE MOVE FAILS, SPARKS ROW WITH UBP

Swan Criticism

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 23 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

Yesterday's unsuccessful motion of no confidence in the Government backfired on the Opposition — and particularly its leader, Mrs. Lois Browne Evans.

The failure, on party lines, of the censure bid came as no surprise, but last night Members on both sides of the House of Assembly were privately expressing shock at the poverty of the Opposition's case.

Some were speculating that Mrs. Browne Evans had made the biggest blunder of her political career in both initiating the no-confidence debate and then declining to lead the debate herself.

This added to reports that her leadership of the Progressive Labour Party is coming increasingly under threat.

The Opposition argument appeared to lack substance and cohesion and barely addressed the central theme — the Government's handling of the controversial \$200 million Heritage Fund investment.

Government members consistently criticised the quality of Opposition debate, describing it variously as vexatious, frivolous, useless, repetitious and time-wasting.

The debate lasted almost ten hours at a time when Parliamentary business is facing a serious backlog.

Premier, the Hon. John Swan, said that the public's money would have been much better used if the House had spent the day discussing the real problems facing the country, particularly labour relations and crime.

Another Cabinet Minister, the Hon. Quinton Edness, took the opportunity to call for a meeting of business, unions/Opposition and Government representatives to discuss the major economic issues of the day.

The only UBP personality to come under sustained criticism was former Finance Minister, the Hon. David Gibbons, who was likened to the Wizard of Finance.

And even then, Mr. Gibbons' successor, the Hon. Clarence James, came to his defence, saying he was happy to inherit the Heritage Fund.

The Government was largely successful in muzzling its own Heritage Fund rebels, with only Mr. William Cox breaking ranks in the debate. Even Mr. Cox supported the Government in the final vote.

All in all, much was said and little appeared to be gained in a session which lasted until 9.30 p.m.

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 23 Jun 84 pp 4-5

[Excerpt]

The Hon. Quinton Edness, Minister of Works, Housing, Agriculture and Fisheries, yesterday called for a meeting of unions, Opposition, business and Government to discuss major problems.

Naming drug related crime, the deterioration of labour relations and the increasing cost of services as the main issues needing to be dealt with, he said Government must be prepared to take a lead and initiate dialogue.

"What we need in our country is effective dialogue, good faith dialogue between the unions/Opposition, business and Government to discuss ways by which we can work together for the benefit of Bermuda's future."

He further proposed an economic summit to educate the Opposition, enhance the environment for greater progress and to find a new labour/management accord.

Mr. Edness spoke during an Opposition no-confidence motion.

Mr. Eugene Cox, Shadow Minister of Finance, moved the motion for the Opposition.

He said it was interesting that although the motion had been put by his Party, it was really one that it had to thank the Premier and his Cabinet for.

"It is because of the Premier's economic policies and the practices of his former Finance Minister that we find ourselves today having to debate this motion."

Many members of the House had attended courses in Parliamentary democracy at Westminster, and he had been to one in 1971.

There, they had been told

that Parliament was really acting on behalf of the electorate in subjecting the Government to regular scrutiny.

"We are here today to focus attention on the Government's policies and performance."

The Opposition believed that the Premier's policies, through the former Finance Minister, had affected Bermuda adversely — so adversely that the Premier last week had found it expedient to blame the workers at the Bermuda Broadcasting Company for his misguided leadership.

Mr. Cox said he proposed to give the facts; to lay the evidence before the House of the Government's performance.

He would show that the Government had failed to care for the economic needs of Bermuda and the people's economic well-being.

The Opposition would call for the dismissal of the present economic advisor to the Government, the former Minister of Finance, the Hon. David Gibbons, and for the resignation of the Premier and his Cabinet.

The Shadow Minister said he would deal first with the question of Bermuda's balance of payments.

"I will use not my information and analysis but that of the expert," he said.

Mr. Cox said he wanted to quote from the words of Dr. Kurt Senff, an International Monetary Authority consultant, as published in *The Royal Gazette*.

"He said that it was hard to tell whether Bermuda's current account was in surplus or in deficit or to measure the size of the present position. He went on to describe the present external balance as a precarious

one," said Mr. Cox.

Turning his attention to the Price Commission, Mr. Cox said that all the members had resigned because they felt they were not being allowed to do their duties as outlined in the legislation.

"They gave as their reason the fact that they would sit and adjudicate on a matter, only to have the former Finance Minister overturning what they had done."

"The final straw was the case when the Finance Minister was not happy with the Commission's decision and then, when new information came in, he ignored them, made a decision by himself and caused them all to resign."

The Shadow Minister then addressed what he described as the Coral Island crash.

He said it was only after several months — and after he had set some questions down — that the Parliament had finally learned from the former Minister of Finance that he had known of the condition the club was in for some nine months, but had failed to take any action.

"It was my understanding that the Minister of Tourism, charged with administering Coral Island, had asked a number of times for the means to carry out the job, but the Government refused. But, at the time, the Government was considering removing the Minister from his job."

Mr. Cox said the Opposition was bemused as to why the Government would want to remove the Minister of Tourism if he had been successful.

"Maybe, it is because the present Minister of Tourism has the charisma and expertise which might well re-

place the Premier," said Mr. Cox.

The Government had not acted decisively on Coral Island, he said.

Last week, he had raised the matter of the Bermuda Broadcasting Company strike on the motion to adjourn, and spoken of reports that the Minister of Industry and Technology was talking of resigning in the midst of that crisis.

But when he had read the newspaper the following day, the story had been written in such a way that it misled the President of the Chamber of Commerce.

"When the Premier speaks everyone stops, and if he says walk, everyone walks," said Mr. Cox.

"The President of the Chamber is reported as saying that he was glad that the Premier had taken a leadership role in the economy of Bermuda. He was referring to the fact that the Premier had given a speech.

"He thought that the Premier had given direction to the country; what he, in fact, gave was a rhetorical response to my penetrating statement.

"I believe the Premier felt that without television, his ratings may have fallen and that is why he got up to speak."

The question of conflict of interest had been raised, said Mr. Cox.

But it had to be remembered that the Cabinet and the Government were the decision makers.

"Even if the Opposition owned a bank, we could not have the conflict of interest they have because we are not making the decisions," he said.

Mr. Cox said that Government Members were constantly talking about how Bermuda was the third richest country in the world, with a per capita income of \$18,000.

"They are being caught up in their own propaganda; that is why the workers

aspire to greater earnings."

Mr. Cox said that the Auditor had claimed that the Government was inefficient.

"What is disturbing about this is that he is talking about the report of 1980, not 1984 or 1983, but 1980."

Mr. Cox said that in his capacity of chairman of the Public Accounts Committee he had written to the Speaker in January telling him that the Committee was not in possession of the Auditor's reports for 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 or 1984.

Subsequently, the Speaker had responded and had informed the Minister of Finance of the situation.

Under the Constitution, the Governor appointed the Auditor which meant he was independent of the dictates of the Government.

Section 101 of the Constitution set out very clearly the role of the Auditor and that he must be given the tools necessary for him to carry out his task.

"Because of this, we should try in some way to bring pressure through Whitehall so that monies are set aside for the Auditor and his staff.

"We are not going to tolerate this year after year," Mr. Cox said.

The country could be going broke and the people would not know about it.

Mr. Cox said that this week Members had learned that the Attorney General had advised the Government that certain acts done by the Bermuda Monetary Authority were without legal basis because the Authority was without a chairman.

This suggested to him that the Monetary Authority had not been able to carry out its functions under the Act.

"We have had a number of transactions which now need to be validated by retroactive legislation," he said.

"We have had a financial institution, John W. Swan,

allowed to effect a transaction during this period. Was that a valid transaction? I think that we must look at that; it is a very serious matter."

Turning to the Heritage Fund, the Shadow Minister said that the Parliament had been misled during the Budget debate by the former Finance Minister.

They had been told that the country had a surplus of some \$20 million, and after commitments had been met, some \$13 million would be left.

The former Finance Minister had said that it would be a good move to invest \$8 million in a Heritage Fund.

"He was so generous in his praises that he even gave the country's former Finance Ministers credit for what they had done in laying the foundation stone for him to build upon.

"We felt at the time that the Minister was not serious; that he was trying to etch his name in the annals of history," Mr. Cox said.

Recently, a former Cabinet Minister, Mr. William Cox, had asked questions relating to the Fund of the present Finance Minister.

He had asked the Minister whether he intended to invest all of the \$8 million.

The Opposition had listened with great interest to the Minister's answer and was surprised and quite pleased to learn that he was no longer following the original investment route.

"I am charging the Government that they misled the House, especially when the former Finance Minister is now the Government's financial advisor," said Mr. Cox.

He said that the Premier attempted to align himself with President Reagan.

"If this had happened in the United States Congress, Reagan would have been impeached. If it had happened in Westminster, Mrs. Thatcher would have bowed out quietly."

Obviously, there should be a resignation, he said — that would be corrective action.

"We are saying that this House, in the interest of saving the country, should call for the dismissal of the present advisor to the Minister and for the Cabinet to resign because they are not acting in the best interests of the country," said Mr. Cox.

Premier, the Hon. John Swan, leading for the Government, said: "Now, we have heard Her Master's Voice."

He said he had been tempted to move an amendment to the motion before the House, which would simply entail striking out the word 'no'.

The motion would then have read: "That this House has confidence in the financial and economic ability of the Government to care for the needs of the people of Bermuda and to provide for their economic welfare."

The Premier said that when such motions calling for the resignation of a Government were dealt with, it was normal for the Leader of the Opposition to speak first.

"I would have thought that if the Leader of the Opposition was not under seige as she is at present, she would have got up and addressed herself to these matters by leading the debate," said Mr. Swan.

He described the Opposition's motion as one born out of ignorance, and the Shadow Minister's speech as rhetoric addressed to issues which were not really relevant to the financial issues of the country.

Mr. Swan said he was confused about who was the real Leader of the Opposition.

At first, he had thought it was the President of the Bermuda Industrial Union who, a few months ago, had asked the Opposition to walk out and they had done so. Now, the Shadow Minister was leading a no-confidence debate.

He said that during the lead up to the 1983 election, all of Government's policies and past performance had been laid before the public, and the public had demonstrated that it had confidence in the Government.

The Opposition failed to acknowledge that the Government had conducted itself in such a manner that it had been returned to power on a number of occasions.

The Premier said that the Heritage Fund investment had been raised during the Budget Debate, and he found it difficult to believe that members of the Opposition had not made a real issue out of it at that time.

Instead, they had waited until much later to jump on the bandwagon.

"They claim that there is freedom of expression on their side. I can tell you, I have only seen one occasion when an Opposition Member has not voted with the rank and file and I wonder what happened to that Member who has been quiet ever since," he said.

Mr. Swan said he commended the former Finance Minister for his actions.

"He said to himself, 'I am a professional man with long years of experience in financial affairs. I can see a logical transfer from one period to another'."

The Shadow Finance Minister had said that President Reagan would have been impeached in similar circumstances.

The Premier said he could assure the House that the people of the US had not called for the resignation of their Government over what had happened in El Salvador, and Mrs. Thatcher had not resigned over the Falkland Islands issue.

"The problem is that the Opposition is caught up in trivia. More and more, I am convinced that they are not ready to run the financial affairs of this country."

Bermuda was a country which dealt with a lot of US dollars — in fact, there were probably more US dollars in Bermuda than Bermuda dollars.

Bermuda was not like the US which did not allow its citizens to have any currency other than US dollars.

Mr. Swan said that he wished to reiterate his statement of last week that Members had to recognise that what they said in the House and the way they depicted themselves had an impact on tourism and international business.

"I would have thought that the Honourable Member, when he was addressing himself to this House, would have talked about the real issues facing the country."

"He has admitted that this motion is not going to bring the Government down; it is just frivolous."

The Shadow Minister had not said a word with respect to labour relations, or with respect to crime, the Premier said.

"He didn't say anything about the fact that we have become too insular; that we take too much for granted."

"I am afraid that when they hear a motion like this, which is a nonsense motion, that it tends to lead people to believe that things are not well."

As far as Coral Island was concerned, he said, the Government was bound by law, and the courts had decided what should take place in relation to that matter.

On the Auditor's report, the Premier said that the Shadow Minister was chairman of the Parliamentary Accounts Committee and if he took the matter seriously, he should have used the constitutional position of the Opposition Leader and made representations to the Governor.

The Shadow Minister had talked about the Price Commission and the resignation of its members. "The Minister made a decision he

thought was right. That is democracy; that is the freedom we like.

"Maybe the Leader of the Opposition should resign to give the Shadow Minister an opportunity to project himself," said Mr. Swan.

The Premier said that the Opposition's motion lacked substance and any good thought.

He thought of it in terms of wheelbarrow mentality — they didn't know where to push the barrow but had to dump it somewhere.

"It is occupying a full day of this House when we should get on with some of the pertinent issues addressing this House and this country," the Premier said.

Charge of UBP 'Racialism'

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 8 Jun 84 p 2

[Article by Calvin Smith]

[Text]

SINCE the United Bermuda Party government is at long last attempting to take a look at what ails this community by way of its "quality of life survey", we should use this opportunity to determine what it is that we should be looking at.

The survey should make an attempt to investigate the phenomenon of institutionalised racialism. If the UBP government is not prepared to give guarantees of full disclosure of the results, consistent with the protection of privacy of individuals, then the public should withhold its cooperation.

The researchers themselves have stated previously that racial inequities are at the bottom of Bermuda's social problems. The UBP government, however, continues to claim that racial problems exist only in the minds of a few "trouble-makers". The general public therefore needs to be concerned as to why the government has hired a group of researchers to investigate a problem that they continue to assure us does not exist.

It could be that the UBP has hired the researchers to investigate the problem known as institutionalised racialism — the situation whereby one race ends up at a disadvantage because of customs/law. Housing and employment practices in Bermuda provide excellent examples of this phenomenon at work.

LANDLORDS VERSUS TENANTS

As far as housing is concerned, institutionalised racialism places both black landlords and black tenants at a disadvantage. Black landlords, because relatively far more of these

are under rent control than is the case for white landlords. Black tenants, because relatively more of these are likely to be the victims of eviction and no alternative source of housing, than is the case for white tenants.

A legacy of Bermuda's segregated past is that black landlords are far more likely to own property in the high density areas in which the major part of the housing is occupied by low income black families. These houses almost invariably have controlled rents. White landlords on the other hand are more likely to own property in the areas of lower density in which the major part of the housing is occupied by high income white families.

As a result, white landlords have been able to benefit from the high rents paid (by international companies, for example) to a far greater extent than have black landlords. On the other hand, black landlords have had to engage in evictions, and subterfuge such as replacing tenants with relatives, renting to tourists only, and leaving houses vacant, in order to regain control of their houses.

Thus rent control, which had the objective of easing the burden on low low-income households, has, in fact, punished both black landlords and tenants and, in many cases, has set them in vicious conflict with each other.

RACE AND NEPOTISM

A second legacy of Bermuda's segregated past is that virtually all major businesses in Bermuda are white-owned and managed. Promotion in these businesses, once based on

race and nepotism, continues to be based to a large extent on nepotism. Thus, employees who are relatives and/or friends of the owners are promoted before other personnel. As a result, white people are far more likely to be promoted before blacks.

Even in corporations in which ownership of shares is widely dispersed (such as the major banks), it is painfully obvious that the proportion of black employees decreases rapidly as one proceeds up the corporate ladder.

It would be easy to put the case that the situation described in housing and employment can no longer be attributed to racial malevolence. Nevertheless, given our segregated past, and the patterns of ownership which grew out of that past, whites will continue in the foreseeable future to enjoy a far greater

share of the economic benefits of our economy than their black sisters and brothers.

If the current survey tends to look rather hard at these adverse effects of institutionalised racialism, and the UBP government is prepared to make available the full findings of that survey to the general public, it should be welcomed on that basis alone.

For as long as the situations described in this article exist, blacks will perceive that they continue to be the victims of racialism — whether or not such is the case. And who is to say nay?

Let us therefore use the opportunity afforded by the survey to identify the incidence of institutionalised racialism, so that sensible policies can be developed and implemented to remove its adverse effects!

Public-Private Wage Discrepancies

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 8 Jun 84 p 4

[Article by D. E. Lightbourn]

[Text]

Shortly after the General Election of 1968, and the advent of "responsible" government (to quote leaders of the UBP), the Opposition Progressive Labour Party members of the House of Assembly pressed for the institution of a full-time parliament (five days per week) and paid parliamentary members.

Prior to 1968, members of the House of Assembly were paid a token amount for each sitting which they attended. If they didn't turn up, they weren't paid. There was no Cabinet and no ministers.

In the early seventies, the UBP government decided to pay an annual salary to members of the House. But they still retained the one-day sitting per week — except when they were on holiday (as at Christmas, Easter and during the summer months!).

The original sums paid to the parliamentarians were relatively modest, i.e., \$4,500 for an ordinary backbencher, \$9,000 for a minister and \$12,000 for the premier.

Apart from one or two PLP members, the rest of the members of the House had other sources of income.

Then, in 1978, it was decided that the salaries for the members of the House should be raised in accordance with the Bermuda Public Servants Association (BPSA) the union for the Civil Service's negotiated terms for their members.

Our investigations have revealed that, since 1976, the pay for all members of the House and the Senate has risen at an incredible rate. In many cases, more than 200%, and far beyond the rise in the Cost of Living Index, as can be seen in the chart below:

In observing the above, we may well ask ourselves, are they really worth it? A comparison with the salaries paid to top political representatives in the U.S. House of Congress shows that they are paid only about \$20,000 more than our local representatives. And the members of Congress are full-time politicians and spend the greater part of their lives in the House of Congress during their terms in office. Also, these Congressmen and women are representing millions of citizens.

Our politicians only represent a few thousand; by their performance, some of them ap-

pear to be representing themselves, rather than those who voted for them!

Now these overpaid politicians will be receiving automatic increases every two years, when the BPSA negotiates for the civil servants. All of them (the politicians) still have other sources of income and still only meet one day per week. So they still have plenty of time to look after their OWN interests, outside the House of Assembly.

Meanwhile, these same individuals have the GALL to admonish the Bermudian working man and woman (who are paying their salaries), about being too greedy in their demands for wage increases, when those workers ask for a modest 10% increase!

We should ask ourselves, are these people really doing the job for which they are being paid? Are they spending sufficient time in debating and discussing the vital matters that come before the House, and all aspects of the legislation which comes out of the House?

Finally, are we, the citizens, being "priced out of the market" when it comes to payment of the "people's representatives"?

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND SENATE
Raises Since 1976 (8 Years)**

	April 1976	April 1984	\$ Raise	% Raise
Members of Parliament	4,500	14,500	10,000	222.2
Ministers	9,000	29,000	20,000	222.2
Premier	12,000	40,000	28,000	233.3
Deputy Premier	4,500	30,080	25,580	568.4
Speaker	7,000	21,750	14,750	210.7
Opposition Leader	7,500	20,300	12,800	170.7
Deputy Speaker	5,000	17,400	12,400	248.0
Senators	4,500	10,140	5,640	125.3
President of Senate	7,000	14,490	7,490	107.0
Vice President of Senate	5,000	10,870	5,870	117.4

Note: During that eight-year period the Cost of Living Index showed an 83.2% increase

PLP Defense of Leader

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 11 Jul 84 p 5

[Text]

A group of founders of the Progressive Labour Party have hit out at a recent article in the Opposition's official newspaper, claiming the criticism of the Opposition leadership was masterminded by a "bunch of women haters."

In a written statement to *The Royal Gazette*, a group of Opposition supporters calling themselves "The PLP Founders" accused the author of the story, Mr. Eugene Woods of being upset because the party was headed by a woman — Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans.

Mr. Woods last night denied that he intended to "get at" Mrs. Browne-Evans, in his article in last month's edition of *Party Line*.

"When I wrote that article, it was not an attempt to get at anyone in particular," he said.

"It was a very broad look at the party, from a structural standpoint."

But the PLP founders said Mr. Woods' story, which claimed the present PLP platform was hopelessly out of date, constituted a "dirty, underhanded, slimy trick".

Spokesman for the group, Mr. Peter Smith, said last

night the statement represented the views of himself, Mr. Wilfred Allen, Mr. Walter Robinson, Mr. Austin Wilson, and "other founders" of the PLP.

"We, as the founders of the PLP, will not stand idly by and see the party undermined by a group of self-serving individuals," they said in their release.

Mr. Woods wrote in his article that "meaningful change is imperative at the leadership level, to meet the challenges of the ruling party".

But the PLP founders maintained that "meaningful change at the leadership level" referred not to the leadership in general, but to Mrs. Browne-Evans in particular.

"They detest the fact that a woman — and may we add a very capable one at that — is the leader of the party," they said in their statement.

"If Woods and Company believe they can fool the Bermudian populace by hiding behind this smokescreen, they are only fooling themselves."

"We, the founders of the PLP, know that a group of anti-feminists masterminded the article."

The party founders pooch-pooched claims by Mr. Woods that the current PLP leadership was 20 years behind the political times.

"We maintain that the party is living in the '80's, and it is, in fact, Woods who is living in the distant past," the statement said.

"Imagine men today who are either unable, or unwilling, to accept and respect responsible female leadership."

"Who then is living in the past?"

The group also lambasted "Mr. Woods and Company" for airing the Party's dirty laundry in public.

"Party papers are used to set forth Party policy, and are not to be used by the membership as a firing line to attack the leadership and its political platform," the statement said.

"Allegations of the sort Woods and Company are guilty of are best handled in party caucuses and not in the public arena."

Mr. Woods said he had not intended his article to be a public criticism of party politics.

"It was really to stimulate an introspective look at the Party," he said.

Probe of Swan Bank

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 29 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

An independent review is to be carried out of the sale of bank charters and the role of the Bermuda Monetary Authority.

Premier, the Hon. John Swan, said yesterday that he was searching for someone to chair the review who fitted the criterion of "independence".

dence".

An investigation and report on bank charters was called for by the Senate last February in a motion which won the joint support of Opposition and Independent members.

The Senate debate followed the sale of the deposit

taking department and bank charter of John W. Swan Ltd. to the Bank of Bermuda.

The motion forwarded to the Premier requested that the Government "appoint an independent committee to investigate and report on the sale of bank charters, and to make recommendations on the role of the Monetary Authority".

On Wednesday, Opposition Senator David Allen complained that the Govern-

ment was holding the Parliament in contempt by failing to act on the Senate's request for an investigation.

Asked yesterday if the Government would establish such a review, the Premier released the following statement to *The Royal Gazette*:

"It is my intention to comply with the request of the Honourable Members of the Senate.

"Now that a chairman has been appointed to the Monetary Authority, it should be possible to conduct a review

of the Monetary Authority, as well as the sale of bank charters, with a view to achieving some positive recommendations.

"Indeed, I am now in the process of searching for a chairman of the review to fit the criterion of 'independence' called for by the Upper House.

"I have informed the new chairman of the Bermuda Monetary Authority to this effect."

PLP Split Over Mob Attack

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 Jul 84 pp 1, 6

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party has reprimanded two of its ranks for publicly condemning the brutal mob attack on Police Det. Sgt. Patrick Hamlett.

A statement from the Shadow Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Frederick Wade, scolded PLP MPs Mr. Calvin Smith and Mr. Austin Thomas for being "quick to just condemn" the attack by "20 persons" who felt they needed to "take the law into their own hands".

The MPs should have been more concerned with the social ills of the Island that prompted such an act, the statement said.

A PLP caucus meeting took place on Wednesday night, where a consensus was reached over the Party's position on justice, law and order, and particularly towards the recent attack on the policeman.

"We have for years advocated the removal of those ingredients in our community which lead our young people into criminal activity," the PLP statement said.

"We feel that this attack and many others are symptomatic that the Country has some deep-seated prob-

lems which are not being addressed."

According to the statement, the PLP felt that materialism, overcrowded living conditions, drug abuse, and the fact that some members of the Police Force were not Bermudian, contributed to the Island's troubles.

"We have urged Government to Bermudianise the Police Force, and we have called for justice, law and order, not only for the citizens, but also for the Police Force, which should and must ever be the guardians of justice, law and order.

"We in the Progressive Labour Party are aghast that such a situation can exist in our Country whereby 20 persons felt they should take the law into their own hands," the statement said.

The PLP called on Government to examine the state of the Country and organize programmes to "deal with the causes of these problems rather than merely the effects".

"We feel that this Country is in very serious trouble," the PLP said. "We are reaping the rewards of years of

decay and decline in principles and values."

And the statement admonished Mr. Smith and Mr. Thomas, who last week joined members of Government in voicing their outrage over the attack.

"I say to Calvin Smith, Austin Thomas and others quick to just condemn that they must be more concerned with doing things which will correct the ills of this society by addressing the causes of these ills," the statement concluded.

PLP Clarification on Crime

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 17 Jul 84 p 3

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party (PLP) yesterday urged all Bermudians to work together to rid the Island of crime.

The PLP also took *The Royal Gazette* to task for a report which said the Opposition had publicly reprimanded two of its members who condemned the attack on Det. Sgt. Patrick Hamlett.

The two party members were PLP MP Mr. Austin Thomas and former Opposition MP Mr. Calvin Smith. The pair were upbraided in a statement issued by Shadow Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Frederick Wade.

"The statement pointed out that neither Mr. Thomas nor Mr. Smith are official spokesmen for the party on Police affairs, and that the Shadow Minister of Home Affairs has that responsibility," said the PLP.

"The statement's main theme was that it was not enough for Mr. Thomas and Mr. Smith or others to merely condemn — that the entire community must remedy the root causes of crime in Bermuda in order to find lasting solutions.

"We should all be working together to find lasting and in-depth solutions, which means cleaning up the social environment which breeds crime."

The text of Mr. Wade's statement was inadvertently deleted from Page Six of Monday morning's *Royal Gazette* after it had been inserted by the Duty Editor at the end of the story which began on Page One.

The statement read:

As Shadow Minister of Home Affairs with responsibility for Police matters, I am responsible for enunciating Progressive Labour Party policy on such matters.

With specific reference to an interview aired on Radio VSB and other comments made in Thursday's *Royal Gazette*, the Progressive Labour Party wishes to make it clear that neither Mr. Austin Thomas nor Mr. Calvin Smith are official spokesman on this policy area. At a PLP Parliamentary caucus meeting on Wednesday night, a consensus was reached reiterating the Party's position on justice, law and order, with specific reference to the recent attack on a policeman.

The Progressive Labour Party, like all responsible persons, abhors crime and will ever use all its efforts to protect and champion justice, law and order. The PLP is also deeply concerned about the factors which cause crime and fill our jails.

We have for years advocated the removal of those ingredients in our community which lead our young people into criminal activity. We have argued for adequate housing to remove overcrowded living conditions with attendant social ills, and we have campaigned for a comprehensive drug programme to reduce drug related crime. We have urged Government to Bermudianise the Police Force, and we have called for justice, law and order not only for the citizens, but also for the Police Force, which should and must ever be the guardians of justice, law and order.

We in the Progressive Labour Party are aghast that such a situation can exist in our Country whereby 20 persons felt that they should take the law into their own hands. This must not be condoned.

We feel that this Country is in very serious trouble and that this attack and many others are symptomatic that the Country has some deep-seated problems which are not being addressed. We are reaping the rewards of years of decay and decline in principles and values. Too much has been made subordinate to success materially, and Bermuda as a Country has sought materialism at all or any cost.

We feel obligated to call upon Government to take a serious look at the state of the Country and put programmes into effect to deal with the causes of these problems rather than merely the effects.

Finally, I say to Calvin Smith, Austin Thomas and others quick to just condemn, that they must be more concerned with doing things which will correct the ills of this society by addressing the causes of these ills in an in-depth and meaningful way.

CSO: 3298/1032

ECONOMIC COUNCIL FORMED, REFLECTS 'ESTABLISHMENT'

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 22 Jun 84 pp 1, 7

[Text] Minister of Finance the Hon. Clarence James yesterday announced the membership of Government's new Economic Council--and admitted that, by and large, it was representative of Bermuda's establishment.

He also admitted that a conscious effort had been made in selecting Council members to exclude people whose track record was anti-Government, and said that was the reason for no union representative being included.

Dr. James said he had searched high and low through all strata of Bermuda's economic society in an attempt to broaden representation on the new body.

"But it so happens that, as of yet--and I hope that it will change--blacks have not been involved, or have not climbed the ladder yet, in the area of financial management.

"How many black accountants do we have; how many black bank managers do we have; how many black managers of businesses do we have?" asked Dr. James.

Asked if he had total confidence in the chairman of the new Council, former Finance Minister, the Hon. David Gibbons, Dr. James said: "I won't say that I have total confidence in him, but I have confidence in him for this job."

Dr. James said that the membership of the council would consist of the chairman, four civil servants, and a panel of not more than 12 other members appointed by the Finance Minister.

The names of the nine panel members announced yesterday were: Mr. Stanley Chetkowski, Mr. Kirk Cooper, Mr. Roger Davidson, Mr. Arnold Francis, Mrs. Susan Gunther, Mr. Norman Jones, Mr. David Lines, Mr. Donald Lines and Mr. Leon Simmons.

Dr. James said the role of the Council was to advise the Minister of Finance and the Premier on a wide range of economic and financial matters.

It was an advisory body with no statutory powers.

"In serving on the Council, each member is charged with putting the interests of Bermuda above the narrow interests of any particular grouping.

"It will be up to the chairman, in consultation with the Minister of Finance, to select members from the panel to analyse specific problems referred to the Council by the Minister or the Premier," Dr. James said.

The Council's deliberations would best be conducted in private, reporting back directly either to the Minister or the Premier.

"In this way, the Council will be free of all pressures and will be better able to analyse each problem on its merits," he said.

The Council's initial terms of reference would be:

- To advise the Minister and the Premier on the establishment of economic and financial guidelines and policies.
- To identify the principal trends in Bermuda's economy and in those of its main trading partners.
- To preserve and foster longstanding exchanges of information and understanding with the local and international business communities.
- To advise on the development of Bermuda's two main export industries, tourism and international business.
- In general, to advise the Minister and the Premier on any matter referred to it in which the economic planning aspects required evaluation.

Dr. James said he wanted

to emphasise that the Council was in no way intended to supplant the existing, well-established machinery for decision-making in Government.

"Nevertheless, an independent body, able to call on a wide range of expertise from within our community, and free from the day-to-day pressures of Government has a potentially valuable role to play in analysing the complex economic and financial questions of the day, the answers to which will help shape our future economic development," he said.

Dr. James was asked if it was fair to say that the panel members appointed to the Council were representative of Bermuda's establishment. "By and large, it does represent the establishment," he replied.

He said that no consideration was given to appointing a representative from the trade union organisation.

"If we had unions which were not so politically involved in trying to attack the Government, it would be worthwhile to do so," he said.

Dr. James said that while the people appointed to the

Council did not necessarily support the Government, a conscious effort had been made to exclude people whose track record was anti-Government, including the Bermuda Industrial Union.

He was asked if, in the light of criticisms about Mr. Gibbons' handling of the Heritage Fund investment, he had reconsidered the choice of Council chairman.

"No, I have not," he replied. Did he have total confidence in Mr. Gibbons as chairman? "I won't say that I have total confidence in him, but I have confidence in him for this job," Dr. James replied.

Dr. James was asked if he believed that the community as a whole might see the Council as representative of the establishment and not of all of society.

"I would say that while it might look like that on the surface of it, I have confidence that the advice I receive would not be injurious to the economy as a whole because of the nature of the people involved, who have been chosen because they have shown their sense of fairness," Dr. James said.

SWAN, POLICE COMMISSIONER ISSUE APPEAL ON CRIME

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 3 Jul 84 pp 1, 2

[Text]

Premier the Hon. John Swan last night joined Police chiefs in appealing to the Bermuda public to take a stand against "unacceptable" rising crime.

Both the Premier and Police Commissioner Frederick Bean identified community involvement and cooperation as the most important weapon with which to combat increasing criminal activity.

Commissioner Bean described the Police Service as "terribly under-strength", and said that Police visibility was whittled down to a minimum by extraneous duties.

The Premier responded that the Government was committed to increasing Police establishment as soon as the manpower study of the Police Service was completed.

Commissioner Bean and Superintendent John Sheehy, head of Criminal Investigation, said that much of Bermuda's crime was attributable to illicit drug usage, and addicts' efforts to feed drug habits.

Their comments to *The Royal Gazette* followed a weekend during which Police resources had to be diverted from other investigations to concentrate on a violent attack on 66-

year-old Mr. Dudley Alexander Thomas.

It is, however, known that the continuing high level of crime has been a matter of increasing concern to the Cabinet and the United Bermuda Party Caucus over the past few weeks.

Police chiefs have been called upon to advise the Government on how best programmes can be developed to combat the anti-social activity.

Commissioner Bean said yesterday that he was concerned at the apparent increase in crimes of violence and sexual assaults.

Patrols had been stepped up within the limited resources available to the Police Service, he said.

A great deal was being done through the Crime Prevention and Community Relations sections to heighten the public's crime consciousness and the vital importance of reporting crimes or any suspicious activities to the Police.

"In trying to identify what is causing the increase in these crimes, I would venture to say that it is associated with drugs and people suffering mental instability through involvement with the drug culture," said Commissioner Bean.

Regrettably, he said, it was often tourists who were the victims of crimes.

"It could seriously hamper the fabric of Bermuda's bread and butter," he said.

Commissioner Bean said there was no doubt that the Island needed more officers to expand current Police strength of 419.

"We are terribly under-strength," he said.

Police officers were required to provide security at Government House, Parliament House, the Airport, the Premier's residence and at the courts, he said.

"This eats into our manpower and by the end of the day we are whittled down to a minimum which means we are unable to maintain the high Police profile which is desirable," said Commissioner Bean.

Supt. Sheehy said that although reported crimes had increased in the past few years, the rise was not significant compared with other countries.

But it had to be accepted that the reported crimes in no way reflected the true situation as many offences of dishonesty were not detailed to the Police.

"Over the last few years, I have noticed an element and degree of viciousness entering Bermuda crime which

was hitherto foreign to our shores," said Supt. Sheehy.

He said that a number of crimes were being committed within hotel properties and other tourist spots, and, while he appreciated the security measures already taken by these organisations, special emphasis and effort must be maintained by hotels and nightclubs.

Supt. Sheehy gave four main contributing factors to the level of crime:

- The increasing use of illicit drugs. "People who hitherto were ordinary hard-working citizens have become inflicted with drug addiction and are resorting to all forms of dishonesty, the proceeds of which are being exchanged for drugs, or money to buy drugs, so these people can feed their habits."

- The existence of an indiscipline among too many citizens. "To deal with this indiscipline requires the total cooperation of Government, Opposition, trade unions and all people who have an input into the administration of law and order."

- Greed and laziness. "Too many people are prepared to steal to maintain high standards of living, and this, coupled with laziness — especially when jobs are available — further blemishes the good name of Bermuda."

- The backlog of Supreme Court trials. There are currently 55 indictable offences awaiting trial, some of which date back to 1981 and 1982. "In many cases, the accused are on bail and it can be expected that some are continuing to commit crime, especially when it comes to drug involvement."

Supt. Sheehy said his detectives were working extra shifts and on their leave days to meet the challenge of increased crime.

It had been some time since the CID had received any sizeable boost in strength, he said, and an increase of ten officers would be appreciated.

"But the single most important factor is the need for the whole community to have a total commitment to combating crime," said Supt. Sheehy.

The Premier said last night that he shared the concern of many members of the public and of the Parliament at the increase in crime.

"It would seem that there has been an increase in crime over the past three years. Despite a high detection rate, there seems to be no abatement in criminal activity."

Mr. Swan said that the Government was committed to do all possible to combat the unacceptable situation.

"In the first instance, we are providing an additional courtroom to clear the backlog of Supreme Court

cases.

"Secondly, we are committed to increasing the establishment of the Police Service as soon as the manpower study of the Police Service is completed."

The Premier said it should be noted that the Government also had under active consideration other methods of preventing crimes being committed by individuals who had been released on bail pending often long-awaited trials.

"These measures, while they may serve as a deterrent, will certainly not get to the root of the problem of crime until we, as individuals, take a firm stand on what appears to be some very unhealthy attitudes which are surfacing.

"I would urge Bermudians to cooperate fully with the Police Service and to join with each other to attack the problem of crime in the long-run, by developing healthy community values and attitudes," said Mr. Swan.

Mr. Chris Szembek, President of the Bermuda Hotel Association, was asked for his views yesterday.

Mr. Szembek said he believed it was disgraceful that *The Royal Gazette*, the Island's one daily paper which was read by tourists, would publish a story about increasing crime, and therefore he did not wish to comment.

GOVERNMENT AUDITOR TOLD TO MUTE CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT

Attorney General's Warning

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 Jul 84 pp 1, 6

[Text]

Auditor Larry Dennis — the author of two reports critical of the Government's management of public money — has been warned against making further adverse comment to Parliament.

The Royal Gazette understands that the Government is aware that Mr. Dennis plans to make a special report to Parliament outlining the importance of the independence of his department.

But he has been put on notice by Attorney General Saul Froomkin, QC, that such action could be construed as "misbehaviour" under the Bermuda Constitution.

"Misbehaviour" is one of only two grounds on which the Government Auditor can be dismissed.

The Constitution provides for the Auditor to be appointed independently of the Government by the Governor of Bermuda and to be removed by him also.

It says: "The Auditor may be removed from office only for inability to discharge the functions of his office (whether arising from inability of body or mind or any other cause) or for misbehaviour....."

"The Auditor shall be removed from office by the

Governor if the Governor, acting in his discretion, is satisfied that he ought to be removed from office for instability as aforesaid or for misbehaviour."

Mr. Dennis declined to speak about the matter to *The Royal Gazette* yesterday.

It is understood, however, that after receiving the letter from the Attorney General, the Auditor met with the Governor to discuss his position.

The Acting Governor, Mr. Mark Herdman, refused to speak to *The Royal Gazette*, and directed inquiries to the Acting Deputy Governor, Mr. Austin Ward.

Mr. Ward said that he knew nothing about a letter sent to Mr. Dennis by the Attorney General and it would be inappropriate for him to attempt to establish the position.

Last month, the Auditor's annual report for 1980 was published, and echoed criticisms of the Government which Mr. Dennis had made in his report for 1979.

"As indicated by my observations contained herein, and by my observations contained in my 1979 report which also covered the current reporting period, I am

not satisfied that all reasonable precautions have been taken to safeguard the collection of public monies...." Mr. Dennis' latest report stated.

The Auditor's comments in the introduction to the report also hinted at earlier attempts within Government to fetter his ability to carry out his duties and to make public criticisms.

"It is with a great amount of embarrassment that I present this report to Parliament four years after the date of the accounts.

"The final report is the result of many compromises that had to be made within the boundaries of professional prudence," Mr. Dennis wrote.

"In order to speed up my reports, it has been suggested that I discontinue the observation section for the time being. In my opinion this is not the answer, even in the short term," he continued.

His report said that discussions were still taking place within Government stemming from his 1980 request for a review to be undertaken of the Auditor's Department.

"In the final analysis, the important issue is whether the office of the Auditor is in a position to undertake its constitutional responsibilities satisfactorily and within the guarantees of the Constitution, and that I as Auditor feel comfortable that the organisation can in fact do so," the report said.

Question of Effectiveness

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 17 Jul 84 pp 1, 2

[Text]

Government auditor Mr. Larry Dennis last night spoke out about the need for Parliament to be informed of the threats to the independence and effectiveness of his office.

Mr. Dennis said that he had been telling the Government for a number of years that he does not have the proper resources available to him to fulfil his constitutional duties.

"If they maintain I am so independent, why has it taken almost five years to effect the reorganisation of my office, which has still not been before the Cabinet as far as I know," Mr. Dennis told *The Royal Gazette*.

The auditor was responding to statements made yesterday by the Acting Deputy Governor, Mr. Austin Ward, Q.C., and by the Premier, the Hon. John Swan.

Mr. Ward denied that Mr. Dennis was being fettered in the performance of his duties and intimated that the special report which the auditor had sought to make to Parliament concerned civil service salaries.

The Premier, meanwhile, attempted to distance the Government from the whole affair, issuing a brief statement in which he said that the Government Auditor was appointed by the Governor and answered to Parliament.

"The way in which he conducts his business is a matter for the Governor and not for the Government," he said.

As disclosed in yesterday's *Royal Gazette*, the Attorney General, Mr. Saul Froomkin, QC, has warned the auditor against making a special report to the Parliament.

Mr. Dennis has been told that such behaviour could be construed as "misbehaviour" under the Bermuda Constitution — one of only two grounds on which the auditor can be dismissed.

Attempts to contact Mr. Froomkin for comment were unsuccessful yesterday as the Attorney General is on vacation.

His position is being temporarily filled by Mr. Austin Ward, the Solicitor General who is also Acting Deputy Governor.

Speaking in his role as Acting Attorney General, Mr. Ward said that he understood that Mr. Froomkin had written to Mr. Dennis in response to a query initiated by the auditor himself.

Asked if it was unusual for the same person to be acting as both Deputy Governor and Attorney General, Mr. Ward said: "The mysteries of God are not for us to question."

But the auditor, who until last night refused to comment on his warning from the Attorney General, denied that he had raised the matter first.

Mr. Dennis said that the Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Ken Richardson, had sought advice from the Attorney General on whether the auditor had the authority to make a special report to Parliament.

"The Attorney General replied to the Cabinet Secretary that it was his opinion that I did not have the authority and such an action could be construed as misbehaviour.

"The Attorney General sent me a copy of that letter, and it was only after receiving it that I wrote to the Attorney General asking whether the position would be the same if I included my comments in my annual report to Parliament.

"Mr. Froomkin responded that I should not take that course of action either," said Mr. Dennis.

Mr. Ward's statement in his capacity as Acting Deputy Governor said that yesterday's story in *The Royal Gazette* left the impression that the auditor was being fettered in the performance of his duties.

"That is not the case," he said.

Any attempt to fetter the auditor in such a way would be unlawful, said the Acting Deputy Governor. The Attorney General, as the Government's principal legal adviser, would not be a party to any such illegality.

Mr. Ward said that under the Audit Act of 1968, a special report could be filed on any matter arising from the exercise by the auditor of his functions under the Constitution.

"Such a report should properly deal with the auditing of accounts, but may not deal with extraneous matters such as the salaries of public officers," said Mr. Ward.

Mr. Dennis last night rejected the claim that he had intended to make his special report to Parliament on the issue of salaries, or that he had ever given that impression.

"My report was to deal with the independence of the auditor, of which salaries and peer compatibility within the public service is an integral part," he said.

"By artificially holding salaries down, the Government can influence the independence of the auditor.

"This is not an original thought, but has been the subject of numerous reports in other countries, all of which I have, but which the Government has never asked for.

"I hardly think the independence of the auditor is an extraneous matter which should not be brought before the Parliament," said Mr. Dennis.

Mr. Dennis — the author of two reports which have criticised the Government's handling of public money — said he had been telling the Government for a number of years that he did not have the necessary resources available to fulfil all of his constitutional duties.

He had been pushing for better resources and a re-organisation of his office for almost five years.

Asked if he would still make his special report to the Parliament, Mr. Dennis said he believed that the Parliament should know where the auditor stood and should be informed of any problems he had.

"I plan to make a submission in my next annual report which I am preparing now, but before I do this I shall seek independent legal advice to ensure that I may do so," he said.

BROADCASTING COMPANY FIRES STAFF, CLOSES TV AFTER STRIKE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Jul 84 p 7

[Text] HAMILTON, July 18, (CANA)

The Bermuda Broadcasting Company has axed its entire television staff and announced the permanent closure of the country's two television channels and one of its five radio stations.

Company president Martin Smith emerged from a six-hour meeting with the Bermuda Industrial Union (BIU) last night to announce that 22 employees — all of them unionised — were being made redundant and six more would be leaving the company in the coming weeks.

Smith said neither television channel would reopen in the foreseeable future although some attempt would be made to provide coverage of the Olympic Games as a public service.

This would be done on an automated system and would not save any television jobs.

BIU president Ottiwell Simmons said today that the union would continue to fight for jobs and threatened that legal action might follow the company's announcement.

Bermuda Broadcasting closed down its television and radio stations on June 9 after 38 unionised staff went on strike over a breakdown in wage talks. Three radio stations returned to the air last Thursday. The dispute is to go to arbitration next month.

Smith said in a statement: "the directors have decided to close the television operation in its present form because we have lost 416,000 dollars (U.S) so far this year and the operation lost 460,000 dollars last year. We cannot allow this to continue.

"As a result the television staff has regretfully been made redundant. We have also decided that we will not reopen the radio station ZBM-1 which has caused some additional redundancies," he said.

A total of 28 staff will have left the company by the end of August leaving the number of company employees at around 40. Smith said it was possible the company would consider over-the-air subscription television or leasing its facilities but these decisions would be made in the long term.

"Our main thrust is to get the radio operations back into profit," he said.

Bermuda Broadcasting's troubles have given a boost to VSB radio, which has reported a surge in advertising. For five weeks while Bermuda Broadcasting was off the air, VSB, owned by Hamilton businessman Kenneth deFontes, provided the only local radio service.

GOVERNMENT CRACKS DOWN ON ILLEGAL SATELLITE DISHES

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 26 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

Government is launching a crackdown on the spread of illegal satellite dishes in Bermuda.

Yesterday the Hon. Haskins Davis, Minister of Planning, said the rash of dishes without planning permission and its effect on Bermuda's environment was causing "grave concern".

The Minister has authorised the Planning Department to get tough with offenders.

Already two enforcement notices had been served and more will follow, he told *The Royal Gazette* last night.

"I have instructed my technical officers to rigorously enforce the policy," Mr. Davis said.

"With the enforcement of this policy, the offending dishes will have to be removed."

Dishes of various sizes have sprung up all over the Island. Prices have been dropping and a 10-foot antenna can be bought now for around the \$3,000-mark.

A lot of them locally are clearly visible from roadsides, despite rigid planning regulations covering their siting.

Uncertainty over the fu-

ture of local television, caused by the current dispute and the announced closure of one station, has also turned people's minds and money to satellite reception.

Mr. Davis said applications to erect dishes had increased in recent weeks.

A group of Warwick citizens complained to the *The Royal Gazette* yesterday and urged Government to make its position on such dishes clear.

"Is Bermuda to become disfigured, as so many other places have become?" they wondered.

"Most of the appeal of this Island has been eroded by crime, surplus of cars, attitudes, high prices and buildings.

"Can we continue to ignore the continuing threat of disfiguring the countryside?" they asked.

Mr. Davis stressed that planning policy governing satellite receiving dishes had not changed since it took effect in July, 1981.

Despite that, dishes had mushroomed and many of them, the Minister pointed out, were clearly without planning permission.

He explained that policy called for:

- The Director of Planning to have the power to approve applications for dishes not visible from outside the applicant's property.

- The Development Applications Board to consider and approve applications where the dishes would be visible from neighbouring properties, including private estate roads, provided the DAB was satisfied that all affected neighbours had indicated in writing that they had no objections.

- A hearing to be held when there were objections before any final decision.

- Applicants to advertise their intention to put up dishes when it would be visible from a public road, territorial waters or a public place and a hearing again to follow if there were objections.

Mr. Davis said 28 applications for satellite dishes had been approved since the start of the year and there had been an increase in recent weeks.

There were no plans to change policy here, he added, although the Planning Department had investigated smaller satellite receiving dishes.

ISLANDS GAIN ASSOCIATE STATES IN DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 30 Jun 84 pp 7, 10

[Text]

The British Virgin Islands became an Associate Member of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee on 11th June, 1984 at its 8th Ministerial Session which convened in Port-au-Prince, it was announced by the Chief Minister's Office. This is subsequent to the acceptance of the Territory as an Associate Member of the umbrella organization, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) in April of this year.

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee as the subregional organization of the Economic Commission for Latin America, (ECLA) seeks to carry out a policy for the optimum utilization of the available resources of the region, thereby promoting its economic and social development. Based on recognition

of the advantage of economic complementation, this policy gives impetus to co-operation among member countries, in areas such as exchanging of experiences and mutual aid, and through other mechanism which contribute to this end.

In remarks delivered on the occasion of the BVI's accession to associate membership Chief Minister, Honourable C.B. Romney had high praise for the level of co-operation that exists between Caribbean territories and stated that the BVI with its keen interest in tourism, may be able to participate in initiatives in this area. He specifically pointed to water-based tourism, citing the fact that the BVI in just over a decade had moved from a zero point at the beginning of the 1970's, to undoubtedly become the sailing mecca of the world. The Chief Minister also called on Ministers of the 13 countries

represented to consult with each other on major projects wherever feasible, in order to avoid mistakes that are often very costly.

The Ministerial meeting followed on a technical level meeting of CDCC to which the BVI was invited as a special guest. Mrs. Lorna Smith, Assistant Secretary, Chief Minister's Office represented the BVI at that meeting which convened on June 6th. The meeting reviewed the CDCC's work programme for 1984-85 as well as proposals for 1986-87. Among the areas revised were co-operation in planning activities, energy, food and agriculture, science and technology, transportation and communication, and tourism.

In addition to Ministers and officials, the CDCC meeting was attended by representatives of the various UN agencies as well as CARICOM, the OAS and the OECS. The meeting ended on June 12th.

MINISTER OF LABOR AIRS DIFFERENCES WITH ROMNEY

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 30 Jun 84 pp 1, 8

[Text]

For some time now there have been serious differences on policy and actions, or lack of actions, between the Chief Minister of the Territory, Hon. Cyril B. Romney and the Minister for Labour and Environment, Hon. Conrad Maduro.

On Tuesday evening of this week over radio station Z.B.V.I., Mr. Maduro brought to public attention a rift which exists between the two Ministerial Officials. He said that the differences are such that they can be settled only by public opinion.

Mr. Romney who was elected as an Independent at last year's general elections, joined with four elected candidates of the United Party, among whom was Mr. Maduro - the Leader of the Party, to form the new Government consisting of a majority of five of which Mr. Romney became the Chief Minister of Government.

Mr. Maduro in his Tuesday broadcast claims that the Chief Minister has been running the Government under one-man rule and that

the other members of Government are not even acquainted with the Chief Minister's visits outside the Territory. He further claims that at the time Mr. Romney joined the United Party group of elected members and became Chief Minister he (Mr. Romney) agreed to accept the principles and precepts of the Party's Manifesto, but that the Chief Minister has ignored the Manifesto. Mr. Maduro further stated that at the time of forming the new Government, Mr. Romney agreed to have the Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Calvin Baronville, transferred to some other department of the Government, but that up to now the Chief Minister has taken no action whatever on this matter. (Mr. Baronville's office comes under the Ministry within the portfolio of Mr. Maduro who regards Mr. Baronville as a thorn in his side). He accused Mr. Baronville of spreading propaganda in favor of the former Government.

In his blast against the Chief Minister, the Minister for Labour and Environment made a number of suggestions among which were: that he (Mr. Romney) takes

steps to reshuffle the Government; that the Chief Minister shows loyalty as a member of the United Party and undertakes his obligations in co-operation with his cabinet; that he pursues his aim of getting rid of Maduro for his personal interest; that the Chief Minister moves in the Legislative Council a vote of "No Confidence" in the Government. "The ball is in the Court of the Chief Minister," Mr. Maduro added.

There is no doubt that the Romney-Maduro rift has placed the Government in a precarious position, and unless it is amiably resolved, and with political accumts, there will be no public surprise if before long the present Government falls. A switch of any member of the Legislature, from either side to the other, is the trump card.

The Chief Minister was contacted by the Press which was informed by Mr. Romney that he would not give any comment at this time, but will do so after conferring with his cabinet. Mr. Baronville who was also contacted said that he had no statement to make at this time.

FOREIGN MINISTER JACKSON COMMENTS ON CARICOM SITUATION

Bridgetown CARIBBEAN CONTACT in English Jul 84 p 1

[Interview with Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson by Rickey Singh, in Georgetown; date not specified]

[Text]

GEORGETOWN—Guyana is "ready and willing" to do everything possible to unite and strengthen the 13-member Caribbean Community but the government here senses "a developing attitude" among some countries to foster "ideological conformity" rather than the "ideological pluralism" always advocated for the region's integration movement.

This is the view of Foreign Minister, **Rashleigh Jackson**, as expressed here in an interview about his government's expectations for the CARICOM Summit in Nassau, Bahamas, beginning on July 4.

For Guyana, he said, the Summit, which concludes on July 7, "is viewed with the utmost importance".

Jackson said that the main expectations of the Summit, to be preceded by meetings of CARICOM's Foreign Ministers and Council of Ministers, "must be assessed against the backdrop of the Third CARICOM Summit in Port-of-Spain last July and the evolution of events since the invasion of Grenada last October".

It is Jackson's view that the conclusions of the last Commonwealth Summit in New Delhi, India, should form "an important benchmark against which discussions should take place on the Grenada issue".

RECONCILIATION

That Commonwealth Summit had proposed a withdrawal of all foreign forces in Grenada and their replacement by a Commonwealth peace-keeping force, including those from CARICOM member countries.

The Guyanese Foreign Minister said that he was aware of difficulties in relation to interpretation by some countries of the Commonwealth Summit's initiative, but he would remind all member countries of CARICOM that the consensus in New Delhi was that the "emphasis should be on *reconciliation* rather than *recrimination* when dealing with Grenada".

Grenada's presence at CARICOM Summits had always proved controversial under the administration of Prime Minister **Maurice Bishop's** People's Revolutionary Government. Now the Spice Isle, in the midst of preparations for new elections by November, will be represented at the Nassau Summit by the head of Grenada's "Advisory Council" **Nicholas Heathwaite**.

Jackson, regarded as one of the more experienced Foreign Ministers of CARICOM—a post he has held since 1978 following five years as Guyana's Ambassador to the United Nations—reflected:

"There are clearly new strains and difficulties that have arisen since the Port-of-Spain Summit. Yet, Guyana is hopeful that the Nassau Summit would confront some of the difficulties and find ways and means of overcoming them and of resuscitating the march towards a strong and vibrant CARICOM relationship."

One of two non-elected Foreign Ministers of the Community (the other being Trinidad & Tobago's Dr. **Basil Ince**) Jackson, who until 1968 was Permanent Secretary of the Guyana Ministry of Foreign Affairs, conceded that the current "gloomy mood" over intra-CARICOM trading relations was most likely to occupy a great deal of the Summit's attention.

Trade

Intra-regional trade has been seriously affected since the Second CARICOM Summit at Ocho Rios, Jamaica in 1982, largely as a consequence of the deteriorating balance of payments problems of member states and the virtual collapse of the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility.

Guyana has been primarily responsible for the collapse of the Facility under which Barbados is owed some US\$65 million (Bds\$130 million). Jamaica's indebtedness to the Facility is also a problem.

Efforts to resuscitate the Facility through loans from extra-regional sources have so far proved unsuccessful.

But following the last meeting in Washington of the Caribbean Group for Economic Co-operation and Development, a number of CARICOM governments, including that of Barbados, have been publicly stressing the importance of foreign assistance to get the Facility functioning properly again so that CARICOM may overcome what is currently its most 'knotty' problem since the Grenada events of last October.

An extraordinary meeting of CARICOM Council of Ministers was held in Antigua from June 6-7 to address the intra-regional trade issue with the hope of arriving at some

very concrete proposals for the Heads of Government Conference in July.

IDEOLOGY

If intra-regional trade continues to be a thorn in the smooth functioning of the region's almost 11-year-old integration movement, CARICOM, as Jackson pointed out, must also "face up, realistically, to the question of ideological pluralism as being quite relevant to the co-operation and progress we all seek".

Stressing his government's "commitment to the concept of ideological pluralism and for the Caribbean to be a zone of peace", Jackson, who will be attending both the CARICOM Foreign Ministers meeting and the Summit in Nassau said:

"It would seem to me that if one makes an intelligent assessment of certain policies being pursued globally and regionally, there is danger that that which is being sought, certainly in this region, and after the invasion of Grenada, is ideological conformity rather than ideological pluralism."

He expressed the hope that "there would be a sufficient number of states within CARICOM to endorse or reiterate the position which has been taken, both at the levels of Foreign Ministers and Heads of Government, and as recently as 1982 in Ocho Rios, in favour of ideological pluralism. . . .

"I am aware", added Jackson, "that there have been different responses to that kind of attack, but I would hope that when CARICOM meets as a unit, that it would manifest the commitment to the position it had taken at Ocho Rios . . ."

ZONE OF PEACE

The Minister also spoke strongly in favour of CARICOM states "pursuing relentlessly, the goal of the Caribbean as a zone of peace", in keeping with the spirit of previous CARICOM meetings.

For Guyana, he explained, this must, of necessity, involve an end to all foreign military bases, "especially those set up within the context of great power rivalry".

Jackson said that "it may be that some of our colleagues, as a result of the evolution of

events in Grenada, and their own analysis of their geopolitical situatedness and their geopolitical requirements, have grown lukewarm about the zone of peace issue. But nothing is going to deter Guyana from pursuing this goal".

Commenting on reports of growing militarisation in the Eastern Caribbean, he said that this should be viewed within the context of a wider militarisation process in Central America and the Caribbean.

So far as Guyana was concerned, while it was the right of every sovereign nation to adopt measures to protect its own territorial integrity and to ensure its security, any militarisation process undertaken within the context of superpower rivalry could prove dangerous for the region as a whole.

He stated that Guyana was opposed to the politics of any major power that regards the use of the military or the threat of the use of the military as a legitimate weapon of foreign policy. "This is a most dangerous development and I sincerely hope that, irrespective of ideological differences, all CARICOM states would find it possible to appreciate this point."

REPORTS ON MARTYRS DAY, RODNEY ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS

Jagan Appearance

Georgetown MIRROR in English 24 Jun 84 p 1

[Text] The observance of the 36th anniversary of Enmore Martyrs Day on June 16 last witnessed a further deepening of unity between sugar and bauxite workers and their union.

At a march and rally at Enmore this unity was manifested by a joint platform featuring GAWU's Hon. President Cheddi Jagan and General Secretary Komal Chand; NAACIE's General Secretary N.K. Gopaul; GMWU's President Stephen Lewis; and GBSU's President Lennox Lewis.

"Unity is a golden word," pronounced Cheddi Jagan who is the principal architect of the formation of the contemporary working class movement, the PPP, after the 1948 Enmore shooting.

This unity was symbolised then in a prolonged strike by sugar workers for improved working conditions. The answer of the colonial police, protecting the interests of the planters' capitalist class, was a coldblooded massacre of striking workers. Five workers were killed, 19 seriously wounded, when the police opened fire.

Cheddi Jagan, who championed the cause of the striking workers, reflected on that episode. He bemoaned the fact that notwithstanding the sacrifices, the PNC regime was taking away rights for which the Enmore Martyrs fought.

"We have to tell Burnham that workers will not allow their right to a decent living wage to be taken away. We will fight in the tradition of the heroic Enmore Martyrs!" he said amidst applause at the Enmore rally square which was adorned with red banners and slogans highlighting workers' need for food, jobs and a living wage.

The leader of the country's largest political party, the PPP, noted progress in the working class struggle since 1977. He said that the 4-union movement has grown into a 6-union movement for industrial democracy, bread and justice. He expressed the conviction that the further deepening of unity would result in genuine workers' forces being able to democratically control the TUC.

The unity theme was earlier pronounced by the miners' union leader Stephen Lewis who remarked that the formation of the PPP working class movement has resulted in the removal of the colonial yoke from Guyana. He blamed 'internal weaknesses' and the lack of unity for subsequent divisions in the ranks of the working class.

Lewis hailed the unity which has been developing between bauxite and sugar workers, emphasising that no achievements can be won without broader working class unity. Workers, he said, have the power to starve or feed the world. "Let those in power know that who have this capacity, and more power than those who wield the gun."

NAACIE's General Secretary N.K. Gopaul told the rally that the working class struggle in Guyana is sharpening principally as a result of the efforts of GAWU. He praised the role of Cheddi Jagan in the workers' struggle, and urged greater coordination of present-day struggles to free the workers from the bondage of the PNC regime.

He criticised the inept leadership of the TUC which has been capitulating to the ruling party. "If they have to decide between the workers and the PNC, they will prefer the latter." He spoke about the alienation of the workers from the productive stream and the undemocratic practices of the regime, citing the passage of the Labour Amendment Bill which forfeits the rights of workers in many areas. To reverse this anti-worker trend there is need for collective actions, Gopaul urged.

GAWU's General Secretary Komal Chand said that one of the greatest tributes that has been paid to the memory of the Enmore Martyrs was the development of the 6-union movement. The Enmore Martyrs struggled against company unionism, but sadly the PNC was turning the TUC into such a body.

He said that Pollydore, the TUC's General Secretary, should publicly say what will be the attitude of the TUC leadership towards the PNC at elections scheduled for 1985 in the wake of the many betrayals of that party of the interests of the labour movement and the organised workers. (In all past elections in post-independent Guyana the TUC leadership endorsed the PNC contrary to the wishes of the vast majority of workers in the country.)

Police Action Against WPA

Georgetown DAYCLEAN in English 23 Jun 84 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Every year since June 13, 1980 Walter Rodney Freedom Festivals have been held to salute all the political martyrs since 1948. The theme of this year's festivals is free and fair elections. The special feature, the mock court drama, "The King on Trial," has been enjoyed by thousands in Uitylugt, Georgetown, Beterverwagting/Triumph, Buxton, New Amsterdam and Rosehall on the Corentyne. The crowds have been addressed by brothers Moses Bhagwan, Clive Thomas, Eusi Kwayana, and the WPA International Secretary, Andaiye. The festival for Wismar/Mackenzie was banned by the police. Festivals are to be held in Grove on the East Bank on Monday, June 25 and at Leonora/Stewartville on Tuesday, June 26.

At the Golden Grove market square last Thursday night, June 21, thugs broke up the Freedom Festival and prevented the people of that village from paying tribute to our martyrs. They arrived in state vehicles and in the full view of the police snatched and destroyed public address equipment. When WPA activists repaired the equipment and began the festival again for the people who had re-assembled, the thugs returned in a green army type jeep with the number plate removed and drove into the crowd with intent to murder and maim. They stole one amplifier, a microphone, and four (not three as we first thought) loud-speakers.

This is how the rulers marked the Fourth Anniversary of the Walter Rodney's assassination.

CSO: 3298/991

ENERGY CHIEF DISCUSSES PROGRESS ON ALTERNATIVE SOURCES

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Jun 84 p 8

[Text]

THE high cost of energy infrastructures is one of the major constraints in Guyana's effort to promote alternative energy strategies, head of the Guyana National Energy Authority (GNEA), *Abel Felix*, said Tuesday.

Cde. Felix said that at the moment, the authority is placing emphasis on biomass as an energy source, but there are the problems of acquiring more efficient boilers and, in some cases, converting existing generating equipment to accommodate the indigenous fuels.

Cde. Felix was commenting on the progress made in Guyana's efforts to exploit indigenous energy sources, thus reducing the country's petro-chemical importation bill.

"A whole maze of possibilities are available to us, but we have to take cognisance of what can be afforded," *Cde. Felix* pointed out.

The Authority is looking forward to the completion of the Wood Gasification Project, which is expected to get going by August at

the Mabura Hill Forestry Complex. If successful, he said, efforts will be made to influence sawmillers across the country to similarly utilise their wood waste.

Wood-gas, charcoal and wood-chips are the main forms in which wood can be used as energy for domestic and industrial consumption.

Other biomass sources include bagasse (a sugar-cane waste) and rice-husk.

At the moment bagasse is used at the Albion sugar estate to heat boilers. But the GNEA, in collaboration with the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO), is now considering plans for a pilot plant that will utilise this waste material more efficiently.

Rice-husk, in the meantime, has been successfully used at Anna Regina to provide steam power for drying paddy, among other things.

The GNEA feels there is a "copious amount" of wood for domestic and industrial energy. The problem, however, is keeping cost down at the industrial level.

—(GNA)

CSO: 3298/1023

DOMINICAN TRADE TEAM TO VISIT IN MID-JULY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jun 84 p 8

[Text]

THE resumption of trade between Guyana and Dominica will be further discussed when a Dominican trade team visits Guyana next month.

Government sources said Wednesday the Dominican trade mission is expected in mid-July to follow-up agreements reached late last month when a Guyana trade team visited Roseau.

During that visit, which was in response to an invitation extended by Dominica at the 24th Caricom Council of Ministers session in January, the two countries had agreed to resume trade in both traditional and non-traditional exports.

Guyana had expressed an interest in purchasing crude vegetable oil, foam, tallow and soap from Dominica. And Guyana hopes to supply Dominica with rice, packages, liquor and other commodities.

Joint ventures between local agencies and

Dominican private sector firms are also likely to feature in next month's discussions between Guyanese and Dominican officials.

One such venture is likely to be the shipment in bulk of vinegar and rum to Dominica for bottling there by a private company.

Dominica has also requested technical assistance from Guyana in areas such as "wood-handling" and alcohol production.

On Tuesday, an inter-agency meeting was held at the Economic Planning Ministry to brief local officials on the Roseau discussions.

Agencies represented at the meeting included the Guyana Forestry Commission, Guyana Rice Board, Guyana Liquor Corporation, Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation and the Seals and Packaging Industries Limited. (GNA)

CSO: 3298/1023

UNIONS STRIVE TO IMPROVE SITUATION OF WORKERS

Action Against Labor Act

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Jun 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] THE judge hearing the Constitutional Motion brought by NAACIE to test the validity of the Labour (Amendment) Act has been told that the reliefs claimed by the applicants, are in several respects, vague, lacking in specificity and embarrassing.

Attorney-General, Vice-President Dr. Mohammed Shahabuddeen who is leading the legal line-up for the State has asked for details in relation to the claims and submitted that a number of the declarations should be struck out.

Justice Clifford Baburam, who was expected to rule on the matter yesterday morning, has postponed his ruling to July 16.

Plaintiffs in the matter are Mohamed Alli, Durbal Budhai and Roopnauth Dhursan, members of NAACIE, who are seeking a number of declarations.

One of the declarations being sought is to get the Court to declare that the Labour (Amendment) Act 1984 is repugnant to the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, is ultra vires, invalid and void.

The plaintiffs are also alleging that the Act seeks to deprive a particular section of workers of earnings already accrued, due and owing to them.

They are saying that the Act had its sequel in the Court judgment awarded to Seeram Teemal of GUYSUCO: who it is claimed, was entitled to merit increment in keeping with his contract of employment.

But a counter-affidavit by the State disclosed that the economic consequences to the country would have been more severe if the judgment in Teemal's case were extended to other employees of the Public Sector.

The affidavit pointed out that the enactment of the Labour (Amendment) Act was urgently required because, among other things, NAACIE had decided that the judgment in the Teemal's case be extended to the employees of GUYSUCO, who were members of the union and had called out those employees on strike to enforce the demand.

The State's affidavit also explained that the extension of the judgment to all employees in the sugar industry would have incurred additional expense of about \$5 000 000 which the Corporation lacked resources to pay.

It is also pointed out that the depressed price of sugar on the international market brought about by a steep fall in the sugar price from 410 pounds sterling per ton in August 1980 to 140 pounds sterling per ton in 1983 had an adverse effect on the economy of the country.

The motion by NAACIE members has named the Attorney-General as defendant.

Associated with the Attorney-General for the State, are Solicitor-General Julian Nurse and Assistant Solicitor-General S. Y. Mohamed.

Heading the line-up for the applicants is Attorney Ashton Chase associated with C. R. Ramson, Vish Persaud and Martin Stevenson.

GAWU's 53 Proposals

Georgetown MIRROR in English 1 Jul 84 p 4

[Text] The Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union (GAWU) has put up 53 proposals which, if implemented by the Burnham administration, would ease the sufferings of workers and put the sugar industry back on its feet.

Independent labour opinion describes the proposals as being "just and fair", which should be acted upon by any employer who is interested in the welfare of workers and in increased production and productivity.

The proposals were forwarded by GAWU's Honorary President, Dr. Cheddi Jagan during recent negotiations with the state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) on a new Collective Labour Agreement.

The union authoritatively submitted that the situation in the sugar industry would improve if steps are taken immediately to implement steps as follows:

--Joint representation to the Bank of Guyana for allocation of foreign exchange for the importation of essential foodstuffs and much needed machinery and parts;

--Special joint appeal to President Burnham to waive the freeze on wages especially for sugar workers who do not receive full employment even in the grinding period;

--Local subsidy on sugar to be borne by government and not Buysuco;

--Institution of workers' control through the industry to the level of the Board of Directors;

--Examination of the accounts of the Corporation;

--Examination by GAWU of the terms of nationalisation and contract with the former expatriate owner, Bookers.

The GAWU 53-point proposals for a better sugar industry were made in response to Guysuco's claim that it cannot meet demands for increased wages due to losses suffered by the Corporation. According to Guysuco the industry incurred losses to the tune of \$82 million in 1981 and \$92 million in 1982.

Indications are that the Corporation would "pussy-foot" on the proposals, to the detriment of the industry and the welfare of the country. It last met with the union to discuss the proposals on June 5. GAWU has since been urging further talks.

Unions as Vanguard

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Jun 84 p 4

[Text] "We have reached the stage in the revolution where trade unions should be in the vanguard in educating the masses on their role and responsibilities in the socialist society," said Cde. Agnes Bend-Kirton Holder, Parliamentary Secretary for Housing.

Cde. Bend-Kirton Holder was at the time speaking at a symposium organised by the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors' Union at Linden on Wednesday night as one of the activities to mark their 12th anniversary celebrations.

She said that trade unions should advance the workers, social, political and economic causes. She called on them to become involved in the housing of their members.

She called on the workers also to work towards the expansion of their Credit Union.

CSO: 3298/1022

FOREIGN ACCORDS, OTHER MEASURES DESIGNED TO SPUR MINERS

Ventures With Foreign Firms

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Jun 84 p 1

[Text] GOLD production in Guyana should at least quadruple or quintuple when agreements with foreign companies and countries become operational, President Forbes Burnham told a press conference Friday.

Guyana and a Yugoslav firm, Rudis, last November signed an agreement for the development of a gold mining project in the Upper Konawaruk region.

Earlier this year a three-year agreement for the exploration and exploitation of gold and diamonds in four areas of the Mazaruni and North West District was signed with the Canadian firm, Southern Star Resources Limited.

And, during Cde Burnham's recent visit to the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Guyana and Bulgaria agreed to co-operate in the field of mining. Cde Burnham told journalists that the Bulgarians were interested "in gold, iron and chrome in particular". Bulgarian officials are expected here later this year for more detailed discussions with their Guyanese counterparts on mining and other projects.

Testing

Cde Burnham said "even with minimal success...these various ventures will together more than quadruple or quintuple present (gold) production."

"And we have reason to believe that there will be more than minimal success," he added.

The president also had a word of assurance for local gold miners. The agreements with foreign companies and countries was not likely to affect them since Government had not "parcelled out the entire gold-bearing areas of Guyana," he explained.

Geological surveys and data, he further explained, indicate that there are several other areas that are auiferous.

Meanwhile, it is understood that the Alberta-based Southern Star Resources will begin exploratory work at Peters' Mine in the Mazaruni Mining District by the middle of July.

Sampling and testing equipment to be used by the Yugoslav concern, Rudis, was due to arrive here this month. Work has already begun on access roads to the Upper Konawaruk, but is currently at a standstill due, partly to the rainy weather.

Record Gold Sales

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jun 84 p 8

[Text]

MINERS, during April and May of this year, sold the largest amount of gold to the Guyana Gold Board since its establishment.

The Gold Board, during those two months, purchased over 2 000 ounces of gold from miners representing a significant increase in the quantity of gold sold to the Board since it was established. Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mines Anthony Crawford reported Wednesday.

Speaking of the role of the Ministry of Energy and Mines in the economic development of Guyana, at the monthly luncheon of the Guyana Association of Professional Engineers, Cde. Crawford outlined the functions of the various departments within the Ministry and dealt with issues affecting performance.

Dealing in particular with the performance of the Gold Board, Cde. Crawford said the sale of gold jumped significantly over the last two months.

INCREASE

He told the Guyana News Agency after the luncheon

that while normal sales to the Gold Board ranged between 300 and 600 ounces the figure rose to over 1 000 ounces in April as well as in May.

Cde Crawford told the gathering of engineers in the Carnegie School of Home Economics dining hall, that the significant increase in gold sales to the Board is as a result of miners' response to a package of proposals for assistance offered by Government.

Government has agreed to utilise 20 per cent of the value of gold sold to the Board by miners for the purchase of spares and equipment to be used in the industry.

In addition, arrangements have been put into place for miners who sell gold to the Board to acquire scarce consumer items for use on their claims.

The package also includes a significant increase in the price paid miners for gold sold to the Gold Board.

Touching on areas of constraint, the Permanent Secretary said the Ministry is faced with the problem of a shortage of specialised skills and the lack of facilities.

RECRUITED

He said efforts are being made to recruit Guyanese to

satisfy its needs in the different areas especially in hydro power development. In the meantime, however, Sri Lankan engineers are being recruited as a stop-gap measure.

The Ministry, Cde. Crawford explained, has been unable to attract and retain engineers and other technical people because of conditions of work and salaries offered.

While the Hydro Power Programme has been put at the top of the list of priorities, petroleum exploration has not been de-emphasised, he said. While arrangements are being made to pursue the Hydro Power Programme discussions are also taking place for petroleum exploration, he disclosed.

The decision to turn to alternative energy sources such as hydro power is based on the need to reduce significantly the country's fuel import bill, Cde. Crawford explained.

Last year Guyana's fuel import bill stood at over \$300 million. Most of the imported fuel was used for industrial purposes.

(GNA)

Flight Priorities for Miners

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

GOLD and diamond miners will from now on be given priority to fly on Guyana Airways flights to mining districts, the Transport Ministry announced yesterday.

This follows a meeting between the Management Committee of the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners' Association and Transport Ministry officials, including *Minister Seeram Prasad*. At the meeting, held in the Ministry's boardroom, yesterday, miners had complained of the effects of non-availability of flights to the mining areas.

The Minister, who chaired the two-hour meeting, said that he appreciated the contribution miners are making to the national economy and has promised to take up other miners' problems, not under his portfolio, with relevant authorities.

The districts identified are Kamarang, Kurupung, Imbaimadai and Ekereku — all major points leading to the main mining districts in the vast Mazaruni area.

Priority placements, will, however, be done in collaboration with the Guyana Gold Board, one of the main state agencies with which miners liaise.

It was also agreed that the Association should work closely with the Civil Aviation Department in ensuring that certain interior airstrips are properly maintained so as to permit the smooth operations of Guyana Airways Corporation aircraft.

The Minister has promised to visit these districts to assess the situation for himself, since gold and diamond production are "so important to the national economy at this stage."

CSO: 3298/1022

GOVERNMENT RELEASES FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR MINERS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Jun 84 p 3

[Text] The release of more than \$280,000 dollars to be converted to foreign exchange has been approved by the Guyana Government as a concession to gold and diamond miners, Energy and Mines Minister Harun Rashid said yesterday.

The Guyana National Energy Authority (GNEA) has also granted an increase in the quantity of fuel supplied to the miners in an attempt to improve their operations.

Minister Rashid noted that the concessions are vital for the survival of the mining industry. He stressed, however, that stern action will be taken to "weed out" those persons found engaging in corrupt practices.

At the moment, the Ministry of Energy and Mines is looking at the performance of the miners over the last five years.

Cde Rashid said it would be necessary to get rid of those miners whose declarations over the period of review has been unfavourable.

Meanwhile, in an interview yesterday, Executive Secretary of the Gold and Diamond Miners' Association, Edward Shields, said that the money will be used to purchase spare parts, outboard engines and flexes (hoses used to pull the gravel from the river bed).

An all-members' meeting of the Association is scheduled to be held at St. Angela's School, Church and Thomas Streets, on Sunday, June 24.

According to the Executive Secretary, at Sunday's meeting discussions will centre on illegal transactions in the industry.

Any miner found involved in illegal deals will not have the support of the association, he warned.

The Association is also expected to seek donations for the President's College Fund from its membership. (GNA)

SUGAR WORKERS' LOST WAGES, 1984 TARGET REPORTED

Cost of Strike Action

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Jun 84 pp 1, 3

[Article by George Barclay]

[Text]

SUGAR WORKERS earned incentive payments totalling \$1.8 million from the just concluded sugar crop and could have earned a total of \$3.1 million had it not been for strikes in the industry.

Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) Chairman *Harold Davis*, who disclosed this on Saturday night, said that at the end of April, 1984, man-days lost were 64 974 as compared with 33 896 for the same period last year ... an increase of 100.4 per cent.

Correspondingly, he said, wages lost for work not done was in the vicinity of \$1.3 million compared with \$0.7 million for the same period last year.

At the end of April last year, the man-days lost through non-industrial strikes were 2 013, and according to *Chairman Davis*, this year 30 505 man-days were recorded of which 20 400 man-days were attributable to the NAACIE strike during the crop.

The earnings lost through non-industrial strikes up to

April last year were \$35 000 compared with approximately \$0.6 million for the corresponding period this year.

After asking: "Who are the losers in the final analysis?" *Cde. Davis* disclosed that while the man-days and earnings to workers lost through strikes increased, it is of significance to note that production went up by 22.1 per cent over the same period last year.

Pay-outs made to qualified workers last crop under the Monthly Production Scheme showed that workers received a total of 29 days pay compared with seven days pay in 1982 and four days pay for 1983 first crops.

The \$1.8 million incentive payments for the last crop were distributed as follows: Skeldon 8 days, Blairmont 8 days, Rose Hall 3 days, Enmore 3 days, Albion/ Port Mourant 2 days, LBI/ Ogle 2 days, Diamond 1 day and Leonora 2 days.

Cde. Davis told hundreds of workers and invitees at the Guysuco Production Honours Roll ceremony at Diamond Staff Club on Saturday night, that had it not been for strikes, then workers in the industry would have been \$3.1 million better off.

280,000-Ton Goal

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Jun 84 pp 4-5

[Text]

GUYANA Sugar Corporation Chairman Harold Davis said at the Guysuco Production Honours Roll function Saturday evening that the industry is aiming at a 280 000 tons sugar target this year ... the achievement of which ... he said, will mean quite a lot to both the workers and the nation.

"Given good weather, stable industrial relations, and improved factory performance, there is no reason why we should not achieve this target", the Chairman declared. Sugar is still a major foreign exchange earner for Guyana.

They had hoped, he said, to produce 109,758 tons sugar for the first crop but fell short of this by 4,597 tons and therefore achieved 95.8 per cent of the estimated production. It is of great significance to note that the estates made 97.9 per cent of their targets, whilst the farmers made 80 per cent of theirs.

He added: "Notwithstanding the shortfall, I am satisfied with our performance for the first crop, particularly when this is compared with the two previous first crops. Indeed, the figures revealed that the 1984 first crop production

was 22.1 per cent higher than the first crop of 1983 and 21.1 per cent higher than the first crop of 1982.

Field production has been encouraging. The yield relative to the tons sugar per acre ratio has increased by 11.3 per cent over the same period last year, he explained.

Cde Davis pointed out that in the area of mechanical tillage, the Demerara estates have together achieved 90 per cent of their programme while Berbice estates completed 75 per cent. The heavy rainfall in February caused the Berbice land preparation programme to be delayed by approximately three weeks.

Given favourable weather conditions during the second crop they hope to reinforce this area of activity by bringing in additional prime-movers to push the programme so as to achieve as close as possible the target set for the year, the chairman said.

Cde Davis pointed to certain trends and was optimistic that in the not too distant future the industry would achieve the objective of in excess of 300 000 tons sugar per annum.

After alluding to the problems at factories with

spare parts due to the foreign exchange situation, the Chairman said that the Corporation intends to reward any worker or group of workers through appropriately designed incentive mechanisms for their skill and innovative abilities in the production of items for which foreign exchange would have had to be used in their procurement.

The Chairman disclosed that the first crop results for the factory efficiency award showed that Skeldon was in the lead followed by Blaimont, then Albion, with Rose Hall in the fourth position and Leonora fifth. Enmore, Diamond, Wales, LBI and Uitvlugt follow in that order.

In relation to the Guysuco's Honours Roll, Blaimont obtained 13 placements, Skeldon achieved 11 placements, Enmore 7 placements, Albion/ Port Mourant six, Uitvlugt five placements, Rose Hall and LBI/ Ogle four placements each, Leonora three placements, Diamond, two placements and Wales, one placement.

The Chairman congratulated those estates which have been singled out for awards and offered best wishes for those in the race for Champion Estate.

CSO: 3298/1023

REPORTS ON BOAT HIJACKING IN CORENTYNE CONFLICT

Exchange of Gunfire

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 24 Jun 84 p 16

[Text] East Berbice: (GNA)--A boat laden with some 200 bags of Guyana rice was reportedly hijacked in the Crabwood Creek area, Upper Corentyne Friday and two Guyana Defence Force soldiers and a civilian were reportedly captured and taken away aboard the boat.

The incident followed a shoot-out which attracted the Police and a large crowd to the river bank in the Crabwood Creek area. Two civilians were critically injured during the incident.

Berbice Police who are investigating the matter have expressed concern for the safety of Corporal Gordon and private Robertson of the GDF and civilian Godfrey Profitt of No 79 Village, Corentyne.

Suriname Involvement

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 25 Jun 84 p 4

[Text] Corentyne residents speaking to OPEN WORD by phone say that the story "Gunplay on C/tyne River" in yesterday's CHRONICLE did not bring out the full significance of the incident. The source said that when the boat, allegedly belonging to Rohan, reached Suriname, it could not land and had to return the following morning, Saturday. As it drew near to the Guyana shore it was hijacked by two men, either ex-GDF or serving soldiers.

Armed hijackers usually capture a boat, land someone on the Guyana shore to collect a ransom went to Suriname and summoned the Surinamese police. The police responded and arrested the hijacked boat with the hijackers on board. Reports say that after an exchange of gunfire one hijacker and one Surinamese policeman were injured.

Release of Hostages

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

EAST BERBICE -- [GNA]
-- The three Guyanese who were kidnapped in the "rice" boat hijack incident on Friday, have been returned to Guyana.

The three include two members of the Guyana Defence Force -- Cpl. Gordon and Pte. Robertson -- and civilian Godfrey Profitt. They were captured during a shoot-out involving a group believed involved in a big rice smuggle racket.

Reports say a small group of soldiers confronted a number of men manning a boat laden with 200 bags of rice in the Crabwood Creek area. The smugglers were reportedly helped by men in other boats which surrounded the soldiers.

A few civilians from Nickerie were reportedly in the hijacked boat which

eventually sailed with the three Guyanese hostages and with the assistance of a group of persons dressed in Suriname's military uniform.

The three Guyanese hostages were escorted to Port Springlands by Surinamese officials and received by the Berbice Police yesterday. But up to yesterday afternoon there was no word about the boat and its cargo of 200 bags of rice.

The shoot-out on Friday afternoon attracted the Police and a large crowd. In the affray three people were injured. One, a GDF Sergeant, was badly beaten and wounded. He had to be airdashed to the City.

So far, the Police have arrested four men for questioning. All those detained are from the Upper Corentyne.

CSO: 3298/991

MINISTRY OF MANPOWER, CO-OPS PUTS VIEWS IN SPOTLIGHT

Denny on National Development

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Jun 84 pp 4

[Text]

MINISTER of Manpower and Co-operatives, Cde Kenneth Denny on Sunday called on members of the various co-operative societies and credit unions to save more and become involved with national development.

The Minister was, at the time, delivering an address at the seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the Guyana Credit Union League held in the Extra Mural Department of the Kuru Kuru Co-operative College, D'Urban Street, Lodge.

He said that there is no intention on the part of the Government to freeze people's savings.

The meeting which was attended by more than 200 delegates from at least 34 of the 71 active credit unions, lasted for more than seven hours.

The Minister called on co-operators to utilise their money wisely and told them of the need to increase their savings thus making the movement and themselves financially stronger.

Cde Denny said that he saw the League playing a vanguard role in the whole question of co-operativism, and added that credit unions are expected to lend

members money for productive purposes including housing.

The Minister said black-marketing and the parallel economy were affecting the national economy. He went on to say that the Government would have to find a way of bringing black-marketing and the parallel economy to an end.

The newly elected President of the League, Cde Oscar Henry, told the gathering, "we are passing through a period of stress and strain" but he added that "it is in this period that the best in people comes out." He called on members to do their best to strengthen the movement.

Ministry Report for 1983

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Jun 84 p 8

[Text] PROMOTING workers' participation in management was an important aspect of the work of the Ministry of Manpower and Co-operatives during last year, the Ministry has said in its 1983 Annual Report.

During last year, an additional six public sector enterprises introduced the Workers' Participation in Management systems. In 1982 there were twenty agencies involved. And, for this year, so far, three agencies have already adopted the system.

The main objective of Workers' Participation in Management system is to provide greater opportunities for non-management workers to contribute their ideas, knowledge and work experiences towards increasing overall efficiency in the respective agencies.

The system is also geared to help improve the physical and social aspects of the work environment.

The Labour Division of the Ministry has the responsibility for supervising and monitoring the implementation and functioning of the system.

Last year the system was introduced at the Guyana Water Authority, the Guyana Marketing Corporation, the Cereal Unit, Food and Special Products Unit and the retail and wholesale outlets of the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation and the Guyana Co-operative Insurance Service.

Among those which had implemented the system earlier, were Guyana Stores Limited, the Guyana Rice Board, the Guyana Oil Company, the Guyana National Co-operative Bank, Guybridge Civil Engineering Company and the Post Office Corporation.

The report further stated that during this year the number of agencies implementing the system is expected to increase since other public agencies have expressed an interest in utilising it.

The three agencies which have already introduced the system this year are the Guyana Co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank, the Guyana Transport Services Limited and the Sanata Textiles Limited.

Generally, the system operates on a one--or two-tiered structure. In the one-tier structure there are workers representatives on the Boards of Management or Directors.

In the two-tier structure there are Works Councils and non-management representatives on the Boards of Management.

However, the Guyana Rice Board has reportedly developed a unique four-tiered structure. It was restructured from three tiers to provide representation at the Regional and Central Board levels.

According to the report, there has only been one reported case of a non-functioning system--that at the Guyana Stockfeeds Limited. The report stated that the workers seemed uninterested but explained that attempts will be made to revive the system in the company.

Denny on Party Allegiance

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Jul 84 p 3

[Text] Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives, Cde. Kenneth Denny has said that the Party is paramount and political commitment must take precedence over all other matters.

He was speaking to Party delegates and observers attending the Third Annual District Conference of District 412 Eccles/Timehri of the People's National Congress. The Conference was held at the Craig Primary School last Sunday.

He said that there are many comrades who try to separate themselves from politics and trade unionism by claiming that they are wearing the "trade union hat" when they engage in strikes.

"This is nonsensical. It does not make sense, since one cannot be a member of the People's National Congress and engage in industrial action because in trade unionism itself, there is politics," the Minister stressed.

In his one-hour address, Cde. Denny further stressed the need for continuous ideological training for all Party members in order to prepare them for our Socialist transformation.

He called on delegates to struggle against imperialism which he said is not asleep and which wants to thwart our revolution.

He said there is need for a high level of efficiency, production and productivity in achieving our Socialist goal.

Comment on Denny Speech

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 2 Jul 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] No less a person than the Minister of Manpower and Executive Member of the TUC, Mr Denny, has said that "One cannot be a member of the PNC and engage in industrial action, because in trade unionism itself there is politics".

Last weekend's issue of the PNC organ reports him as saying that a PNC member who belongs to a trade union cannot have a "trade union hat". According to him, "The Party is paramount and political commitment must take precedence over all other matters".

Non-government bodies have made this same comment as a criticism of the ruling party. They have argued that Guyana is in its present state of deep crisis because of party paramountcy. Individuals in the highest positions put the interests of the party first and let the economy go to hell. These persons could not have a "people's hat". Citizens who normally travel by bus understand this only too well. When the party wants buses the non-party masses must do without them. In fact, buses are fast disappearing under this enlightened system of rule.

No doubt, this is the spirit in which Denny, Sallahuddin and Ms Bend-Kirton sit on the TUC Executive - without a "trade union hat" and keeping the interests of the PNC paramount.

As Mr Denny made no exceptions, let us hope that not many doctors, nurses, magistrates and judges belong to the PNC - or if they do that they do not accept Mr Denny's ruling.

While the constitution of Trinidad & Tobago contains an Integrity Commission, eighteen years after independence Guyana has none. The "integrity hat" is very unpopular in the PNC and may not fit in with the directives of Paramountcy.

Mr Denny must surely be telling trade unionists that as Minister of Labour he has no "workers hat", only a party hat. This will explain his innocence in moving the Labour (Amendment) Bill.

The NEW NATION has also announced that Regional Chairmen are responsible not only for the "administration of national affairs of the Regions" but also for the "political administration of the Regions". What national administration when they cannot have a "national hat"?

The public must be grateful to Mr Denny for his new light on paramountcy. When it is applied to the regional system and to the country as a whole, the failure of the INC to govern in the interests of the people of the country is easy to understand.

Role of Party Leaders

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Jul 84 p 8

[Text]

MINISTER of Transport and Chairman of the Finance Commission of the People's National Congress (PNC), Cde. Seeram Prashad yesterday exhorted "all Party members within the Co-operative Units to take an active role in organising Co-operatives."

The Chairman was addressing Party officials at the Third Annual District Conference of the La Reconnaissance/ Industry District Council, held at the

Lusignan Community Centre.

The two-day Conference was opened on Saturday by Cde Ivan Remington, Regional Chairman of Region Four.

Cde Prashad called on Party members to convince non-members of co-operatives "of the importance of this progressive economic step within the life of the community."

He also reminded paid Party officers that they "must exercise the greatest care to ensure that they perform their duties with the utmost efficiency and dedication, free of irregular and corrupt practices."

The Chairman of the

Finance Commission also stated that, "perhaps of even greater importance is the calibre of persons appointed as Party leaders in the District. They should be persons untainted by corruption, fraud and nepotism. At all times, the Party leaders should encourage unity among the group members, unity of purpose and unity of action; and to do so efficiently and effectively," he continued, "their characters should always be seen to be beyond reproach."

The Conference ended yesterday afternoon with a cultural presentation.

CSO: 3298/1021

JAGAN CONTINUES DISPUTE WITH DE CAIRES OVER PPP POLICY

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 1 Jul 84 p 4

[Letter to the editor headlined "Chedd, Jagan Replies to David de Caires" and carrying the notation "see C.S., May 27, 1984, 'David de Caires questions Cheddi Jagan'"]

[Text]

Sir,

Mr. David deCaires asked: did the PPP support the "purist Marxist-Leninist" Coard faction which "purged the Bishop faction on the ground that it was revisionist and backsliding?"

Maurice Bishop was revolutionary, not revisionist and backsliding. There was no difference between the two factions on tactics, strategy and domestic and foreign policies.

US aim in trying Bernard Coard and others, who are deemed by them to be hardline communists and murderers, is really to condemn Marxism-Leninism (scientific socialism/communism).

What caused the problems in Grenada was not Marxism-Leninism, but the failure to apply its principles in a creative way. And according to Covert Action, the CIA played a sinister role.

The PPP's commitment to freedom and democracy was also questioned because of its Marxist-Leninist associations.

Actually, what Mr. deCaires should have questioned was the CIA's role in toppling several democratically-elected governments - Mohamad Mossadegh in Iran (1953); PPP in Guyana (1953 and 1964); Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala (1954) and Salvador Allende in Chile

(1973).

Then he would have understood the praxis of Marxism-Leninism and why revolutionary Grenada, Nicaragua and Cuba have had to be so concerned about security.

Marxism-Leninism and democracy are interlinked. Lenin repeatedly said that socialism could not be built without democracy - democracy in the fullest sense (political, social, economic/industrial).

He noted: "Whoever wants to reach socialism by any path than that of political democracy will inevitably arrive at conclusions that are absurd and reactionary both in the economic and political sense".

And Lenin set out certain guiding principles for a party of a new type (communist) - criticism and self criticism, collective leadership and democratic centralism.

There are known examples where party leaders have been removed for violating these principles.

In the USSR, Lenin wanted a multi-party government, but the petty-bourgeois Socialist Revolutionaries and Mensheviks embarked on sabotage and attempted a seizure of power.

Salvador Allende's Marxist-led government had agreed to respect all constitutional guarantees.

This brought support from the opposition in the National Assembly for his nationalisation programme. Yet he was killed.

The CIA engineered the Pinochet military coup because it was feared that his Unidad Popular coalition would have won the 1976 presidential elections (it had increased its electoral support from 36% in 1970 to 43% in 1973).

The PPP in government had proposed the insertion of a Fundamental Rights section in our 1961 Constitution.

In 1971, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (then North Vietnam), had a Fatherland Front government made up of three parties and social organisations, including religious (Christian and Buddhist).

The President came from the Democratic Party, the Prime Minister from the Communist Party, and the Minister of Culture from the Socialist Party.

Similarly, the PPP is calling for a multi-party National Patriotic Front Government for Guyana with all the democratic freedoms as our Programme "For Socialism in Guyana" testifies.

This is not a time to raise the bogey of communism, to deem it an

evil, as President Reagan and his ilk are doing.

Those who did so in the 1960's in Guyana and placed the PNC in power as the "lesser of two evils" have lived to regret it.

Cheddi Jagan.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The Editor referred the letter to David de Caires.

Mr. de Caires feels that Dr. Jagan has failed to deal with the two questions posed, namely:

(1) Whether he supported the Coard faction up to and after the murder of Maurice Bishop, as the Soviet Union did, and

(2) What is his comment on the democratic record of Marxist-Leninist parties in power elsewhere in terms of free elections, opposition parties, free press, etc.

The Allende party, Mr. de Caires points out, though Marxist, was not Leninist, and was more akin in its politics to a democratic socialist party.

Opposition is not permitted in the Soviet Union, its satellites and China.

These are the models, Mr. de Caires feels, Dr. Jagan defends uncritically.

CSO: 3298/1024

ANTI-GOVERNMENT GROUP SEEKS CUTOFF OF TRINIDAD-TOBAGO AID

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Jul 84 p 3

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago's money should not be spent to support an illegal minority regime in Guyana, a regime that breaks all accepted codes of racial equality, democracy, justice and freedom of the Press.

This is the message of a newly formed pressure group called the "Committee to Isolate Racist Guyana" which says the Guyana government's policies closely resemble those of the racist South African regime.

According to the committee's chairman, businessman Anand Singh, Guyana is a "South Africa in our backyard," and deserves the same treatment we give to South Africa, which is total isolation.

"We want to ask the Trinidad government why it is supporting a dictatorship in Guyana with our taxpayers money, our oil and our credit. The majority of the population does not like what is going on in Guyana, so why are we paying to keep alive a racist minority regime?" he asked.

In a pamphlet justifying the comparison with South Africa, the committee noted ten points of similarity between South Africa and Guyana. The most important was rule by a minority race group, with four million whites ruling 22 million blacks in South Africa and the 36 percent of blacks in Guyana ruling the majority 55 percent East Indians.

It said the core of both system was racial exploitation, of blacks in South Africa and of East Indians in Guyana, which explains the description "racist Guyana."

The Guyana regime was also cheating and rigging elections to deny the will of the majority group. It had packed the military services with over 90 percent of blacks, was exploiting the labour of the majority group in areas like rice and sugar, and was practising vicious harassment of critics in the South African pattern.

The committee also argued that the Guyana rulers were controlling the media, and making the ruling party more important than the government.

Other comparisons were about the way the minority racial group dominated all important positions in the government, and their belief in their racial superiority, their right to rule the country forever.

Call for Support

The use of "stooges" from the oppressed majority group does not change the situation, said Mr Singh. The tribal chiefs in South Africa who supported the regime of P.W. Botha are matched in Guyana by people like Cheddi Jagan, whose party gives "critical support" to the regime of Forbes Burnham in Guyana.

"Racism is racism, injustice is injustice, no matter who is doing it. And while we may not be able to stop racism and injustice in South Africa and similar countries, at least we do not have to support it as we are doing with Guyana," he declared.

The committee is getting ready to enlist support for its call to isolate Guyana. It is also calling on the Trinidad and Tobago Government to cut off loans and help Guyana, to break all commercial and diplomatic ties with that country, to stop selling oil to Guyana, and to bar Guyanese officials from passing through Trinidad.

It is also calling on individuals to stop travelling to Guyana and to stop buying Guyana goods, especially rice. It explained that most of the Guyana economy is nationalised, so that any trade goes directly to help the Burnham regime.

"The money you spend on rice goes not to Guyana rice farmers but to the Rice Board, which cheats the farmers. Buying Guyana rice is giving direct help to Burnham," stated the committee.

CSO: 3298/990

PNC ORGAN SAYS DISHONEST ARE BEING PURGED FROM PARTY

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 17 Jun 84 p 3

[Text] Ever since leader of the People's National Congress, Cde Forbes Burnham, told the nation that the government will not tolerate acts of dishonesty, there have been numerous cases of persons appearing before the courts for such acts.

And even within the party there has been evidence of purging. PNC Parliamentarians have been called on to resign for not performing in the best interest of the party and the state and for seeking to use their positions for personal gain.

More recently, nonperformance on the part of those persons who have been placed in positions of responsibility, has come under attack. Senior officials who held positions of responsibility in the Regional system, and who had been urged to improve on their performances but who failed to do so, have been removed.

The People's National Congress firmly believes in the tenet "leadership by example." If this party is to successfully motivate people then those who occupy positions of leadership must set the example.

All too often the PNC has been the target of attacks because of the attitude of those who were called on to lead in the communities. Decisions pertaining to national development taken at the various forums of the party have not always been speedily executed by some of these leaders.

The party is taking this programme of purging to the basic unit, the group, and this is necessary if the idea of a successful People's Cooperative Unit is to be meaningful.

CSO: 3298/990

SUFFERING PEOPLE MAY HAVE 'HAD ENOUGH,' SAYS STANDARD

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 17 Jun 84 p 2

[Text] In a surprisingly frank editorial on June 6, the government-owned CHRONICLE disclosed that "there was only one well functioning at Shelter Belt" and that "suddenly the sectre of taps gone dry looms frighteningly near."

As usual, it is the people who are blamed and who are made to suffer. They are scolded for wasting water and it is seriously suggested that they bathe from a bucket.

With the economy weighed down by foreign debt and cut off from foreign credit by the IMF and lending agencies, many more spectres, equally frightening, hover over the land.

Government and its media resolutely refuse to see them.

As unemployment grows, and essential food and drugs become even more scarce, as prices escalate and wages are frozen, the spectre of hunger haunts the people.

Government maintains that they need only to adjust their eating habits, rid themselves of the taste for foreign foods, learn to do without milk, cheese, bread, margarine, oil and peas and live instead on rice, cassava, plantain, coconut, bush tea and other local products.

The spectre of empty gas cylinders and kerosene drums draws close indeed. Once again it is the people who must adjust.

The housewife must revert to cooking in a coal pot. It matters not that there is little charcoal to be had and prices of the commodity are prohibitive.

We have already had a vision of empty gasoline filling stations and queues of cars encircling whole blocks. Once again, car owners are expected to adjust, perhaps to drive donkey carts, or simply to walk.

The telephone system is not far from collapsing. Worn underground cables are given as the cause of failures of the system during heavy rainfall. Other parts are equally worn.

The same can be said of the sewerage and electricity systems. Both need renewing.

No blame, of course, must be attached to the government for the presence of the many spectres that haunt our land, certainly not in the so-called national media.

Yet, for 20 years the ruling party has exercised paramountcy, making all important decisions, determining the allocation of funds, building up armies and squandering our resources on other unproductive ventures, incurring huge debts and alienating our creditors.

Now it is the people who are expected to adjust. It is they who must suffer.

The elite will always have new Datsuns and Daimlers, while there is left any bauxite to barter.

The people will have to be content with accounts of sumptuous banquets given for the large parties that travel to far off lands at the people's expense.

Will the people continue to adjust? Will they be prepared to further tighten their belts, bathe from a bucket, preferably with a calabash, drive a donkey cart, cook in a coal pot, illuminate their homes with bottle lamps, use black sage for toothbrush and light fires by rubbing two sticks together?

By now there must be some who see, looming frighteningly near, the spectre of a people who have had enough.

CSO: 3298/990

BLEAK ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR '84 NOTED BY CDB

Georgetown MIRROR in English 17 Jun 84 p 1

[Text] The Caribbean Development Bank, of which Guyana is one of the 17 borrowing members, has concluded, in a recent report that "there is no significant growth prospects for the major sectors of the economy during 1984."

This is the second source the MIRROR has quoted recently that emphasised the same point. The other source was a confidential report prepared by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), a major aid donor to Guyana.

These reports, compiled by experts, are not for propaganda purposes. These sources have seen through the daily fabrications of the regime and came to the conclusions after assessing plans and policies adopted by the government. Unfortunately, Guyanese have to rely mainly on foreign publications to be informed on the true performance of the economy.

For instance, where unemployment is concerned the IDB said that "unemployment remained high. Compared with an estimate of 24 percent in 1982, unemployment rose roughly to 26 percent in 1983. In the absence of official statistics, some local sources say this figure could be higher. When asked earlier this year by Dr Cheddi Jagan in Parliament to provide unemployment figures, Manpower Minister, Kenneth Denny, dodged, ducked and hedged. Gruffed Denny, "If people take up employment opportunities no unemployment problems would arise." The Minister can tell that to the CDB.

Last year the Guyana economy weakened significantly. Real Gross Domestic Product declined by 10 percent--from \$417 million in 1982 to \$373 million. Considering the warnings of the CDB and IDB, the decline could be more pronounced this year.

State Secret

Another state secret is the emigration figures. Sources say the massive trek of Guyanese out of the country is a great consolation to the rulers and it could even be a silent policy not to discourage this trend. The CDB report pointed out that 'emigration continues to be a major constraint significantly affecting the labour market situation. The underlying trend of a declining rate of population increase associated with rising emigration continued during

1983. This was a major contributor to the growing shortage of managerial and other skilled manpower in the economy.'

This is a scandalous situation. Could it be the reason also why the 1980 census is being kept in deep freeze? Already a Parliamentary question has been put in the National Assembly by the PPP asking when the Census will be published. Now that the most highly skilled Guyanese are leaving, the Government is inviting foreigners to work in Guyana at salary levels several times that paid to Guyanese.

The CDB also stated that retail prices last year increased by 15% compared with 13.9% in 1982. With the removal of subsidies and higher prices sparked off after the 25% devaluation of the Guyana dollar the figures for this year would certainly jump sky high.

Behind Levels

In the bauxite industry, the bank estimated plant capacity at 2.4 million tons but plants were operating only at 50% capacity last year. There has been little improvement of that situation this year with several kilns out of operation. Production of dried and calcined bauxite amounted to 772,832 tons and 314,700 tons respectively, far behind the levels reached the previous year. Bauxite ore production declined by 40.3 percent.

Rice production fell by 18.3%. The industry achieved only 148,500 tonnes, the lowest since 1976. Sugar fell by 12 percent.

Last year Central Government capital expenditure contracted to \$115 million from \$264.0 million in 1982. Also, said the CDB, "the financial performance of the CDB, "the financial performance of the public agencies and key public sector corporations deteriorated in 1983."

There are already signs of further collapse despite PNC propaganda of recovery. The first sugar crop, despite three weeks of extra grinding failed to reach the target. The loan sharking from western capitalist countries, the IMF and the World Bank together with increased trading with socialist countries, would have little effect on economic performance except to increase the foreign debt. Any positive economic turn around would need much more than the present "patch work."

CSO: 3298/990

REMIGRATION OFFICIAL DENIES FAVORITISM FOR SRI LANKANS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Jun 84 pp 4-5

[Text]

A Remigration Department official has denied allegations that Sri Lankan engineers, being recruited to work in Guyana, are offered better conditions than their Guyanese counterparts.

The official was responding to queries based on statements published in a May-June Newsletter of the Guyana Association of Professional Engineers (GAPE) which said that the Sri Lankan engineers recruited under the Remigration Scheme enjoyed better conditions of

work than Guyanese engineers.

The Remigration official dismissed the allegations, pointing out that only one Sri Lankan engineer has so far been employed under the scheme to recruit skilled personnel from overseas to work in Guyana.

He explained that the engineer has been employed in the Government Service as a Senior Engineer based on his qualifications and experience and gets a salary which any other engineer would be entitled to if employed in the same position.

The official explained that the Government has undertaken the responsibility

for providing housing for the recruited expatriates.

Of the 150 Sri Lankans recruited to work here, five are engineers. The others include science teachers, medical doctors, agricultural technicians, accountants and auditors. To date, only one of the five engineers recruited, has arrived in Guyana.

The GAPE Newsletter also suggested that structured training programmes should be implemented to prepare local engineers and technicians to satisfy the need for specialised skills in engineering to avoid recruiting expatriates.

GAPE, it is understood, has put together a package of proposals for the training of Graduate Engineers and technicians in the Caribbean.

At a luncheon Wednesday Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Mines Anthony Crawford said his Department lacked specialised skills and efforts were being made to satisfy this need.

CSO: 3298/1023

IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR LETHEM, AISHALTON AIRPORT RUNWAYS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jun 84 pp 1, 2

[Article by Bert Wilkinson]

[Text]

MORE bitumen is to be applied to the "touchdown" zone of the new 1980-metre (6,400 ft.) Lethem airstrip to avoid further damage to certain sections of the runway.

This exercise is scheduled to begin next week and should be completed in mid-July. Heavy rainfall in the Rupununi recently, forced the Civil Aviation Department to close the old runway and temporarily allow Guyana Airways Corporation passenger and cargo flights to use the new runway instead.

But Guyana Airways pilots pointed to the damage done to the runway when aircraft touch down. Three layers of bitumen are to be applied but only one has yet been put.

The result is that it was decided to apply bitumen to the 304-metre (1,000-foot) "touchdown" zone thus minimising the chances of damage. "We'll apply the bitumen. We don't want to undo what we have done already," Civil Aviation Director *Anthony Makdeci* told an inspection party, including Transport Minister

Seeram Prashad at Lethem, Wednesday.

There was some amount of controversy, however, surrounding the exact location of some bitumen and fuel which should have been in the region since last week.

- This will be cleared up shortly. And, to speed up work on the project, the Minister has instructed Guyana Airways to cancel some domestic flights, if necessary, in order to airlift the bitumen and fuel to the region.

"This runway has to be completed this year. We are not short of funds. Government is giving priority to aviation this year," Cde. Prashad said.

With respect to fencing the Lethem airstrip, less than one-third remains to be completed. The other portion cannot be completed as yet since heavy duty equipment need an opening to operate.

Meanwhile, work will start this year on the construction of a new 1371-metre (4,500-ft) runway for nearby Aishalton. The one there has become too rough for landings. It reportedly damages aircraft undercarriages.

SURINAME AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS VISIT FOR TALKS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Jun 84 p 8

[Text] A three-man team from the Suriname Air Traffic Association left Guyana Thursday after talks with their local counterparts regarding the need for establishing alternative communication facilities between the international airports of the two neighbouring republics.

Delegation spokesman, Vivian Hanenberg, said that existing facilities, which consists only of a pushbutton voice link between the two airports, is not satisfactory and is hazardous for aircraft, particularly during busy periods.

"We need to have a backup system in case the voice link fails," he observed, pointing out that on occasions the authorities at both airports were unaware of the departure of an aircraft or about its arrival at their respective airports.

Hanenberg's contention was supported by Dennis Daniel, President of the Guyana Association of Air Traffic Control Officers (GAATCO). He sees the need for the setting up of back-up High Frequency radio and cable type systems.

In cases where controllers are informed about the movement of aircraft--after they cross the boundary--the time is often too short to make proper decisions, the president said.

The two sides also discussed problems relating to travelling between Guyana and Suriname and to a lesser extent Trinidad and Tobago. Both Hanenberg and Daniel said they hope airlines have a better understanding of their problems and thus make it easier for them to consult with each other regularly. The other two members of the Suriname team were Wilgo Menso and Ardjoen Birdza.

CSO: 3298/990

BRIEFS

'RIGGED' WORKERS COMMITTEE--A number of ex-GMWU officials and shop stewards announced last May Day that they have formed themselves into a Committee of Concerned Workers in the bauxite region. The group is backed by the ruling party and have the use of the facilities of the PNC regional administration. The "committee" also has a GBSU section headed by a foreman who took the salute in the 1983 workers' march past. Three men operating in the mills (Andrews, Reds Fingal and Jones) are reportedly being granted time off from work to look after industrial matters troubling various workers. The group is representing itself as friends of the workers in preparation for the upcoming August union elections. Workers are calling this new development another PNC trick. They are warning others to activate inactive branches and not to discuss industrial matters with unofficial union representatives. The PNC has a long history of creative election rigging in the bauxite industry. [Text] [Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 18 Jun 84 p 4]

JAGAN IN BARBADOS--Bridgetown, Mon., (AP)--Opposition Leader, Dr Cheddi Jagan has issued a call for a national patriotic government to rid this cooperative Republic of its social, economic and political problems. Speaking in Barbados, Jagan told newsmen that neither the International Monetary Fund (IMF) nor the administration of President Ronald Reagan in the United States has answers to the problems facing Guyana. He said Guyana, although in severe financial straits, has rejected IMF proposals for recovery as being too harsh. Dr Jagan, who heads the People's Progressive Party (PPP), said, we need a national patriotic front government for our economy, for social problems, for confronting imperialism and for uniting our people. He added: "Guyana has to take a radical position in dealing with its debt, a position taken by some Latin American states and the position we in the PPP have been advocating for a long time. That position, Dr Jagan said, is meeting some of our debt repayments while rescheduling and temporarily postponing others. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Jun 84 p 5]

REGIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY TO PNC--THERE is likely to be a new feature at the Sixth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress next year. Regional Chairmen may be called on to answer all questions and spearhead discussions on all motions dealing with matters pertaining to their Regions and submitted to Congress. At previous Party Congresses questions and motions were dealt with by the Secretariat of the Party with the Regional Chairmen only responding at the request of the Secretariat or the moderator of the programme. Regional Chairmen in addition to being responsible for the administration of the national affairs of the Regions, are also responsible for the political administration of the Regions. Questions and motions at Congress usually deal with state and party matters ranging from the establishment of a nursery school to the call for the transfer of an inefficient Regional Officer. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Jul 84 p 3]

DEMERARA PNC CONFERENCE--LINDEN--(GNA)--Calls for more demonstrations on the use of rice flour, for increased supplies of basic food items and for improved community services, especially better public roads, featured at the third Annual Delegates' Conference of the Upper Demerara District of the People's National Congress. The conference was held over the week-end at the Wismar-Christianburg Multilateral School. Also highlighting the two-day conference was the feature address of Minister of Mobilisation, Cde Robert borbin, and the election and installation of new office-bearers. Minister Corbin, whose address was based on the conference theme "Resourcefulness for effective living in the People's Co-operative" told delegates that they were required to look at Guyana with new eyes and minds, and to use what was available to make this country a better place in which to live. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Jun 84 p 4]

CSO: 3298/1024

ARMY SEEN AS INEFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY

Lima EQUIS X in Spanish 9 Jul 84 pp 8-10

[Article by Julio Cesar Gaitan: "What Will the Army Do?"]

[Text] We are just 1 year away from the next presidential election, but the rapid pace of events in recent weeks and months dictates a complete change in the economic and other policies that have been pursued in the country. Facts are facts, and there is no clever way of getting around them. It makes no sense for the president of the republic to claim that the economy is recovering, even in a bid to instill optimism, because everyone knows that the crisis is worsening, and it is against this gloomy outlook that people are making economic, political, personal and group plans. The only valid, fruitful optimism today is based on a full recognition of the serious difficulties that exist, and the only thing that a good leader can do is stand in the forefront of the national awareness of how grave the times are.

In the economic sphere, the government is losing one battle after another, and the struggle against underdevelopment during this period has, on the whole, been a failure. In the struggle against subversion, the casualties are, regrettably, mounting and more and more battles are being lost, but this is a struggle that the country cannot lose. With or without Fernando Belaunde, the State cannot remain impassive as Shining Path, which explicitly and openly advocates its destruction, scores gains.

The crisis in which the country finds itself is economic in origin. Social turmoil has existed for quite some time. The new twist in the current situation, however, is that the center of gravity of the most severe problems has shifted to the government officials themselves. The Webb case shows us as much. Inasmuch as all of the directors of the Central Bank who were on Webb's team resigned, the country's monetary system is in danger of drifting until mid-August, when the Senate will decide the ultimate fate of the bank's president.

A Coup: The Only Solution?

For these reasons a military uprising would seem imminent, not because some people are pushing for a coup but because neither the government nor, unfortunately, the opposition parties have any solutions to offer. That is how things stand, at least to the extent that the political climate is clear enough to assess.

The question thus arises: What will the army do?

Shining Path has made extraordinary, though totally predictable gains, given the government's lack of foresight and the steady worsening of social conditions. As of the middle of last week, the casualties during Shining Path's latest offensive totaled 128. Its most recent actions have been the slaying of 40 peasant farmers in the province of La Mar in Ayacucho and the destruction of machinery valued at more than 2 billion soles at a cooperative in Canete. It also murdered eight civil guardsmen in Aucayacu.

Facts are facts, and the cockiness of a Minister Percovich, the same man who claims to have spoken with the Virgin of Fatima, is of no avail. While Shining Path has been carrying out its war plans, Percovich's visions have turned out to be nothing but hallucinations. Shining Path has begun its "second wave," with its accompanying death and destruction. Events have completely discredited the interior minister. And since the country cannot afford to let Shining Path keep on winning the war, someone has to bring about a policy change, with or without Percovich, with or without Belaunde.

Political Solution

According to several reports, President Fernando Belaunde, accompanied by Luis Percovich, will press for the following measures at the meeting of the National Defense Council: 1. A declaration of martial law in the departments of Ayacucho, Huancavelica and Apurimac; 2. Labeling the guerrillas traitors so that the death penalty can be applied to them; 3. Stepping up the "dirty war" tactics, which according to "anti-insurgency technique" entail killing 80 innocent people for each guerrilla slain.

Not only will these measures not resolve the problem, but they will aggravate it and ultimately give the victory to Shining Path. Let us see why. If by martial law we mean total military control, an end to individual rights and a suspension of the powers that the constitution establishes, then this has existed for 2 years now in Ayacucho. The upshot has been that the guerrillas have spread to 10 departments, including the jungle.

Also, the constitution does not have to be amended for the death penalty to exist. It is already being carried out in the emergency zone, as shown by the extensive record of non-court-ordered executions and missing

persons. Furthermore, when the counterinsurgency forces have won battles, they have left no wounded nor taken prisoners. In spite of all this, Shining Path's contingents have grown, and estimates are that there are several thousand members of the "People's Guerrilla Army," to whom we must add the guerrilla fighters who make up the "local forces" in each town and the so-called "People's Militias."

Under such conditions, intensifying the "dirty war" would simply and plainly mean a crusade of extermination, as about 200,000 persons would have to be liquidated, 98 percent of them innocent victims. Simple peasant men and women, who have always been the forgotten ones in our homeland, would have to die senseless deaths. And this does not take into account the toll that Shining Path itself would take.

Social and Military Trauma

The antisubversive strategy of extermination is very difficult to carry out, aside from being the most inhumane of "solutions," one that could occur only to reactionaries like Belaunde and Percovich. In a confrontation of that magnitude there is no guarantee that there will not eventually be rifts in the officer corps. Our army and the Armed Forces in general are nationalistic and love their country. Ordering them to fire on 200,000 Peruvians would be tantamount to forcing them into disobedience and insubordination.

If the mistaken decision is made to send in the army to exterminate its fellow citizens, there will be two additional difficulties. The weaponry would have to be changed, because the Soviet tanks and the French Mirage aircraft would be of little use to this end, especially against an enemy who knows the Andes like the palm of his hand. Secondly, greater American involvement would have to be accepted, and this is practically impossible under current political circumstances in Peru and Latin America as a whole.

Lastly, if the guerrillas were eventually exterminated, it would leave a very deep wound in the national body and soul. It would be truly traumatic for the military, which would be viewed with the justifiable scorn that Argentines today feel for their officer corps. Our State would be vulnerable to potential enemies that glare greedily at our borders.

There Is a Solution to Subversion and the Crisis

EQUIS X has always loudly voiced its disagreement with the government's policies. We have always maintained that the problem posed by Shining Path must be resolved politically, through the following moves: a release of prisoners, amnesty for all members of Shining Path, the start of a dialogue, election of local governments in the emergency zone in which Shining Path would be democratically involved, and a regional development program with hefty investment in the region.

As far as the economy is concerned, EQUIS X merely supports the realistic and responsible proposals that various sectors inside and outside the government have put forth. In the first place, it is realistic to state that as it is currently structured, our foreign debt is unpayable. Secondly, it is realistic to state that all sectors cannot be promoted to the same extent simultaneously. The two priority sectors should be nontraditional exports, to surmount the foreign exchange crunch, and agriculture, the source of food and jobs. Construction (the president's fair-haired boy), industry and other sectors should receive the positive spillover from the reactivation of the first two.

Third, it is realistic to say that financial adjustments are urgently needed: realistic interest rates, an exchange rate close to equilibrium, and government spending in line with expected revenues. All of this will require austerity and discipline from start to finish at every level in both the public and private sector. The economic cancer represented by the divorce between work and income must be rooted out. The only way to earn more ought to be by working harder. Living off investments must be ruled out, and certainly Dr Webb should be sacked. In the long run, moreover, we must put an end to poverty and inequality.

Towards a Second Velasco Regime?

Both of these urgent requirements, stopping Shining Path and halting the catastrophic worsening of inflation and recession, must be met before too much more time passes. They must be fulfilled now. Otherwise, the country will collapse or tear itself apart in a civil war, and the Armed Forces, the army in particular, could not sit idly by in that event. Either Belaunde finally decides to take on the Shining Path subversives towards the end of his unsuccessful second administration and to make a 180-degree turn in economic policy, or he could wind up being overthrown as in 1968.

The point is not whether this is or is not to our liking. The fact is that it has a very good chance of coming to pass. There is no way that the military will do nothing or agree merely to carry out a repression in which it does not believe on behalf of a government that it does not respect.

What will the army do now? If it decides to act, chances are that a new military regime would take the form of a second Velasco government, without Velasco, his excesses and his blunders but with his basic nationalistic, socialist bent. It might want a cabinet with civilians close to or linked with the leftwing American Revolutionary Popular Alliance and Socialist parties, as well as progressive technocrats. And it would have no intention of remaining in power for decades, as the military has in Brazil.

8743

CSO: 3348/485

APRA CANDIDATE DISCUSSES TERRORISM, FOREIGN VISITS

Lima CARETAS in Spanish 23 Jul 84 pp 24-26

[Interview with APRA presidential candidate Alan Garcia; author, date, time and place not given]

[Text] [Question] One of the main problems facing the country, which you will surely inherit if you take office in 1985, is terrorism. How would the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance (APRA) deal with it?

[Answer] No matter what party forms the next administration, it will have to face terrorism as this government has not done: coming to grips with the reality of a subversive war that has already been declared.

Sendero Luminoso [Shining Path] is a totalitarian, irrational and inhuman way of responding to a problem that we all agree exists, but that no one can solve by bloodying the country or by diverting it toward irrational lifestyles or means of social subsistence. We believe that this government has closed its eyes to the situation, as happened in 1965. Now that there is talk of intervention by the Armed Forces, we should recall that it restricted its intervention to a role of providing logistical support to police forces, when the most basic theory of security and strategy calls for the opposite. When we say this we are not demanding a bloodbath or indiscriminate slaughter. What we are demanding is that the state make its presence known, as the best way of preventing the tragic events that are happening right now. Foreigners have the impression that Peru is in the same boat with El Salvador.

This is a very serious problem which deserves a very concrete response. That does not mean, however, as a prominent military officer has stated, that the problem can be brought under control only at gunpoint; its roots go much deeper than that. We must launch a crash food and development program, bringing Peruvian peasants back to civilization, to productive dignity, to democracy. But to prevent a bloodbath in Peru, the party will support all measures.

[Question] So this food and development program does not exclude guns?

[Answer] It is only natural for a democracy, this new, true democracy that is proposing solutions to historic problems, to defend itself from those who do

not understand that it is trying to solve these problems. If the violence continues, despite a transformation that I would call revolutionary and that benefits the peasants and their dignity as producers and consumers, and despite the decentralization and a new food model that satisfies the old hunger, then it will have to be shown that being democratic does not preclude exercising authority and vigorously defending the Christian, civilized ways of coexistence.

[Question] Would APRA turn the tables, then, and authorize the Armed Forces to combat terrorism directly?

[Answer] That would not mean a death knell for those Peruvians who have made a mistake, or a call for extermination; we believe that the presence of the Armed Forces would be the best deterrent to these frightful massacres: dozens of peasants are being murdered daily, whole communities are mysteriously destroyed. These communities, like the nation as a whole, have a right to security and to the presence of the state. I refuse to put up with a system under which city residents do not have the right to the safety provided by lights, and the community of Lucanamarca does not have the right to rid itself of these violent massacres.

[Question] Let's talk about your campaign, please. At this time APRA has broken an old tradition of carrying out its campaign in the streets; it is now coming into people's homes through television. Is this a new tactic?

[Answer] Everything depends on the dynamics of the campaign. I think that rallies attract the party converts, those who are really APRA supporters. Going to a rally always involves some expense, some investment of time, some sacrifice, and those who do so are already willing to vote for the party. The problem lies in reaching the rest of the country, appealing to all Peruvians.

[Question] No more rallies then?

[Answer] Times have changed; now it is through television, radio, newspapers and magazines that one reaches the consciousness of millions of Peruvians. Lima is no longer a town of 200,000 people who would be satisfied with a demonstration by 50,000. Lima now has a population of 5 million. Furthermore, the most remote valley of the Andes has television or at least radio now. I don't think any candidate, no matter how young, energetic and dynamic, could travel the old roads and paths of Peru and visit all its towns and tiny villages. A candidate has to know how to keep up with the times, which means knowing how to look right into the camera and talk to the people of Peru.

[Question] Will you stop making trips so that you can devote more time to the campaign?

[Answer] Part of the campaign also involves conveying the image of Peru and APRA to various international forums. Thus, I have traveled to Spain, to Rome and the Vatican, to China, and after stops in North Korea and Tokyo, to the United States, to witness the Democratic Convention in San Francisco. I had to leave there suddenly because of a family mishap. We must get used to the fact that our diplomacy must be economic and commercial, a diplomacy of asser-

tiveness in various fields. We cannot depend on a handful of Western banks or on the U.S. market. We must take on other economic realities.

[Question] For years there was talk of the similarities between APRA and the Chinese Kuomintang, yet you have not been to Taiwan.

[Answer] Earlier I was in Taiwan, where I was able to gain important insights into our experience. Now I have had an opportunity to go to China, which at this time is undergoing a new revolution. In Mao Tse Tung's last years, the so-called Shanghai Band or Gang of Four took over power and imposed an extreme communist totalitarianism. Then people talked of a common bowl from which all should partake, whether they worked much, little or not at all. In time, this led to lower agricultural productivity and serious imbalances and discontent among the Chinese people. When Mao died, a healthy reaction within the party and among the Chinese people brought to power a sector that had been excluded and jailed by the Gang of Four. I say a revolution is going in China for the following reason: the communist extremism and red fascism have been left behind. China is beginning to have a realistic assessment of its position with regard to the world. In the first place, it has opened the doors to foreign capital, because it understands that it needs to know how to deal with that world, as Haya de la Torre taught. In the second place, it has overcome collectivism, which is a deformity of socialism, and has paved the way for individual and family initiative. On the communes land for private use is now granted to the peasants who produce the most. This means that the Chinese countryside is becoming capitalized little by little, as refrigerators, televisions, washing machines, etc. produced by Chinese industry, often in collaboration with foreign capital, continue to arrive.

[Question] Would the Chinese experience apply in Peru?

[Answer] We feel that egalitarianism is a childhood disease and a deformity of cooperativism and socialism. It is a question of giving to each according to his work: "The more you contribute, the more you have the right to enjoy."

We must move toward a society in which, through intelligence and effort, each person has the right to enjoy the fruits of his production. Extreme egalitarianism is basically unjust.

[Question] Isn't egalitarianism the root of the serious crisis suffered by the agroindustrial cooperatives of the north?

[Answer] The sugar cooperatives are a special case, because they underwent a process of decapitalization due to the low prices that persisted for so many years, resulting in indebtedness. Thus, the first priority is to solve the financial problem of the cooperatives, and they should also be exempt from certain taxes.

[Question] That applies to immediate problems, but what about the system itself? Have you thought about how to overcome egalitarianism?

[Answer] I am certain that the cooperativists themselves, as has happened in other countries, will be able to distinguish between those who contribute the most work and those who protect themselves from any sacrifice, so that they will obtain varying shares of production. This lies in the conscience of all Peruvians; according to the Constitution, we all favor equal pay for equal work, and different pay for different work. No one likes to be equalized unjustly. The basic criterion of justice should be that, as long as everyone's basic needs are met, wages should be in keeping with the effort that is made to the benefit of society.

[Question] Your visits to North Korea have been criticized. What can a society such as the one run by lifetime President Kim Il Sung contribute to Peru and APRA?

[Answer] Politically, we do not agree with the model that prevails there, which is not applicable to a country with Western and democratic influences, as ours has. But being civilized means learning about and looking directly at other situations. We cannot just put countries with systems unlike our own in the index. On the contrary, we must learn from experiences and achievements that have been made in the field of economics. Korea is an important example: with an area of just 120,000 square kilometers, it has truly colossal agricultural infrastructure projects which we should study and learn about.

[Question] Nonetheless, you have not visited Cuba, a Spanish-speaking socialist country on this very continent.

[Answer] I have not had a chance to do so, but other people in the party have, such as Comrade Armando Villanueva. Many problems have been solved in Cuba, something we cannot fail to recognize, although we do not agree with their political model.

[Question] Would you accept an invitation to visit Cuba?

[Answer] Look, I'm broad-minded and democratic, but I'm not stupid. In politics our adversaries, especially those we have now, give a lot of emphasis to symbols. I would very much like to find out what is going on in Cuba after so many years under the rule of Fidel Castro, but I also know what that would mean politically here. Some magazines--not CARETAS--would use that trip to claim that we are as totalitarian as they paint Cuba. In all honesty, I can tell CARETAS and its readers that I may be a little stupid, but I am trying to get over that (laughs).

[Question] In recent weeks there has been more mention of the possibility of an alliance between Popular Action (AP) and the Popular Christian Party (PPC), which may enter the run-off against APRA. What is your opinion on that?

[Answer] Well, I think that is only natural. Luis Bedoya, whose candidacy I applaud and with whom I have always had a relationship of friendly cordiality and congeniality, has participated actively in this government, which creates a moral commitment for him. So I consider it only natural for two parties that have identified with each other over a period of 4 years to join together again to win a new 5-year term. Bedoya has begun his campaign on the right

footing by calling upon the United Left (IU) as well, in view of the possibility of a run-off.

[Question] Rolando Brena has said that in the run-off the left will vote for anyone but APRA.

[Answer] Peru is not going to be built on the basis of such obsessions. In 1980, those who now represent the IU said the same thing as they delivered their votes to Fernando Belaunde. That seems truly irresponsible to me. To try to shun APRA, a democratic party that enjoys the support of a major portion of the citizenry, seems to me a serious error. Our communist friends have played that game many times. They helped over-inflate Fernando Belaunde's victory in 1980, which made it impossible for Parliament later to keep the Executive in check. But I am certain that the people of Peru will not succumb to fear or intimidation. I don't think Peru is afraid of Alan Garcia or of APRA.

[Question] Do you think it is possible to win without a run-off?

[Answer] I am not one to predict victory or success groundlessly. The worst thing that can happen to a politician is to lose sight of his realistic possibilities and his limitations. I think APRA has a good chance, but I would not make the mistake of saying that it will win a landslide.

[Question] But you do think it will win the run-off?

[Answer] I think that is the most likely and logical outcome, but I would like to make a clear qualification: The Peruvian nation consists of more than just political parties, which generally have a mistaken idea of their power and representativeness. Only a small percentage of the population belongs to political parties. The people are organized basically in economic institutions, labor union federations, cooperatives, peasant organizations, business groups and other natural and heterogeneous entities. It is in those Peruvians, the vast majority who do not identify emotionally with the life of a political party, who do not have a party I.D., in whom I place my faith. I think they are waiting for a firm and secure alternative that will defend the country, its security and order.

[Question] With whom would APRA enter a pact in the run-off?

[Answer] APRA wants to enter a pact with Peru, with those who have a political conscience even though they have no party affiliation, those who are worried about the future. A single party can no longer govern Peru. That is another problem. After the election, it must be confessed in all honesty that capable people can be found outside the political parties.

[Question] But only the political parties participate in elections, and it is they that will have congressmen elected who will be needed to form a majority.

[Answer] No. This business of ensuring a majority in advance smacks of complicity to me. I think the government should act in consultation with the country. If we were lucky enough to be elected to office so that we could

carry out our programs, we would be in constant consultation with the entire nation. What should not be done is to make hasty decisions that might force parliamentary crises. We will have to seek a happy medium on major projects. The important thing is to progress in politics the way history progresses: prudently and without the great leaps that Messianic types dream of.

8926

CSO: 3348/505

'INFORMAL' ECONOMY GROWS FASTER THAN FORMAL SECTORS

Lima EQUIS X in Spanish 9 Jul 84 p 26

[Text] The Informal Economy

The production units that make up the informal economy have been studied in depth in recent times. They have the following traits, among others: they function in competitive markets with unrestricted access; they are primarily self-sustaining; they are owned and run by families; they operate on a small scale, and they are labor-intensive.

Unofficial activities are carried on in various sectors. In the business sector, for example, we have the typical Peruvian street vendors. Prominent in manufacturing are the small unregistered garment shops, as well as the unlicensed machine shops and the "streetside" shops that fail to observe labor laws. The informal sector is by far the largest in agriculture, the only exceptions being the agrarian enterprises and the small growers that benefit from Banco Agrario credit.

Reasons for the Underground Economy

The red tape for setting up and registering a company with the Industries Ministry takes about 40 hours a week for some 6 months for a person without any contacts and influence.

The Freedom and Democracy Institute, which is headed by Hernando de Soto Polar, feels that this is one of the main reasons for the underground economy, inasmuch as the same red tape takes only 4 hours in the city of Miami, for example.

On the other hand, although an unofficial business finds it very expensive to register legally, the benefits of operating within the law could be attractive. For example, the owner could avail himself of small business loans, which carry much lower interest rates than unofficial credit. The advantage of not paying taxes when operating illegally is offset by the payoffs and bribes that must be paid to individuals working in government watchdog agencies.

Sources and Costs of Financing

As we have already mentioned, the underground economy is primarily (80 percent) self-financing. Nevertheless, informal sources are important, accounting for 18 percent. The cost of such capital is quite high, however, much higher than the cost of official credit.

In August 1982, when effective interest rates on the official market were around 80 percent, the rates on the unofficial market ranged from 125 to 500 percent a year. Current estimates are that the real interest rate on the informal market averages 250 percent a year. There is a powerful reason why such businessmen resort to this type of loan: it is immediately available.

The Informal Sector and the Crisis

All indications are that the informal sector booms particularly during balance of payments crises and domestic recessions. This suggests the idea that an underground economy is a response to the crisis in the economic growth model that the country has adopted.

The growth rate of the informal sector rose sharply starting in 1975, as the specter of crisis loomed ever larger over the nation. The underground economy has grown over the past 35 years at a rate of 1.5 percent a year in Latin America and Peru specifically, but the pace quickened in the 1970's, with the upshot that by 1976 the informal sector made up 36 percent of the economy.

In 1978 the informal economy grew by 40 percent; in 1981, 42 percent, in 1982, 42.7 percent, and in 1983, 47.5 percent. The informal sector has continued to expand this year, and "Polvos Azules," its urban symbol, is one of the country's largest shopping centers today.

Interest Rates on the Informal Money Market (percentages)

<u>Market</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Urban		
Commercial credit	138	500
Suppliers Credit	144	375
Individual Lenders	260	420
Rural	125	230

Source: Susano, R., August 1982.

8743

CSO: 3348/485

UNIONS REMAIN AT ODDS WITH GOVERNMENT, TEXACO

Rejection of Offer

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] The Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association (TTUTA) has rejected Government's six percent wage offer and will meet to decide on a plan of action to deal with the latest development.

TTUTA is the first member of the Joint Negotiating Team (JNT) to react to the offer.

Mr Anthony Garcia, president of TTUTA, said that the offer would be discussed during a meeting tomorrow at St. Mary's College, Port of Spain, from 6 p.m. All teachers are expected to attend the meeting.

Meanwhile, the head of the Joint Negotiating Team, Mr Kenrick Rennie, has declined comment on the Government offer. He said the JNT would give a reaction when negotiations continue with the Chief Personnel Officer (CPO), Mr Hilton Cupid, today.

Government made its offer of six percent after reminding their employees of the financial and economic restraints involved. They have also warned of possible trade-offs between wage increases and the size of the public service.

Negotiating Team's Criticism

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text] Public servants have described Government's offer of a six percent wage increase over the three year period 1984-86 as "nothing short of provocation.

Responding to Government's offer yesterday, the Joint Negotiating Team of Public Sector Associations and Unions stated that while they are not averse to the need for sacrifice in the national interest, "under no circumstances, however, are we prepared to carry such burden alone."

The Public Sector Unions, comprising the Public Services Association, the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association, the Police Service Association

the Prison Officers Association and the Fire Services Association, met the Chief Personnel Officer, Mr Hilton Cupid, yesterday at the CPO's offices to respond to his opening statement at the beginning of talks and the subsequent proposals made by the CPO for a new agreement for the public servants.

The prepared statement by the JNT was read by Dr Kenrick Rennie, Chairman of the JNT and head of the PSA.

The JNT stated that "nothing in the Government's statement, made through the Chief Personnel Officer, suggests that any attempt is being made to introduce measures to ensure that the burden of adjustment is borne equitably by all sectors of the community, or, as the Task Force puts it, that the inevitable lower standards of living are accepted by all persons in the community."

After dealing with the inflationary impact, tax burden, balance of payments deficit, lower standards of living, productivity, salaries/employment trade off in response to the CPO's statement, the JNT dealt with reduction of fringe benefits.

Substantial Savings

The team stated, insult is added to injury when the Government talks in terms of deliberate reductions in existing fringe benefits "in order to ensure that employment opportunities are maximised."

Dr Rennie pointed out: "Essentially, the Government is saying that revenues are declining and it therefore cannot pay.

"The JNT would not be presumptuous to tell the Government where or how it can find the monies, but would point to the following, all of which, if addressed, can raise or save substantial amounts.

--"the elimination of the wanton waste that has been the order of the day and has been as a direct consequence of poor or no planning and a lack of foresight on the part of the managers of the economy;

--"the stamping out of corruption and theft in high places. We have already alluded to where the Government can straightaway raise \$3.6 million;

--"the revision of the basis for and the level of taxation of oil companies;

--"the revision of the tax structure applicable to the local corporate sector in order to ensure a greater degree of responsiveness to profit increases;

--"the introduction of measures to exact revenue from the 49 percent cited by the Minister in the Ministry of Finance who should be paying tax but are not doing so."

Dr Rennie stated: "Despite what is being said, it is clear that the Government is insistent on the strategy that the workers alone, and particularly the highly visible Public Sector employees, must bear such burdens.

"This is totally unacceptable, and we call upon the Government to correct this tendency and to introduce adjustment measures that would

--"effectively address all forms of income including profits, dividends, interest, etc.;

--"control the escalating cost of living that is brought about predominantly by existing markups; and

--"soften the built-in eroding characteristic of the tax structure for individuals."

Dr Rennie added: "In the light of the above, the Government salary offer of an overall six percent increase over three years is nothing short of provocation."

He outlined the proposals and then explained what he felt they meant to the Public Sector employees.

He said: "On the basis of the Government's proposals, the salary of every public servant will show a significant fall in real terms. That spells hardship and distress for the vast majority of Public Servants.

"The question that we as Public Servants face, and which must be addressed by all is the following:

"Must public servants accept a lower standard of living in the interest of the country when there is no guarantee of an equitable downward adjustment in the incomes of others in the Society?

"We have already stated our recognition of the fact of the downturn in the economy, and Public Sector employees are not averse to the need for sacrifice in the national interest.

"Under no circumstances, however, are we prepared to carry such burden alone.

"By not seeking to improve our standard of living this time around, we have already demonstrated our preparedness for sacrifice even in the face of no forthcoming measures to ensure equal sharing of the burden.

"Without such measures, however, we are not prepared to make greater sacrifices."

Public servants he said, must seek, at the very least, "to forestall this unilateral onslaught on our very survival."

Referring to the JNT's position, he said, "Indexation is the only solution."

OWTU Problem With Texaco

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Jul 84 p 7

[Text] The Oilfields Workers Trade Union has decided to embark on a massive mobilisation of its members as well as workers in general in the country to take off the economic pressure on all workers.

In addition, the Union is mobilising its own forces calling on Texaco Trinidad Inc. to reinstate the eight dismissed workers and to negotiate a just industrial contract with the Union in the current wage negotiations on behalf of the hourly-related weekly-paid employees.

Announcement concerning those actions were made yesterday by George Weekes, President General at a public meeting held at Pointe-a-Pierre roundabout.

The entire executive and general council marched around the roundabout with their blue and red flags to show support for the Texaco workers in their disputes with the company in two main areas--reinstatement of the dismissed workers and wage negotiations.

Petition

Mr Weekes said that Texaco enjoys power in their money: power to decide to give 'no percent increase,' power to decide not to bring oil to this country and power to bring economic crisis through their "strike" action which was not only affecting workers in Trinidad and Tobago but, the Caribbean as a whole.

And while the meeting was in progress workers were soliciting signatures on a petition to be sent to Texaco calling for reinstatement of the dismissed workers.

Mr Weekes also stated that they intend to hold a solidarity demonstration on August 18 calling for the reinstatement of the workers and conclusion of a just wage agreement.

He got unanimous approval from the gathering when he asked them to give the Union power to deal with companies such as Texaco and Amoco.

Errol McLeod, first vice president, said that Texaco for five months had refused to make a wage offer and it was due to the valiant struggle by the workers that the company made a nine percent offer over three years, which was rejected. "Texaco has to do better," he stated.

Bennet Berkley, senior labour regulations officer brought the workers up to date with the wage negotiations, informing them that the Union intends to fight the issue of craft consolidation particularly in the areas where the workers stand to lose.

CSO: 3298/996

PROBLEMS SURFACE INVOLVING ISCOTT, FEDCHEM, TEXACO

Government Warning

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] A government minister yesterday lamented that the biggest problem the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) faced was that it has not yet been able to manufacture and produce steel efficiently and at a cost that would allow the State-owned company to sell at a profit.

State Enterprises Minister Ronald Williams also warned that it was necessary now to do something very drastic and significant about ISCOTT.

In a wide-ranging address at the annual conference of the PNM Port of Spain Constituency of which he is the parliamentary representative, Mr Williams also revealed:

--Government was most likely going to buy the Texaco oil refinery at Pointe-a-Pierre;

--Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) is interested in setting up a second methanol plant and that Cabinet has agreed in principle that it should be established in Pointe Fortin;

--the construction of 798 housing flats in North and South Trinidad to replace the controversial contract (which has been withdrawn) awarded to a South Korean firm to build high density housing units in Trinidad;

--possible expansion of the Tringen plant; and

--despite protestations to the contrary, he was convinced that the announcement of a ban on BWIA picking up and dropping passengers in Barbados on Saturdays on its way to and from London, was inspired at governmental level in Barbados.

Fiery Francis

The audience which gathered at the South East Port-of-Spain Secondary School, also heard a fiery speech from Works Minister Hugh Francis.

Minister Francis who emphasised that he did not want to be misunderstood, contended there was not really an entrepreneuring class in the country but rather "draculas" who were sucking the economic blood in the country.

Minister Williams said ISCOTT was a problem but argued all the studies and reports which had been done indicated that the decision to go into iron and steel was the correct one.

He continued:

"Unfortunately, certain events overtook us so that it is necessary now to do something very drastic and significant about ISCOTT. The problem at ISCOTT is not only the fact that America is putting up barriers against our selling our steel in America.

"The problem is not only world recession, out of which America seems to be getting, but the rest of Europe seems to be bogged down somewhat. The problem is that we in Trinidad and Tobago knew very little about the manufacture of steel and up to now ISCOTT has not been able to manufacture and to produce steel efficiently and at a cost that would allow them to sell at a profit.

No Reciprocity

Consequently, he said, Cabinet appointed a team to look for a suitable partner for ISCOTT which would provide some equity, some finance, the expertise of steel making, the market for our iron and steel, among other things.

Significant discussions have been held overseas and it appeared the most significant approach the team had so far was from a company in Germany.

Turning to the Caribbean region, Minister Williams moaned where Trinidad and Tobago extended ourselves in support of the regional integration movement in a number of areas such as the University of the West Indies and in lending to Caricom countries, there had been no reciprocity from our Caricom partners.

He elaborated: "It appears to me that they adopted the attitude...I think it was Adams of Barbados, who said once about Trinidad, they have the dollars but no sense.

"This is the vilification that the Prime Minister (of Trinidad and Tobago) referred to in Nassau. How long are we going to be taken for fools?

"And I think it was the action against Trinidad and Tobago--the complete contempt for your country Trinidad and Tobago--in the invasion of Grenada that opened our eyes wider and wider."

Trinidad and Tobago he added, knew our Caricom partners were not playing the game with us, so we had to adopt some very stiff-necked attitudes towards them.

Referring to the BWIA issue, Minister Williams said Barbados--"being very clever" sent the Managing Director of Caribbean Airways to London and he

made an announcement that BWIA would no longer be allowed to compete with CA on the London route on the same day.

Definite Threat

He continued:

"And I don't care what any Minister in Barbados has said, it was definitely a threat that BWIA would not be allowed to pass through Barbados, but they did it very cleverly.

"The Minister (responsible for air transportation) himself did not make that announcement, he sent the Managing Director of the airline (CA which is operated for the Barbados Government) so that if the main 'buss' he could always back down and say, 'Well I didn't say it.'

"They did not understand the depth and the strength of the feeling of the people of Trinidad and Tobago who resented such action, and now that they begin to get the squeeze they back down. CA has got together with BWIA and said, 'Yes, you could continue to fly through Barbados for the next six months.'

"What happens after the next six months?"

Switching his focus to Jamaica, Minister Williams, known for his forthright comments, said Trinidad and Tobago sent a team for bilateral talks with that country and the Jamaicans proposed to our delegation that we had to pay them a royalty to fly through their country.

"At that same time, that same week, that very week, the Governor of their Central Bank was in Trinidad and Tobago asking Trinidad and Tobago to reschedule some of the debts that it owed Trinidad and Tobago so that they could meet some of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) requirements."

Taking a swipe at the British Government, he said where Antigua designated BWIA to service that country on the London route, the British Government says "no" as that would affect British Airways; BWIA could only go through Antigua if the national airline dropped one of its flights through Barbados.

Hostile Environment

"This is the hostile environment that we face today," he declared.

Minister Francis, who stressed he was speaking as a member of the PNM, reminded that the PNM came on the scene at a time (1956) of deprivation of the largest section of the community, who could only look on and "dribble" at those who controlled the economy then.

The PNM, he said, must continue to bring equality not only in terms of education but in the economic sphere to all citizens, and when hard times come all must bear the burden of adjusting equally.

Until the party came up with a document to replace the Chaguaramas Declaration (Perspectives for a New Society) of 1970, which came during the social unrest, that would remain the Bible of the PNM, the bearded Minister said.

Minister Francis, who was repeatedly applauded during his address, contended that what the party must continue to do (regardless of the economic circumstances) was to ensure that whatever surpluses were created were made available to the groups who have been less privileged because of historical and economic circumstances.

Fedchem, Texaco Situation

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Jul 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] San Fernando: Oilfields Workers' Trade Union has written the Minister of Labour, Mr Errol Mahabir, drawing his attention to what the union sees as further threats to the jobs security of employees of Federation Chemicals Limited.

The union's letter referred to "the uncertainty created by Federation Chemicals Limited with the shutdown and threatened closure of the Chemico Unit."

The letter was sent to the Minister, both in his capacity as Minister of Labour and as head of the Ministerial Team examining the future of the oil industry as it affects the economy of Trinidad and Tobago. It was signed by Errol McLeod, First Vice President, and dated July 9, 1984.

The union has advised the Minister to "carefully look into" certain movements by Fed Chem and Texaco in the light of Government's negotiations with the latter for acquisition of its assets in Trinidad.

The union charged that Fed Chem, a subsidiary of W.R. Grace, is preparing to permanently shut down the Chemico Unit which supplies hydrogen to Texaco for use in the desulphurisation of crude oil.

It said that Fed Chem, in the early seventies, converted the Chemico Unit from Ammonia to hydrogen to meet the needs of Texaco. This was necessary to meet the requirements of the strict environmental laws of the United States and (later Europe's).

The OWTU claimed that Texaco, on the other hand, constructed the desulphurisation plant for the sulphur removal here because the very environmental laws prohibited the siting of the plant on U.S. territory.

The union informed the Minister in the letter that over the next ten years, the needs of the Texaco Corporation changed in particular with the development of the Louisiana facilities, commonly called loop, and resulted in a dramatic decline in refinery throughput.

"Consequently, at the expiration of the first contract on August 15, 1983, a decision had to be taken; either refinery throughput had to be increased to

allow Fed Chem to supply over 30 million standard cubic feet daily or pass all production costs and a generous management fee to owners of the refinery."

The OWTU said that the first option could not be considered with Texaco owning the refinery as they have publicly stated that they are no longer interested in refining. The second option was definitely considered, when one examines documents which Fed Chem has gone on record to describe as a "draft" of an agreement that was discussed with Texaco.

This "draft," the union said, was so glaringly in favour of Fed Chem, one wondered how it could have been the basis of any serious discussions for the continuation of the hydrogen supply contract.

"Tolling Fee"

The OWTU quoted Article VI "Tolling Fee" which described the payment by the owners of the refinery to Fed Chem and which reads:

"6.01 amount: Textrin shall make a monthly payment to FCL equal to the sum of the direct costs and the FCL fees as described below.

(A) Direct costs: Textrin shall pay FCL in TT dollars for all costs incurred by FCL, during the preceding accounting month which were directly related to hydrogen production in the Chemico Unit for Textrin. Said direct cost shall include, but are not limited to the following:

Chemicals, electricity, salaries/regular: salaries/overtime. Wages--regular: wages--overtime: overtime meals, overtime transport, insurance--workmen's compensation: insurance--medical and other.

Employee benefits: pension, additional insurance, stationery and supplies, communications, miscellaneous, operating supplies, casual labour, salaried retirement benefit, industrial equipment rented/purchased/service, lube oil, depreciation, water, property taxes and licences, maintenance.

"For maintenance expenditures exceeding U.S. \$500,000 for a single job Textrin shall have the option of amortising the expenditures over a four year period or the remaining life of this agreement, whichever is shorter, and will be billed therefore on a monthly basis.

"If the amortisation option is elected, Textrin will pay FCL, in addition to the monthly amortisation, an amount equivalent to an annualised 30 percent pre-tax return on the amortised portion of the maintenance expenditure."

The union spoke of FCL fee, currencies in which payment is to be made, and went on to draw attention to Article VIII which deals with "relief from delivery and payment obligations."

Without Market

The OWTU said that when one considers the present negotiations between Texaco and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the sale of the refinery and it

is the owner of the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery who carries the burdens of this "draft," then the well known ploy of multinational exploitation appears.

The OWTU believes that this latest development concerning hydrogen production has the dimension of mortally injuring the economy of Trinidad and Tobago. Except a firm and decisive position is taken, "we could find ourselves the owners of a refinery whose products cannot enter U.S. and European markets because of quality standards or paying an odus price so to do."

Texaco Plant Closing

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] San Fernando; Federation Chemicals Limited has terminated the existing agreement to provide hydrogen to Texaco Trinidad Inc., resulting in the shutdown of Texaco's giant desulphurisation plant at Pointe-a-Pierre.

When asked to give the reason for terminating the agreement a Fed Chem spokesman said they had no comment to make at this time.

However, Fed Chem said that it's Chemico plant which was shut down last May 16, was still down up to yesterday.

And Texaco confirmed that its desulphurisation plant, which extracts sulphur from crude oil has been down since May 15.

When contacted yesterday, Texaco said: "Fed Chem has terminated the existing agreement to provide hydrogen to the company. The matter is still unresolved.

"The desulphurisation plant has been shut down since May 15, 1984. However, portions of the plant are still operational. Full operations are contingent upon a supply of hydrogen."

While Fed Chem preferred not to comment on termination of the agreement to supply Texaco with hydrogen, it is believed that terms proposed for a new agreement were not acceptable to Texaco."

Venezuelan Crude

Whether Texaco intends to import hydrogen for its plant is not known. But it is understood that with the current negotiations between Texaco and Government concerning the use of the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery to refine Venezuelan crude, the company can not afford to keep the plant out of commission.

A check revealed that up to yesterday, no order had been made by the authorities concerned to import crude from Venezuela.

Concerning Fed Chem's Chemico plant, the company employs about 28 workers in this area of operation and those employees, including operators, have all been

redeployed without loss of earnings, a company spokesman said and the company had no intention of retrenching any workers.

Fed Chem also confirmed that Texaco is the only local market for hydrogen. In fact, the company has no other markets.

CSO: 3298/996

CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY & COMMERCE ASSAILS FRANCIS REMARKS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Jul 84 p 1

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce has accused Works Minister Hugh Francis of seemingly being trapped in a historic time bubble "and continues to rant and rave against the business community, both large and small, when his colleagues and the country have passed that stage."

The Chamber's comment came in a statement issued as a result of Mr. Francis's statement at Sunday's annual conference of the Port-of-Spain South constituency of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) at which Mr. Francis spoke about "Draculas" in the context of the economy.

THE STATEMENT

Full text of the Chamber's statement:

"The intemperate outburst by Minister Hugh Francis against the business community leads the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce to wonder whether he is a member of the same party led by Prime Minister

George Chambers, or indeed of the Cabinet of this country for that matter.

"While our Prime Minister and his other colleagues are actively pursuing a policy of accelerating the development of the business sector as a most important factor in arresting our present economic downturn, Mr. Francis seems to be trapped in a historic time bubble and continues to rant and rave against the business community, both large and small, when his colleagues and the country have passed that stage.

"The business community has always been in the forefront of service to our country: as Senators both Government and Independent, as Ministers of our government, in local government and as members of statutory boards.

"The business community has unfailingly demonstrated its faith in our country by investing heavily, both in good times and bad. Mr. Francis chooses to forget — or maybe remembers too well! — that it was to the business community that the Government which

he now serves, turned for assistance in the troubled times before the petro-dollar boom.

"Our Prime Minister is to be congratulated on his forthright speech at the recent Caricom Heads of Government meeting: On supporting the infrastructure for expansion of markets for local products; and on shaping the environment for increased local and joint-venture investment.

PARTNERSHIP

"Perhaps Mr. Francis deliberately chooses to ignore the fact that Government is in partnership with the business community in that every cent earned is shared equally (by way of corporation tax and unemployment levy).

"The irrational outburst of Mr. Francis, not only expresses views diametrically opposed to those of our Prime Minister, who is the leader of his party as well as those of his other colleagues, but are inimical to the interests of labour whose concern about the present problems equals that of the business community."

PAPER BLASTS SEAGA FOR 'INSULT' TO TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Jul 84 p 6

[Editorial: "No Need, Mr. Seaga"]

[Text]

IF Prime Minister Chambers needed any further justification for the forthright candour of his opening address at the Nassau Summit last week, it was provided by the cynical reaction of Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

Speaking only to the foreign media — he deliberately excluded members of the regional media from his post-Summit press conference — Mr. Seaga said that Mr. Chambers's hard-hitting speech was simply the reflection of "a frustration" felt in Trinidad and Tobago over the fact that our goods are not as competitive as they used to be in the Caribbean marketplace.

We think it is most unfortunate that Mr. Seaga who lives in one of the region's most fragile glass houses, economically speaking, should have the effrontery to throw stones at Trinidad and Tobago from which his Government and his people have received considerable assistance.

The Jamaican Prime Minister says that we have lost our competitiveness as regional producers and, as a result, we have become frustrated.

And, he infers, it is this feeling of frustration which Mr. Chambers vented in his opening address, indicting regional partners for their "studied lack of appreciation" of TT's formidable contribution to the Caribbean integration movement.

Scrambling

We wonder whether Mr. Seaga is aware of it, but his pitiable attempt to insult the people of Trinidad and Tobago must be seen as a perfect example of the "invective" and "vilification" which, according to Mr Chambers have been directed at us from other parts of the region.

We do not need Mr. Seaga, who is desperately scrambling around for financial help, to remind us that, compared to the rest of the Caribbean, we have developed a high-wage economy which has its own peculiar problems, including a drop in regional and international competitiveness.

We are perfectly well aware of this problem which faces our people with the challenge of becoming more productive and more skilled in the use and adaptation of

modern technology to the needs of economic development.

We have always been our own worse critics and if we feel any sense of frustration with respect to Caricom relations, it is precisely because of the kind of attitude revealed by Mr. Seaga in his offhand comments about us.

And this basically is the reason why Mr. Chambers won such unanimous support from the people of this country for what he said at the Summit.

In spite of our more favourable position, we have never sought to denigrate any of our Caribbean neighbours; history, in fact, will show that Trinidad and Tobago has always been at the very fountainhead of the thrust for regional unity and co-operation, even when others, in their own self-interest, disagreed and went their own way.

We have been no less faithful to the ideals of Caricom. As Mr. Chambers pointed out at Nassau, we have matched our commitment with tangible support in specific and varied areas of regional integration.

SERENDIPITY

So there was no need for Mr. Seaga to try to be wise at our expense.

If the Jamaican economy is now more competitive in the region than before, it is not due to any discernible rise in the productivity of Jamaicans but rather the result of a drastic and traumatic series of currency devaluations — more than 60 per cent over the last eight months — which were part of the harsh measures imposed by the IMF before it would agree to extend any more assistance to Jamaica in its severe balance of payments difficulties.

What makes Mr. Seaga's remarks more painfully ungrateful is the fact that, just a few weeks before, he was granted by Mr. Chambers a rescheduling of his debt to Trinidad and Tobago, a necessary prerequisite for obtaining further help from the IMF.

It would be the easiest thing in the world for us to be cynical about Mr. Seaga and the excruciating economic woes of Jamaica. But we are only too conscious of the fact that, but for the grace of God and the serendipity provided by our petroleum resources, we may well have been in similar straits.

We recall that Mr. Manley also didn't have very nice things to say about us and the way we were spending our petro-dollars.

It is our hope, however, that Mr. Seaga's remarks do not reflect the frustration of the Jamaican people. But regardless of how they may feel about us, we certainly wish them well.

CHAMBERS, GOVERNMENT GET MORE CRITICISM OVER TOBAGO ISSUE

Attack by Tobago MP

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 15 Jul 84 pp 1, 9

[Text] Tobago representative, Miss Pamela Nicholson, yesterday described as untrue a statement by Prime Minister George Chambers that Government had given \$5 million for unemployment relief in Tobago.

Contrary to what people are being made to believe, she said, the \$5 million was for several other things, including payment of wages for permanently employed building and maintenance workers, some of whom have been working for 15, 20 and even 25 years.

In an interview with the GUARDIAN dealing specifically with the Prime Minister's current presence in Tobago, she said: "We are not against that because he is the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. But the manner in which he visits the different parts of Trinidad and Tobago is quite important.

"The Tobago House of Assembly is the major governmental institution in Tobago looking after the day-to-day affairs of the people.

"But here is a Prime Minister who should be the leading statesman in the country, ignoring the people's democratic institution for which they have struggled, won, and established.

"He had ignored the people's representatives for whom the people voted in a democratic manner. This is total disrespect and an insult to the people of Tobago, including supporters of the PNM," she added.

Miss Nicholson was interviewed in company with the other Tobago representative in Parliament, Mr James Ogiste, who described the ignoring of the House of Assembly by the Prime Minister as a mistake.

Deliberate

But Miss Nicholson added "It is not a mistake. It is deliberate. Instead of the Government cooperating with the Assembly for the welfare of the unitary State of Trinidad and Tobago, they are just thinking about political power."

"He is using the State's funds for political campaigning, and using the governmental agency--Central Administrative Services for Tobago (CAST)--and some public servants in order to regain political ground in Tobago," added Miss Nicholson.

Agriculture, she pointed out, was under the jurisdiction of the Tobago House of Assembly. Yet the Prime Minister was again using civil servants to call on people in the poultry and pig industries to hold discussions with him.

Such talks she said could not solve the marketing problems being encountered, particularly with the pigs.

What was needed she said, was for the Prime Minister to meet with the Assembly Chairman and the marketing sector of the Assembly to discuss the problems and find solutions.

Miss Nicholson recalled the trouble encountered by the Assembly to get the Government to hand over the Tobago branch of the Central Marketing Agency (CMA) to the Assembly.

Transport of the pigs to Trinidad she said, was a problem. Since 1964 an abattoir costing \$1 million was to be built in Tobago, she said.

Today, that same abattoir would cost \$6 million, but if established, would revitalise the agriculture sector in Tobago.

She said the House of Assembly had allocated \$1.5 million to start the project, but this was meeting strenuous objections from the Minister of Finance.

Proper marketing management she said, was badly needed, and so were people trained in management skills as well as market researchers.

Sometime ago she recalled, the Organisation and Methods Division agreed to an accounting staff of three persons, but to date not one has been employed.

The development of Tobago, particularly in agriculture, could go a long way in supplementing Trinidad's needs, she said.

In addition, many of the pressures on Trinidad could be eliminated by a properly developed Tobago with a deep water harbour and improved airport facilities.

She said the potential was there, just waiting to be developed.

Overall, Miss Nicholson said, the Government was doing its best to make sure that the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) did not function properly under the chairmanship of Mr A.N.R. Robinson.

Although the House of Assembly Act provides for a fund to be run and controlled by the Assembly so that it can properly determine its priorities, to date no such fund has been established.

Instead, she says, the Government continues to make money available to the Assembly through releases.

She branded as "very dubious" the recent statement by Prime Minister Chambers, that Tobago had received \$127 million--a broad statement that left it open to unsuspecting minds that all the money had gone to the Assembly.

"This is not true," she declared, while seeking to clear the air on the issue.

Quoting figures from documents, Miss Nicholson revealed that by June 27, 1984, the Tobago House of Assembly had received \$84.2 million through releases. Of this amount \$52.1 million was for recurrent expenditure.

The sum of \$23.5 million was slated for long-term development, \$3.4 million for the Special Development Programme, and \$4.5 million for relief of unemployment, all of which really did not go to help unemployment.

It was from this so-called Unemployment Fund that the permanently employed building and maintenance workers were paid. As such, she explained, their salaries ought to be under recurrent expenditure.

Because of the system, she said, there was this year-round complaint about maintenance workers' pay.

Miss Nicholson explained that the money for unemployment came through CAST although the workers were under the jurisdiction of the House of Assembly.

She pointed out that the total allocation for the House of Assembly for 1984 was \$22.4 million and that the \$84.2 million which it had received up to June 27 last, was just over one-third of the year's allocation, although more than half the year has already gone.

According to Miss Nicholson and Mr Ogiste, it made sense to release more funds during the dry period of the year when much more work can be done.

Relation

"But there is always this holding back," she said, "so that it would be said the Assembly under Robinson is a failure."

In relation to the total national budget, she pointed out that Tobago's capital sum--adding the sums allocated for the THA and CAST--amounted to \$99.1 million, while the national capital budget was \$2.5 billion. This meant that Tobago was receiving just .04 percent of the amount.

While the national recurrent expenditure budget was \$7 billion, Tobago's total recurrent budget was \$179.3 million, or .025 percent of the national amount.

The budgetary allocation for CAST was just over \$70 million, of which amount \$54.1 million was for recurrent expenditure; \$2.5 million for the Development Programme, and \$13.2 million for long-term development.

She compared Tobago's situation with what she called "the wastage of funds in Trinidad"--citing \$120 million on the Caroni Racing Complex; \$1.5 billion spent on ISCOTT.

Over \$300 million on the Hall of Justice, and over \$365 million on the financial complex--both of which have suffered tremendous cost overruns.

Miss Nicholson said whatever project was undertaken by the House of Assembly in Tobago was done with total efficiency.

She said it was the Assembly that handled management of the Claude Noel Highway construction.

The project she said was completed on time and with no cost overrun. In fact, money saved on the project went into the construction of a number of connector roads.

The Tobago MP also cited the "The young people," she said, "are well taken care of in sports which is totally under the control of the Assembly," she added. [as published]

According to her, the Tobago Football Association had given out \$50,000 in prizes to clubs, and still had the sum of \$30,000 in its coffers.

Miss Nicholson insisted that if the Tobago House of Assembly is to function effectively its representatives must have control over their finances.

Since the Assembly had no control over the finances, Miss Nicholson said that when the Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Senator Anthony Jacelon, charged the Assembly with not being able to account for \$53 million, the statement was unfounded.

The money she said, was under the control of the Minister of Finance, and the Minister in the Ministry of Finance.

"They control that fund with the accounting staff of the Assembly," she declared. "So if \$53 million is not accounted for it is the Minister of Finance and the Minister in the Ministry of Finance who should account for that amount, because the people's representatives are not in control of the funds.

"That is why I said the PNM Government does not want the Assembly to function; they want it to fail. It is not Robinson to account for that \$53 million: it is Jacelon and the accounting staff of the Assembly to account for it," she added.

Tobago, Miss Nicholson also said, was strongly objecting to the recently instituted Health Surcharge in the light that the people there had to cope with a seriously rundown hospital and total lack of health facilities at the various health centres. "It seems as if nobody cares, yet we have to pay a health surcharge," she declared.

"In the night, after the plane and the boat are gone, if anything happens, it is death," she declared, pointing to the total lack of facilities--not even one specialist for the maternity division, no gynaecologist, not pediatrician, no orthopaedic surgeon; no one trained in internal medicine.

Miss Nicholson said there were good Tobagonian doctors in Trinidad, who could be sent to work at the Scarborough General Hospital.

She charged the present Prime Minister with undoing everything his predecessor had done.

But Miss Nicholson warned: "Dr Williams recognised his mistake when he dismantled the Ministry for Tobago Affairs.

Now, if this present Prime Minister does not recognise his mistake just like Williams, only time will be able to straighten him out," she declared.

Miss Nicholson pledged to "use every ounce of my blood" to see that the PNM is defeated in the House of Assembly elections, scheduled for November in Tobago.

Chambers' Response

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] Scarborough: Prime Minister George Chambers said yesterday that the day citizens of Trinidad and Tobago are denied the right to petition, "we may as well kiss goodbye to the constitution."

He was speaking at the Buccoo Beach facilities and was referring to a story carried in yesterday's GUARDIAN which quoted the Opposition member for Tobago East Pamela Nicholson as saying the Prime Minister's visit to Tobago was not constitutional.

At the end of the complaints he received from villagers which dealt mainly with the lack of sporting facilities and repairs to roads in the district, Mr Chambers said: "I understand from what is being quoted here (Miss Nicholson's remarks) the population of Trinidad and Tobago have been advised that it is unconstitutional for the Prime Minister to meet with the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

"May I say for the benefit of the national community there is a well known constitutional mechanism called the right of petition.

"And it will be a sad day indeed if any citizen of Trinidad and Tobago is denied the right to petition. The day we do that we may as well kiss goodbye to the constitution."

He said he would advise non-lawyers and laymen to leave the law to lawyers and to leave constitutional law to the constitutional lawyers, "particularly as in Trinidad and Tobago we do not have very many constitutional lawyers."

He said that he was in sympathy with those villagers who complained about the adverse effects caused by the agencies concerned and reminded that on Tuesday he spoke about action to be taken by the Ministry of Works regarding roads repair and construction in Tobago.

Buccoo Race

He advised the villagers not to commercialise the popular annual Buccoo boat race because it might reach the stage where not even people from Buccoo would be able to participate in an event which was born out of the people of Buccoo.

Any expansion of the programme, he advised, must be done within the competence of the people of the area.

He noted that there were complaints about competition from Store Bay, but said there was nothing wrong in healthy competition. "If Store Bay is giving you competition you must put your heads together and devise ways and means of meeting that competition.

"I don't know how you will meet that competition, but as a community there is nothing to prevent you from working out plans to put to the authorities.

Mr Chambers ended his second leg of his extended working visit to Tobago at Buccoo and will return to Trinidad this morning for Cabinet meeting and tomorrow's session of Parliament.

CSO: 3298/1012

POLITICAL MANEUVERS: PNM RALLIES, OPPOSITION UNITY

Panday 'Election' Prediction

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Opposition leader Basdeo Panday said yesterday afternoon that there was the possibility of a snap general election.

Addressing the St. Patrick region of the National Alliance mini-convention at the Fyzabad Senior Comprehensive school, Mr Panday said they should not dispel the possibility of Prime Minister George Chambers calling a snap general election.

Mr Chambers might do that to resolve internal problems of the PNM, he added. Mr Chambers could also adopt that course if he believes that the economy might get worst by 1986.

Mahabir Remarks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Labour Minister Errol Mahabir has stressed the need for the type of industrial climate which would encourage massive private sector investment and bold risk-taking, involving the attraction of foreign investment capital in joint ventures.

He referred to the "intractable and chronic" incidence of unemployment in the economy and job security and opportunities while speaking at the annual conference of the Port-of-Spain North Constituency of the ruling Peoples' National Movement at the Belmont Junior Secondary School yesterday.

Constituency representative, Mr Overand Padmore, Minister of Education explained that the PNM placed great emphasis on education, infrastructural development and economic transformation.

Mr Mahabir, in "sharing his thoughts" with the constituency, spoke on the industrial situation, the labour scene and the country in relation to the international situation and standards of living.

He said it was clear that in the process of diversification major emphasis had to be given to export-oriented industries.

"Equally clear it must be to all that, given the intractable and chronic incidence of unemployment in the economy, which has been aggravated by the decline in economic activity, the questions of job security and job opportunities now assume much greater significance than before and must take precedence over improved living standards of those who are fortunately in employment.

Severe Stress

"Such economic imperatives must constitute common ground to all, I dare say, regardless of the self-interest of any particular group and indeed our options in coming to grips with them are very limited."

He pointed out that strikes and lockouts had become common place and unusually protracted at a time when the national economy was under severe stress.

Reiterating his statements on wage restraint, the Minister said he thought it was obvious to all by now that of necessity there had to be some measure of wage restraint in present times since the economy could not continue to bear the rate of wage increases experienced over the past decade. "There can hardly be any valid disagreement on this point," he added.

He said that it should be clearly understood that the call for wage restraint also meant salary restraint at the highest levels, because all levels constituted a cost factor of production.

Main Thrust

"Fundamental to our success or otherwise in dealing with these economic issues is the question of levels of investment which we will be able to attract in the next few years ahead. There can be no doubt that the level of public sector investment, which took place over the past decade and which was made possible by the spurt of petrodollars, will no longer be possible in the foreseeable future.

"This is a fact over which we have no control since it is mainly determined by external circumstances. It follows, therefore, that the extent of investment we achieve will be largely dependent upon private sector initiatives. Regardless of any ideological postures we may wish to take, these facts remain unchanged and the sooner we come to terms with them the better it is for us."

He added: "The economic policy of Trinidad and Tobago has always been based upon the philosophy of a mixed economy. Over the last few years, while there was a fair amount of private sector activity, it was the public sector which played the major part and, for the next few years at least, it will be up to that sector to provide the main thrust. What is now necessary, therefore, is the creation of the type of industrial climate which is conducive to the encouragement of massive private sector investment involving bold risk-taking

and imaginative business ventures. This clearly means also the attraction of some amount of foreign investment capital at least in joint venture with domestic capital.

"While I direct attention to the burden which now falls upon the business community to provide the necessary investment thrust in the process of industrial diversification, let me hasten to say that this does not obviate the important role which Government has to play.

"It will still be the prime mover in the development of major industries, particularly in the energy-based sector, either on its own or through joint ventures. Government must also continue to provide and ensure adequate infrastructure development to encourage private sector initiatives.

The Bottlenecks

"Further, there is the question of providing efficient and reliable supply of basic utilities and facilities such as energy, communication, transport and other essential props, as well as the question of providing more efficient governmental machinery and service to minimise procedural bottlenecks.

"The Government is certainly not unmindful of these various obligations of the fact that there is yet much to be done in these respects. At the same time, no one can truly say or objectively maintain that they have not seen considerable improvements in these regards in recent times--be it in respect of road construction, the telephone system or energy supply."

Padmore Speech

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] If in the face of external obstacles this country faces self-imposed internal obstacles of high absenteeism and generally low levels of productivity, the economy will be forced to adjust downwards to lower levels of economic well-being, according to Education Minister Overand Padmore.

Speaking to a large number of constituents at the annual conference of the Belmont Nord Constituency at the Belmont Junior Secondary School yesterday he predicted that "we will suffer."

He said that the world was now in the down stage of the cycle and the people of Trinidad and Tobago were experiencing difficulty in marketing export products.

Faced with market closures or the imposition of uneconomic tariffs or other burdens as a condition of entry into those wealthy markets, countries like Trinidad and Tobago were frequently forced to cut-back production and lay off workers in a desperate effort to keep industries viable, he said.

"It is important for us to understand these stark realities as this is the real world in which we live. Nobody out there owes us a living nor are they overly

concerned whether our unemployment level is 10 percent, 20 percent or 25 percent. They take action to safeguard their interests as they see them, and we must accept this," he said.

"If our goods are overpriced, we simply will not be able to sell them. Uncompetitiveness and high unemployment go hand in hand. All of us Government, businessmen, trade union leaders, workers, family must understand this, otherwise we are condemned to paying the penalty of unemployment and lower living standards for our failure.

"If you consider Trinidad and Tobago's history over the last 28 years, you will recognise that the PNM has been the only political party dedicated to the complete social and economic upliftment of this country. This explains why our political opponents have sought to obstruct every major initiative of the PNM aimed at uplifting the people of Trinidad and Tobago," he said.

Mr Padmore said the opposition forces sought to place obstacles in the way of the rapid achievement of independence; they sought to obstruct efforts to break down the artificial barriers preventing the majority groups in the country from participating in the mainstream of economic life; they sought to obstruct the functioning of the democratic process by boycotting our free and fair electoral process; they opposed efforts at economic transformation; they objected to ISCOTT and consistently sought to undermine efforts to penetrate external markets.

Alliance on Opposition Unity

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 84 p 3

[Text] Members and supporters of the National Alliance of Trinidad and Tobago want to go into the next general elections as a united force and with one national political party instead of an "Accommodation."

That is the feeling of supporters and friends of the Alliance, according to Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday. He said they were getting such vibrations from the mini conventions being held throughout the country by the Alliance.

Addressing the St Patrick region of the Alliance at a convention yesterday held at the Fyzabad Senior Comprehensive school, Mr Panday said the historic task of effecting change to swing the nation around had fallen on their shoulders.

"The oil money has come and gone and our people are now faced with widespread retrenchment, our children are without jobs, prices and consequently the cost of living continue to rise and our standard of living is falling fast" he added.

"How can we get out of this mess unless we can mobilise our human resources. And how shall we begin to mobilise such resources when our people all feel alienated from the State, and the Government and the political process?"

Renews Call

Mr Panday renewed his call for national unity.

He said national unity was not merely one of political expediency or mere election strategy to remove the PNM. It was a call for the kind of national unity without which there can be no national progress.

Mr Panday said the Alliance must continue to demonstrate its unswerving commitment to the struggle for equality of all our peoples.

"Ours must be a dream of a Jesse Jackson type 'rainbow coalition' a party in which all our peoples of every race, colour, creed and class can feel safe and at home. Ours must be a party of a coalition of interests, of hopes and aspirations, of love and respect for one another.

"The rainbow coalition in which the dignity of every man and woman stands equal and supreme. From that goal we must never waiver, never falter, never compromise. Our party must have no place for racists, equally as it must have no place for those who refuse to fight racism whenever and wherever it rears its ugly head. The struggle must be for national unity."

CSO: 3298/1012

PUBLIC SECTOR GROUPS, UNIONS COMMENT ON WAGE ISSUE

JNT Statement

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN, TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15, 16 Jul 84 p 3

[Statement by the joint negotiating team of public sector associations and unions on negotiations for revised salaries and other terms and conditions of service, to take effect from 1 January 1984: "JNT Replies to CPO's Statement: We Cannot Bear the Burden Alone"]

[Text] Last week the Trinidad and Tobago public was treated to an opening "budget-type" statement by the Chief Personnel Officer (CPO).

That statement purports to set the stage for the current round of negotiations between the Government and the Joint Negotiating Team (JNT) of Public Sector Unions for a new wage agreement.

We cannot allow the many misconceptions inherent in the statement to go unchallenged.

It is necessary for us to respond in some detail in order to set the records straight, and to put the entire negotiations in their true perspective.

Let us state straightaway that the JNT recognises the reality of the downturn in the economy and the need for "adjustments" if the decline is to be arrested.

In fact, the JNT has been publicly identified with this recognition for some time now, and has been among those in the Society who have been shouted down as prophets of "doom and gloom."

Criticism

Unheeding of constructive criticism in the past, the Government now poses unabashedly as the greatest articulator of the reality of "doom and gloom," complete with ready-made prescriptions.

The JNT, however, totally disagrees with Government regarding the factors responsible for the present state of the economy, and consequently on the nature of the adjustments required, and on how the burden of such adjustments is to be shared.

Let us look at the most glaring of the many misconceptions contained in the Government's statement as it addresses the following issues:

1. Inflationary Impact
2. Tax Burden on the Public
3. Balance of Payments Deficit
4. Lower Standards of Living Necessary
5. Productivity
6. Salaries/Employment Trade-off
7. Reduction of Fringe Benefits

It is true that the Government is the single largest employer. Its assertion, however, that the Public Service settlement usually has an impact on the rate of increase in consumer prices far greater than any other wage agreement, has nowhere at any time been established by either figures or argument.

It is therefore without standing.

History disproves the validity of any such assertion. Public Servants accepted a four-year agreement from 1977-1980 as their contribution to a curb on inflation.

But while Government expenditure on personal emoluments declined from 38% in 1977 to 20% in 1980, inflation continued unabated, increasing from 10% in 1978 to 18% in 1980, clearly unrelated to trends in salaries in the Public Sector.

Moreover, the Government's statement is intended to suggest to the public mind that wages and salaries in general are the major factor responsible for the increases in prices.

This also has never been established either by figures or argument. Indeed it is highly questionable in an open economy such as ours.

Mark-ups

To the extent that any evidence exists, import prices, and, in particular, mark-ups by commercial houses, are of far greater significance in the determination of price levels.

Ironically, the much respected President of the Caribbean Development Bank and author of the Government's "bible" on adjustment supported this view in his attempt to destroy the call for indexation.

In asserting that cost of living increases are of external origin, he negates the CPO's claim about the extent of the relationship between Public Sector pay and inflation.

The Government's argument that our demands will have a direct bearing on the tax burden of the public suggests that Public Servants themselves are a group separate and apart from taxpayers.

But we ourselves shall share in any such burden. In fact, our share of the burden exceeds that of other taxpayers since our salaries are public knowledge and more than any other are highly visible to the taxman.

We draw attention to the following:

Taxes on Incomes and Profits*

	<u>Oil company</u>	<u>Other company</u>	<u>Individuals</u>
1981	71.7%	9.6%	17.5%
1983	45.8%	14.7%	37.9%

*Review of the Economy, 1982 & 1983.

While these figures do demonstrate the extent of the drop in the share of oil revenues, it is necessary to look at the prevailing circumstances.

Tax concessions made to the oil companies in 1981 and 1982 were intended to stimulate production in the face of softening oil prices.

However, the expected response to these concessions was not forthcoming, and production has continued to fall.

When, in addition, we consider that the concessions were retroactive to 1980, we see that it was not only the drop in international oil prices, but also largely the Government's own policy that was one of the major contributing factors to the much touted drop in oil revenues.

On the other hand, a look at the sharp increase (from 17% to 38%) in the contributions being made to the National Revenue by the individual over the 1981-1983 period shows that individuals have been made to respond to our declining Government revenues in a measure that far extends that of the non-oil companies (even in the face of increasing profits).

This is due to "the sharply progressive tax structure" for individuals as opposed to that for companies (Cf Review of the Economy, 1982, p 32). The tax structure takes a bigger bite from every additional dollar of individual incomes than from an additional dollar of corporate profits.

According to the Annual Report of the Board of Inland Revenue for 1980, 75% of the returns processed that year showed net incomes below \$10,000.

Given the rebate system the bulk of this class of income earner does not pay tax anyway, and would not by any stretch of the imagination be made to bear any increase in the tax burden.

Significant among the remaining 25% are the "hidden income" earners--the self-employed--who have a history of irregular submission of returns, and understatement of incomes.

Clearly it is the "visible" income earners, predominantly the very Public Sector employees we represent, who bore the greater burden of declining oil revenues, and will bear any increased tax burden that might result from increased wages and salaries in the Public Sector.

It is instructive to recount here that at least 50% (in some cases 60-65%) of the back pay arising for the last agreement never left the treasury, having been confiscated by the taxman.

Deficits

The Government talks of balance of payments deficits as if it were an innocent bystander. But the Government has played a substantial contributory role in this.

We must here refer to the gross financial and economic mismanagement of our resources over the period of the so-called "boom years." For example:

a) The failure to use our increased foreign reserves and Government revenues for the development of a strong productive export base for our economy through a well planned and executed diversification programme.

Lip service has been paid to a strategy of diversification ever since the First Five-Year Development Plan!

b) Those investment programmes that the Government did in fact undertake were contrary to local and international advice, but were embarked upon as 'prestigious projects.'

The CPO was totally silent on such projects as ISCOTT, the Racing Complex, the Financial Complex, the King George V Park, and the Hall of Justice.

c) The lack of attention to agriculture, behind all the "old talk" over the years.

d) Cost overruns on Government projects, especially on the Government to Government arrangements, a strategy which has been contrary to expert local advice.

Need we mention the Hall of Justice, the Uriah Butler Highway, the Audrey Jeffers Highway, the Financial Complex, the Mount Hope Medical Complex, and all the others?

The main characteristic of these projects is the open-ended "cost plus" contracts where money did not matter.

e) Corruption and downright theft in high places. Right away we can tell the Government where to find \$3.6 million to start with!

The CPO's presentation and his subsequent offer of 6% over three years lay bare the Government's IMF-style philosophy that the burden of the economic downturn is to be borne solely by the worker.

While the Demas Report is quoted to the effect that lower standards of living will have to be accepted by "all persons in the community," the Government has consistently, and of set purpose, refrained from indicating how these lower standards will be made to apply to other Sectors of the economy.

The JNT recalls the role of the Government in elevating the expectations of the population with the irresponsible slogan that "money is no problem."

The present reversal of the Government's position on this issue with respect to public Servants is ironical.

The Government has shown no effort on its own part to apply the same principle to those senior members of the Public Service whose salaries are determined by Parliament, such as the Governor and Deputy Governor of the Central Bank, the Director of Personnel Administration, the Police Commissioner, and the Chief Personnel Officer himself.

The increases in salaries recently paid to these Officers are greater than those recommended by the Salary Review Commission, and in some cases show a dollar increase in excess of \$3,600.00 per month over their salaries in 1981!

What is more, these adjustments were made in 1983. The Demas Report was at that time nearing completion, and was presented to the Prime Minister within a month.

The Government then paid these increases in obvious haste--including back pay from January 1981--before the report, calling for "adjustments" and lower standards was made public! And now these highly paid Officers, are in the forefront of the call for restraint on the part of other workers!

Current sociological research, extensively quoted, demonstrates that productivity is a function of several variables, and identifies the following factors as contributing 85% to productivity: Systems, Tools/Equipment and the Physical Environment of the work place. The remaining 15% only is attributed to the worker.

Research

In such a context given the working conditions of the Public Service for which the Government is itself directly responsible, the Public Servant must not be held primarily responsible for any alleged unproductivity in the Public Service.

The Government therefore cannot argue that salaries in the Public Service are to be linked to productivity.

In any case, in the absence of any assessment procedure, we question the Government's glib implication that the Public Servant is unproductive.

Moreover, we accuse the Government of positively nurturing negative work attitudes by its own system of patronage, and its 'Money is no Problem' syndrome.

Arrogance on the part of Government Ministers, and their own lack of sense of accountability to anyone, only serve as bad example leading to similar attitudes among the workers of the country.

Their present call for productivity and responsibility inevitably rings hollow.

The Government threatens retrenchment as an inevitable consequence of increased salaries in the Public Sector, implicitly suggesting that the level of wages and salaries in the Public Sector is the prime determinant of its size.

Technology

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Empirical studies have demonstrated that the employment size of the public service is primarily dictated by the level of development, particularly in a country such as Trinidad and Tobago, where there has been increasing direct Government involvement in the development process.

The modernisation of systems and procedures, and the utilisation of state of the art technology, would enable the Public Sector at its present size to vastly increase its contribution to the overall development of the country.

Any talk of retrenchment in this context is myopic, uncreative and counter-productive.

These were precisely some of the concerns of the JNT when we mounted the seminar on the "Restructuring of the Public Service" about a year ago--an exercise that was completely ignored by the Government.

In support of its trade-off policy, the Government seeks to arouse the sympathy of the unemployed workers by suggesting that it is they who would be called upon to make the greatest sacrifice in the sharing of the burden of adjustment.

For the most part, the unemployed have already made the ultimate sacrifice--the loss of their jobs.

Moreover, an extension of the Government's logic suggests that the next heaviest burden is laid on the lower income groups, and so on, till the least burden is carried by the rich.

Clearly what is required is the reversal of this thinking. The first casualty of any period of recession has to be the life style of the rich, rather than the survival of the poor.

Insult is added to injury when the Government talks in terms of deliberate reductions in existing fringe benefits "in order to ensure that employment opportunities are maximised."

Essentially, the Government is saying that revenues are declining and it therefore cannot pay.

The JNT would not be presumptuous to tell the Government where or how it can find the monies, but would point to the following, all of which if addressed can raise or save substantial amounts.

- 1) The elimination of the wanton waste that has been the order of the day and has been as a direct consequence of poor or no planning and a lack of foresight on the part of the managers of the economy.
- 2) The stamping out of corruption and theft in high places. We have already alluded to where the Government can straightaway raise \$3.6 million.
- 3) The revision of the basis for and the level of taxation of Oil Companies.
- 4) The revision of the tax structure applicable to the local Corporate Sector in order to ensure a greater degree of responsiveness to profit increases.
- 5) The introduction of measures to exact revenue from the 49 percent cited by the Minister in the Ministry of Finance, who should be paying tax but are not doing so.

Our list is in no way exhaustive.

Nothing in the Government's statement, made through the Chief Personnel Officer, suggests that any attempt is being made to introduce measures to ensure that the burden of adjustment is borne equitably by all sectors of the Community, or as the Task Force put it, that the inevitable lower standards of living are accepted "by all persons in the community."

Despite what is being said, it is clear that the Government is insistent on the strategy that the workers alone, and particularly the highly visible Public Sector employees, must bear such burdens.

This is totally unacceptable, and we call upon the Government to correct this tendency and to introduce adjustment measures that would

- (1) Effectively address all forms of income, including profits, dividends, interest, etc.
- (2) Control the escalating cost of living that is brought about predominantly by unrealistic markups, and
- (3) Soften the built in eroding characteristic of the tax structure for individuals.

In light of the above, the Government salary offer of an overall 6% increase over three years is nothing short of provocation. The counter proposals call for the following:

- 1) The agreement should be for a period of three years commencing January 1984,

2) Consolidation of the Cost of Living Allowance as of December 31, 1983 with basic salary before the application of any negotiated increase in salary.

3) An overall increase of 6% over the three year period 1984 to 1986.

4) With effect from January 1, 1984, a Cost of Living Allowance based on a formula of \$5.20 for every two point rise in the Index of Retail Prices (September 1982 = 100) which stood at 118.6 at December 1983.

Should there be a two point fall in the said Index, a corresponding reduction in the allowance would apply.

What do these proposals actually mean to a Public Sector employee?

Take the case of a Clerk I in the Public Service whose basic salary stood at \$1,556.00 (Range 14) in 1983. The calculation of his new basic salary as at January 1984 would read as follows:

Basic Salary (1983):	\$1,556.00
C.O.L.A. (Dec. 1983):	213.00
Consolidated:	1,769.00
Add 6% (assuming all given in 1984):	
New Basic Salary (1984)	\$1,875.00

The Officer's monthly net salary calculations for January 1984 compared with December 1983 would be as follows:

	Dec. 1983	Jan. 1984
Basic salary	1556	1875
COLA	213	--
Gross Salary	1769	1875
Deductions		
PAYE	195	221
NIS	26	26
Health surcharge	--	33
Total deductions	221	280
Net salary	1548	1595

In effect, the officer's monthly net salary would increase by just \$47.00, or just 3% above what it was in December 1983.

But this is not the end of the story. Six months of the year have already gone, over which time the Officer has been paid a Cost of Living Allowance calculated on the old base of December 1980, and totalling approximately \$1554.00

Overpayment

If the Government's proposals stand in an agreement concluded now, then for the six months he should have been paid only \$270.00.

He would therefore owe the Government \$1274.00 representing overpayment of COLA for that period. His net backpay for the six months would cover approximately \$282, leaving \$992.00 to be paid out of his net salary for July.

If he is to be spared the devastation of a lump sum deduction out of his July salary, and allowed to pay monthly a sum equivalent to his net monthly increase, it would take him another 21 months to clear the debt!

Despite the estimate by the Demas Task Force of 25% increase in the cost of living period 1984 to 1986, the official figures already show an increase of 13.8% above that for the same period in 1983.

On the basis of the Government's proposals, the salary of every Public Servant will show a significant fall in real terms. That spells hardship and distress for the vast majority of Public Servants.

The question that we as Public Servants face, and which must be addressed by all, is the following:

Must public servants accept a lower standard of living in the interest of the country when there is no guarantee of an equitable downward adjustment in the incomes of others in the society?

We have already stated our recognition of the fact of the downturn of the economy, and public sector employees are not averse to the need for sacrifice in the national interest. Under no circumstances, however, are we prepared to carry such burden alone.

By not seeking to improve our standard of living this time around, we have already demonstrated our preparedness for sacrifice even in the face of no forthcoming measures to ensure equal sharing of the burden.

Without such measures, however, we are not prepared to make greater sacrifices. Public Servants must seek, at the very least, to forestall this unilateral onslaught on our way of survival.

Indexation is the only just solution.

Stalemate of Talks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Government and the Joint Negotiating Team (JNT) have failed to agree on the duration of the new contract for public servants although they discussed the matter for almost four hours yesterday.

It was the only issue discussed as talks between both parties continued in Port-of-Spain.

During the closed discussions, the JNT, which is representing all public sector unions, proposed a two-year agreement instead of the usual three year contract. They are also seeking semi-annual percentage increases.

This issue is expected to dominate discussions when the negotiations continue on Thursday at 2 p.m.

Although negotiations started two weeks ago there has been no progress.

Financial Restraint

Unions represented by the JNT comprise the Public Services Association, the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association, the Police Services Association and the Postmen's Union.

Dr Kenrick Rennie, of the PSA, is heading the JNT.

The Chief Personnel Officer (CPO), Mr Hilton Cupid, who is representing Government, has been emphasising the need for financial restraint. He has also hinted at possible trade-offs between wage increases and the size of the public service.

In this context he disclosed that Government's initial offer was a six percent wage increase over three years.

This proposal has been rejected by the JNT who regard it as nothing short of "provocation." They say that the Government's offer would mean that salaries for public servants would show a significant fall in real terms.

The JNT is attempting to maintain the standard of living for public servants.

CSO: 3298/1013

MAHABIR HINTS AT CHANGES IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Amendment to the Industrial Relations Act is expected to include issues relating to length of time of strikes and lockouts.

This was hinted by Mr Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Cooperatives, when he addressed the Port-of-Spain North Constituency of the ruling People's National Movement at the Belmont Junior Secondary School yesterday.

Mr Mahabir said whether or not industrial action ought to be allowed to continue interminably needed to be examined. The overriding question was whether the economic and social consequences should be allowed to continue indefinitely.

"Moreover, it should be questioned as to whether an industrial action which does not achieve its purpose of pressuring another party into acquiescing to its conditions within a relatively short period of time has not lost the validity of its purpose."

He said the main issues giving rise to the current unfavourable industrial relations climate were supposed to be labour costs and retrenchment.

He added that labour costs and prices were on the agenda of the Tripartite Committee and retrenchment was dealt with and recommendations made.

The Minister said: "Some groups and persons have opted to stay outside of the ambit of such constructive dialogue and to engage in agitation and confrontation instead, regardless of whatever adverse consequences that may follow for workers and the country as a whole from their actions."

"I do not agree with those employers who seek to pounce upon the opportunity provided by our present economic circumstances to respond negatively to all labour proposals, even though their businesses are in a financial position to provide improvements for their workers."

CSO: 3298/1013

PAPER DISCUSSES ROLE OF POLICE IN INDUSTRIAL UNREST

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 15 Jul 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Police Must Enforce Law"]

[Text] During the last few months we have been experiencing much industrial unrest in the country. Strikes, unlawful picketing, terrorising of managements, destruction of company property, and rows among trade unions have been the order of the day.

But all this pales besides a frightening report which reached us yesterday of a worker who on Thursday braved the jeers of his colleagues to enter his place of work, which they were picketing and was bluntly told by a well-known trade unionist that his house would be burnt down, if he didn't join the pickets.

The threat has been reported to the Police and the worker, it is reported, is being escorted daily to his place of work by a group of friends who evidently are giving him support as he insists upon his rights to work if he chooses to do so.

We hope that the Police will investigate this report with the greatest urgency and that they will not only enforce the law but will take steps to ensure that the worker's house is not damaged and that neither his family nor himself suffer any harm whatsoever.

A few weeks ago, a company's premises were besieged by so-called pickets, some of them not even employees of that company but apparently characters around town "rented" by the union involved. At another company's premises the pickets flagrantly broke the law.

They reportedly attacked motor cars belonging to dissenting workers and others belonging to the company involved. They besieged the residences of company executives and of the more prominent dissenting workers. A mob descended upon the home of the Labour Minister, engaged in trying to settle the dispute.

The majority of workers appear to be understanding that the cost of a strike is tremendous to themselves and they also seem to be slowly comprehending that a lot of the robber talk is just an attempt by some trade unionists to build up their image as tough guys, regardless of the hardship they inflict on the workers.

We urge the police to exercise the greatest vigilance to ensure that at all times only strictly lawful acts are undertaken by all concerned in industrial disputes.

Workers have the right to strike. Workers also have the right to work.

More and more we are all realising that we must make choices between holding our jobs or demanding ever higher pay, and ever-greater privileges that could in the long run only succeed in killing everyone's golden goose.

CSO: 3298/1013

UNION OFFICER FIRED, ANOTHER RESIGNS IN INTERNAL ROW

Port-of-Spain TRINIAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 84 p 3

[Text] Allegations of financial irregularities have created conflict within the Membership of the Brotherhood of Construction and Industrial Workers' Union. This development has resulted in the resignation of one executive officer and the sacking of another.

Mr Leon Lavia, the union's Research/Education Officer, was fired on Monday for allegedly plotting against the union.

Following closely on the heels of this development was the resignation of Third Vice-President and Chief Grievance Officer Evans Maskell.

Mr Maskell tendered his resignation last Wednesday claiming that the democratic process had not been established within the union.

On Monday last Mr Maskell, at a mass meeting of members at the union hall, explained why he reported the union's Executive Committee to the Registrar of Trade Unions requesting a special audit of their books.

Better Example

At that meeting he demanded an explanation for certain financial "irregularities involving the use of money that was not accounted for."

Mr Lavia was present at that meeting and addressed the gathering.

According to sources within the union, minutes after the meeting, Mr Lavia received a dismissal letter. The letter claimed that he had taken part in an unconstitutional meeting and had used remarks prejudicial to the union.

"As Education and Research Officer, you ought to set a better example and as a result, your services are terminated as Education and Research Officer with immediate effect," the letter added.

Two days after this development Mr Maskell resigned from the executive of the union. Mr Maskell has said that he will continue to serve the union as Chief Grievance Officer.

CSO: 3298/1014

OWTU CHIEF CHARGES TRINTOC-TO-TEXACO FOREIGN EXCHANGE LEAK

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 84 p 3

[Text] Oilfields Workers' Trade Union first Vice-President Errol McLeod has spoken about a massive leakage of foreign exchange. He was referring to the processing arrangement under which Trintoc sends 37,000 barrels of crude oil per day to Texaco's Pointe-a-Pierre refinery. Every barrel refined by Texaco costs Trintoc \$10 more than if Trintoc refines it, a loss of \$370,000 per day or \$185 million per year, according to Mr McLeod.

Mr McLeod, tipped to take over as president of the OWTU when Mr George Weekes, who has decided not to stand for re-election, leaves the scene, gave those figures while addressing the Caribbean Chapter of the International Management Club of Canada at St Margaret's Village Claxton Bay late last week.

He said there were transportation and other charges and the Trintoc refinery was being damaged by not having enough crude to keep it in continuous operation.

"Trintoc will lose until the situation is changed." The money did not come from Trintoc which did not have that kind of money to "give away." Taxpayers money was going to Texaco, he added.

To Offset Loss

He said that in 1983 Trintoc borrowed from the local banking sector some \$160 million to finance payments to Texaco. This obviously aggravated the tight liquidity situation. "Most of the money Texaco receives is repatriated. The Trintoc deal then represents a massive leakage of a foreign exchange," he said.

Mr McLeod said that Government had been increasingly relying on individual taxpayers to offset the loss of revenue from the oil companies and the losses on State Enterprises. He said \$900 million was lost in 1982 from the oil sector. In 1983, budget subsidies were reduced and additional purchase taxes introduced to raise \$450 million revenue. In 1983 a further \$750 million in revenue from oil was lost.

In the 1984 Budget, government sought by way of increased purchase taxes, the introduction of surcharges and the reduction of subsidies to raise \$887 million in revenue. He said \$841.4 million was allocated to State enterprises of which \$81.6 million was invested in increased production of methanol and urea.

Global Level

Mr McLeod said: "My thesis is that the role that labour must play in these times is dependent on the inescapable fact that labour is not responsible for the mess in which our country finds itself. If every worker were to increase his productivity by 300 percent, the situation will not change."

He said that the "major and dominant aspect of our economy is the fact that we are a neocolonial, export propelled, open petroleum economy dominated by foreign capital. The nature of the State and of local capitalist sectors are influenced in fact are determined by that historical reality.

"Who then must bear the responsibility for the crisis? Of course, the major responsibility lies on the oil companies who for reasons of optimising profit at a global level have destroyed our refining industry and in fact have gone on strike against the country.

Mr McLeod said that not only had governments lost revenue "but because of a cutback in activity, thousands of workers have been retrenched, wages and salaries lost and through the multiplier effect, there have been less purchases of local goods and services."

CSO: 3298/1014

ISCOTT PREDICTS INCREASE IN STEEL EXPORTS FOR 1984, 1985

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 84 p 3

[Text] The Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) estimates that its steel shipments will rise by 15 percent at the end of this year a further eight percent by the next year, according to Mr Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Cooperatives.

He described ISCOTT as a project "well conceived and planned, as attested to by international experts."

Mr Mahabir was speaking at the annual conference of the Port-of-Spain North Constituency of the Peoples National Movement at the Belmont Junior Secondary School yesterday.

Referring to the much criticised project, he said: "I am convinced that over time, the real impact will become self-evident and sufficient to quiet the disenchanted.

"Indeed with the signals of recovery now in train in such industries as automobile and appliances, there are already encouraging signs in the international steel industry.

Long Overdue

"During the first quarter of this year, however miniscule it may be, a profit of some US \$124 million was realised in the United States steel industry.

The Minister added: "There are those who criticise certain initiatives like the Point Lisas Development Estate, for example, particularly in respect of the establishment of ISCOTT.

"However valid such criticisms may now appear, when seen in the light of the downturn in the international steel market which came about at a time when our own steel operation was coming on stream, it does not mean that this initiative should be deprecated."

It was a project well conceived and planned, he said.

Mr Mahabir stated: "The time has come, in fact long overdue, I believe, when we need to make a serious introspection of ourselves, to examine our attitudes to national issues and to devote our energies to building rather than to destroying our efforts and aspirations, if we are to meet the future with any measure of confidence and success."

PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS HITS NEW, RECORD HIGH

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Natural gas which has been increasing steadily in production over the past decade reached its highest level this year.

Average production in the first half of 1984 was 19 million cubic metres a day, or 663 million standard feet a day (mmscfd)--an increase of nine percent from the average production figure for 1983.

Energy Minister Patrick Manning explained yesterday that the increased production trend could be attributed largely to the increasing demand for natural gas by the gas-utilising industries, particularly those at Point Lisas.

Amoco, the country's largest gas producer, accounted for 83 percent of total gas produced with an average daily production of 15.8 million cubic metres, or \$50 mmscfd. This was a 14 percent increase over the corresponding production rate for 1983. The increase, he added, was sustained largely by the Cassia gas field, which has yielded several prolific gas wells.

Mr Manning said it was largely because of those Cassia wells that the production capacity has surpassed the demand for natural gas. By the end of June, a sixth Cassia well was being drilled, he added.

During the first six months of the year the National Gas Company's conservation efforts were not so successful due to operational problems experienced during the period.

11 P.C. Decline

The State company's two compressor platforms at Amoco's Teak and Poui Fields compressed 19.7 billion cubic metres of associated gas during the period, at an average daily rate of 1.7 million cubic metres, or 58.6 mmscfd. This was an 11 percent decline from the same period in 1983.

Overall utilisation of gas for the first six months of this year averaged 15.6 million cubic metres per day, or 546 mmscfd, or 82 percent of total gas produced.

Of this 4.8 million cubic metres per day, or 168.3 mmscfd were used in the manufacture of fertiliser. Another 2.9 million cubic metres per day, or 102.3 mmscfd were used for power generation by the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission T&TEC. The oil companies, the methanol, the iron and steel and cement plants, together with small consumers accounted for the remainder.

CSO: 3298/1014

ROBINSON CONTINUES BARRAGE OF CRITICISM AGAINST CHAMBERS

Issue of Planning Commission

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

CHAIRMAN of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) Mr. A.N.R. Robinson has questioned the status of the National Economic Planning Commission (NEPC) "in the wake of serious contradictory reports concerning the state of the country's economy and the Treasury."

Mr. Robinson, a member of the Commission, was speaking yesterday at a Press briefing in Tobago called to deal specifically with statements made by Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. George Chambers, relative to the functioning of the Democratic Action Congress (DAC) controlled THA.

About threats made by the Prime Minister to cancel the "delegation" given to the THA to repair and maintain roads in the sister island, Mr. Robinson said:

"That right is entrenched in the law and it is not a 'delegation' that can be easily withdrawn.

"If they feel they can arbitrarily strip the Assembly of its functions they have a fight on their hands. No way...noway are we going to surrender."

Asked why he was raising the issue about the Commission when the briefing was called to deal with the Prime Minister's statements, Mr. Robinson said:

"It is being raised in the context of Mr. Chambers's concentration on all these political matters in his parent political campaigning in Tobago to the neglect of the basic issues facing the nation about which I am very concerned and which I don't care to disclose at this time.

"But the position of the Commission is shocking to say the least..."

Mr. Robinson, who is also Chairman of the DAC, explained the NEPC which was appointed last year under the chairmanship of Mr.

Chambers, met 11 times, the last being on December 29, 1983. The Commission has not yet met for the whole of 1984. Meanwhile there are conflicting reports about the state of the economy, about the measures being pursued by the Demas Task Force report and of the state of the Treasury."

He said that in the NEPC's first report a number of recommendations were made in several areas relating to the oil industry, the sugar industry and Tobago, but as a member of the Commission he had heard nothing further and he wondered whether the Commission was still considered to be functioning.

On the question of the release of funds for the THA, Mr. Robinson said the Clerk of the Assembly wrote the THA on July 16, 1984, expressing concern about the manner in which this was done.

He said:

"For example, under relief of unemployment, the allocation for 1984 is \$12.9 million but to date the Clerk has received only \$3.5 million; long term development funds, out of an allocation of \$73.8 million for 1984, to date just \$21.6 million has been received.

"The fact that the Ministry releases the money does not mean it has been received. The THA has to apply to the Comptroller of Accounts who may not give it as that depends on the state of the Treasury, so will Mr. Chambers tell the country the truth rather than engage in nit-picking and his own form of political skulduggery in Tobago?"

On the question of the roads, the THA Chairman said the "real reason" why the Central Government wanted to strip the THA from that function was because of "political reasons."

Miscalculations by Chambers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Jul 84 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] IN the short term, nobody in Trinidad or Tobago will benefit from the visit of the Prime Minister to Tobago at this time: from detectible snubbing by the Prime Minister of the House of Assembly to the implied threat that he will seek to whittle the legal powers of the Assembly, the visit has curdled even more the already regrettable, poor relations between the Central Government and the local government of the island of Tobago in this unitary state.

It may be generations before harmony truly returns to these relations. This episode may lay the foundation for the kind of Government in which vision takes a backseat to sheer tit-for-tat bickering and senseless thought of secession and malicious dissent will demand an inordinate amount of the attention of our nation, attention that ought better to be devoted to the social, economical, and political advance of the nation as a whole.

Direct Contact

If that is ever our fate, we hope the nation will not be backward in properly evaluating the blame earned by the Prime Minister, the House of Assembly Chairman, and fanatics of their rival political parties.

Consider the remarkable difference in treatment of the Prime Minister's tour in San Fernando and environs a few weeks ago and the current tour of Tobago by him.

On 14 June it was reported that the Prime Minister would be going to Tobago and "will want to have direct contact with the people so he will visit as many schools as possible, village and community groups, and small businessmen and hoteliers."

The official announcement stated that "he will be looking at developmental works and governmental projects (and) making contact with the community at all levels and with various organisations," and explained that the Prime Minister would be residing at his official residence for the duration of his visit.

No mention was made then about how long the visit would last.

The official itinerary mentions merely that the Prime Minister would break his visit to attend the Heads of Government Conference in the Bahamas.

The first three days of his visit, June 25-27, listed no time for contact with the Tobago House of Assembly. That provoked a response from the Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly.

He reportedly called on the people of Tobago to maintain their dignity during the visit of the Prime Minister, "one of provocation" (as he saw it) and he reported that the House of Assembly had been "completely bypassed" in the preparations, so in his view that was clear indication that the Prime Minister was visiting Tobago in his capacity as political leader of the ruling People's National Movement.

Rescue Act

He condemned the presence of numerous policemen accompanying the Prime Minister, saying "public offices should not be used to pursue private ends" and said that he, officially, knew nothing about the visit, since "all I know is what I read in the newspapers."

Since then the Prime Minister's remarks concerning Tobago have daily condemned, directly or by implication, the work of the Tobago House of Assembly, and these have been met by verbal blasts from various House of Assembly and Democratic Action officials.

The point the Prime Minister's remarks concerning Tobago have daily condemned Tobago have daily condemned, directly or by implication, the work of the Tobago House of Assembly, and these have been met by verbal blasts from various House of Assembly and Democratic Action officials.

The point of no reconciliation is rapidly being approached and this may convert the present disagreement into acrimonious electioneering for the House of Assembly later in the year.

If the Prime Minister hopes that by "residing" in Tobago and "maintaining contact with the people," he can assure the defeat of the DAC, he may be deluding himself.

A loss, especially one worse than in 1980, could conceivably damage his standing, without improving the stature of the House of Assembly.

This may lay the foundation for the continuation and spread of retaliatory politics, a plague that will benefit no one in this country.

It is these considerations that persuade us to believe that the best policy may be for the Prime Minister to try to rescue both himself and the Chairman of the Assembly from the pit of petulance into which both of them seem to have sunk like two immature schoolboys.

Attack on Financial Question

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 22 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] MR. A. N. R. Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly said yesterday that it was "truly incredible" that Prime Minister George Chambers

should be using his high office to point a finger at Tobago's finances when there are so many discrepancies in his own Ministry.

In a statement yesterday Mr. Robinson said:

"With two-thirds of the \$800 million which the Central Bank shows in the government's bank account not being verified in the Treasury's books, according to the Auditor-General's Report--it is truly incredible that the Prime Minister should be using his high office to point a finger at Tobago's finances.

It is even more incredible when the Auditor-General has been able to produce such a scathing report on the various Ministries and departments of government.

Expenditure

For example, the Prime Minister has implied that someone in the Tobago House of Assembly has purchased too many vehicles. Surely he must know that as Minister of Finance, he must authorise all expenditure on behalf of the THA--a fact which we continue to abhor.

The serious question which the country must ask is: How can it accept the credibility of a person who is controlling the national purse-strings with great incompetence and who has the temerity to accuse others of malfeasance?

It is of fundamental importance to note that all charges of financial wrongdoings in Tobago are based on hearsay from PNM supporters while the very serious situation affecting both Trinidad and Tobago exists. The "discrepancies", "lack of non-verification", weaknesses of systems of control" are all revealed in the Auditor-General's Report.

Indictment of Central Government

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] MR. A. N. R. ROBINSON, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, accused Prime Minister, Mr. George Chambers, and Cabinet of waging war against Tobago.

Mr. Robinson was addressing a one-day seminar organised by the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau on Human Rights at the Rienzi Complex, Couva.

Mr. Robinson noted that the Prime Minister had declared his intention of stripping the Assembly of its function as a result of alleged complaints to him and without any reference whatever to the Assembly, or any effort to get its point of view.

He said the Tobago House of Assembly had been re-established as a result of persistent agitation by the people of Tobago, and ... "the Prime Minister

and Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago have been waging constant war against it."

Mr. Robinson said, firstly, they refused to allow the Assembly to discharge any of its functions under the law.

After conceding some of its functions to the Assembly, they failed to provide it with the necessary finance to discharge some of the very functions they have conceded.

The Prime Minister, after paying what he described as an "official" visit to the island, has excluded Tobago's representative in the House of Representatives in Trinidad, and the Tobago House of Assembly from participation in the events relating to his tour, and has engaged in a partisan political campaign against the Assembly, using public funds, public officials and his office, the Democratic Action Congress leader said.

Life and Death

Mr. Robinson stated that the right of the people of Tobago to vote for representatives of their choice, the right to self-determination and the right even to exist as a community were threatened by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

He told the seminar that a critical situation had arisen on the island to Tobago with serious human rights implications.

He said that the arbitrary destruction of the Tobago administration in 1976 demonstrated clearly the power of life and death held by the Government in Trinidad over the Tobago community, a power which also manifested itself in the economic field.

For example, he said, the Government in Trinidad has:

--Virtually excluded communication between Tobago and the outside world. Anyone wishing to travel to Tobago from anywhere was, with insignificant exceptions, forced to travel to Trinidad; Tobago was denied sea and airport facilities for multilateral communications and there was a virtual monopoly over sea and air travel between Trinidad and Tobago;

--At the same time increased Tobago's dependence on Trinidad for the essentials of life, e.g. food, clothing, shelter, power, apart from manufactured goods of all kinds;

--Used this power of life and death over the people of Tobago to victimize them for voting against the ruling party in the 197y elections, thus undermining their right to vote;

Right to Life

--Boasted of the amount of money it spends on Tobago while, at the same time, depriving Tobago of a single representative in the national Senate of 35 and excluding Tobago from any representation at Cabinet level;

--Excluded Tobago's representatives from any decision-making in respect of the island or from any influence over its priorities of development and concealed the existence of petroleum and natural gas in commercial quantities in the water around the island.

Mr. Robinson said it was in this context that Tobago was seeking a permanent structure of government independent of party politics, offering the people some measure of protection for their fundamental human rights, the right of life, the right to hold political views, the right to vote for the candidate of their choice, the right of self determination.

The THA chairman said: "It is also in this context that the representatives for Tobago moved a motion in Parliament seeking internal self-government for Tobago in 1977. The motion, he said, in an amended form, was unanimously accepted by Parliament. It would preserve the concept of a unitary state while affording the people of the island an adequate measure of internal self government.

"However, the Joint Select Committee to make recommendations to give affect to the resolution of Parliament was so constituted that it comprises 11 Trinidadians but one Tobagonian only.

"Ministers of Government made it clear outside of Parliament that they do not intend to honour the decision of Parliament.

"The Government party, at a convention, repudiated the parliamentary resolution.

"The Government members of the Joint Select Committee (including the Speaker of the House as Chairman) embarked upon dilatory and other tactics designed to frustrate the parliamentary resolution.

"The Government re-iterated its promise made 20 years ago to provide facilities for multilateral air and sea communications, but as trade-off against internal self government."

Mr. Robinson said that Tobago's dilemma posed the question: "Do Caribbean solutions have to be extreme?"

Panday Criticism

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] THE ONLY petition that is recognised under the present Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago is the right of an individual to petition to Parliament.

Basdeo Panday, leader of the Opposition, underscored this point when he addressed the St. George County Convention of the Opposition National Alliance at the St. Augustine Senior Comprehensive School yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Panday was referring to the statement made by Prime Minister, Mr. George Chambers, during his extended working visit to Tobago, that the people had the right to make petitions and the day that was denied the citizens, "we might as well kiss the Constitution goodbye."

Mr. Chambers was responding to a charge made by the parliamentary representative for Tobago East, Miss Pamela Nicholson, that Mr. Chambers's visit to the sister island was unconstitutional because of the manner it was being done.

Miss Nicholson, who also addressed yesterday's gathering, pleaded for the women of the Alliance to come together for the improvement of the nation and added:

"Mr. Chambers is going to areas represented in the Tobago House of Assembly so far by the PNM, but you are going to see quite different action when he gets into the DAC areas and the women will be in the foreground of the militants."

In a paper entitled "Party politics and democracy," Mr. Allan Harris Chairman of Tapia Council of Representatives, argued the ruling PNM had maintained its electoral support from among the hard-core of the older members of the urban, African lower and lower-middle strata, primarily because those segments of our society were today overwhelmingly dependent on the State for jobs and income.

In an address severely critical of Mr. Chambers's visit to Tobago, Mr. Panday said when he was asked why he did not visit the Tobago House of Assembly, Mr. Dhambors said he was not just visiting Tobago, "I am just in residence."

Mr. Panday:

"He takes us for 12-year-old children, he demeans us. He just gone there to live so there is no need to pay respects to the Tobago House of Assembly."

Mr. Panday claimed it was "degrading" for a Prime Minister to invite groups like the Rotary and the Chamber to bring their problems to him, and he continued:

'Lord and Master'

"A Prime Minister that is worth his salt would tell any organisation, organise a meeting of hundreds of people for me, whether you are farmers or fishermen, or even the Rotary Club.

"Organise a function and I will address them in public and I will face the people in public, not in some quiet room somewhere. And when people protested about that he said that if we do not recognise the right of petition what is the worth of the Constitution."

Mr. Panday, a lawyer, explained the concept of petition originated in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries when the Monarch was the repository of all power...all grace, and people had no right to get anything as of right.

"If you wanted something you petitioned the Monarch and when you did so you go and humble yourself to his heart, and he will grant you a petition of a piece of land or a piece of whatever it is and so on...that is the concept of petition.

"The only petition that is recognised under the present Constitution is the right of an individual to petition Parliament. You petition Parliament to have laws passed and so on...you don't petition the Monarch as though he is Lord and master of all he surveys.

"In fact, that statement by Chambers is indicative of a tendency which is very dangerous.

"In order to hold the PNM together and stay in power, Chambers has now promoted himself to Monarch. He is the King...if you want anything, don't go to your member of Parliament, don't even go to a next PNM member of Parliament, come to the King and petition the King, the King in his grace will deliver.

"That is worse than Napoleon Bonaparte and that is what is happening, you must not allow these little trends to escape you. If you put them back in power then you are saying I have agreed to abandon the Constitution I want a monarchy the British had in the 18th or 19th centuries."

CSO: 3298/1025

STEPS TOWARD UNITY OF OPPOSITION FORCES ADVANCE

Results of Meeting

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 22 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] JOINT discussions between the Alliance and the ONR held at the office of the Leader of the Opposition yesterday have resulted in significant steps toward national unity and the ultimate goal of a national party, a source said.

The talks were attended by officials of the two parties and included DAC Chairman A. N. R. Robinson, ONR leader Karl Hudson-Phillips, Tapia Chairman Beau Tiwari, and Leader of the Opposition and Alliance, Mr. Basdeo Panday.

Federation

The leaders resolved to commence discussions towards formation of a national federation of the parties which will work towards strengthening the relationship between the various parties and maintaining the gains made by the Accommodation since 1983.

They also strongly condemned the conduct of the Prime Minister during his tour of Tobago which, they said, resulted in the degradation of his office and the weakening of the democratic structure of Trinidad and Tobago.

More particularly they denounced the unsubstantiated and irresponsible charges made by the Prime Minister against the constitutionally elected Tobago House of Assembly and his threats to strip the Assembly of its powers.

This threat they regarded as directed at the democratic foundations of the society as a whole.

They recalled the Prime Minister's Oath of Office by which he was constitutionally bound "impartially to discharge his duties to do right to all manner of people without fear or favour, affection or ill will."

In their view the Prime Minister was in collision with the constitution of the country.

The next meeting of the parties will be held on July 28 at the ONR headquarters, 10 Albion Street where they will consider the federation of the parties. On

August 5 there will be a joint meeting of all ONR and Alliance Councillors at the Rienzi Complex in Couva.

Hudson-Phillips Blast at Chambers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] IMPLICATIONS of a snap general election in Trinidad and Tobago will be high on the agenda of the next meeting - July 28 - of the leaders of Opposition parties who are meeting to form a national party.

This was disclosed yesterday by Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, Political Leader of one of those parties, (the Organisation for National Reconstruction) who confirmed that good progress was achieved at Saturday's session in Port-of-Spain.

The meeting, which was held in the office of the leader of the Opposition, (Basdeo Panday), was attended by Mr. Panday, Mr. A. N. R. Robinson, Political Leader of the Democratic Action Congress, Dr. Beau Tiwari, Chairman of Tapia, and Mr. Hudson-Phillips.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips, who accused Prime Minister Mr. George Chambers of "veritable 'jamette politics' ("He has gone the full circle in Tobago which he begun in 1981, when he spoke about 'gilpin' and 'gang of four'"), stressed that one could not dismiss the possibilities of a general election before it was constitutionally due in 1986.

He added:

"It will come as no surprise to me because on the night of the elections in 1981, I warned that the government would not last the full term.

National Unity

"Mr Chambers has nothing going for him, and the whole economic and other situations will get worse so he might try to call the elections before 1986."

Mr. Hudson-Phillips said the question of leadership of the proposed national party was not a serious problem. He said:

"What we must address ourselves to are questions such as programmes for our platform and what political vehicle to use to get our message across."

Cautioning against being rushed into a situation similar to the ACDC/DLP union, which went sour, Mr. Hudson-Phillips, who flew back to Grenada to continue to lead the prosecution team in the inquiry into the October 1983 political crisis, added it was essential to achieve national unity.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips said the behaviour of Mr. Chambers since he met the President of Guyana at Piarco last month must be questioned in the context of his utterances in Tobago.

The ONR chief said they were filled with threats, and continued: "His statements are far from being statesman like and very much unbecoming for a Prime Minister.

"This is happening so soon after he met Burnham, one is left to wonder what has happened to him since that two-hour meeting at Piarco. The time has come I think, for the country to put a stop to Mr. Chambers's wild and unsubstantiated statements in Tobago.

"He has shown a complete disregard for the democratic institutions in the country, this being clearly manifested by his refusal to visit the Tobago House of Assembly.

"No amount of attempts by his supporters to make excuses would erase the feelings of Tobagonians that they were dealt a serious blow of disrespect by Mr. Chambers not visiting the Tobago House of Assembly."

CSO: 3298/1026

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

LABOR PROBLEMS PERSIST; 'CONFRONTATION' CONDEMNED

ECA Appeal to Unions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] THE EMPLOYERS Consultative Association (ECA) has called on the labour movement in Trinidad and Tobago to hold discussions with employers in an effort to avoid confrontation.

"The continuing posture of confrontation is unacceptable," Mr. Emile de la Grenade, President, said when he addressed the annual general meeting of the ECA at the Hilton Hotel in Port of Spain yesterday. He said that "pattern bargaining cannot continue if there is to be growth in the economy."

Mr. de la Grenade suggested that there should be a new basis for negotiations which reflected real productivity," and we must take into consideration any wage increases and the cost of living mechanisms."

The ECA President said that in the light of prevailing economic circumstances, confrontation was detrimental to the country as a whole.

"We, therefore, call upon the labour movement in Trinidad and Tobago to sit with us and work out some method of avoiding confrontation and to lend its total support to the concordat mentioned in our labour costs paper which seeks to harness the ingenuity of the Government, the labour movement and the private sector in the achievement of our national objectives."

Mr de la Grenade noted that last year (1983), a total of 44,334 man hours were lost due to industrial disputes.

Between January and May last year the Ministry of Labour referred 79 collective agreements to the Industrial Court for registration.

In a review of the Industrial Relations climate, Mr. de la Grenade said in part:

"The most important activity has been the tripartite discussions at the Ministry of Labour under the chairmanship of Dr. Zin Henry. We have responded to amendments to the Industrial Relations Act and have submitted our comments on labour costs.

Highest Priority

"We have also responded to the draft recommendations of severance and re-trenchment benefits and to the Bill on occupational health, safety, and welfare. Under other labour legislation, we have submitted some of our thoughts and continue to look at the labour legislation as they affect employers generally.

"We have successfully put forward a point of view on the Shop Hours Ordinance and the present amendment which allows for the opening of business on any day of the week and any hour of the day.

"We must, however, show some caution on the regulation of strikes and lock-outs, for any control may very well lead to further strikes and lockouts as each side will be tempted to take full advantage of the situation.

"It should be noted that once parties embark on this adversary course of action, free collective bargaining is the only means of restoring a stable relationship so as to maintain communications and dialogue."

Mr. de la Grenade emphasised the role of the private sector and of the labour movement in developing a suitable economic climate and he [words omitted] negotiations between some companies and unions, there exist strained relationships between the parties concerned. Derogatory remarks aimed at the private sector are not only counter-productive but can only damage the ever fragile relationship between employer and employee and may even put into jeopardy current negotiations of which we speak," he said.

He urged union leaders not to mislead their members, for many companies are struggling simply to break even, never mind making an acceptable return on their investment.

He added: "We have never made any comment with regards to a wage freeze of a wage pause. What we have said is that larger increases cannot be accommodated as in the past. Wage increases and cost of living increases can bring about hardships for companies. Trinidad and Tobago is probably the only country that has a cost of living escalation clause and this situation must be looked at in negotiations."

Mr de la Grenade said large wage increases would certainly make our products uncompetitive both inside and outside the Caricom area.

He saw three major problems facing Trinidad and Tobago: rising unemployment, the uncompetitiveness of our exports, and bureaucratic bottlenecks, "and it seems to us," he said, "that the cure lies in technological development aimed at increasing productivity and reducing costs, plus the removal of irritating red tape."

Mr. de la Grenade thanked the Minister of Labour and his Ministry for the work they have been doing in seeking to establish industrial pace, and said the Minister must be complimented for his accessibility. "Although at times, he has disagreed with our point of view, he has always been frank and forthright."

And he ended:

"We in the private sector must accept the challenges which confront us. We recognise that we have a role to play in the resolution of our country's problems. At the same time, we are equally conscious that our efforts can hardly bear fruit without cooperation of our partners in the industry. We, therefore, stretch our hands in friendship to the Government and labour movement and ask that we work jointly towards the maintenance of a prosperous Trinidad and Tobago."

Vandalism Incident

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] POLICE were yesterday still investigating an incident which took place at the Bermudez Biscuit Factory at Mount Hope last Thursday when a group of Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) members and sympathisers barge into the compound, disrupting operations and allegedly causing some \$15,000 damage to the employees' cars parked on the premises.

It is reported that photographs have been taken of the damaged vehicles.

Mr. George Weekes, President General of the Oilfields' Workers Trade Union, expressed surprise to hear that a number of cars were damaged.

"We visited a number of employers, including Nestle's, Metal Box, Caribbean Packaging Industries (CPI), Charles McEneaney and Company, Stag Brewery, where cars were parked on the various compounds, yet we hear nothing about damage to vehicles, Mr. Weekes said.

He said it is strange that Mr. Bernardo Bermudez, an official of Bermudez Biscuit Company, found it fit to complain to the new media and not to the OWTU.

"We have our doubts as to the credibility of the statement and we believe that it is just an attempt to put the public against the OWTU without any justification," said the OWTU leader.

Criticism of Union Conduct

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Jul 84 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text] THE TIME has come for the entire nation of Trinidad and Tobago to become disturbed over the reported conduct of certain trade unionists.

Last Thursday some members and supporters of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union visited several places of work where members of their union are involved in strikes, and in the course of time appeared at the premises of Bermudez

Biscuit factory in Mount Hope. During their visit there some damage was allegedly caused to property of the company and of certain workers, and there was interruption of production. Much confusion occurred.

This, coming after last year's reported damage to the Bermudez property, and this year's besieging of the home of the Minister of Labour during his absence by a body of supporters of the OWTU during its current dispute with Texaco, must indeed provoke alarm in the bravest breast.

Firm Action

We believe the time has come when the Labour Congress and individual trade unions should in unequivocal terms condemn such action, and the Police and the courts, where they are called upon to act, should deal with the situation without fear, favour or delay and in the firmest manner.

We have called upon the police repeatedly to take proper action. The Police, first of all, must keep themselves properly informed about the progress of all trade disputes.

Whenever they have reasonable cause to believe that there is likelihood of any breach of the peace occurring at a place of work, they ought to make sure to place a strong Police presence there.

This will do several things: it should reduce the chance of the breach anticipated. It should also reduce the labour of investigation in the event that the presence did not prevent breach. It most certainly will offer the necessary protection to lives and property in the event that a breach should degenerate into disorder.

Trade unions, too, must play their part: apart from any condemnation of offenders, they should seek to limit their own actions in disputes strictly to the court, where this is necessary, and certainly disavow, as policy, any kind of bad-John blustering and offensive action.

Disconcerting

If they do not, then we must fear that we are nearing the point of no return from the insanity into which at least some people seem willing to plunge the economy of this country.

Numerous concerned citizens have spoken out about the current disconcerting trend of negotiations, unlawful picketing, attacks on the homes of workers and of managers of enterprises involved in disputes.

They have done so, not because they are stooges of any employer but because they value the resources of this country. They would wish to see us properly, exploit these resources to bring about our own economic revival instead of our adopting irrational courses of action.

Some other persons, however, believe that workers do not possess as much clout as their employers in negotiations and that, therefore, to put it crudely, workers and their representatives ought to be allowed some leeway (i.e., the use of manifest intimidation and worse) to even up matters, as they see it.

This is nonsense; it is evil; it is merely a charter for chaos.

All this we can and must do without, if we hope to make progress, if we love Trinidad and Tobago.

CSO: 3298/1026

TEXT OF MAHABIR 15 JULY SPEECH ON ILLS BESETTING NATION

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 22 Jul 84 p 5

[Text]

IN A WIDE ranging speech last Sunday, Mr. Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, outlined several national issues which he said were facing the country today.

In the course of the speech, delivered at the annual conference of the Port-of-Spain North constituency of the People's National Movement, Mr. Mahabir defined as "time thieves", those who deliverately waste, abuse and misappropriate on-the-job time in ways such as late arrival, extended lunch and coffee breaks, deliberate slowing down the pace of work in order to create overtime, excessive telephone conversation with friends on company time, false sick leave, and use of company time to do business on the side.

In view of the importance of this speech, we publish the full text on this page.

ON THE occasion of your Annual Conference, I bring you greetings from the San Fernando West Constituency which I have the honour to represent in Parliament.

You are meeting at a time when this country is faced with a number of crucial national issues and so I thought that I would share my views with you on some of them.

From around the late 1970s, forebodings about a great uncertainty in the international economy, presaging an impending global recession, began and thereafter rapidly gained momentum. Galloping inflation, rapid escalation of interest rates, mounting unfavourable balance of payments, rising levels of foreign indebtedness and other ominous economic indicators all began to focus prominently in international as well as national fora and news media. Hard times ahead were being foreshadowed.

By the early 1980s these forebodings became realities in most of the industrialised economies of the world.

National output and economic growth were falling, world trade was contracting and levels of unemployment were rising at a frightening rate; in short, an economic recession of dimensions not experienced over the past fifty years had set in mainly in

the developed market economies.

We in Trinidad and Tobago read and heard about all these developments but had not for sometime actually experienced the social and economic dislocations which usually accompany such circumstances.

But although the actual experience was not yet with us, we were nevertheless given all the warnings and were urged to put ourselves in preparedness for what was likely to come.

Annual Budget Speeches particularly since 1981, for example, highlighted the depressing global situation which threatened our own economic viability, as well as the imperative need for us to prepare ourselves by making the necessary adjustments to meet the impending situation.

By late 1982, and through 1983, it was no longer a question of reading or hearing or being warned about an impending economic decline but we were indeed facing the realities of that phenomenon.

The good times we had been enjoying for almost a decade began to give way to leaner times; reduction in output and the price of oil, lower levels of investment, diminishing economic growth, reduced trade, substantial erosion of our foreign reserves and rising unemployment all became a part of our actual experiences.

But despite all the forewarnings and the actual experiences which followed, we as a people displayed a certain amount of callousness and complacency as if we were oblivious of the seriousness of the situation, unlike other peoples in our parts of the world who sought ways and means of combating and adjusting themselves to the situation.

A most disconcerting and irrational occurrence on the local scene, for example, was to find that, at a time when a concerted effort by the entire country was most needed for the recovery of our economy, it was the very period in which the industrial relations climate suddenly deteriorated with an unusual number of strikes and lock-outs.

From what we now read and hear, the dark clouds on the world economic horizon have begun to recede in a number of developed countries and the outlook is becoming brighter.

We are told that, from around the end of 1982, the recession had bottomed out in the United States and that since then the indications are that progress is being made steadily on the road to economic recovery.

Industry is said to be returning to fuller capacity utilisation, gross national product has been increasing at a rate of over 5 per cent per annum and the incidence of unemployment has fallen from some 10.7 per cent in November 1982 to 7.5 per cent at the present time.

Although the improvement in the economies of Western European countries has not been impressive as that of the United States, similar indications of a recovery are said to be taking place.

A growth rate of some two to three per cent is forecast in 1984 for several of the OECD countries and a modest improvement in the employment situation is already in evidence in some of them.

These developments are of course most encouraging especially in the case of the United States, having regard in particular to the Caribbean Basin Initiative which recently came into existence. At the same time, however, it is perhaps too early to be over optimistic since the signals of a brightening global horizon could turn out to be shortlived.

We need to bear in mind that, amidst these positive trends, there are factors which could counteract their effect and fuel the world economy into a reversed direction to the extent of even greater recession than that

which, hopefully, is passing away.

There is, for example, a noticeable relapse into rising interest rates and inflationary pressures in some countries and there is of course the heavy foreign debt accumulation in a large number of countries, which could plunge the world financial situation into chaos with serious consequential economic problems. At best, therefore, our optimism in respect of the immediate future needs to be tempered with caution.

But whether or not a global economic recovery is sustained over the next two to three years, there are certain national issues with which we in Trinidad and Tobago will have to come to grips if we are to succeed in even maintaining any semblance of the level of economic viability to which we have been accustomed.

FORTUNATE

We can consider ourselves most fortunate so far that we have been able to meet the current economic decline with some amount of resilience; for, notwithstanding a fair measure of hardship which befell this country as a result of the downturn, and in particular an aggravation of the country's incidence of unemployment caused by retrenchment, the economic and social dislocations which we have suffered have not been pervasive and calamitous, compared with the experience of many other developing countries.

In fact, our incidence of unemployment had risen no more than about 2 per cent between 1981 and now.

That our petroleum resources have been mainly responsible for this degree of resilience goes without saying of course. But no less important, I dare say without fear of valid contradiction, has been the judicious husbandry of the petro-dollars we earned during the fortuitous period between 1973 and 1981.

The establishing of a number of special development funds in the early years of the oil bonanza, for example, has been the subject of criticism by some persons.

But it was that foresight and proven wisdom which helped considerably to take up some of the slacks created by the downturn in the economy.

Also the substantial public sector projects which were launched by Government have attracted some criticism but, again, it was that very initiative which propelled the extent of economic growth, greater em-

ployment opportunities and higher living standards which the country experienced over the past decade.

And the infrastructural developments which were undertaken, the multiplier effect of which is inestimable, bear testimony of another direction into which our petro-dollars went.

All this is not to say that errors and misjudgements have not been made.

SITUATION

Viewing the situation in retrospect, and especially where objectives and targets have fallen short or have not yet been fully realised, it is clearly easy to identify our possible errors.

And perhaps one overall error that was made on the part of Government was to attempt too much at too fast a pace in too short a period. But, of course, one of the truisms of life is that we learn by our mistakes and, indeed, that is what experience is all about.

There are those who criticise certain initiatives like the Point Lisas Development Estate for example, particularly in respect of the establishment of ISCOTT.

However valid such criticisms may now appear, when seen in the light of the downturn in the international steel market which came about at a time when our own steel operation was coming on stream, it does not mean that this initiative should be deprecated.

It was a project well conceived and planned, as attested to by inter-national experts; and I am convinced that, over time, the real impact will become self-evident and sufficient to quiet the disenchanted.

Indeed, with the signals of recovery now in train in such industries as automobile and appliances, there are already encouraging signs in the international steel industry.

During the first quarter of this year, however minuscule it may be, a profit of some US\$124 million was realised in the United States steel industry and it is estimated that steel shipments should rise some 15 per cent by the end of the current year and another 8 per cent in 1985.

I do wonder at times why we as a people should be so prone to indulge in self-denigration but not to encourage initiatives of self-reliance.

Are we of minds so destructive that we only seek to identify and pounce upon our failures but cannot see anything good in our national efforts and intentions,

even if such efforts and intentions fail to achieve their targets in the short run?

The time has come, in fact long overdue I believe, when we need to make a serious introspection of ourselves, to examine our attitudes to national issues and to devote our energies to building rather than to destroying our efforts and aspirations, if we are to meet the future with any measure of confidence and success.

The national issues which are most crucial at this time and which need our undivided collaboration as a nation are essentially of an economic nature; they have to do with questions such as productive efficiency, employment, export trade and consumption patterns in the economy.

And what is compellingly required in these regards must be obvious to each of us and to all groups in the society.

It must be clear to all, for example, that the petroleum sector, upon which we have come to depend so overwhelmingly, cannot be expected to continue generating or even maintaining the level of economic activity which is necessary to meet our needs; and that there is a critical need for structural adjustments in the economy, which can only come about by a process of industrial diversification.

It must be clear also that, in any process of diversification, major emphasis has to be given to export-oriented industries; and that whatever success is achievable in this direction is highly dependent upon the competitiveness of our export products.

Equally clear it must be to all that, given the intractable and chronic incidence of unemployment in the economy, which has been aggravated by the decline in economic activity, the questions of job security and job opportunities now assume much greater significance than before and must take precedence over improved living standards of those who are fortunately in employment.

Such economic imperatives must constitute common grounds to all, I dare say, regardless of the self-interest of any particular group; and indeed our options in coming to grips with them are very limited.

Fundamental to our success or otherwise in dealing with these economic issues is the question of levels of investment which we will be able to attract in the next few years ahead.

There can be no doubt that

the level of public sector investment, which took place over the past decade and which was made possible by the spurt of petrodollar, will no longer be possible in the foreseeable future.

MAIN THRUST

"This is a fact over which we have no control since it is mainly determined by external circumstances.

It follows, therefore, that the extent of investment we achieve will be largely dependent upon private sector initiatives.

Regardless of any ideological postures we may wish to take, these facts remain unchanged and the sooner we come to terms with them the better it is for us."

He added: "The economic policy of Trinidad and Tobago has always been based upon the philosophy of a mixed economy. Over the last few years, while there was a fair amount of private sector activity, it was the public sector which played the major part and, for the next few years at least, it will be up to that sector to provide the main thrust. What is now necessary, therefore, is the creation of the type of industrial climate which is conducive to the encouragement of massive private sector investment involving bold risk-taking and imaginative business ventures."

This clearly means also the attraction of some amount of foreign investment capital at least in joint venture with domestic capital.

"While I direct attention to the burden which now falls upon the business community to provide the necessary investment thrust in the process of industrial diversification, let me hasten to say that this does not obviate the important role which Government has to play.

"It will still be the prime mover in the development of major industries, particularly in the energy-based sector, either on its own or through joint ventures.

Government must also continue to provide and ensure adequate infrastructural development to encourage private sector initiatives.

THE BOTTLENECKS

"Further, there is the question of providing efficient and reliable supply of basic utilities and facilities such as energy, communication, transport and other essential props, as well as the question of providing more efficient governmental ma-

chinery and service to minimise procedural bottlenecks.

"Government is certainly not unmindful of these various obligations or the fact that there is yet much to be done in these respects. At the same time, no one can truly say or objectively maintain that they have not seen considerable improvements in these regards in recent times — be it in respect of road construction, the telephone system or energy supply."

"The question as to whether or not industrial action ought to be allowed to continue interminably needs to be examined.

There are those who argue in the affirmative, based on the view that once a party decides to take industrial action it should stand by the consequences for as long as it is able to do so.

I believe this view is largely conditioned by a situation wherein one or the other party feels favoured by the existing economic situation.

But such a view is clearly one of self-interest at the expense of the national interest; for in a long period of industrial action, national output must be adversely affected and workers do in fact suffer loss of earnings, which in turn creates some measure of economic and social dislocation among families. The overriding question therefore is whether these economic and social consequences should be allowed to continue indefinitely.

Moreover, it should be questioned as to whether an industrial action which does not achieve its purpose of pressuring another party into acquiescing to its conditions within a relatively short period of time has not lost the validity of its purpose. This is one of the issues the forthcoming amendments to the Industrial Relations Act will seek to address.

The main issues giving rise to the current unfavourable industrial relations climate, as you all know, are supposed to be labour costs (in particular wages) and retrenchment.

Over the past year a great deal has been said and much agitation has been generated in the society about wage freeze, wage restraint and retrenchment to the point where these issues have become obscured by emotional rather than factual arguments.

Day after day we hear talk about some sort of sinister plan by Government to institute a wage freeze although the Government has never enunciated such a policy.

Of course, wages and retrenchment are extremely important national issues and are indeed issues with which not only Labour but also the whole society must be concerned in times like these.

I would think however that it must be obvious to all by now that, of necessity, there has to be some measure of wage restraint in present times since the economy just cannot continue to bear the rate of wage increases experienced over the past decade; there can hardly be any valid disagreement on this point.

Why therefore do we seek to confuse this question of restraint by projecting it as being the same as a wage freeze?

It should be clearly understood that a call for wage restraint also means salary restraint at the highest levels because all levels of employment remuneration constitute a cost factor of production, which in turn plays some part in the competitive price of our goods.

The question of labour costs, together with prices, has been on the agenda of the Tripartite Talks among Government, employers' and labour representatives for some time now. and I am satisfied that the groups engaged in those deliberations have been looking at the problem in a very constructive way. I also know that they have gone a far way in reaching some measure of understanding and a possible concordat on the subject, the details of which I expect will be made public very soon.

Regarding the question of retrenchment, it is also known that the Tripartite Body has already deliberated on and made recommendations for dealing with the problem and that proposed legislation, even if not to the entire satisfaction of all concerned, is now in the process of being brought to Parliament. It is this type of collaborative and constructive approach that one would expect to come to grips with national issues of the kind; and I must compliment those who have been following this course.

However, some groups and persons have opted to stay outside of the ambit of such constructive dialogue and to engage in agitation and confrontation instead, regardless of whatever adverse consequences that may follow for workers and the country as a whole from their actions.

OPPORTUNITY

Let me say here that I do not agree with those employers who

seek to pounce upon the opportunity provided by our present economic circumstances to respond negatively to all labour cost proposals, even though their businesses are in a financial position to provide improvements for their workers.

I also do not agree, and I have repeatedly expressed this view, that the mere fact of a falling rate of profit should be used to retrench workers as a first resort. I firmly believe that, with some measure of goodwill on the part of both employers and trade unions, options and answers can be found in the mutual interest of both parties.

It is all a question of priorities and options, I believe, and in times like these the realistic option which clearly presents itself is one of job security and employment opportunity measured against high wage increases.

Workers in other parts of the world have come to recognise this and, indeed, have opted for the former against the latter.

There is an abundance of examples to illustrate this fact. What then makes us in Trinidad and Tobago so different?

Related to the issue of labour costs is another national issue which has become enmeshed in emotional or wishful thinking and which ought to be placed in its proper perspective.

That is the question of improving or maintaining our standards of living. It has become almost a song in these days that, come what may, standards of living must at least be maintained.

What seems to be implied in that tune, and is even expressly said at times, is that it is the responsibility of Government and/or employers to so ensure.

In so far as Government is concerned, we certainly consider it a most desirable objective and will do everything possible within our ability and control to achieve that end.

But let us not lose perspective of the true facts about a country's standard of living.

It is not so much a question of responsibility of any one group as it is a question of the economic health of a nation. Considered in terms of responsibility, the obligation falls, in the first place, more upon each individual by way of his willingness to adjust his consumption habits to things which are essential to his comfort and to avoid waste or conspicuous and unnecessary spending.

The mere fact of having to eat or drink more of locally produced commodities in place of imported goods, or having to

forego certain types of status-symbol indulgencies for example, does not necessarily mean a reduced standard of living in the true sense.

STANDARD

And, indeed, not an insignificant part of our standard of living pattern in Trinidad and Tobago falls within such indulgencies.

But apart from the consumption habits of individuals, the inescapable fact is that standard of living in a country is a function of the economic performance of that country and no amount of agitation or confrontation by any group or groups can alter that fact.

In the final analysis the real answer, in so far as it is within our own power and control, lies in the extent of economic activity and buoyancy the country is able to generate and maintain.

This brings me to yet another very important national issue which this country needs to tackle with the greatest urgency.

That is the question of the productive efficiency which is brought to bear upon all aspects of our development efforts.

Much has been said before on this issue and so I will not delve into its wide-ranging ramifications here; at any rate most of them are well known.

There is however one interesting aspect of this question which I would like to touch on because it is so fundamental and pervasive in our society.

I recently came across the reported findings of a research exercise done by the head of the world's largest data-processing company on premeditated time theft, as he describes it.

A "time thief" he defines as a person who deliberately wastes, abuses and misappropriates on-the-job time in over a dozen ways, including things like habitual late arrival at and early departure from work, extended lunch and coffee breaks, deliberately slowing down the pace of work in order to create lucrative overtime opportunities, reading and socialising with co-workers or through excessive telephone conversations with friends on company time, taking false and unwarranted sick leave and even using company time and facilities to operate personal business on the side.

These various forms of time theft, the Report states, averages some four hours per week per employee which, when aggregated over a one-year period and throughout the particular economy on which the study was

made, reveal staggering totals of almost 200 hours or 5 weeks per worker and at a cost of over \$15 billion per year.

That is what the total labour force is that country would have "stolen." The Report in comparison estimated that the cost of employee pilferage, embezzlement, vandalism, and other such acts was some \$5 billion per year.

Do wonder what would be the findings if such a research study on time theft were to be made in respect of our domestic economy.

The statistical findings of that Report are of course not relevant to us in absolute terms, Trinidad and Tobago being a much smaller country than the one to which the Report refers. They are however most relevant in relative terms; for, as the Report rightly observed, time theft crime of such magnitude "saps a nation's economy, weakens productivity and feeds inflation by increasing the cost of both producing and selling goods and services."

I have dealt with only some of the major issues with which our country is confronted and which are of an economic nature. I have also concentrated only on those economic issues which fall directly within my sphere of responsibility in Government.

These issues, I should point out, are not without political implications and therefore ought to be considered also in a political

context.

There is certainly abundant evidence to be found in other developing countries which have had to resort to stringent political measures in aid of their search for answers to their economic problems, to the extent of emasculating their democratic traditions.

I have pointed out on previous occasions that democratic principles and traditions, when subjected to severe strains, become vulnerable to erosion.

We are also living in a world today where faith in liberal democracy has been shaken visibly and where democracy is fast becoming a form of "mobocracy," as it is sometimes described; in some instances democracy has given way to anarchy and despotism as the form of political rule.

As an ancient and renowned philosopher (Aristotle) pointed out, where human beings are confronted with a choice between anarchy and despotism, having lost democracy, they will choose despotism because anarchy is the rule of a handful of despots.

HISTORY

The entire history of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago under the People's National Movement has been, demonstratively, one of deep commitment to the democratic way of life; democratic principles and tradi-

tions are deeply embedded in the whole fabric of our society, which is something the majority of our people treasure most precious. And I have no doubt that, for as long as the people's National Movement is charged with the responsibility of governing this country, commitment to those principles and traditions will remain.

But I must seriously warn against complacency in this regard, as some of us have demonstrated on the economic side by fiddling, as it were, while the country burns. In the midst of a serious economic storm and despite all the warnings received, we behave as if somehow we are immune to any danger of that storm; and our expectations of the good life, as we have been accustomed, continues unabated.

The preservation of democracy in our society is not something to be taken for granted; it is only by constant vigilance and determination we can be assured of it and the obligation for such assurance devolves upon you the people in the society. Indeed, the power lies in your hands and I exhort you to use it both cautiously and wisely.

Finally, I wish to thank you for giving me the opportunity to share these few thoughts with you and I wish your constituency group every success in its endeavours.

CSO: 3298/1026

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT SHOWS DISCREPANCY IN TREASURY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by George Harvey]

[Text] TREASURY Department officials are trying to sort out a near \$600 million discrepancy in the operations of the Exchequer Account.

This startling situation was disclosed in the Report of the Auditor General of the Accounts of Trinidad and Tobago for 1983 which was laid in the House of Representatives yesterday.

The report states: "The Central Bank has certified that the balance standing to the credit of the Exchequer Account at December 31, 1983 was \$874,037,498.89. The books of the Treasury showed this balance as \$288,363,846.86."

The report with the Auditor General's certificate pointed out that the statement showing the reconciliation of the two balances contains amounts which have not been verified with the books of the Treasury.

"The statement shows balances of unpaid cheques dating back to the year 1961 which have remained uncleared. It is recommended that positive action be taken to have the respective amounts cleared."

Not Verified

The report is riddled with the annual litany of accounting malpractices and shortcomings of government Ministries, departments and agencies in not conforming with stipulated regulations.

Loans and credits guaranteed by the Government to 18 public entities totalled \$2,264.2 million last year of which "\$7 million was not verified."

Adverse comment was also directed at the operations of the 18 long-term Development Fund with a total year-end balance of \$633.1 million.

It was noted that while the individual balances had been reconciled with the Central Bank "certain weaknesses in the system of control have been drawn to the notice of the Treasury."

It was also noted that:

--A \$10 million loan had not been included in the Treasury statement;

--Warrants authorizing disbursements from long-term Development Funds to certain government agencies did not indicate (in all) instances how disbursements were to be treated.

The report stated that outstanding loans from government revenue stood at \$3,662.7 million at the end of the year, of which just over \$1,000 million was made in 1983.

Topping the list was Port Authority receiving \$263.7 million with the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) following closely with \$255 million. Jamaica Government pulled in \$6.2 million.

Loans written off during the year with Cabinet approval totalled \$226.3 million.

The report noted: "Repayments were not made on 123 loans totalling \$2,458.8 million. The terms and conditions of 86 loans dating back to the year 1974 have not been stated."

It was recommended that the Treasury take action with regard to recovering outstanding loans to students of some \$154,967.

Dealing with other matters, the report pointed out "there was no evidence of verification by the Director of Civil Aviation of revenue collectible in respect of airport departure tax and airline tickets sales tax.

"The authority for the deduction by airlines of five per cent departure tax was not produced."

[Figures provided for tax delinquencies]

DELINQUENT tax-payers owed government more than \$100 million dollars up to the end of last year out of an overall \$251.1 million in consolidated revenue arrears.

- Taxes on income and profits — \$98.2 million.

- Taxes on property — \$10.6 million.

- Taxes on goods and services — \$5.5 million.

- Property income — \$70.9 million.

- Other non-tax revenue — \$26.4 million.

- Repayment of past lending — \$39.3 million.

This is contained in the Report of Auditor General on the Accounts of Trinidad and Tobago for 1983 which was laid in the House of Representatives yesterday.

The report called on Government to implement effective methods for the collection of outstanding revenue in the light of the national debt which soared to \$2,575 million last year.

MINISTER DISCERNES UNIFYING ROLE FOR VILLAGE COUNCILS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Jul 84 p 17

[Text] A GOVERNMENT Minister sees village/community councils as a potentially vital instrument for forging national unity "so necessary for reaching the goal of united participation by all citizens in the exercise of Government."

Mrs. Muriel Donawa-McDavidson, Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Local Government, made this remark while delivering the feature address at Sunday's convention of the National Association of Village/ Community Councils. Mayor Stevenson Sarjeant of Port-of-Spain opened the convention.

Character

Quoting from Government's Draft Policy Paper on Community Development and Local Government, Minister stated: "In many areas in Trinidad and Tobago, the village or community council is not representative of the people residing in that district. The question arises whether, in order to improve the representative character of village councils and to ensure closer liaison between the village council and the body of citizens residing in the district, is it desirable to change the basis of membership of the village/community councils."

If that comment was true then "the challenge exists for you to seek ways and means--even before the final report is published--of improving the representatives of your body. The obvious implication of this thrust will be to ensure the greater involvement of local people in the management of our own affairs."

Mrs. Donawa-McDavidson lamented the fact that too often people believed that important decisions could only be made in Port-of-Spain, San Fernando and Arima. "The Government is committed to all-I repeat all-citizens participating in this important business of national development. The village/community councils are strategically placed in our society to play a key role in this new thrust towards collective citizen participation."

The Minister also stated that it was possible that "we in Trinidad and Tobago can evolve a cosmic philosophy incorporating the religions of Hinduism, Islam and Christianity. Village/community councils can serve to bring us all together in words, actions and philosophies." A motion calling on Government to declare Chaguanas a borough was passed. It was moved by Mr. Paras Ramoutar, PRO of the association.

TRIPARTITE GROUP ISSUES PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Jul 84 pp 1, 13

[Text] THE STANDING tripartite body, comprising representatives of the employers' organisations, labour and Government, has as one of its proposals embodied in its draft Concordat, the re-vitalising of the country's economy, encouraging investment and enhancing levels of employment.

It was learnt yesterday that copies of the draft of the document have been sent to the bodies concerned for discussions and comments by their member units, before it is approved.

The draft Concordat was the subject of discussions for the past two years, by the parties involved.

The standing tripartite body drafted the proposals entitled "The Tripartite Concordat.

It states:

A-Recognising:

1. The extent to which prices, wages and salaries have increased in the Trinidad and Tobago economy over the past decade, when prosperity prevailed;
2. The downturn currently being experienced in the economy, occasioned generally by a global economic recession and in particular by the substantial decline in production and revenue in the petroleum sector which has been predominantly the mainstay of the economy of Trinidad and Tobago.
3. That in a situation of persistent decline in national domestic production and economic growth the standard of living for all is threatened and is likely to fall;

B. Conscious of:

1. The crucial need at this time to stimulate investment and rapid economic development in order to maintain and increase levels of employment and to preserve standards of living;

2. The role of the private sector as being of fundamental importance in undertaking greater investment and establishing new industries, thereby creating more job opportunities;
3. The compelling need for a massive export thrust to compensate at least partly for the substantial reduction in foreign exchange earnings by the petroleum sector;
4. The absolute necessity of production cost of the country's export products being such as to enable them to compete effectively in export markets.

C. Mindful of:

1. The several factors of constraint upon the country's economic development, some of which are externally imposed, with little or no scope for bringing domestic influence to bear upon them, while others are inherent in the nature and size of the economy;
2. The country's limited options in the application of modern technology to production processes, having regard to certain considerations such as limited divisibility of certain types of technology and the need to safeguard against aggravating the already high incidence of unemployment.
3. The fact that the maintenance of adequate infrastructure and utility services are essential to support development activities and to ensure the competitiveness of local and export products;
4. The negative effects which bureaucratic bottlenecks in government machinery can have on private sector investment initiatives.

D. Subscribing to views that:

1. It is the joint and equal responsibility of all the social partners of industry to promote and force a development course such as to revitalise the economy in the shortest possible time;
2. The encouragement of private sector investment is essential to maintain and enhance levels of employment and output;
3. The rising trends in prices, dividends, wages and salaries which developed over the past decade of prosperity may now be incompatible with the country's current economic situation and therefore it is important that these trends be examined in the light of desired development objectives;
4. Whatever adjustments and sacrifices are necessary to achieve the desired ends, they ought to be made and borne equitably by all the social partners of industry and, indeed, other groups in the society;
5. With sufficient co-operation and understanding among the social partners of industry, the necessary restraints and adjustments can be achieved to a great extent voluntarily through consultation and negotiation, thus obviating

the need for legislation at this time to institute measures such as a legal wage freeze, extended price controls or a national prices and incomes policy.

E. 1: jointly and separately promote a vibrant campaign towards co-operation and understanding among themselves at the national, sectoral, and industrial or departmental level for the purpose of forging a development path aimed at revitalising the country's economy, encouraging investment and enhancing levels of employment;

II: Endeavour in every possible way to dissipate vestiges and demonstrations of suspicion, distrust and adversarial industrial relationships whenever they exist or tend to arise;

III: Co-operate in promoting a pervasive campaign on greater productivity and efficiency consciousness in the work place.

IV: Discourage and persuade their affiliates, membership bodies organisations, departments and officers falling within their respective jurisdictions to institute and adopt measures designed towards these ends;

Action Plans

F: Accordingly, in respect of prices, the parties propose and avow their commitment to the following action plans and measures:

1. Promotion of a systematic consumer guidance programme aimed at developing consumer awareness to a level which will serve effectively to discourage opportunistic price increases and exploitative pricing practices;
2. Introduction of a price monitoring scheme coupled with the publication of a weekly or fortnightly supplement of current prices of a select and mixed basket of basic food items in different retail outlets and geographical areas; synopsis of such information may also be given in regular news releases and panel discussions may be held through the electronic media;

3. Periodic publication of information concerning the determination of wholesale and retail prices of selected commodities;

4. Close monitoring and strict control of monopolies in respect of the pricing and quality of their products, coupled with a policy of encouraging additional local production facilities and, or, in the interim, permitting where necessary limited competition from imports.

5. Transfer of the price control inspectorate from the general administration of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs to the direct jurisdiction of the Director of the Prices Commission and the strengthening of its staff with a view to enabling it to

become more effective in its functioning;

6. Simplification and speeding up of bureaucratic processes including the fixing of prices of price controlled goods within a reasonable period of say two to three weeks, coupled with a stricter, and more effective enforcement mechanism;

7. Establishment of an advisory committee including representatives of labour, employers and relevant government agencies to collaborate with the Central Statistical Office in determining the basket of goods in respect of which the retail price index is computed;

8. Re-examining and taking action

where necessary to enhance the effectiveness of the Bureau of Standards, the Consumer Guidance Council, the Food and Drugs Department, and the Weights and Measures Department.

G. In respect of labour costs and employment creation, the parties commit themselves to be guided by the following considerations and principles in negotiating and conciliating matters relating to terms and conditions of employment,

1. In order to set the stage for meaningful negotiations, proposals and counter proposals on items of labour costs, particularly wages and salaries, will be made from the outset on the basis of the realities of the existing economic situation in the country as a whole, and in the industry or business concerned in particular.

2. Where a case of significant decline in the activities of a business is such as to cause substantial deterioration in its financial position, full consideration will be given to reasonable measures of restraining increases in labour cost as an alternative to a reduction in labour force;

3. Where the viability of a particular business is not seriously affected or threatened, despite any overall downturn in the economy, the mere fact of the overall economic downturn will not be used to prevent sufficiently reasonable improvement in the terms and conditions of employment, including wages and salaries;

4. Where the viability of a particular business permits the ability to pay higher wages but the wage levels in that business are already such that further substantial increases would serve to distort or adversely influence the national wage structure, alternative ways of ensuring that the workers involved benefit financially and adequately, other than high wage increases, will be explored;

WAGE SETTLEMENTS

5. Where wage rates are indisputably found to be substantially below the norms in the relevant industry or trade, due consideration will be given to that fact in arriving at wage settlements;

6. Where the level of profitability of a business warrants the payment of high wages to its workers but that business adequately demonstrates plans to create more jobs by re-investing parts of those profits due consideration will be given to the fact in arriving at settlements in respect of labour costs.

7. With a view to assisting in maintaining or improving the standard of living of workers, measures designed to improve efficiency and productivity will be explored when negotiating wage rates and other labour costs.

8. In seeking to arrive at wage settlements, due caution will be exercised by all the parties not to capitalise upon a market situation

which provides wide scope and ease for the passing on of wage increases to consumers to the mutual benefit of employers by way of higher prices and workers by way of higher wages;

9. In order to have full and frank discussions on the matters referred to in this Concordat, relevant information will be supplied by the parties involved, provided however that the information is not such as to be prejudicial to their respective business interests.

"Full consensus has not been reached on the following subparagraphs for inclusion in section 'G'."

1. "In negotiating wage settlements, the extent to which any cost of living allowance payable serves to cushion the existing incidence of inflation will be given due consideration." (Employers and Government agree to the inclusion but labour disagrees.)

2. As a continuation of paragraph "G" (6) "similarly, where the level of profitability facilitates disbursement of extra-ordinary dividends to shareholders, boards of directors are thereby requested to give consideration to the possibility of job creation by way of reinvestment in determining the quantum of dividends to be disbursed, bearing in mind at the same time the need for satisfactory level of dividends in order to attract investment capital."

(Labour and Government agree to the inclusion but employers disagree.)